

Life LifeTimes

WOODBROOK

Spring 2017 Vol. 22, No. 1 *Where Past and Future Meet*

Mission Statement

Woodbrook strives to create a safe, beautiful, and loving home for our residents, one in which they are celebrated and encouraged to thrive in a healthy environment with dignity, respect, and joy.

Adopted by the Board of Directors
December 11, 2013

WOODBROOK

*Chemung County's premier
assisted living facility*

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Woodbrook Assisted
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to carry news from our
busy world to yours.

WOODBROOK

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St. Patrick's Day is a full-scale holiday at Woodbrook! The decor goes up early and the party is a major event for staff members, families and residents. (Above left) Dorrie Tanner enjoyed a green beer. (Center) Mary Lou Adams and her son Brian enjoyed snacks and libations. (Right) Dick Matson, activities aide, had his beer goggles on for the festivities.



These four Woodbrook residents celebrated their March birthdays together (l-r): Dorrie Tanner, Donald Cole, Francis Sherman and Marvin Bunch.



During the April 15 Easter Egg Hunt, volunteers from Ross Park Zoo brought in a few animals. Here, Denise Moonschein is shown with a zoo volunteer holding a ferret.



(At left) The Mardi Gras party featured costumes, refreshments, games, door prizes and beaded necklaces passed out by Joyce Yorke and Billie Jo Cowl.

Salutations

“Suddenly you know — It’s time to start something new and trust in the magic of beginnings.” — Meister Eckhart

Spring brings a fresh burst of newness all around us, and that’s especially true here at Woodbrook. As we witness the magic of new beginnings, new residents, new activities and new relationships, we head outdoors more, especially the front porch, the back yard and the pavilion. Our courtyard gardens are starting to bloom, the trees are blossoming, the songbirds came back to the feeders, and it is all truly magical. This summer, residents will be escorted out to lunches, picnics, concerts and many fun community events.

To update everyone on our facility’s maintenance plan, we just completed a full cycle of total renovations and upgrades to every room and suite. A new fireproof magnetic door-closing system was installed that allows residents to leave their doors open, while meeting strict fire safety codes. It automates a magnetic release to all doors if there ever is an emergency. Residents using walkers really like the open door accessibility. All rooms were equipped with a new call bell system. We’re constantly seeking ways to improve safety, security and quality of life for each resident.

We just installed a new soft ice cream machine, and we remind all family members that when you come to visit, stop in our Ice Cream Parlor and enjoy a free sundae. If you enjoy golf, we have a putting green. Bring your family for a picnic at the pavilion and let the children enjoy our playground.

A recent unannounced inspection from the State Health Department found no violations. This is extremely rare, and our entire staff should be proud of this achievement. Every day we strive to have the highest standards of safety, hotel-like cleanliness, impeccable food preparation practices and more, and this validates our hard work. It was on my bucket list to achieve this, and I’m so proud we did. It’s just more proof that the Woodbrook team — and our facility — is top notch.

Woodbrook Staff Members Honored for Service

On March 15, Woodbrook held its annual Employee Recognition Ceremony to honor milestone years of service and perfect attendance. After a catered lunch served by executive staff, certificates were presented for 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years of service. Those with perfect attendance in 2016 were also honored.

“You’re the reason Woodbrook is the area’s premier assisted living facility for our beloved residents” said Executive Director Laurie Sweeney, RN, MSN. “On behalf of the Board and the Executive

Team, thank you, each and every one of you. We honor you for your dedication.”

After lunch, dessert was served, followed by certificate presentations, service gifts and drawings for door prizes.

One Year

- Christine Brewer
- Alisha Cybulak
- Samantha Martone
- Michele Mattison
- Debra Preston
- Keisha Stringfield
- Ashleigh Updike
- Ruby Zerbe

See Staff on Page 4



*Laurie Sweeney, RN, MSN
Executive Director*

Transitions

Farewell and thank you to Michael S. Smith, President of Woodbrook’s Board of Directors. He is stepping down at the end of this term. “I will have completed nine years on the Woodbrook Board, having served three years as Board President,” said Smith.



Michael S. Smith

“It’s been a great honor to have been a Board member, and I hope that I leave with Woodbrook being better for my having served. I pray that Woodbrook will continue to be a wonderful, safe place both to live and work.”

In Memory of Bonnie Malone

Everyone at Woodbrook is deeply saddened by the sudden loss of staff member Bonnie Malone, who passed away on April 21, 2017 at the age of 59. Bonnie worked for the Activities Department for almost 15 years. She gave her heart to the residents and considered them family. Bonnie and her unique talents will be sorely missed by all.



Bonnie Malone

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Retired Elmira Teacher Makes Woodbrook Her Home

In January, Miss Eleanor (“Ellie”) Steele decided that her Euclid Avenue home in Elmira was too much work, and moved to Woodbrook. She’s still living “independently,” but now without the upkeep of a large, two-story home.

“Everybody here is so wonderful,” she said. “They make it so easy for us. I don’t miss cooking, and the staff does everything for us. They’re just wonderful.”

Ellie Steele was born on July 15, 1925 at St. Joseph’s Hospital. Her parents’ home was on Church Street. She has pleasant childhood memories of playing outside with friends, roller skating, ice skating and bike riding, and she loved school. Her family vacationed at Keuka Lake most summers. She had one brother, Edward, five years older, who grew up to be Elmira ophthalmologist Dr. Steele.

Her parents expected her to go to college, so after graduating from EFA in 1943, she enrolled in Elmira College to major in Biology and Chemistry. At that time, WWII seized the world stage.



Eleanor Steele

Food stamps were issued, sacrifices were made, and a gas shortage restricted travel.

“Everybody was concerned about helping the war effort, and because of the gasoline shortage, we were very careful about driving,” she said.

After receiving her BS degree in Bio/Chem, she worked in the lab at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre. Soon after, she moved to Buffalo for a Med Tech degree, equivalent to a Master’s, then worked at Millard Fillmore Hospital there.

She returned to Elmira’s Arnot Ogden Hospital to work in the lab for five years. Then she made an abrupt career change.

“In 1960, they were desperate for teachers. My friends were all teachers, and they swayed me to apply,” she said. “So I applied and was hired. And I was glad to change.”

She returned to Elmira College for her M.S.Ed. degree, getting it in 1963 in her mid 30s, then worked a total of 25 years teaching fifth grade in the Elmira City School District before retiring. She has many fond memories of teaching and of the many lives she touched through the years.

Ellie has traveled to Europe, Mexico, Canada and many parts of the United States. Still in excellent health at 91, she has a car and drives, shops, walks, reads and enjoys frequent visits from her niece Sue Lynough. She has another niece and a nephew as well.

She loves to take walks on Woodbrook’s outer perimeter path and is very settled into her new home.

Volunteer Recognition Luncheon Held April 27

Woodbrook volunteers enjoyed a luncheon in April prepared by culinary staff and served by the Executive Team. Linen-draped tables were adorned with fresh floral arrangements. Volunteers enjoyed fruit appetizers, gourmet salads followed by peanut butter pie and coffee.

“To quote Robert Burns, ‘The purpose of life is life with a purpose,’” Laurie Sweeney said. “We appreciate our volunteers who make Woodbrook a purpose in their lives. Without your service, we wouldn’t be the premier home that we are. We’re so fortunate to have you.”



Front: Elwyn and Barbara Patrick from Community Wesleyan Church in Horseheads are regular volunteers who lead a Sunday Worship Service. Background: June Mitchell and Jim Cowl.

Woodbrook Earns a Coveted ‘No Violations’ Report

On April 4 Woodbrook Assisted Living Residence, Inc. received word from the NYS Department of Health, that upon its recent, unannounced inspection, Woodbrook was found to have “no violations” and was in “substantial compliance” with its strict standards for excellence. The state inspection is required for licensure, and it’s very rare when no violations are found.

“This is huge!” said Executive Director Laurie Sweeney. “I don’t think it’s ever happened before here. We’re thrilled with this report!”

Staff

(continued from Page 2)

Five Years

Cody Blaney
Kiya Cowl
Teresa Shaw

Ten Years

Jo Ellen Briggs
Amy Charron

Fifteen Years

Mary Howland
Linda Pierce
Jennifer Stadelmaier-Lynch

Twenty Years

Cathy Facey

Twenty Five Years

Leona Foster
Janet Simons

Perfect Attendance

Alisha Cybulak
Mary Howland
Linda Pierce
Pat Quillinan
Genny Rathbun
Lynette Roberts
Teresa Shaw
Jennifer Stadelmaier-Lynch

Seasonal Celebrations

June

Father's Day Outing
Drive-In Movie Night

July

Fourth of July Picnic
Picnic Outings/Pavilion Picnics
Porch Socials

August

Picnic Outings/Pavilion Picnics
Drive-In Movie Night
Sunrise & Sunset Socials

September

Labor Day Picnic
Alzheimer's Walk

October

Fall Spectacular Bus Tour
Halloween Party

Ongoing

Lifetrail Fitness, Museum Visit,
Shopping & Happy Hour

Executive Staff

Laurie Sweeney, RN, MSN
Executive Director
Judy A. Kennedy, BA
Human Resources Director
Bonnie Hart
Administrative Assistant
Fred Maloney, BSBA
Finance Director
Ruth McDonough, RN, BS
Case Manager
Denise Moonschein, BS
Activities Director
Michael VanWert
Buildings and Grounds Director
Gary R. Durfee
Dietary Director
Lori J. Jamelski, LPN
RCA Director/Case Manager

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