

Thurston Woods bus offers easier access

Thurston Woods has a new bus. It holds 20 passengers and is accessible for all, regardless of their mobility.



Josh Singleton, director of development at Thurston Woods, with a new, more easily accessible bus.

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Thurston Woods has a new bus. It holds 20 passengers and is accessible for all, regardless of their mobility.

It was designed to be especially friendly for anyone who finds steps difficult and those who use walkers or wheelchairs. A ramp allows all passengers to board together, in general making transportation more pleasant, said Josh Singleton, director of development at Thurston Woods.

However, such buses do not come cheap, so Thurston Woods held fundraisers bringing in \$80,000 toward the purchase price, Singleton said.

Those funds came from individual donations, a murder-mystery event, a bowling fundraiser and staff “penny wars,” Singleton said.

The bus was delivered in June and has been used for several events. On Sept. 16-17, it will carry participants to an outing in Brown County, Ind., said Chris Kline, director of independent housing.

Along with sightseeing and shopping, there will also be an opportunity to visit a casino, Kline said. Space for the trip is still available, but limited.

Thurston Woods is home to about 250 Sturgis residents in the nursing center, assisted living, duplexes and apartments, Kline said.

Residents are served by a staff of about 200, the greatest concentration of whom work in the nursing center.

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