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Masonic home in College Hill closing Oct. 15

By Jon Newberry
Post staff reporter

The 80-year-old Masonic Eastern Star Community retirement home in College Hill will close as of Oct. 15, a spokeswoman said Friday.

The home is working with its 71 residents to find other facilities for them, either local homes or Masonic facilities elsewhere in Ohio, said Ohio Masonic Home spokesman Jerry Guess in Springfield, Ohio.

Residents and employees in College Hill were informed last week of the decision to close the home, and several residents have already moved, he said.

All 122 employees at the home will lose their jobs.

Guess said the organization decided to close the College Hill home because it's older and has trouble competing with several more modern facilities in the area. Its building was designed according to an older medical model and has dark, narrow hallways and smaller rooms than are typical at newer facilities, he said.

"It just doesn't have curb appeal. We couldn't get the census up and keep it up," Guess said.

Founded in 1918 as the Hamilton County Order of the Eastern Star Home and Hospital, the institution opened in October 1923 at its North Bend Road site. The current facility was built in 1966 and expanded in 1978.

Publication Date: 07-17-2004



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