



Schnepp Health Care Center *Happenings*

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Well, 2005 is flying by way to fast. Noah and Chloe have really enjoyed playing outside in the snow this winter. Noah is fearless on his sled. My daughter Courtney and her husband Floyd have had their first child, Cameron, and all are doing well.

We have been re-decorating the facility with new wallpaper in some areas, new handrails, and lower fascia board. The kitchen has a new walk-in cooler/freezer which ended up being a major project for us. Glad we got that out of the way!

We have also welcomed a couple of new people to our staff. Penny DeBeau has joined our Social Work Department. She brings with her much experience and has been very productive since her first day on the job. Denise Ellsworth is our new In-service/Afternoon Supervisor. She is an RN and has fit right in with the rest of our staff. I think both are great additions to our family.

Now for the bad news. As you know, Michigan's economy has lagged behind the rest of the nation in this recovery. Governor Granholm issued an executive order cutting Medicaid Providers 4 percent to help balance the budget. The Senate turned her executive order down so it is back to the Governor for another try. The problem for us is we are already under a 1.85 percent cut from four years ago, so we are really talking about almost a 6 percent cut.

It is extremely difficult to budget, provide salary increases, staff and improve the physical plant when 75 percent of our revenue comes from the State or Federal Government and is subject to cuts at any time to balance the budget. Our industry finds itself pitted against Education for whom gets the latest rounds of cuts. I expect we will end up on the losing end again.

Long-term care providers need a stable reimbursement program that allows us to invest in our people and physical plants.

As always, I appreciate your trusting us with the care of your loved ones! We really want to be the very best.

Dick Prestage
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Resident Birthday

Helen Miel-Beachler 3/3
Zana Thayer 3/3
Nora Ehlert 3/12
Deanna Essex 3/12
Mary Britting 3/14
Loretta Tiedt 3/16
Julia Winnie 3/17
Alberta Callison 3/17
Eleanor Beougher 3/28

Employee Birthday

Sue Moulton 3/5
Denny Gee 3/7
Kelly LaFreniere 3/14
Kari Geitman 3/15
Patricia Waltz 3/17
Sue Mann 3/20
Tammy Burns 3/24
Justin Trecy 3/28
Linda Wing 3/29



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.

Welcome to Schnepf's:

James Wilson
Frances Nizinski
Joseph Nizinski
Alexander Vance
Helen Miel-Beachler
Sarah Risley
Esther O'Boyle
Harold Babcock
Geneva Green
Oneta Braugher

You Will Be Missed

Dennis Hawes
Allen Cooper
Bernice Nelson
Pat Bailey
Doris Lindstrom
Elsie Foster
Dorthea Bierd
Iva Bahlke
Beatrice Ross
John Mikula

"You've got to have heart"

Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) is a common disorder in the elderly and is one that is misunderstood by the lay public. CHF is a clinical syndrome, not a disease that results in the compromise cardiac contraction. Simply put, the heart is a pump and with CHF the pump is not efficient in doing its job. Until recent months the diagnosis of CHF was a subjective one with the physician having to put together the patients history, their symptoms and a physical and then coming up with the diagnosis. Now we have a blood test that is 96 percent efficient in making the diagnosis. Brain Natriuretic Peptide or BNP, which is a neurohormone, can be detected with a blood test. If the test is high then we know that the heart is stressed and in a state of CHF. This test can be used to initially diagnose a patient and levels can be followed to see if treatment is effective. Having BNP as a tool, and with new medicines, patients with CHF have a much better chance at a longer and healthier life.

Resident's Rights

#33. A patient shall be provided through public posting in the facility, with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all pertinent state client advocacy groups including the state licensing and certification agency, the Long Term Care Ombudsman, the Protection and Advocacy Service, and the Medicaid fraud control unit.

Activity Corner

With spring around the corner, I thought that it would be a good time to add some new programs to our activities calendar and to welcome our new member to the Activity staff.

Melissa Suminski has recently joined us in the Activity Department and is a wonderful new addition. Many of you may already know Melissa from working on the floor as a CENA. Melissa has been married to her husband Matt for 7 years they have three children and live here in St. Louis. She enjoys joking with the residents and making their day a little brighter. Welcome Melissa!

Thank you to Jackie Early for purchasing 21 new/used large print books for the resident while on her trip to Grand Rapids. We appreciate your time and thoughtfulness.

We are adding another evening program to the calendar, so make sure you check out the March calendar for new programs. If you have any suggestions or would like to participate in any programs please feel free to contact me at (989) 681-5721 or e-mail me at jmckinin@schnepp.net.

Jennifer McKinin, *Activity Director*

In the Garden

March 17 is just around the corner. The staff will provide treats to help celebrate St. Patrick's Day with our residents. So come and enjoy our fun at 9:30 AM. Don't forget to wear your green!!

This is just a friendly reminder please do not leave glass in picture frames, or glass vases at residents bedside, as we don't want our residents to get hurt if an item were to break.

The staff on Garden would like to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and a Happy Easter!

A New Face in Social Services

We would like to welcome Penny DeBeau to our staff. Penny is from the Merrill area and previously worked at Hoyt Health Care Center in Saginaw. She grew up in the Jackson County area graduating from Concord High School. After graduation she moved to Saginaw to attend SVSU getting her bachelors degree in social work. She and her husband Jim have three boys; Hunter age 9, Cody age 6, Jacob 16 months. They also have a dog named Tequila. In her spare time Penny enjoys camping with her family and friends, biking and volleyball. Penny is awaiting her clinical in the RN program. Welcome Penny! Stop in and introduce yourself. Penny will be a big asset to our department.

Bonnie Smith, RSW, *Admissions*

Schnepp Health Care Center Plant and Flower Policy

With Easter and Mother's Day fast approaching I thought that it would be a good time to review the plant and flowers policy. Live plants and flowers ARE allowed on Serenity, Harmony, and Hope Harbor units. However, live plants and flowers ARE NOT allowed on the Special Needs unit, also known as the Garden unit, due to the great number of toxic plants and flowers. The residents of the Special Needs unit are potentially at risk of harm from ingesting foliage or flowers, in order to prevent harm to the Special Needs residents, only artificial arrangements will be allowed. Please contact either Jennifer McKinin A.D. or Karen Donovan Garden, RN Supervisor with any questions at (989) 681-5721.

