

# Sheboygan Senior Community

Short Term Rehab • Assisted Living  
Skilled Nursing Care



February 2017

3505 County Road Y  
Sheboygan, WI 53083

## Resident Birthdays



|       |                |
|-------|----------------|
| 02/03 | Mary Reklaitis |
| 02/07 | Karl Sasse     |
| 02/20 | Roland Meyer   |
| 02/26 | Clare Rudolph  |

## February Special Events

- Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> – 2:30pm – Absentee Voting
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – 10:30am – Resident Council Meeting – Maple Den
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – 11:15am – Resident Council Meeting – Willow LR
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – 2:30pm – Hot Cocoa & Stories by the Fire – Oak LR
- Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 10:15am – Seton Catholic School Visit – TR
- Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> – 2:00pm – Tom Virant Polka Music – TOL
- Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> – 2:00pm – Meet me in the Kitchen – Maple DR
- Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> – Afternoon shopping at Walmart – Willow Lane

## STAFF BIRTHDAYS

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| 02/01 | Lynn S.      |
| 02/06 | Joan H.      |
| 02/12 | Lori S.      |
| 02/18 | Cassandra G. |
| 02/19 | Amy M.       |
| 02/19 | Carolyn M.   |
| 02/20 | Charlie K.   |
| 02/21 | Jordan W.    |

## Staff Anniversaries

- February 1 – Paul Treffert – 1 year
- February 9 – Debra Taylor – 5 years
- February 11 – Karen McClafin – 15 years
- February 17 – Eva Rusch – 6 years
- February 27 – Kara Hoffman – 20 years



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are in order for two of our staff members! Amy Marchiando (formerly LPN) and Amanda Fernandez (formerly CNA) have become RN's! Congrats on a job well done and countless hours of studying.

We're lucky to have you both on our team.

## From the Desk of Paul Treffert

Hello!

I hope 2017 is off to a great start for everyone. We did something a little different for the December newsletter, so it has been a while since I provided updates about happenings at Sheboygan Senior Community. Since there is always plenty going on here...let's get to it, shall we?

We kicked off January and the New Year with our Employee Holiday Party. There was plenty of delicious food provided by our department managers, and thanks to contributions from Acuity Insurance and some of the vendors we do business with, we were able to distribute over 30 'door prizes' (food, gift cards, games, etc.) to lucky winners. And because of the generous donations from family members who responded to our appeal in late November (and a matching amount from SSC), this year we gave all of our employees 'Chamber Cash' they can spend at local businesses. Thank you so much to those families who sent money and included very kind words about our outstanding team of employees and helped make the holiday season a little brighter for them and their families .

The week after our Holiday Party we had our Annual State Survey for skilled nursing. We did receive some low-level citations related to documentation and issues related to the new building, but overall I am very pleased with the results. At their exit conference, the lead surveyor mentioned how happy our residents and their families report being with the care and services they receive here. Special thanks to our Director of Nursing, Lisa Hill, our department managers, and each of our employees on a job very well done during annual survey and every day.

In January we also welcomed a new Social Worker, Katy Knowles, to our leadership team. Katy will be covering for Heather Sunagel while Heather is on maternity leave. So at first, Katy will work primarily with our short term rehabilitation and long-term residents on Hickory, with her role evolving when Heather returns. Carol Khang will continue working with Maple and Oak residents and families. Welcome, Katy, and early congratulations to Heather and her family!!

And...remember how a while back I mentioned how sad we were to see one of our nursing assistants (Bridget H.) moving on to new horizons? Funny how life turns out. I am pleased to announce that Bridget has rejoined our team and is now working as our Lead Resident Assistant in Willow (assisted living). At the same time, the Willow Nurse, Carolyn, has agreed to stay on in a more limited role, which I am also very happy about. Carolyn and the Willow staff have been working extremely hard revising job descriptions, shift times, training needs, etc. As part of this process, we are adding more activities and special meals on Willow in the next few weeks. Thanks so much to all of the Willow employees for their hard work and dedication!

Finally, I am happy to announce that SSC was nominated for "Services Organization of the Year" by the Sheboygan County Chamber of Commerce, and we will be recognized at the annual Chamber Champions Gala on February 21. Congratulations to the entire SSC family on being nominated for this prestigious award.

I am sure there is more to share, but that's enough for now. Thank you to everyone for your support, suggestions, and prayers as we work every day to make SSC the best it can be.

Paul T.



## Staff Spotlight – Allen Kirsch

If you hear the jingling of keys and sense positivity radiating all over, chances are Allen is nearby. Al was born and raised on a cattle farm in Ada, Wisconsin. He is one of five brothers who took care of the Kirsch farm. It's been said that their farm was even superior to the **Green Acres** farmlands. The boys worked the land, cared for 80 head of cattle and rotated crops for three other neighbors as well. HARD work is in Allen's DNA. His oldest brother still operates the farm and now manages 200 head of cattle.

Allen graduated from Howards Grove High School, and soon thereafter, was hired by Old Wisconsin Sausage. Allen started out doing general labor, but later was promoted to Assistant Supervisor of the Sausage Kitchen. Sheboygan Senior Community was then fortunate enough to hire this workhorse in our maintenance department. Allen believes hard work always pays off and he practices what he preaches. Allen has always held at *least* two jobs his entire adult life. Currently, he details cars with a complete wash and wax inside and out (for only \$75), plus he mows lawns in the spring-summer months. Busy hands are happy hands! Allen loves his job at SSC, he said the maintenance staff here are truly awesome, skilled and fun to work with.

As he talks about his two daughters, Alyssa and Mariah, you see a twinkle in his eye. Alyssa attends UW-Sheboygan working on a degree in Elementary Education and plans to finish at UW-Green Bay next year. Mariah is 15 and a freshman at H.G. High school. We're positive those two girls are not tweeting or texting their free time away... not if Allen's DNA is present!

What does Allen do for fun? Driving to Chester's Drive-in in his Chevy Impala! Allen has a 1968 White Chevy Impala convertible, a 1983 Dodge Ram and a rockin' 1952 Ford 8N tractor. Local car shows and parades are no stranger to these classics. Where does he store all his toys? In his 5-stall garage that might surpass his family home in size.

Allen loves to work hard and make others happy in the process. Even changing a light bulb or adjusting a cable box – as long as it makes someone smile!

## Resident spotlight – Bob Atkin



Why do women wash their clothes in Tide? Because it's too cold out-Tide! That is the way a daily conversation with Bob Atkin will begin. Bob is our local jokester here at SSC. He is always full of surprises! He was born and raised in Sheboygan, had one sister and was *born to build!* During the Depression when times were tough, he would build kites out of pine wood, glue and modeling paper. "They just don't make kites like that anymore," Bob says.

He attended Mapledale Elementary School K-8, and then enrolled at Kohler High School until the age of sixteen. Back in the day, by sixteen, a child could quit school to take a job and learn a trade without parent's consent. Bob remembers an algebra

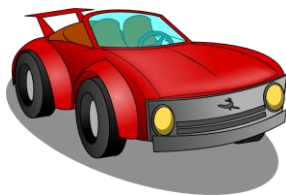
teacher who loved to coach football more than teach math, so he requested a release from classes. For two years, Bob attended the Sheboygan Vocational School where he enrolled in auto mechanics in the morning and machine shop in the afternoons. He had shadowed his dad for years: working under the hood of his car, handing him tools, and holding flashlights for him as his dad demonstrated his mechanical skills to his young son. Cars and engines are Bob's passion. He's like *Tim the Tool Man* amplified in real life!

After vocational school, Bob got a job with the Jung Shoe Factory in the shipping room for \$0.63/hour. Kohler General then hired this talented engineer as a machining metal operator. It wasn't long before Pranges came knocking on his door, and he was hired in their maintenance department for 20 years. Later, he asked to try his hand in the printing department... If there was a machine involved, Bob was there. Still looking for more opportunity, he then took his talents to Heritage Insurance (Acuity) in the print shop. Heritage was located at 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and Memorial Drive at that time.

After 25 years at Heritage, he retired and began a new stage of his life that involved more engines and machines. Bob had purchased a 1978 red Chevy Impala from Heritage before he retired. It was one of their fleet cars and they would sell them with no intent of making a profit. The purchase price was \$2,960. The value of this classic car today = PRICELESS. He traveled to car shows from 2001-2015 putting his favorite Chevy on display for all to see. Most people have plans of relaxing and taking it easy during retirement, but Bob had a different idea. Retirement goals: attending classic car shows, building model airplanes, building stock cars, model rail roading, raising chickens, fishing the Great Lakes (he once caught a 28" Northern Pike in the Sheboygan Marsh – *the white rooster tail lure was the secret!*), riding his Harley Davidson, wood-working, and remodeling his home. Whew! This guy has an engine that never stops! He smiles as he tells the story of his 1,000 mile Harley trip that was made on less than 20 gallons of gas. He and his buddies traveled from Sheboygan to Crandon and Minneapolis. Funny story – when they got to Crandon, they could not find a place to camp out on a rainy night, so an officer invited them to stay in his local jail cell for the night. The next day's headline read: ***Tramps entered the jail, but not committed.*** Just recalling the event had Bob laughing once again.

Bob truly misses his wife, Genevieve, whom he met at the Playdium Restaurant and was married to for 42 years. She died two weeks after Bob retired from Heritage Insurance. Genevieve was a cat lover, so after her passing, Bob raised five cats and his Golden Retriever, Caleb. He loves his pet family and you will enjoy many photos and paintings of them in his room.

Bob is a lot of things, but boring is not one of them. He has an engine that never runs out of gas. He is one special fella.





**WELCOME  
TO THE  
TEAM**



**Berta Hidri - CNA**

**Andrea Kirchenwitz -  
Residential Aid**

**Resident-Created Love Poems**

*Red, Red, Rose*

He's going to love her forever  
That's nice  
I bet a lot of them say it,  
But do they mean it!?  
We show love by:  
Being kind,  
Waiting on our loved ones,  
A certain way we smile,  
Giving a hug,  
Doing a kind deed,  
Saying nice things,  
Buying something nice  
Love isn't visible,  
It's something you feel,  
Something you express  
Love looks like a smiley face.  
Love is individual  
That's true!  
Love is dessert if it's real good!  
Or it's your Brandy Old  
Fashioned!

**Resident-Created Love Poems**

*My Love Tells Me...*

Love lasts forever  
Not necessarily the same people  
Any time you need me,  
Come to me  
My love tells me that

**Resident-Created Love Poems**

*Love Letters*

Writing in the sky...  
From the airplane  
I saw it in my back yard and at  
Lake Michigan  
I'd write my name in the sky  
I'd write your name in the sky.  
I'd write, "I love you".  
Just be sure  
To not make it too long...  
It will disappear!  
Write it in the sand  
My kids did that  
Love Letters in the sand.  
I wrote a love letter when I was  
young...  
And desperate!  
Sign a love letter,  
"I love you... I mean it!"  
Parents write love letters to their  
kids

**Resident-Created Love Poems**

*Love Changed My Life*

We show love by  
Caring for people  
Taking care of them  
When they are sick  
I share, care and make them  
feel like they are welcome  
If I'm a housewife, I would cook  
something special to show love  
Love changed my life  
I had two children!  
I left my hometown  
I loved my job and found the  
love of my life  
Then I got married  
Love makes me smile  
Good food  
Clowns  
Pets  
All make me smile  
Cute little things that cute little  
kids do  
Make me smile  
Sometimes...  
The naughty things, too!

**Resident-Created Love Poems**

*Feelings of Love*

A real good feeling,  
Happiness  
Like a dozen roses delivered at  
work  
Love is family  
Love feels relaxed  
Be kind to others and they will  
love you too  
Love feels warm  
Love is an unexplainable feeling  
It feels good  
Like a hug  
Love smells like roses,  
Anything sweet  
You can see love  
In someone's eyes  
Love sounds like beautiful music  
Footsteps are love  
Love sounds like laughter  
Love tastes like your favorite  
food: chocolate kisses –  
Those were well named  
Love means caring  
It's what your life is built on  
When someone goes out of their  
way thinking of you  
Giving birth is love  
I love:  
Beauty  
My family  
Coffee  
People  
Swimming at Crystal Lake  
Being with children  
I love myself  
I try to be nice to me

**Please contact Melissa  
T. or Dana E. in the  
Life Enrichment office  
if you're interested in  
learning more about the  
Alzheimer's Poetry  
Project and the  
powerfully healing  
nature of the program.**