

NEWS RELEASE



For immediate release

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For more information:

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Talks set for Jan. 20, 27 and Feb. 3

Speaker series covers diagnosis, research, medication and legal issues of Alzheimer's

EDMOND, Okla. – A special three-part speaker series on the challenges facing people living with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers will be presented beginning Jan. 20 at the Touchmark at Coffee Creek retirement community.

Each of the one-hour presentations begins at 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public. There is no charge. Touchmark is located at 2801 Shortgrass Road, Edmond.

“Given the growing prevalence of Alzheimer's and other dementia, it's important that people understand their options,” says Touchmark Health Services director Myra Smith, BSN. She adds that the best time for such education is early in the process. “This way, families can be prepared for the many decisions and changes they will face.”

The series kicks off Jan. 20 with a panel discussion on the topic of “Dementia Diagnosis: Now What?”

The panel will feature Cheryl Bairel, LPC, and Donna Brignac, RN, Clinical supervisor, both from the Autumn Life Geriatric Behavioral Health Center at the OU Medical Center/Edmond.

Louise M. Thurman, MD, MPH, is scheduled to speak Jan. 27.

Dr. Thurman will speak about the benefits of research, the stages of Alzheimer's disease and current medications that are available.

Dr. Thurman is a board-certified psychiatrist who has been practicing psychiatry in Oklahoma City for more than 20 years. She is a nationally known speaker and has been published in journals. She has spoken for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and at the National Institute of Mental Health's annual meeting regarding new clinical drug evaluations.

Denis P. Rischard, J.D. is scheduled to speak Feb. 3.

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TOUCHMARK *at Coffee Creek*

2801 Shortgrass Road • Edmond, OK 73003

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Rischarad will speak on legal issues facing those with dementia. He is founder, president and managing attorney for the Oklahoma Disability and Elder Law Advocates.

He assists clients with estate planning, probate and trust administration, SoonerCare planning, Veterans Administration pension planning, special-needs trusts, Medicare set-aside agreements, guardianships and elder abuse. Rischarad is a VA accredited attorney and active member of the Estate Planning, Probate & Trust Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association, the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and ElderCounsel.

For more information or to RSVP for the Touchmark at Coffee Creek speaker series, call 405)-340-1975.

Touchmark is part of the Coffee Creek 638-acre planned residential development, which includes a golf course, recreational centers and walking and biking trails for Coffee Creek homeowners. A full-service retirement community, Touchmark at Coffee Creek offers a wide range of homes and lifestyle options. For more information, contact Touchmark at 405-340-1975 or visit TouchmarkEdmond.com.