

Centennial's Holly Creek Retirement Community turns 5

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For many years, the northwest corner of Holly and Arapahoe Road contained a few homes known as the Cottages, a vacant field and not much else. In 2003, a remarkable transformation began taking place with the construction of the Holly Creek Retirement Community.

In June 2005, the retirement community opened its doors to welcome its first residents. As Holly Creek celebrates its fifth-year anniversary this month, here is a brief account of the community that 316 Centennial seniors call home.

Numbers alone do not tell the story of Holly Creek, although they are impressive. Built in two phases, construction costs for the community totaled nearly \$80 million. Holly Creek employs 145 people and through its operating expenses,

contributes over \$10.5 million annually to the local economy. "In an economic climate when many retirement communities are delaying or scaling back projects, we are proud that we finish Holly Creek on time, on budget and with all the amenities we promised our residents," said Cindy Hogan, executive director.

The fact Holly Creek is one of Colorado's leading retirement communities and provides both resort-style independent living and state-of-the art health care under one roof is just part of the story as well.

Holly Creek's 262 apartment and 12 cottage homes are supported by a town center that features a 35-seat movie theater, a wellness complex with instructor-led fitness programs, a spa, an indoor/outdoor pool, three restaurants, a library, a business

center, a woodworking studio, a beauty salon, an arts and crafts room, a fellowship room and an outdoor putting green.

The community is based on one of the most unique health care delivery models in Colorado. It includes a state-of-the-art Alzheimer's Memory Support Center to accommodate residents' mental health needs, including dementia. Holly Creek's health care wing, called "The Suites," also provides assisted living, skilled nursing and memory support.

According to Hogan, to know the real story of Holly Creek and what makes this community truly unique, you have to know its residents and employees.

"Together, they help make Holly Creek the dynamic, vibrant community it is today," Hogan said.