



Schnepp Health Care Center *Happenings*

www.schnepp.net

From the Administrator:

It has been three years since Carol and I purchased Schnepp Health Care Facility from my parents. I find it hard to believe that it has been that long. So many things have happened here at the facility in those years and we are very thankful that it has been possible. But we know we haven't done it alone.

We are very grateful for the support from Commercial Bank who believed in us. We are also thankful for the physicians in our community that trust and respect our facility and staff enough to continue to refer patients to us. The same goes for Gratiot Community Hospital and the Commission on Aging. And we can't forget to be thankful for our friends, neighbors and, of course, our customers, the residents and families that we serve.

We have worked very hard to build a reputation for quality of care and will continue to strive to provide the best care possible for our residents. I know that Carol and I could not have achieved all of this without our wonderful staff. We are extremely thankful for all of them. They are great!

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say **Thank You** to everyone who supports us and recommends us to others. We want to be there when you need us!

Richard Prestage
Administrator/Owner
rprestage@schnepp.net
www.schnepp.net



Resident Birthday

Robert Cole 4/5
Lois Painter 4/5
Charles Freed 4/6
Ruby Allen 4/6
Adelaide LaLonde 4/15
Ruth Sheets 4/16
Sarah Risley 4/19
Virginia Detzler 4/20
George Yurchak 4/21
Clarence Wesenberg 4/27
Mildred Losey 4/27
Alexander Vance 4/27

Employee Birthday

Jan Knowles 4/5
Mary La Rose 4/7
Denise Goetz 4/8
Kristen Coffland 4/14
Pamala Read 4/17
Jessica Roberts 4/19
Rhonda Hamp 4/20
Jodi Wenzlick 4/22
Melissa Suminski 4/22
Penny DeBeau 4/27
Betty Nelson 4/28
Faye Strayer 4/28
Pam Lauckner 4/28
Barbara Lowe 4/29
Leona Golden 4/30



Dr. T's Corner

Dr. Wm. C. Thiemkey has been Medical Director for Schnepf Health Care Center for nearly 20 years. He will review some pertinent medical articles and summarize them in each issue of the newsletter.

Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) is a leading cause of death in America. Over 5 million suffer with it and 550,000 new cases are diagnosed each year. Many new and old drugs help patients and most patients can be managed with diet, exercise and medication. Some patients with severe CHF that has not responded to maximum medication may be candidates for "CRT plus ICD" (cardiac resynchronization therapy plus implantable cardioverter-defibrillator) treatment.

A healthy heart has all four chambers of the heart working in proper timing like a V8 in a classic auto engine. As we age the internal signal of the heart can get blocked and the diseased heart is not in "sync". This makes the heart inefficient and makes the patient short of breath and chronically fatigued. With the new high tech pacer (CRT plus ICD) the diseased failing heart can be put back into "sync" and purr like a kitten. The ICD portion of the pacemaker allows the patient to be "shocked" back into rhythm if a dangerous rhythm should occur. The FDA thinks that up to 35,000 patients per year could benefit from this new technology. So too many elderly with diseased hearts the song of the hour is "the beat goes on."

Welcome to Schnepf's:

Lois Painter
Henrietta Williams
Lillian Sabin
Robert Smith
Stanley Bunce
Jennie Mullet
Debbie Jewell
Patricia Orihel
Lucille Husted
Catherine Hoff

You Will Be Missed

Dorothy Divelbiss
Jessie Wells
Helen Powell
James Wilson
Beatrice Recker
Margaret Young
Bill Dougherty
Doris Benner
Russell Smalley
Phyllis Davis
Clara Lane
Betty Davis

Resident's Rights

#34. A facility must consult with the patient immediately and notify the patient's physician and, if known, the patient's legal representative or interested family member when there is: (a) an accident involving the patient which results in injury; (b) a significant change in the patient's physical, mental or psychosocial status; (c) a need to alter treatment significantly; or (d) a decision to transfer or discharge the patient from the facility.

Arthritis Advances of 2004 Provide Hope for Future Treatment

Cutting-edge biologic therapies and a predictive marker for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are among the top 10 arthritis advances of 2004, according to the Arthritis Foundation. Exciting discoveries of the past year also include a novel treatment that slows bone erosion and a common genetic link to autoimmune disorders such as RA, lupus, diabetes and thyroid disease.

Arthritis advocates also scored successes in 2004 with the introduction of the first arthritis-specific legislation in more than 30 years and the implementation of a Medicare pilot program allowing thousands of Americans with RA and psoriatic arthritis to obtain life-changing biologic medications at a reduced cost.

"As the number of people with arthritis reaches epidemic proportions, advances in research, public health and public policy are more important than ever to preventing, controlling and eventually curing the nation's number one cause of disability," said John H. Klippel, M.D., president and CEO of the Arthritis Foundation. "Breakthrough advances in 2004 offer hope to people with arthritis and provide a glimpse of what is possible in the future."

Other advances include:

- Effectiveness of weight loss and physical activity confirmed
- First-ever set of quality indicators for arthritis developed
- Measures to prevent wrong-site surgery mandated
- Antibiotic shown to slow progression of knee osteoarthritis (OA)

To develop its annual list of the top 10 arthritis advances, the Arthritis Foundation sought input from clinicians with expertise in different forms of arthritis, scientists from various research disciplines, as well as from the American College of Rheumatology, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

2004 Advances: A Glimpse of the Future

Advances in 2004 showed that in the near future, people might benefit from therapies targeted at the root causes of serious forms of arthritis rather than those aimed at treating disease symptoms. It also could become routine to screen patients to determine who is at risk for severe disease progression and, therefore, who is most likely to benefit from early and aggressive treatment.

The foreseeable future also promises a greater quality of life for patients with arthritis and related diseases through increased government funding for research and public health activities, advances in quality care standards for people with arthritis, and improved preoperative processes in joint surgery. An increased understanding of the benefits of weight loss and exercise in reducing pain and improving physical function, as well as promising research into antibiotic treatment to slow disease progression, will lead to relief for millions of Americans suffering from debilitating knee OA.

With one in every two Ameri-

Schnepf Health Care Center Resident Bake Sale

We are having a Bake Sale, Saturday April 23, from 9 AM to 4 PM in the Activity Center. If you are interested in making any baked goods or have any questions, please contact Jennifer McKinin A.D. at (989) 681-5721. All donations of baked goods need to be delivered to the Activities staff by Friday April 22 at 4 PM. All proceeds go to the SHCC Resident Fund. There will be a few select spring items for sale as well. We look forward to seeing you there!

cans over 50 facing fractures from osteoporosis or low bone mass by 2020, advances made in slowing the progressive loss of bone and increasing bone mass have never been more important. Research conducted in 2004 will serve as the launching pad for bone health advances in the coming year, with researchers poised for even more breakthroughs in 2005 and beyond.

The Arthritis Foundation is the single largest nonprofit contributor to arthritis research in the world and the only nationwide, nonprofit health organization helping people take greater control of arthritis by leading efforts to prevent, control and cure arthritis and related diseases -- the nation's number one cause of disability. For free arthritis information, contact the Arthritis Foundation at (800) 283-7800 or on the Web at www.arthritis.org.

Courtesy of ARA Content

