

West Mont Farm & Gardens PAR Update

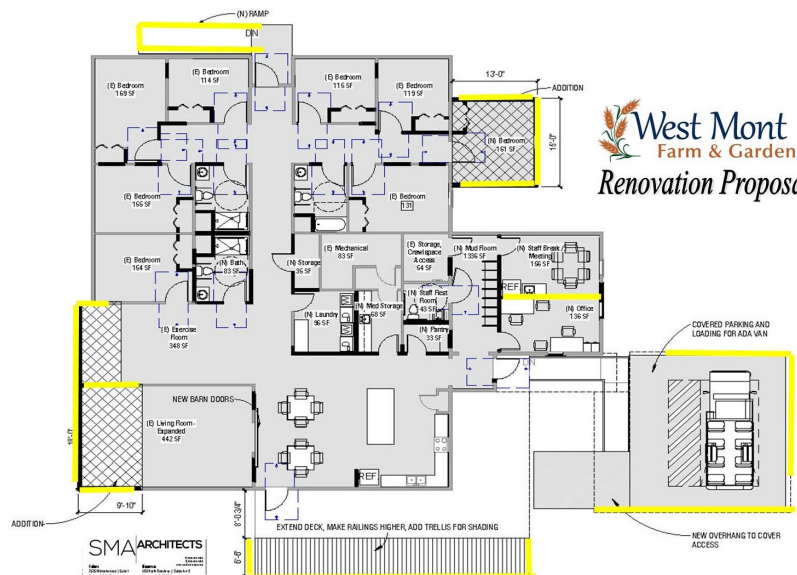
SMA Architects recently completed a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). West Mont received this grant from the **Montana Department of Commerce** for our Farm & Gardens group home. The PAR resulted in 3-options to choose from: do nothing at all, renovate the existing home, or build a new facility. The option to do nothing was immediately ruled out as the Farm, which was built in 1989, is not fully ADA accessible and it lacks an eighth bedroom. After thoroughly analyzing the other options, West Mont made the decision to renovate. The \$500,000+ cost difference to build versus renovate was a huge factor in this decision. The goal of this project is to improve the safety and functionality of the home and ensure that it is fully ADA accessible. The estimated cost to remodel is \$958,213 for the renovations including a new roof and furnace.

We were extremely fortunate to receive a generous **\$75,000** grant from the **Treacy Foundation!** This will help us fund a good portion of the new Water Supply System, which was deemed inadequate during the PAR process (this alone is expected to cost \$100,000 - \$110,000). **Thank you Treacy Foundation!** Unfortunately, the PAR also uncovered a number of other areas that need attention. These include:

- Electrical *and* plumbing systems need upgrades and the home needs to be updated to current Building Codes Standards
- Installation of a new fire sprinkler system (our current home does not have one)
- Add an 8th bedroom so that each resident can have their own room
- Remodel all bathrooms to make it easier for staff to assist clients
- Add new covered parking, wood ramp, and sidewalk for safety and protection during inclement weather
- Deck improvements and expansion will add privacy, better accessibility, and shelter from the elements
- Remodel kitchen for more functional flow, add separate office and staff breakroom
- Widen all doorways to ADA standards
- Expand living room area

As you can see, the renovations planned for the Farm home are practical and in many cases necessary. We simply cannot afford to do this without funding. In addition to the Treacy Foundation, we are exploring other grant opportunities including CDBG Housing and HOME.

If you would like to support this project with a tax deductible donation or want to learn more, please contact Arlene at West Mont 406-447-3109. Thank you!





In Memory Of

West Mont has lost several dear friends these past few months.

Murel O'Connell passed away in February at the age of 86. Both Murel and her late husband Jim were long-term supporters of many organizations in the community including West Mont. Their kindness and generosity impacted countless lives.

Long-term West Mont vocational client, **Ria Sue Billings**, passed away in March. Ria began services with us back in 1987. Shortly after her

Fun Under the Big Top - Our clients and staff are taking full advantage of summer and the warm weather with recent excursions to the Circus and Great Northern Carousel.



l-r: Cathy, Kim, and John



Front Row l-r: John, Connie, & Cathy; Second row l-r: Thomas and Kenny; Back Row: Patrick



At left and above John and Cathy



'Thunder & Lightning' Were a Hit at the Annual Mother's Day Pots & Plants Sale



From l-r: Kim, Connie, Cathy, and John

Thank You Volunteer Tracy Mee

West Mont is very fortunate to have the support of so many wonderful people in our community and **Tracy Mee** is one such person. Last Fall, Tracy volunteered to help out at Special Olympics, providing eye glass care and repairs. She enjoyed it so much that she wanted to offer this service to more people. West Mont was fortunate to be chosen as an organization that she wanted to help. Tracy hosts a free eye glass clinic for our clients. She visits West Mont on a monthly basis as needed and professionally repairs and cleans our clients' glasses. Her first clinic attracted 20-clients. Tracy is no stranger to eyeglasses. She has worked at Montana Eye Care for 18-years in a variety of positions, most recently in their Billing Department and they are 100% supportive of her free clinics. **Thank you Tracy!**



Tracy assists a client with his glasses



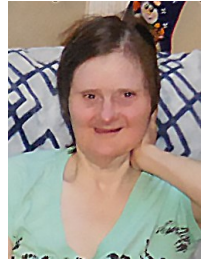
birth in Iowa, the family moved west, eventually arriving in Helena in 1968. Ria will always be remembered as the #1 "Monkees" fan.

In April, we were saddened by the unexpected passing of one of our Board Members, **Debbie Ekblom** at the age of 58. Deb was an advocate of West Mont's for many



years as her son, Rudy receives services from us. Deb is greatly missed by our staff and her fellow board members.

Sandy Tiesen, a West Mont resident since 1981, passed away in July at the age of 62. Sandy loved manicures and having her hair done. She also enjoyed car rides, but most of all she loved going barefoot. We miss her smiling face.



West Mont would like to extend its deepest condolences to the families of these remarkable women.



In the
Spotlight

West Mont Employees in the Spotlight

It is always interesting to hear why someone has chosen a career at West Mont. Three employees from Tara Group Home & Apartments recently shared their stories.

Kristine Germaine's original plan was to work at West Mont while she "looked for a job." That was in 2008! Instead of a job, West Mont became a career. Kristine is a **Direct Support Specialist 2 (DSS 2)**. She enjoys working here and helping people. She likes the variety the job offers and there are lots of opportunities for growth. She also says she "works with great, fun people."



Kristine Germaine

Stormy Streets is also a **DSS 2**. She worked at West Mont in 2010/2011 and then moved out of state. In 2014, Stormy came back to Helena and has been at West Mont ever since. She likes her job because the "hours and benefits are great." She also enjoys "outings in the community and out of



Stormy Streets

town trips with the clients and staff." She said that her job is "very fulfilling."

Jeff Elliott, Program Coordinator came to West Mont for a "summer job in 1987 and never left!" Jeff said that he enjoys "the uniqueness of everyday and that everyday is different." Although his job can be challenging at times he really appreciates the support of the great staff that he works with and the folks off-site that help him with these challenges.



Jeff Elliott

Kristine, Stormy, and Jeff's stories are featured in our new TV spots. West Mont is looking for more enthusiastic and dedicated employees just like them.

If you would like **Join Our Team** or want to learn more, visit our career website at westmontcareers.com or contact our Human Resource Generalist, **DeeAnna** at **406-447-3115**.

**A career at West Mont
will change a life, and
it may be yours...**

Farm & Gardens (cont. from page 1)

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Congratulations KARRI JONES!

Congratulations to **Kari Jones**, a West Mont Cheerleader. Kari was recently chosen by the **Independent Record** to be featured in their **20 Under 40** publication. In addition to being a cheerleader, she also works at PEERS and Helena Industries. **Go Karri!**



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West Mont

dignity • ability • choice

LOCATIONS

Blaine Work Services:

406-447-3120

Caldwell House

Cedar Apartments

Farm Group Home

Farm Vocational:

406-227-7565

Flower & Trading Company:

406-447-3123

www.westmontflowers.org

Hillside Group Home

Humbolt Apartments

Lewis & Clark Duplex

Melodee House

Ron's Place

Supported Employment

Tara Group Home

Tara Apartments

Townsend Group Home

VASTT: 406-443-1554

For more information, please

contact our Main Office:

406-447-3100 or email at:

wmoffice@westmont.org

Website: www.westmont.org

Proud partner
agency of:



Creating Opportunities that Promote Respect and Quality of Life for People with Disabilities

Main Office

2708 Bozeman Ave.

Helena, MT 59601

West Mont 25th Annual Family Fun Day and New Harvest Days "Luncheon"



West Mont's 25th Annual Harvest Days is just around the corner. The event kicks-off with **Family Fun Day at West**

Mont Farm & Gardens Saturday, September 9, 2017, 10:30 AM - 3:00 PM. Admission is \$5 per person or \$30 for a carload of six or more, pay at the Farm gate. Admission includes lunch available from **11:00 AM till 2:00 PM.**



Searching for the perfect pumpkin

This full day of fun includes lots of activities and games for the kids, plus pick a pumpkin from

the patch, enjoy entertainment, visit the petting zoo, and much more! West Mont Farm & Gardens is located at **3240 York Rd.**



Visiting the petting zoo

On **Friday, September 15**, West Mont will host its first **Harvest Days Benefit Luncheon.** Join us at the **Best Western Premier Great Northern Hotel from 12:00 PM until 1:00 PM (doors open at 11:30 AM).**

In an effort to cut costs and make our event more mission-focused, this luncheon is being held *instead* of the Black Tie Blue Jean Benefit Dinner. There will be no auctions or raffles. Our famous Cheer Squad will be on hand to perform and we look forward to sharing with you the wonderful things that are happening at West Mont.



Cheer Squad performing in 2016.

Tickets are \$30 each or \$300 for a table of 10. **Call West Mont: 406-447-3100 to reserve your tickets today.**

All proceeds from Harvest Days go to benefit people with disabilities.



We are looking for volunteers to help out with the games and activities at Family Fun Day. Hours are 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. If interested, please contact Ginny at: 406-447-3100.