

“For Your Information”

(A periodic publication by Sherwood Oaks Executive Director, Annette McPeck)

December 15, 2020

Thank You Cards

I've had several employees express their gratitude toward the residents for the appreciation checks they received last Thursday. Thank you cards are posted on the bulletin boards in the mailroom for you to read. These cards will remain posted until the first of the year.

COVID-19 Vaccine

I first want to say thank you for your support and cooperation during this past year of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are entering a new phase of treatment with the approval and release of vaccines to treat this virus. We currently have limited information regarding the vaccine distribution, but wanted to provide you an update of what is occurring to date.

UPMC has a COVID-19 task force dedicated to establishing guidelines and planning logistics of the vaccine distribution. UPMC Senior Communities is actively involved with this committee and working in partnership with our long-term care pharmacy division which includes RX Partners and Community Drug.

You may have heard on the news that UPMC acute care hospitals have received the Pfizer vaccine. The Moderna vaccine is still awaiting approval. Once approved, we expect to receive it at UPMC Senior Communities. Due to storage requirements, the Moderna vaccine is the most appropriate for delivery to long-term care facilities, including skilled nursing, assisted living, personal care and independent living. **We do not have a confirmed delivery date to receive the vaccine just yet.** Upon release, there will be specific information about the Moderna vaccine available for review. Our dedicated staff will be involved with administering and tracking the distribution.

The vaccine is completely voluntary. Neither residents nor healthcare workers are required to take the injections; however, we strongly encourage participation. There is no cost for the vaccine.

We will distribute more information as it becomes available. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Technology Surveys

Thank you for participating in the UPMC Senior Services technology survey last week. The response rate was 146/275 surveys distributed.

(over)

Annual Ambulance Fee

The 2021 Cranberry Ambulance membership fee will be billed to residents on the January statement at \$30 for a single resident and \$40 per couple, consistent with prior years. However, beginning in 2021, Cranberry Township EMS will add a \$50 service charge per occurrence and will not be writing off 100% after insurance pays. This maximum out of pocket expense of \$50 has been added due to decreasing insurance reimbursements, donations and membership along with higher operational costs. Ted Fessides, Chief Executive Director noted the Cranberry EMS does not receive any tax money from the municipality and relies solely on insurance reimbursement, donations and membership program to meet costs.

Please note, when Sherwood Oaks calls 911, Cranberry Ambulance may request that another ambulance service, such as McCandless or Harmony EMS, come to the campus to provide help. Staff will not know which ambulance company is coming until they enter the gate.

Podiatrist

After many years of service to the Sherwood Oaks Community, Dr. Kramer is retiring at the end of this month. We thank him for his many contributions and wish him well in retirement. A new podiatrist has been found and information will be communicated shortly. We anticipate his service to begin early January.

Sherwood Neighbors

Sherwood Neighbors is a new resident-initiated program to help the community stay connected while we have to remain distanced. This program is an outgrowth of the concern expressed by residents on the Health Affairs and Living with Loss committees about isolation of elders during the pandemic. Look for more information in the January *ACORN*.