



Village News



Embrace the possibilities

420 S. Opdyke Rd · Pontiac, MI 48341 · www.pvm.org

July 2020

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Notes from the Administrator

Happy July Oakland Woods. I hope that everybody has a fun filled and Safe 4th of July weekend coming up here in a couple of weeks! It is the perfect chance to celebrate our independence.

First and foremost, I am pleased to welcome Hampton Security as our new security company! We are pleased to have them. Please pay special attention to the last page of the newsletter as we have updated the contact number for the on-site security guard!

We are continuing to work on the lighting issues in OW1. We are currently on a waiting list, and I am continuing to work with the contractor to have Oakland Woods serviced ASAP. We appreciate all of the concern and questions regarding this and rest assured that it is something we take very seriously and are working on.

I am very pleased to announce that Oakland Woods, for the second year in a row has DOULED our Friends and Family goal! We could not have done that without YOU! To all residents, family members, staff, board members, and community members, we appreciate your dedication to Oakland Woods!

Finally, see the next page for OPTIONAL COVID-19 Testing that will be taking place on Thursday July 16. You all received this notice to your doors, and is being re-attached for your viewing. As always please call the office to reserve your spot or allow us to answer whatever questions you may have.



Jon Hayes
Housing Administrator



The Village of
**Oakland
Woods**

A SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

A Mission of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan


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The Village of
Oakland Woods

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Tuesday, June 24, 2020

Dear Residents and Family Members,

The Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) in partnership with our local fire department will provide testing for all residents, team members, and private duty caregivers/resident assistant.

Testing will take place on Thursday, July 16, 2020 beginning at 9:00am. Please, if you are interested in testing, call the office to reserve your spot **BY MONDAY JULY 13th at 3:00pm**. **IF** you have a private caregiver/resident assistant and would like them to be tested, we will need the following information:

Caregiver/ Resident Assistant Information

- Full Name
- Date of Birth
- Gender
- Race
- Home Address
- Phone Number & Email Address

You can reserve your spot by calling the office at (248) 334-4379.

Your resident assistant/ caregiver(s) will need to be onsite of Oakland Woods on Thursday, July 16, 2020 for the testing to take place. We strongly encourage **ALL** resident assistant/ caregivers to be tested to keep our community as safe as possible. Please contact them and plan accordingly.

Testing results will inform OCHD of the presence of individuals with asymptomatic disease and the potential for spread in our community. These results will be shared between OCHD, key staff at Oakland Woods, and care providers so we can work together to develop and implement infection control strategies. Results are typically returned to OCHD in 48-72 hours. Individual positive results will be communicated by the Health Division to the residents via telephone and negative results will be mailed directly to the residents.

Thank you for your support as we continue to do everything that we can to keep everyone healthy and happy. These results will not only help us but will better define the best course of future action throughout Oakland County.

Regards,

Jon Hayes

Housing Administrator

The Village of Oakland Woods |



It's Your Life. Live It Well.

By Tom Wyllie,
Director of Wellness

Happy Interdependence Day!

July 4, 1776. This is the date on which the Continental Congress, representing the 13 original colonies officially declared its independence from Great Britain thus giving birth to a new nation. Traditionally, we call this day “Independence Day”. In the era of COVID-19, I propose we give it a new name. I suggest we instead call it “Interdependence Day”.

Collectively, if we are to remain healthy and well and mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, we need to rely on each other. When in public, we need to stay at least six feet away from one other and wear proper face coverings to keep from spreading the virus to our friends, neighbors and other fellow citizens. When we have symptoms, we need to stay home and contact our healthcare provider for further instructions. And we need to frequently wash our hands with soap and water. If neither is available, hand sanitizer is the next best option.

If we all do our part, we can beat COVID-19. It is only through effective interdependence that we can truly become independent and free of this virus. So this 4th of July, consider greeting each other with “Happy Interdependence Day!” If you get a funny look in reply, after reading this column, you should be able to explain why.





The Senior Advocate.

By Lynn Alexander,
Vice President of Public Affairs

More than ever it will be important for all of us to be counted in the 2020 Census! I am sharing information we received from the federal government as to the Why and How of doing so. They have made it much easier to comply with this request to reply:

Census email to tenants:

Dear Resident:

The 2020 Census is here and you still have time to count you and your family. Every 10 years, the census counts everyone living in the United States. It is important to count every person living in your home to make sure your community and others across the nation are accurately funded and represented for the next decade

No matter who lives in your home, be sure to count them all in the 2020 Census. This includes grandparents, young children, foster children, and nonrelatives who are living with you. Information collected in the census will inform the allocation of more than \$675 billion in federal funding each year. Health care, emergency response, schools and education program, such as SNAP are all impacted by the 2020 Census. The COVID-19 pandemic also underscores the importance of census data and census participation.

The 2020 Census is also easy, safe and important. Your personal information is kept confidential by law and your responses can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.

It's never been easier to respond to the 2020 Census all without meeting a census taker at your door. Your response matters so be sure to get counted and respond online now to shape your future at 2020census.gov, by phone at 844-330-2020, or by mail.



Office News

By Hillary Vandenberg

Administrative Assistant

Happy July, residents!

I hope everyone is hanging in there and enjoying the nice warm weather. I've been seeing a lot of people out and about and that's great! I think that's the best thing you can do for your health and peace of mind.

As most of **the apartment residents** know, every July your rent may increase or decrease a few dollars depending on the Gross Rent Change. This Gross Rent Change is directly associated with your utility allowance. The utility allowance is the amount of money that is taken off of your monthly rent to assist in your utility payments. Last year the Gross Rent Change increased rent by six dollars. This year rent is increased by just one dollar. That means starting in July, please increase your rental payment by one dollar. **This increase only applies to apartment residents.**

The Gross Rent Change paperwork needs to be signed in July, so please come into the office to sign your paperwork as soon as you can.

For the apartment residents, recertification signings were put on hold due to the pandemic. The office is now catching up on signings. If you are in the following apartments, please come to the office to sign your paperwork: 10A, 10C, 11C, 12A, 15C, 16C, 18C and 34D.

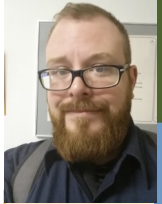
I hope everyone has a great summer!

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong.



Because someday in life you will have been all of these.

-George Washington Carver,
scientist (1864-1943)



Maintenance News

By Matthew Myers

Maintenance Lead

Hello Residents!

We're so glad that the virus only made things slow and annoying for our village, rather than the harsher realities some communities face. We have avoided much of the consequences of the pandemic by following the government's and CDC's regulations. Going forward into 2020 we will never truly return to normal, but we will find our new normal.

We ask that residents keep their homes sanitary, and if you aren't feeling well or showing any symptoms that you turn maintenance away. We ask that when you can, have the area we are going to work in clear of your personal belongings to reduce the amount of things we have to interact with.

We are no longer handling only emergency work orders, and we know that there are unreported problems in the village that you have patiently waited to be fixed. You may call in now and report those problems and we will work diligently to prioritize work so that we can tackle the quality of life issues before working out the squeaks.

As we are experiencing the summer heat, we ask that you keep pests in your mind. Keeping your floors clean will make ants feel unwelcome, and we ask that residents keep an eye out for wasps and bees going into siding or making nests in trees.

We have had quite a few bi-fold doors in the apartments being damaged and we would like to remind residents to always keep the front closet bi fold closed. If left open, even a little, the front door can break the rollers and create unnecessary work for us.

An inspection notice will be coming, and as previous notices have mentioned, we will only be performing one Oakland Woods inspection this year. We do not know when HUD or MSHDA will do inspections on the apartments or cottages in the future, but you will receive written communication if that changes.

Stay safe, sane and sanitary. We wish you health and appreciate your patience

Service News

By Sue Carney

Service Coordinator

Welcome July

It has been so good to see residents out and about on the campus and even some in the community center. We are hopefully making progress with slowing this virus down. We need to continue to wash our hands and wear those mask. We are taking this 1 day at a time.

I do admit that I miss giving and getting hugs, this elbow bumps just does not work for me. I look forward to getting back to whatever normal is these days.

We are here to help you, best that we can. Trying to be creative these days. I have found that meeting with residents on their patios or under a nice shade tree has worked well too. Sometimes we need to think outside the box.

Can you believe that it is July already? The year is already half over and less than 6 months to Christmas.

Hopefully we can all celebrate our 4th of July and our freedom in a patriotic and safe way.

Hope everyone has a great and safe month, enjoy that sunshine and count all your blessings

Xfinity to Launch New Streaming Service: Peacock



This is a FREE service to any current X1 cable customer. It already shows up in the APP section on your cable platform. All they have to do is say “PEACOCK” into their voice remote and it will load. Tons of content, old shows (yes Punky Brewster and Saved by the Bell), movies.

This will go Live on July 15th.



Wellness News

Jon Hayes
Housing Administrator

It's July!

New Oakland Woods Wellness Coordinator

EXCITING NEWS IN THE WELLNESS WORLD! I want to thank all who participated in the hiring process of our Wellness Coordinator. I am pleased to announce Joelle Baughman as the new VOW Wellness Coordinator. I will allow Joelle to introduce herself in next month's newsletter. She will begin on Monday July 6th, so please feel free to come introduce yourself to her and say "Hi!". We are happy to have her as part of the Oakland Woods Family and Community.

Events and Activities

As many of you know we are still working on return to normal orders post COVID19. What does this mean for events and activities? At this point in time you will notice that there is no scheduled activities until further notice. We miss you all very much and promise you will be notified when formal activities can start up again. You will also notice that the exercise rooms are closed. Again, you will be notified when the exercise areas are open again. We do very much apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and do hope we can all get through this while being patient together!

At Home Exercise Program

I am also still writing an exercise program for those interested in continuing with fitness. Please email me at jhayes@pvm.org if you would like to be added to the list for a 3x a week exercise program!

*Who remembers our Poetry Club's poem from the
2019 Village Victory Cup?*

Wellness Takes a Village

Lonely lethargic hearts quicken their beat

No longer do our seniors feel defeat

The energy in the woods gives us drive

Village activities help us to thrive

People enjoy a sense of peace

Moving here gives life new lease

Our minds and bodies move from plight

new feelings bring us into light

Our spirits rise from endless strife

to peace and love in this new life

Oakland woods brings us wellness

Life no longer overwhelms us

When things go wrong as they sometimes will

when all roads seem uphill

when emotions are pressing down a bit

we stand up tall and do not quit

Birthday Celebration!

Happy Birthday to all of our July
Babies!

Mary Snody	7/1
Mary Hudson	7/4
Ester Hood	7/5
Norieta Clincy	7/6
Norvalene White-Johnson	7/12
Susie Taylor	7/12
Ruthie Griffin	7/12
Sharron Robinson	7/13
Essie Rimson	7/15
Gladys Jahnke	7/17
Ed McConney	7/19
Frances Metcalf	7/19
Susan Wright	7/27
Judy Shatto	7/28
Delores Chaser	7/28
Doug Medonis	7/29
Doris Atkins	7/29
Lena Schrader	7/30
Joyce Holland	7/31



Happy July 4th

Resident Council News

By *Philena Holdridge*

Resident Council President

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Micah 6:8

This verse came to mind as I was considering what events have taken place in our country in the last few weeks. I am reminded that we all will be held accountable for our actions before a holy God. We are blessed to be in this village where love does abound and people care about one another. Please pray that we can exemplify the essence of this Bible verse and pray for those in leadership to do the same. Help us Lord to listen, learn, and lament with those who are hurting and protect those that are enforcing our laws, as well as those breaking the law. Fervent prayer will yield the best results!

Change in Secretary Position of Resident Council

I received a letter of resignation from Judy Shatto dated June 16, 2020, that due to health issues, she regrets that she can no longer serve in her volunteer capacities. Needless to say, she has always enjoyed her duties at our village and supported the residents. She has been on the Resident Council for 13 ½ years, and has served 6 years as President, 5 years as Secretary, and Area Representative for Area 5(Bldgs. 34-38). She has also helped put the monthly newsletter together, and helped the staff with various duties as well. For this reason, I would like to shower her with cards, and personal notes from our residents. Many of you have worked closely with her through the years and have been a dear friend. Your encouragement would mean a lot I'm sure. Thanks again Judy for your faithfulness in serving the Village of Oakland Woods!

Patiently Waiting

We are all awaiting the time when we can be together at the community center, but likewise we don't want to spread the virus if anyone has been in contact with someone that has it. Take advantage of the opportunity to be tested July 16 by signing up soon. This will help our village remain free of COVID-19.

Miss seeing you all, but I am praying for you!

Resident Council Board

Philena Holdridge, *President*

(248)977-3038

Becky Bolden, *Vice President*

(248)766-3684

Judy Shatto, *Secretary*

(248)499-8574

Joyce Parlor, *Treasurer*

(248)210-5678

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

David Alex Piotrowski

It all started on the day I was born. Little did I know a lifetime of trauma and near-death experiences awaited me. Suffice to say that my arrival on that cold Detroit winter's morning of December 30, 1955, was the first of many disappointments. Being gyped with combined Christmas-birthday presents was only just the beginning.

The youngest, smartest and cutest of three siblings, I was the artistic one... The creative one, the quiet one who loved to color and read voraciously. It would be unfathomable for any child today to think that only getting a jumbo box of Crayola crayons with the built-in sharpener was the absolute best Christmas present EVER, but I did. I got coloring books for my birthday and I always stayed inside the lines. Always. I was a very serious child. (Capricorns get younger as they age.)

My childhood holidays were blessed with the Polish traditions of my grandparent immigrants (both sides), though by the time I was born both of my grandfathers had passed away. My middle name, Alex, is after my mother's dad who died a few months before I was born. I have been told I am a lot like him... A small, quiet, (cute) fun *and* humble guy.

My family moved in with my Babcia (grandmother) and we lived with her until she died (I was 17). As it happened, early on her house became "THE" holiday destination for all of our relatives, as it was physically difficult for her to travel. What fun I had with my cousins wreaking havoc, having been banished to the basement while the adults boozed it up upstairs. Those were the days... (sigh). The traditional foods prepared for Christmas and Easter holidays in particular are treasured memories in themselves, watching my Babcia and mom spend days cooking prior. They made BOXES of chrusciki (angel wing pastries). Decades later when I struggled to make them on my own, I recalled my brother eating them as fast as my mom made them and I marveled that my brother was still alive. I would have killed him.



My first job out of high school was a soda jerk (NO LAUGHING!) At the corner drug store, which unfortunately was robbed by gunpoint twice in the year I worked there. Yes, it was during my shift both times. Next, I found myself as a trainee in automotive technical illustration, in which I did so well I eventually went on to train about 70 others! I loved the attention to detail. In time, my hand-drawing skills were transferred to computer illustrations, but eventually after 20+ years I became a dinosaur anyway. The next 10 years were spent in garden center retail in West Bloomfield (patio furniture in summer/artificial Christmas trees in winter) and I became the store merchandiser in my last few years there, responsible for Christmas setup and theme tree decoration. I have worked only Christmas seasonal for 5 years at a competing garden store since, but I think I am finally done.

Years ago, I went to night school and took every art class possible, just to do it. I was the free press "yak" once for the Detroit thanksgiving parade... I could not see anything, it was awful. I have volunteered at the Detroit institute of arts as gallery service, the Detroit zoo for special events and the Michigan opera theater as a supernumerary or "extra" (I do NOT sing, supers are walking props) in nearly 10 operas. I love costumes and knew virtually nothing about opera until I was in one. (Honestly, the women would have all lived longer if they just stopped singing so much!) La Bboheme, La Traviata, Carmen and Tosca are my favorite operas for their stories and music.

I crash-landed in the Village of Oakland Woods after being a roommate in a house for 15 years when the owner I had been care-giving for the last few years passed away. I love the quietness and my proximity to the woods here and all the critters.

My ONLY animal concern here are the coyotes (I have a little dog). I love plants and flowers and created my own geezer garden along the perimeter of my apartment. If you are ever in the area, feel free to say hello... If not, I am sure to see you in the community center soon or while causing trouble on the bus whenever it is possible again!

**Presbyterian Villages
of Michigan
Mission Statement**

Guided by our
Christian heritage,
we serve seniors of
all faiths and create
new possibilities for
quality living.

www.pvm.org

Office Number

(248) 334-4379

Village Staff

Jon Hayes

Housing Administrator

Sharon Benton

Administrative Assistant

Hillary Vandenberg

Administrative Assistant

Sue Carney

Service Coordinator

Matthew Myers

Maintenance Supervisor

Charles Williams

Maintenance Technician

EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE (248) 330-0213

ON-SITE SECURITY (586) 596-8185



**Presbyterian
Villages**
OF MICHIGAN

THE FOUNDATION

Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation serves Michigan seniors of all faiths by raising essential funds to support the mission of Presbyterian Villages of Michigan for the greatest needs of our residents. A gift to Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation is truly an investment in our residents. For more information on how you can help Michigan seniors, call Presbyterian Villages of Michigan Foundation at **248-281-2040** or visit www.pvmfoundation.org

Embrace the possibilities

Pontiac, MI 48341-3145

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