



The Neighbors
of Dunn County

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBORS

March-April, 2017

HAPPY SPRING!



Although the weather in Menomonie still says it's winter, Spring is just around the corner! Don't forget to "Spring Forward" on Sunday, March 12th for Daylight Savings Time. Here's the latest news of what's happening at The Neighbors...



MARCH Entertainment:

3rd - 2 p.m. Vern Moss (West - Eventide)

10th - 2 p.m. Ron Hogan (West - Eventide)

2 p.m. Chuck & Lenore (East - Tenderhearth)

3:30 p.m. Chuck & Lenore (Central - Deerview)

17th - 2 p.m. Becky Berg (West - Eventide)

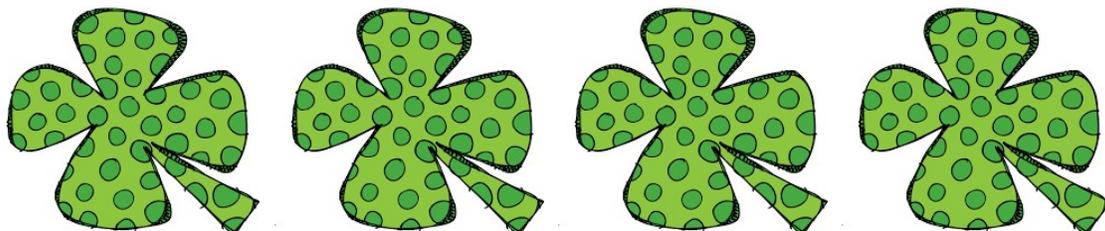
2 p.m. Quinton Kase (East - Tenderhearth)

3:30 p.m. Quinton Kase (Central - Bistro)

24th - 2 p.m. Al Julson (East - Morning Song)

3:30 p.m. Al Julson (Central)

27th - 2 p.m. Steve Szydel (West - Red Cedar Lodge)





March is designated as National Nutrition Month. The theme for 2017 is "Put Your Best Fork Forward", which acts as a reminder that each bite counts. Making just small shifts in our food choices, can add up over time. The *2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans* suggest starting with small changes in order to make healthier lasting changes you can enjoy. This year's theme for National Nutrition Month® inspires us to start with small changes in our eating habits – one forkful at a time. So whether you are planning meals to prepare at home or making selections when eating out, *Put Your Best Fork Forward* to help find your healthy eating style.

NEWSPAPERS

We are fortunate to receive several copies of the Eau Claire Leader Telegram daily through a program the newspaper coordinates. These newspapers are donated through the generosity of local businesses. We currently deliver one newspaper to each house for the residents to share. If your loved one wants their own copy, we suggest you purchase them their own subscription. We also ask that you notify us when subscriptions are started or stopped. Thank you.



LEADER-TELEGRAM
Your Newspaper Your Community



From the Community Mentor...

It seems like only yesterday it was 2016 and now we are into March already. I see the geese are flying back home and you can get a whiff of spring now and then. It's close...we hope. Overall, the winter hasn't been too bad.

Things at The Neighbors have been busy. Last year our staff had to adjust to a new county software program that tabulates our work hours, approves those hours, processes our payroll, invoices, billing and so forth. It's been a huge learning curve, and sometimes we feel as though we're just starting to learn what we need to know. But, overall it's getting smoother month to month and that's a good thing because we need to concentrate on so many other things – especially the residents in our facilities. We've continued to have great State Survey outcomes in 2016 for all three of our facilities resulting in The Neighbors of Dunn County being rated as 4 and 5-star facilities from Medicare.gov (out of 5 stars). Only 20% of facilities state-wide can claim a 5-star rating, but our Central and West facilities are just that! These ratings are based on the outcomes from State Surveys, staffing levels and quality of care.

In 2017 we will be making some changes and taking on some new activities. First, we've engaged the services of a professional marketing agency to help people understand what The Neighbors of Dunn County is with a new website, greater social media outreach, greater engagement of those who call us with inquiries, referrals and celebrating '*generations of caring since 1892*' or 125 years of providing health care services within Dunn County. We will be starting a Memorial Garden where individuals can be memorialized within our patio consisting of engraved bricks. We'll also be completing a feasibility study on whether or not we can operate a group home on our campus.

Last year, we researched the potential of out-sourcing our dietary services, but decided that our existing staff would make changes in 2017 that would save us most of the dollars that out-sourcing would have, without sacrificing our quality.

Throughout this new year, we'll also be reducing the hours of our homemakers by about half, essentially eliminating the late afternoon hours through attrition in 2017. This together with all of our other activities is designed to get us to the financial goals needed for our department. While changes are difficult, it should help keep the Neighbors of Dunn County strong and thriving in the future whereas other facilities in our region have closed due to poor financial outcomes.

It is really important that we support the Governor's biennial ('17-'19) budget proposal in which increases are finally being budgeted for nursing home reimbursements through the Wisconsin Medical Assistance program. Currently, Wisconsin ranks as the worst state in the nation in terms of reimbursing our costs under the MA program. Additionally, many facilities throughout Wisconsin are in the midst of a work-force crisis that sometimes inhibits their ability to admit new residents because of the difficulty in finding employees. So, to see increases proposed to our MA rates is a good thing for which we should all support.

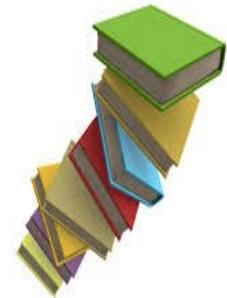
This new year means implementation of the new Mega Rules for nursing homes that became effective in November of 2016 – the biggest regulatory reform of nursing homes in 25 years. This alone will keep us busy year round as we work to update our policies and procedures to match the new regulatory requirements. I don't intend to bore you with details. We're glad you're here with us and that we can serve you! Call if I can help in any way. Thanks.

Anthony Manzella, Administrator/Community Mentor

National Library Week is April 9-15, 2017

Did you know The Neighbors has a library in the Central Neighborhood? Our library is for the entire campus to use and has regular, large print, and books on CD. We also have a large selection of magazines available. In addition to reading materials, our library also has music CDs and puzzles that can be used by residents and family members.

We also recently began a program with the Menomonie Public Library in which they will bring us a selection of books for our residents to enjoy every month.



April 23–29th is

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK!

We will be celebrating with a special recognition social for our wonderful volunteers.

Easter Activities in all Neighborhoods

for staff and residents' children &
grandchildren ages 2 -10

Friday, April 14th

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

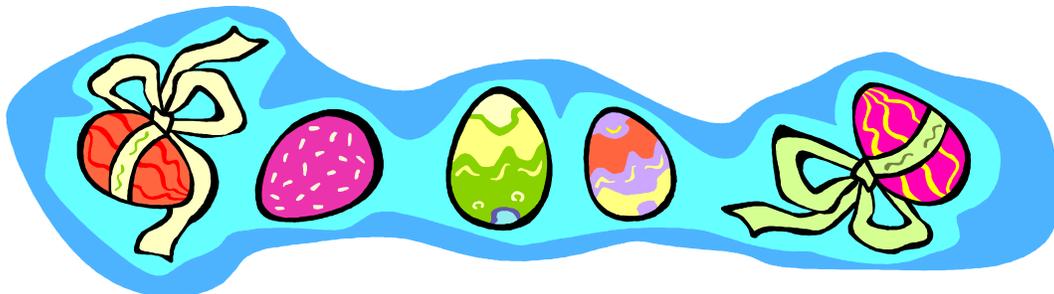
Children are welcome to collect Easter treats from residents in the following houses:

East: Morning Song & Tenderhearth

Central: Fireside, Arrowhead & Deer View

West: Inglenook & Eventide

Stay and join us for punch and cookies while visiting with the residents of the Neighbors.



From the Nursing Department...



The Neighbors of Dunn County is currently working to become an "alarm-free" facility. Studies have shown that alarms are not effective in eliminating falls and can actually contribute to falls.

We are not instituting any new alarms, and will slowly be reducing alarms that are currently being used. Be assured that we will be working with families as we make these changes, and will do so only in the best interest of our residents.



A reminder from our Corporate Compliance Committee:

We at The Neighbors understand that families and visitors may enjoy taking photos or recordings of their loved ones who reside here. We do want to remind everyone, however, that the state of Wisconsin prohibits any recording, whether by photo, video or audio, of any resident being taken during treatment or cares. Also, we ask that all families and visitors please respect other residents and family members in the facility, and be sure not take any sort of recording that includes other residents.



April Entertainment:

7th — 2 p.m. Honey N' Me (EAST—Tenderhearth)

2 p.m. Ron Hogan (WEST—Eventide)

3:30 p.m. Honey N' Me (CENTRAL)

11th—2 p.m. Chuck & Lenore (WEST— Red Cedar)

21st—2 p.m. Music Mary (EAST—Morning Song)

3:30 p.m. Music Mary (CENTRAL)



STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

This year the Life Enhancement Department has been fortunate to host several groups of students from the Menomonie schools and UW-STOUT. Throughout the school year, we have had the St. Joseph's confirmation students coming monthly, as well as UW-STOUT Catholic volunteers monthly. We have also enjoyed visits from UW-STOUT Dietetics Students, the Psychology Club, and Gamma Sigma Sigma. We are looking forward to visits from the Fifth graders at Oaklawn Elementary and the Menomonie Middle School Student Council later this Spring.



The Neighbors
of Dunn County

Generations of caring since 1892

2901 Forbes Avenue

Menomonie, WI 54751



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