



Alaska Veterans & Pioneers Home

SUMMER UPDATE

JULY 2009



This summer has proven to be full of activities and exciting changes. AVPH welcomes several new residents along with changes within the home. Both Homestead and Sunny Loop got a new look with fresh paint and new cabinet systems. Homestead gratefully received new recliners that are serving the residents needs very well. See more on these changes and additional summer happenings on the following pages...





From the Administrator



It's summertime in Alaska! We can tell by the construction frenzy going on all around us. The AVPH is no different. We have been very fortunate to receive funding for several projects that will bring improvements to the health and safety of our residents and staff.

The Zerolift Project was initiated year before last in an effort to decrease employee injuries related to transferring residents. The final phase of this project is due to begin this year with the installation of specialized lifts in the spas and in a few resident rooms. These lifts will increase safety and comfort for residents as well.

Security Camera Installation - Sadly, we have seen resident safety compromised in many long term care facilities Outside. We are fortunate to live and work in a wonderful community. However, the world is changing and the state of Alaska has made a commitment to keep its citizens as safe as possible. Later this month we will begin installing security cameras in our parking lots, entry ways, and in common areas throughout the building. No cameras will be installed in resident rooms, offices, or spas. Installation of cameras in hallways will allow the staff to be more vigilant of residents who may wander or who may be at risk for falling. Cameras in the parking lots and entryways will provide an added measure of security for staff members, especially those who come and go during the hours of darkness and those who work the evening and night shifts.



We are very excited to have had funding allocated for the following deferred maintenance, renovation and repair projects in the FY 2010 Budget:

- Awning installation for the Fireweed neighborhood
- Electrical upgrades in Sunny Loop, Windy Way and Homestead
- Maintenance Equipment Storage Building
- Pavilion Remodel

We are very thankful to our Division and Department staff as well as our legislators for their support in securing this funding.

It seems we are showered with blessings all the time at AVPH. From the community and veterans groups, to family members, volunteers and friends that contribute in so many ways to make this the wonderful home that it is.

Our latest blessing is in the form of a Service Learning grant the Mat-Su College received from Learn & Serve in America. Karen Backlund is coordinating a project to utilize that grant to install a wheelchair accessible garden in our back yard. Our groundskeeper Pamela Nolcini is working with residents, garden designer Wendy Anderson, and with Karen on this project. Construction should be starting any day. Yummm, more herbs, veggies, and flowers to enjoy!!!

Lastly, I am very happy to announce that our request for three additional certified nurse assistant positions was approved by the legislature. We are in the process of completing the paper process to fill those positions.

Thanks to our staff for the wonderful job they do and for the residents who bring us such joy.

Have a wonderful summer!

Lynda



CONGRATULATIONS to Tim Chace who recently took on the position of Maintenance Foreman following Jerry O'Malley's retirement. Tim demonstrated leadership skills, knowledge and a willingness required to be a foreman, along with having effective communication abilities with his maintenance crew. Tim, you're doing a great job... Thank you!



Welcome Jim to Maintenance!

From left to right: Craig, Jerry, Tim and Jim and Romel (in front).



Ed Willis's Spuds



Darlene Tanner Tending Sunny Loop Courtyard Flowers.



Willis's & Bette Williams Flowerboxes



Mat-Su VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic Ribbon Cutting Ceremony—May 25, 2009

Many of our veteran residents attended along with resident Ed Walker who had the honor of participating in the ribbon cutting.



Memorial Day Veterans' Wall Ceremony

What a nice day it was for a beautiful ceremony of honoring & remembrance!—June 25th.



HOME SWEET HOME!

~Homestead~



Thank you Elks for the awesome television! We love it!



~Sunny Loop~



Thank you maintenance and everyone for your part in these lovely improvements!

AVPH upgraded to Office 2007. This change brought about necessary learning of the new version but it seems that we as a whole have survived the change. We're now up to speed with the rest of the world (or at least the State)! Thanks everyone for your support on this changeover!



“Have a Beautiful Summer Everyone!”

