



By [Tim Martin](#)

*Barbara Alling, left, of Groton and Fellowship Manor residents Catherine Lange, center, and Nancy Driscoll attend the nursing home's grand "reopening" ceremony Wednesday at the Fairview Oddfellows Home's new bistro café, part of a two-year, \$6 million expansion project. The café allows residents and families to meet in a restaurant atmosphere seven days a week. "We're trying to de-institutionalize the nursing-care facility and make it more homelike," Director of Development David Brown says. The number of beds in the facility, which was built in 1978, will remain the same, at 120, but the 16,000-square-foot, two-floor addition adds 16 semi-private resident rooms, Brown says. The home is also putting a greater focus on rehabilitation, with a therapy gym that includes a kitchen and bathroom so that senior citizens can practice cooking and bathing before they are sent home, Brown says. The addition was finished in January 2006, while the renovations of everything from residents' rooms to the nurses' station and dining room were just completed in March and April. The state had to approve the project, and the Oddfellows organization donated \$500,000 to start the fund-raising program, Brown says.*