

JUN
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Gig Harbor

LIVING LOCAL



GIG HARBOR
Garden Tour

BUILD IT
UP GREEN

Waterfront
**FARMERS'
MARKET**

Your Life, Your

Passion



KENSINGTON
GARDENS
ESTATE LIVING
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

**Former wedding venue now award-winning
retirement community**

BY COLIN ANDERSON



THERE ARE MANY COUPLES who will reflect on their wedding experience at Kensington Gardens as “fairytale.” They will recall The Manor, the exquisite gardens, the attention to every detail and always the personal attention to the specific style of Kelly and Mark Watson, local owners.

When faced with the task of finding a home for Mark’s grandmother that offered the kind of care they desired for her, they realized they could do it better. The Carriage House was added to the estate as an adult family home followed by the conversion of The Manor to accommodate residents seeking personalized care. Recently, the Balcony Suites were designed for sumptuous living for active adults seeking independence and freedom to travel and pursue their interests.

When you think of a senior care facility, it’s typically a one-size-fits-all model. This is absolutely not the case at Kensington Gardens. “Our goal is to provide top-notch service, a high level of personalized care and maintain the lifestyle that people are accustomed to, all while living in an upscale environment,” says Mark. Around the beautiful grounds of the estate, the residents, their families and guests enjoy the impeccable and stately gardens where, weather permitting, you might find the residents playing their version of T-ball. There



are fun, stimulating activities arranged on a daily basis, as well as events and celebrations.

“We have happy hour with live piano music and singing every Friday at 3pm; residents gather in the living room for a glass of wine or lemonade before dinner. Our staff is involved in the meals and dines alongside our residents. Families are welcome and invited to join in our gatherings as the setting is always family friendly. It’s completely intentional living. We are a family here, a community,” says Kelly.

When residents venture out in their luxury 14-seat van, they could, for example, be enjoying lunch at a local restaurant, visits to Lemay Car Museum, a performance or concert. With Mark at the wheel, there is apt to be singing and frivolity. The recent purchase of a 45-foot yacht will give residents the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful waters in the South Sound.

Being a privately owned retirement community has allowed owners Kelly and Mark the freedom to be highly flexible with regard to the personalized care of their residents. The emphasis is on ensuring their residents have the best day possible—every day.

South Sound Magazine named Kensington Gardens winner for Best Assisted Living & Senior Living for 2017 and said, “The



luxurious site with a cascading fountain and an abundance of natural beauty offers intimate and ‘home-style setting’ care. Tailored plans address the emotional, intellectual, spiritual and physical needs of residents.”

There are many communities to consider, but how many offer gourmet meals, 23 acres of beautifully maintained English gardens, and trips into town via luxury van for coffee, ice cream and waterfront dining? How many can take you sailing around the harbor on a 45-foot yacht? Hospitality and commitment to its residents is what truly separates Kensington Gardens from all the others. You can see all of what this community has to offer by scheduling a tour. Call to schedule your visit.

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