

NEWS RELEASE



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Arbor Day “Survivor Tree” – One Year Later

MERIDIAN, Idaho – To honor Arbor Day, Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village celebrates the one-year anniversary of Idaho’s first Oklahoma City “Survivor Tree” sapling planting. Today the tree is thriving in the courtyard of the Touchmark retirement community.

“This tree symbolizes resilience, growth and the power of community,” says Jim Johnston, Touchmark’s Life Enrichment/Wellness Director. “It’s a great honor to have the tree as part of our community, and we’re thankful for the expert arborist care it receives to ensure its vitality.”

Arborist Terri Ham from the Idaho Tree Preservation visits the tree every 60 days providing tree care on a pro bono basis. “It’s been an honor to care for the tree, which has already had significant growth,” says Ham. “It has a nice leaf bud set for the spring along with good root flare.”

Since its planting, the American Elm (*Ulmus Americana*) has benefitted from hand root collar excavation, soil decompaction and aeration, vertical composting, top dressing with wood chips, fencing and a growth support system.

Each year on the anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, survivor tree saplings are provided from the original tree to the people of Oklahoma along with others. Last year, Touchmark applied and was granted a sapling for the first Idaho public planting. Additionally, Mark Bays, Urban Forestry Coordinator with the Oklahoma Forestry Services and the caretaker of the original Survivor Tree, visited Touchmark to take part in the sapling planting.

To learn more about the Oklahoma Survivor Tree, follow this link:
<https://oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org/press-room/press-kit/survivor-tree/>

About Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village:

Touchmark at Meadow Lake Village is an award-winning, full-service retirement community offering a range of homes and lifestyle options, including a Health & Fitness Club with indoor pool. The nearly 100-acre campus also includes scenic lakes, a nine-hole golf course, walking paths and more. More information is available at Touchmark.com.

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