

# Sunset SENIOR LIVING

418 Washington Street • Quincy, IL 62301 • (217) 223-2636

## REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

**PROFESSION IN CRISIS:** I had a call from a reporter from KHQA last week wanting to do an interview regarding staffing in long-term care facilities. He had read the report from the American Healthcare Association that nursing homes were down 221,000 jobs nation-wide since the start of the pandemic. The report showed that long-term care facilities are suffering the worst labor crisis and job loss than any other health care sector. While hospitals, physicians' offices, outpatient care centers, and other health care providers have reached or surpassed pre-pandemic staffing levels, nursing homes and assisted living communities are still experiencing substantial job losses, according to the latest October employment data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Mark Parkinson, the President of AHCA stated the following: "As many caregivers are getting burned out by the pandemic, workers are leaving the field for jobs in other health care settings or other industries altogether. Chronic Medicaid underfunding, combined with the billions of dollars providers have spent to fight the pandemic, have left long term care providers struggling to compete for qualified staff."

Every health care publication I get or email article I receive has at least one article talking about the workforce shortage. Finding available staff was not good before the pandemic, but now it is at a crisis level with no real end in sight. The Annual State of Nursing Report, put out by Shiftmed, pointed out that nearly 49% of nurses are likely to exit the profession over the next two years.

## December 2021

Among those who stated that they may leave, 38% intend to pursue non-patient roles in health care, while 31% plan to leave the health care field completely. Factors that could influence them to stay were higher pay, better shifts and more flexible scheduling.

As a result of these shortages, 58% of nursing homes have had to limit new admissions because of a lack of employees to maintain required staffing requirements. As a result, occupancy levels have been slow to recover to pre-pandemic levels causing a substantial financial hardship on long term care providers. This workforce crisis threatens access to care for vulnerable seniors.

**MANDATES EXACERBATE THE PROBLEM:** The looming vaccine mandate is only exacerbating the problem for providers. Many of our employees who have worked through this pandemic from the start are now being mandated to receive the vaccine or risk losing their job. All nursing homes and assisted living facilities are being mandated to require all staff be fully vaccinated in order to continue to receive funding from Medicare and Medicaid. This is putting us in a very difficult position, in that we will not be able to staff up to the number of residents we have in the facility, but there is no place for these residents to go. This is exactly the Catch 22 I referred to in my last newsletter article. Quite honestly, I don't know how this will turn out, as we are truly between the proverbial rock and a hard spot.





## CONTINUED...

### STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:

By the time you get this newsletter, many of you will have received an invitation to the Assisted Living Open House on December 2nd. This will be a "soft" open, as the supply chain issue has caused some delays in the delivery of some of the construction items and some of the furniture and fixtures we have on order for the facility. Nevertheless, we are excited to show off our new building. We are still hoping to have the needed inspections to license and open this new service shortly after the first of the year. The early response has been very good, and we already have a number of seniors interested in moving in.

Due to the higher cost of construction since we first started looking at the new replacement nursing home, our architects and construction managers have been working on some re-design features to reduce the size of the building as well as some mechanical changes that are less expensive. We hope to have answers from our permanent financing partners soon based on these lower overall costs.



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS:** By the time you receive this, Thanksgiving will be behind us and Christmas and New Year's will be just a few weeks away. From all of us at Sunset Senior Living, I hope you had a joyful Thanksgiving and want to wish you a very blessed Merry Christmas. May God bless you richly during this holiday season.

Jerry Neal, Administrator



## STAY CONNECTED



find us on facebook!

- Sunset Home
- Sunset Assisted Living
- Sunset Apartments & Villas

### Open House

We invite you to join us for an Open House!

Thursday, December 2, 2021  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Join us for cookies and punch and a tour of the newly renovated assisted living facility while learning more about our revitalization plans.





## EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

Randy Huntley: 12/03  
Michelle Kindle: 12/04  
Jessica Vahle: 12/04  
Michael Calaway: 12/07  
Royda Houghton: 12/07  
Dina Johnson: 12/08  
Regina Allen: 12/10  
Elena Ehrhardt: 12/10  
Karen Cheney: 12/14  
Debra Marshall: 12/14  
Christine Hudson: 12/15  
Dennis Mandeville: 12/17  
Jerry Neal: 12/17  
Ashlynn Goehl: 12/19  
Brenda Coon: 12/21  
Catherine Rumsey: 12/24  
Ruth Sparrow: 12/24  
Cathy Gallaher: 12/25  
Holly Butler: 12/27  
Laura Feltes: 12/30

## EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Sandra Allensworth:  
1YR (12/7/20)  
Donna Jones:  
1YR (12/4/20)  
Nathan Wright:  
1YR (12/29/20)



## REPORT FROM SOCIAL SERVICES

**Admissions:**  
Steve Sinnock  
Lynn LeClair  
Norma McFeeters  
Anna Mae Timpe  
Grace Mixer  
Donna Evers  
Jacqueline Kaelke  
Charlotte Shupe  
Renee McPherson  
Joan Rothweiler  
Lynnoy "Ann" Squier  
Cara Schipper  
Marydot Hunziker  
**Discharges:**  
Vivian Kackley  
Michelle Scott  
Robert Duesterhaus  
Arleta Dye  
Marilyn Hockman  
Gail Mosley  
Norma McFeeters

## RESIDENT BIRTHDAYS

Barbara Willing: 12/01  
Beverly Andrews: 12/10  
Cecelia Hill: 12/12  
Joan Kerkhoff: 12/19  
Ramona Dunker: 12/23  
Nellie Johnson: 12/23  
Esther Wartick: 12/23  
Stephen Bax: 12/28  
John Kane: 12/29

## Stay Sunny on the Inside

Wintertime is the season for citrus. And if the weather outside is frightful, an orange, clementine or grapefruit can put you in a sunshine state of mind. Citrus fruits are famous for their supply of immune-boosting vitamin C, and simply smelling their scents has been shown to be energizing.

## Brainteaser

Question: What flies around when it's born, lies still when it's living, and runs when its life is over?

Answer: A snowflake.

## Remember When: Divinity Candy

Many people have sweet memories of the classic treat called divinity, so named because it tastes so divine. Snow white in color, the soft and chewy candy is similar to nougat and meringue and made by combining egg whites, sugar and corn syrup. The confection dates back to the early 1900s, when corn syrup was a new product, and companies that produced the sugar substitute provided recipes for divinity.



# Word Search

## Category: Games

S E O N I M O D M X M P	1. Soccer
S C H E C K E R S G I S	2. _____
E M A H J O N G G N C D	3. _____
H O <u>S O C C E R</u> G R H C	4. _____
C N E P L R S P A F O F	5. _____
H O G I U G O B S L C O	6. _____
A P A N E N B Q D O K O	7. _____
R O B O G L D M U G E T	8. _____
A L B C E S A D O E Y B	9. _____
D Y I H S I N N E T T A	10. _____
E G R L D S R U G B Y L	11. _____
S D C E B A S E B A L L	12. _____
	13. _____
	14. _____
	15. _____
	16. _____
	17. _____
	18. _____
	19. _____
	20. _____

**Word Search Solution:**

1. Baseball	11. Hockey
2. Charades	12. Mahjong
3. Checkers	13. Monopoly
4. Chess	14. Old Maid
5. Clue	15. Ping Pong
6. Cribbage	16. Pinocchio
7. Croquet	17. Rugby
8. Dominoes	18. Scrabble
9. Football	19. Soccer
10. Golf	20. Tennis



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