



Community Village

An assisted living home for Seniors where God's love makes the difference.

SPRING 2019

HAPPY
**Mother's
Day**

A Mother's Love in Time of Frailness

This year Mother's Day brings a special Community Village family into focus. Pete and Helen Neumeyer came to the Village early last year and enjoyed life together in an apartment. The arrangement seemed perfect for them because Pete could have the assistance that he needed as his physical health failed, and Helen could enjoy having meals prepared and regular access to hair care in the beauty shop. Their family was also very supportive and helped to furnish the apartment with familiar items from their home. Unfortunately, Pete soon faced greater needs and by autumn he was called to his forever home in God's kingdom. That was the end of a 68 year marriage and yet separation was seemingly softened by the fact that Helen's memory was not as sharp as it had been in earlier years.

Pete was a member of St. John's Amelith Lutheran Church all of his life and Helen joined when they were married in 1950. Pete played baseball in Saginaw during his young adult years, and was well known for the many years that he worked for Bartel's Plumbing Supply. Helen was a homemaker who worked at Morley Brothers Department Store for many years, and later for Lawyers Title Insurance Company. Together they shared a lifetime enthusiasm for the Detroit Tigers.

The roles of parent and child change with each passing decade, however role reversals become more prominent through the challenges of dementia. Nevertheless a wonderful dimension of the Christian family involves relationships centered in pleasing Christ and treating one another with respect. Love and respect are easily witnessed as daughters and sons regularly visit Helen along with their spouses and grandchildren. Today Helen has a room by herself and still enjoys having meals prepared and regular appointments in the beauty shop. But family visits are the times when she really lets everyone see her smile.





FROM THE DESK OF
Becky Miller
ADMINISTRATOR

God's Hand of Provision can include assisted living

Our nation is filled with baby boomers (those born from 1946 to 1964) coming to the reality that assisted living could be part of their future, while also having an awareness that limited resources could make the cost prohibitive. In fact, the National Center for Assisted Living reports that the median cost for assisted living is \$3,700/month. We know that the cost in Mid-Michigan often exceeds this amount, but at Community Village we also know there are ways we can trim this expense. Even more importantly, here at Community Village we know that our mission is to serve God by demonstrating the love of Christ to seniors.

The median cost of assisted living at Community Village is \$2,300/month. Some residents select more expensive rooms, and others opt for more economical options. Those unfamiliar with the cost of assisted living might be surprised to learn of this amount, but you need to

remember that the true cost is service. People need to be hired to prepare meals, administer medications, clean rooms, assist residents in bathing, dressing, finding lost items, arranging physician appointments, keeping equipment in working order, planning activities, watching over matters of safety during sleep time, and helping residents rise in the morning to begin the process all over again.

Community Village also often provides financial assistance for residents who are unable to afford these modest rates. Applicants need to submit financial background information, basically demonstrating their level of need, and grants are provided to supplement other sources of income. These grants mean that some residents are able to receive the full menu of assisted living services while only offering their Social Security Check for payment. This is only possible as friends of Community Village make contributions to cover the cost of care for frail elders.

Perhaps today, as you read this newsletter, you might consider sending a check to help underwrite the cost of care for those who have reached their golden years with insufficient gold. Community Village plays a vital role in the lives of frail elders, however opening the doors to people in need can only happen as others give to offset the cost. This might be a time when God wants to use you to fulfill the words of Jesus in *Matthew 6*.

Matthew 6:31-32

So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.





Capt. Keith Hebl at the Saginaw Township Station 1

38 years of love

Facility Manager, Keith Hebl, is probably the favorite staff member for most Community Village residents. Keith is held in high esteem by resident Erick Paaske because he used to be a volunteer fire fighter and so is Keith. Erick enjoys talking about the features of various brands and types of fire trucks, and since Keith is now a captain on the Saginaw Township Fire Department he is pretty familiar with everything Erick remembers.

Keith also gains popularity with the women residents because he is the one who is always called on to hang paintings, install clocks, and fix televisions. He also gains notoriety for keeping computers working with the wi-fi. However, the heart of his work involves knowing the operations of every

piece of equipment installed in Community Village. Not only does Keith know the fire equipment, but he has a full understanding of the workings which are examined during every annual inspection by the State Fire Marshall. He truly adds to our safety because of his training and experience.

The truth is that Keith began working for Community Village in 1981, when he was a young man and the Village was operated by Saginaw County. No other staff member can lay claim to have worked in as many different positions as Keith, and today no staff member is more appreciated.



Community Village resident, Erick Paaske (top center) on the German Township, Ohio pumper

Strawberry Festival

June 18th

Mark Your Calendar

Have you ever considered helping Community Village as a volunteer? There is never a better time to try your hand at volunteering than during Strawberry Festival. We don't need people who come in on June 18th and say "Here I am. Where would you like me to work?" Everybody on Festival day is working on some aspect of the festival for which they have been prepared. We need people who will phone Bonnie today (989) 792-5442 to have a discussion to find out where your interests and talents intersect with our volunteer needs.

Strawberry Festival can be a great time to volunteer, and who knows, perhaps you will find Community Village to be a place where you might like to invest more time after the festival.



Tuesday, June 18, 2019
3:00 - 8:30pm

• COMMUNITY VILLAGE •
Strawberry Festival

Community Village
3200 Hospital Rd.

Games • Food • Prizes

Live Entertainment

Fresh Strawberries

**Delicious Strawberry
Shortcake ~ \$6.00**

Admission - FREE

**For More Information
Call Community Village • 989-792-5442**

SHOPPING FOR **LONG TERM CARE**

Family members are often faced with the challenge of finding long term care solutions for loved ones without the benefit of knowing the resources. Awareness of the problem usually occurs when the frail elder experiences a fall, an illness, or dementia-related incidents such as leaving a tea kettle on the stove.

Community Village Administrator, Becky Miller, can be a great resource for exploring the options available for people who are no longer able to live independently. It's good to have a guide with experience to discuss the differences between independent supportive living, adult foster care, nursing home care, and post-acute rehabilitation. And it's good to have someone familiar with various personality types to match social needs with available services. It's also good to have someone able to discuss avenues of funding available to pay for the appropriate level of long term care.

Becky is usually available during office hours to discuss your concerns in finding the best resource for your family member, and Community Village also provides resident assessments without cost. Just call the Community Village office (989) 792-5442 to ask a couple of questions or to schedule an appointment.



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