



July 2009

**Have a safe
Independence Day!**



Birthdays	p. 2
Calendar	p. 4
Chaplain	p. 6
New residents	p. 2
Res. Council	p. 2
Sympathies	p. 7

**Thank a veteran
or a soldier
for the freedoms
you enjoy!!!**

From Your Administrator...

By Tom Pollock

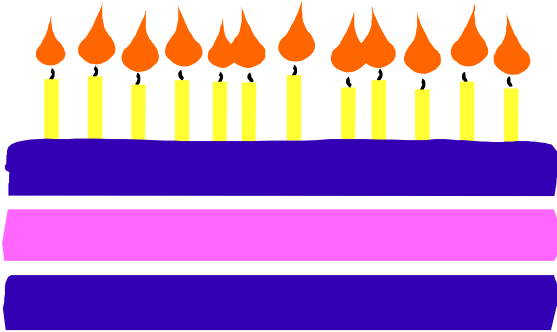
Governor Pawlenty Proposes Unallotment: On June 16th, Governor Pawlenty announced his proposed unallotments to balance the state’s budget. The Health & Human Services (HHS) budget was unallotted \$236 million. The amount that directly affected nursing homes was \$5.9 million. The Governor suspended nursing facility rebasing, a recent change to the method of setting payment rates that was to be phased in over eight years, for fiscal year 2010. This means that nursing homes will not receive an increase in their rates. The rates will also NOT be reduced. Obviously this is a good thing. Some groups affected more will say that nursing homes “got off easy”. When our cost is \$160/resident/day and the State of MN pays us \$130/resident/day, I wouldn’t say we are on easy street.

Other areas unallotted in HHS include programs that were designed to keep seniors out of nursing homes. By limiting who is eligible and cutting community services, seniors will not receive the right care in the right place. This will cause more seniors to be admitted to nursing homes and the cost will exceed the savings in the unallotments. A commitment to support older adult services and seniors’ access to quality care does not start and end with a commitment to not cut nursing home rates. The same attention must be given to other programs that support seniors at home. Without that same commitment to the continuum, there will be pockets of the state where seniors will not have options to receive the older adult services they need in the “right place” at the “right time”.

New Front Door Hours: The new hours for the main entrance are 8:00 am – 8:00 pm. The time was adjusted at the end of the day in order to reduce costs. We have few visitors at 8:00 pm and the change will cause the least amount of disruption. These hours are the preferred visiting hours. After 8:00 pm, entering and exiting Park River Estates CC must be through the South exit (Fireside Lounge). A nurse must shut off the alarm system if using the South door or the alarm will go off. We do allow visitors at other times depending upon the situation. Please keep in mind that this is home for our residents. We want to have times that are quiet and allow our residents to rest. Thank you. **Happy 4th of July!**

July Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following residents who celebrate their birthday in July:



Nellie Olson	July 11
Marjorie McKeon	July 11
Marjorie Mathieu	July 12
Elaine Vargas	July 15
Mabel Rubink	July 20
Grace West	July 22
Kathy Enge	July 22
Stella DeRoy	July 25
Julia Walz	July 26
Lillian Stammen	July 26
Ana Magadan	July 26
MaryAnn Petersen	July 26
Violet Leggett	July 28

Hello...and Goodbye!

Welcome to **Lorraine Edlund, Kazimierz Tomczyk** and **Pauline Snyder** who arrived at Park River Estates this month. Please greet them!

And “Best Wishes” to **Dorothy Carroll** and **Irene Fallon** who were discharged in June.

Resident Council

President Muriel McClellan called the meeting to order on Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Eight members were present.

As **Old Business**, council members voted to keep the meetings at 3:00 p.m.

As **New Business**, Diana Olson informed council members of possible budget cuts that may be made by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Some residents and staff are concerned that Park River Estates will close. Our facility is making cuts, but they will not affect the care the residents receive. Some of the current cuts we are making is that staff will not get free meals, only one Daily Reminder will be placed on each dining room table which will cut copying costs, and the main entrance will close at 8:00 p.m. The visitor logbook was reviewed, and the majority of visitors leave before 8:00 p.m. Not having staff until 8:30 will save several dollars each month.

Food Committee: Council members would like to have “Coffee with the Cook” as the Food committee. The attendance is much higher and the cook is always at the meeting. If residents have concerns, they need to talk to a dietary supervisor.

Safety Concerns: There were none at this time. Diana Olson informed council members that Park River Estates has a Safety Committee and updated council members on the staff safety meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

Diana Olson,
Social Service Director/Recorder

The **Family Council** will meet on Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Resident/Visitor lounge.

Clean out the Closets!

It is the responsibility of families to keep the resident's closet and drawers clean and free of clutter. Many residents have too many items in their closets and drawers, which make it difficult for laundry to put clean clothes away and for nursing to help the resident choose clean clothing to wear. If a

resident has clothing that is worn or tattered and in need of repair or disposal, staff will bag it and put it in the bottom of the closet. Also, if a resident has too many items, staff will box it and contact the family to take it. Staff will NOT dispose of any items.

Plants & Bird Feeders

It is the responsibility of the resident or their family to water their plants and fill their bird feeders. Staff cannot take the time to do this, as it takes time away from caring for our residents.



Chaplain's Corner

Saturday, July 4, we celebrate Independence Day – the birthday of our beloved country, the United States of America. There's much history before the big event in 1776. My own family story dates back to the 1600's, when my family came here from England. And there is a great deal of American history before that; much more which has come after. Many proud and loyal Americans lived here for thousands of years before.

And before that, the people whose history is preserved in our Bible were part of America's history, for these writings shaped what America became. The Bible provides a foundation for the United States and is quoted in letters and speeches by the founding fathers. I often think of George Washington in the context of his faith and that it has powerfully shaped America's idea of itself.

European colonists came here for religious freedom and were inspired in one biblical image – Paul's Letter to The Hebrews – it is the image of the City of God. And although the Hebrews passage is clearly speaking of an otherworldly city, prepared by God for those who are not seduced by the pleasures of this world, other biblical references to the City of God are more ambiguous, and allowed the Christian colonists to imagine that they might apply to the new cities of the new world.

Many of the dissenting religious communities, which came to America specifically, saw themselves as carriers of a truth that had been corrupted in the Old World. They believed that if they kept their actions and their motives pure, that their community would be the New Jerusalem, and become the beacon of Gospel light that would usher in the reign of God. And they saw the vastness and beauty of the unspoiled America as a sign that God's grace was here. That idea, that language of the City of God, the New Jerusalem has remained a part of American discourse, from individual communities to the nation as a whole after the American Revolution, and informs our national identity today. Some of the biblical language describing God's eternal city is routinely used in our own language about our role in spreading freedom and democracy in the world.

Our nation's founders set us a wonderful vision, which every generation works on. Freedoms and equalities declared in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution have, over time, come closer to reality as the citizens, inspired by the original words, have sought to use the powers granted by those documents to claim the rights they foster. Over the years we have tried to put action into the words in the Bible and the Constitution. It's not easy. There are always unintended consequences. Nevertheless, we do this while confessing that we are "strangers and foreigners on the earth," seeking to perfect the earthly city to glorify God by making all that we do conform to God's purpose. We glorify God in our language and our art--in our writings and in our architecture.

So imagine that place – that city – that government – where the love of neighbor and love of enemy is both the law and the practice of the citizens--in which the stranger is welcomed and provided for. In which grace falls equally on all. Imagine that city, and then imagine what we might do to make our city more like it. In all of my imaginings, my mind goes back to the founding fathers and how they were inspired by the truth found in the Bible. July 4 we thank God for the wisdom of our founding fathers, George Washington, John Adams, John Witherspoon and right up to Father Hennepin and Billy Graham, all who loved America and were loved by God.

Good bless you and God bless America!

Amen.

Chaplain +Peter



Sympathies

Our sympathies go out to the families and friends of **Bernice Tholen, Mary Cutler** and **Ethel Cohoes**. They will be remembered at the Memorial Service on Sunday, July 5, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel.

Bernice Tholen was born November 1, 1921 in Ivanhoe, Minnesota to Steve and Frances Jerzak.

Bernice married Edward Tholen on October 15, 1946. To this union, two children were born, Bonnie and Jim. Bernice worked as a school cook, and in her leisure time, enjoyed cooking, baking and sewing.

Bernice came to Park River Estates Care Center on May 5, 2005 and passed away on June 9, 2009 at the age of 86. Her loving family will fondly remember her.

Mary Cutler was born May 10, 1916 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mary had one daughter, Colleen. Mary worked for the Sisters of the Poor and did house cleaning. In her leisure time, she enjoyed spending time with her family and loved children.

Mary came to Park River Estates Care Center on January 29, 2001 and passed away on June 14, 2009 at the age of 93. Mary is preceded in death by husband Joseph and is survived by daughter Colleen (Michael), 8 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and sister Helen.

Ethel Cohoes was born September 29, 1911 in Boon, Iowa.

Ethel married Byron Cohoes on January 20, 1934. To this union, three children were born, Sherry, Connie and Gene. Ethel worked in a factory. She loved fishing, and in recent years, Ethel enjoyed playing dice, bingo and basketball at Camilia Club and liked to go to the Senior Center in Blaine.

Ethel came to Park River Estates Care Center on March 2, 2007 and passed away on June 16, 2009 at the age of 97. She is preceded in death by husband Byron and grandson Paul, and is survived by children Connie (Joe), Sherry and Gene (Terry), grandchildren Patty, Julie, Mike (Kelly), Tom, Bill, Gary (Rose), Angela, Stephanie and Kara (Geno), 9 great-grandchildren and 1 great- great-grandchild. Ethel will be dearly missed.

