





REFRESHING THE VERANDA

Renovations at a continuing care retirement community are an ongoing feature. As new residents move in, existing residents transition within the community, and other residents choose to update their living spaces, the process of refurbishing and reworking interiors is continuous.

CONTINUED



Sometimes, exteriors need an upgrade as well, and buildings that begin to look tired or aren't functioning optimally are placed in the queue for a little – or actually, a lot – of attention. That was the case with the Veranda Apartments on Piedmont Crossing's campus, which had been constructed in 1986.

Before renovations were set in motion, an evaluation was conducted to establish whether it would be better to tear down and replace the two-story building or renovate it. Ultimately, the decision was made to reinvest in the existing structure since its 28 apartments remain fully occupied and the building itself is structurally sound. In addition, interior renovations to individual apartments had already been done. (As apartments turn over, they're updated on an ongoing basis to keep interior spaces current.) In 2022, the kick-off to the Veranda's extensive exterior renovations began.

THE PROCESS

The renovation plans were designed by Steele Group Architects with three goals in mind: To increase the functionality of the building, to add architectural interest and unify its appearance with other campus structures, and to upgrade the materials while decreasing overall maintenance. A timeline of construction tasks was created by the general contractor, David E. Looper & Company, to accomplish all of these changes as efficiently as possible – which was the easy part. The bigger feat was coordinating all of the work while residents

continued to live on the premises. That meant accommodating sleep schedules, parking demands, and the length of time that individual apartments were impacted.

While the project included typical delays from weather, materials delivery, and other unanticipated events, the progress continued unabated, and residents were exceedingly patient, buoyed by the prospect of a fresh appearance, new features, and improved common spaces.

THE TRANSFORMATION

Perhaps the most striking change to the Veranda building was the raising of its portecochere. This covered area for picking up residents, unloading groceries, and making transfers from wheelchair to car originally had a clearance of only 9 ½ feet, which made it difficult for vans, trucks, and other vehicles to get beneath it safely. Now, the structure has been rebuilt and its clearance elevated to 14 feet, ensuring that residents will get much more practical benefit from it.

Other changes included:

- Replacing the roof, installing darker architectural shingles, and building gables to give the roofline more dimension
- Adding new arched windows and replacing exterior doors
- Upgrading decks, screened porches, and railings with composite materials for increased durability and longevity



- Adding new vinyl siding and an exterior ceiling system throughout the breezeways
- Painting sections of the original brick as accent walls
- Encasing architectural columns with vinyl panels and trim work
- Hanging new gutters and downspouts
- Adding and upgrading exterior lighting
- · Refreshing the landscaping

THE RESULTS

Not only do these improvements position the Veranda building for many more years of use and easier upkeep, but they also substantially brightened the façade and walkways, which is of great benefit for visibility and mobility. Plus, the pride that residents have in their renovated spaces is immeasurable – whether it's their individual deck or porch or the entire look of the building.

To that end, the \$2 million price tag is money well invested and well spent. The project wrapped up in September 2023, and a grand reopening celebration is planned in the fall.

THE NEXT PROJECT

Even with such a large-scale renovation complete, there's been little chance for the facilities and maintenance teams to rest for more than a moment. Piedmont Crossing will soon embark on plans to upgrade all the elevators on campus – four of them in three different buildings. After all, improving the general environment – along with the amenities and tools that contribute to quality of life – are constantly at the forefront of a mission that's devoted to residents' well-being and continuing care.





Homecoming Parade

Friday, October 6, 9:30 am

East Davidson High School will be coming to Piedmont Crossing to celebrate homecoming. Their marching band will play throughout campus, and an array of floats will showcase special groups and guests. Bring a lawn chair and watch the action unfold!



Halloween Extravaganza

Friday, October 27, 6-7:30 pm

Join us for a fun, spooky get-together to celebrate ghosts

goblins, ghouls, and other frightful visitors! Wear your most spectacular costume (optional), because we'll be voting and awarding prizes to the best dressed. Expect a witch's brew of food to enjoy!

To RSVP to either event, please call 336.281.9256.

Directions: Traveling I-85, take Exit 102 to Lake Road, turn East toward East Davidson High School; at first light take a right on Kendall Mill Road. Piedmont Crossing is approximately 1/3 mile on the left.



Piedmont Crossing

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HOME IS WAITING!

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Currently available: A selection of comfortable one-bedroom apartments. Call for details!

CONTACT

Doug Russell, Executive Director Penny Winfree, Director of Marketing 336.281.9256 pwinfree@everyage.org



