



Come On Home! The Fountains Gets License To Thrill

The new \$3.25 million assisted-living facility, The Fountains, has passed the final state inspection required for licensure, and new residents are already moving in, said Fountains Administrator Crystal Johnson.

As of Sept. 15, the facility had seven residents, with three more expected to move in over the weekend.

On Sept. 7, an inspector from the Texas Department on Aging and Disability Services visited and recommended full licensure. The Fountains had been operating since May with three residents – the maximum allowed by law under the licensing process.

The assisted-living facility was one of three Sweeny Hospital District projects funded by a \$10 million bond issue in 2002. The other projects include a new, larger emergency department at the hospital, a 13,000 square-foot professional office building, and renovations inside the 40-year-old hospital. The professional build-



Agnes Perry, one of the newest residents of The Fountains, settles in for an afternoon nap while her granddaughter Sandy Smith (center) and Fountains Administrator Crystal Johnson unpack Perry's belongings.

ing is expected to be finished by Christmas.

The Fountains is a 27-unit, Type B assisted-living facility designed to house up to 46 residents who are mostly independent but may need help with some aspects of daily living. Residents have kitchenettes and refrigerators in their otherwise unfurnished apartments, but the monthly rent includes daily meals and snacks, transportation, most utilities, and personal care assistance as needed.

Rent varies based on apartment size and the level of assistance needed, but the lowest rent is \$2,225 per month, with the highest \$3,895.

Although it is a free-standing facility at 1101 E. Second St. in Sweeny, The Fountains is a department of the hospital.

Birthdays

September

- 1 Kathy Smedley
- 2 Imogene Bledsoe*
- 4 Stephanie Smith
Marc Bailey
- 6 Linda Delgado
- 9 Gwen Norton
- 10 Linda Fishbeck
Jeanetta Simple
- 15 Dr. Rick Lorentz
- 17 Stuart Butler
Rhonda Moran
- 18 Mark Walker
- 20 Bruce King
- 21 Crystal Johnson
- 22 Sherri Pierce
- 24 Keith Marshall
- 28 Grace Baty
- 30 CarmCosentino
Joy Williamson



October

- 3 Eldine Oglesby*
- 4 LaQuita Yancey*
- 5 Charla Hutlman
- 7 Pat Anderson
- 9 DeDe Rodrigues
- 10 Jo Ann Fears *
- 11 Ponnice Bailey*
- 12 James Rebector
- 13 Charlotte Phillips*
- 15 Christine Williams
- 16 Betty Hubbard
- 20 Brittany Smith
- 21 Belinda Wilkinson
- 22 Brenda Rodrigues
- 24 Dr. Richard Erickson
- 26 Mary Lou Schouler*
- 27 Delores Merchant

* Auxiliary

CALENDAR

Thursday, Sept. 22 Medicare Drug Benefit Information Program



A guest speaker approved by the Social Security Administration will be here to explain the new drug benefit plan and answer questions. Public invited.
1 p.m.

The Fountains Assisted-Living

Tuesday, Sept. 27 Board Meeting

Always open to the public.
6:30 p.m.
Conference Room

Friday, Sept. 29 CPR Recertification

Don't let your CPR card expire.
Get recertified for only \$10.
To pre-register, call Ext. 1597.
8:30 a.m.

Conference Room



Tuesday, Oct. 4 Employee United Way Rally No. 1

Enjoy pizza, drinks & dessert during a short program about the United Way of Brazoria County. Questions? Call Rhonda Moran, Ext. 1555.
6 p.m.

Conference Room

Wednesday, Oct. 5 Employee United Way Rally No. 2

Come for Subway sandwiches, drinks & dessert in return for listening to a short program about the United Way of Brazoria County. Questions? Call Rhonda Moran, Ext. 1555.

Noon
Conference Room

Auxiliary Annual Meeting



This year's annual meeting was at Ruby Lingo's home, and the guest speaker was EMS Director David Filipp. He gave the ladies a test about Sweeny/West Brazos EMS, with questions such as: When do most EMS calls occur? (noon-6 p.m.) How many patients has the EMS transported so far this year? (1,130). Administrator Tony Turk also addressed the group.



From the Administrator

The Good, The Bad ... And How Not To Be Ugly

I really don't know what to call this article. Maybe words to live by or helpful hints for working in the SCH family of facilities or something like that. Or maybe musings of an old goat. I guess I'll just let the editor pick the story line.

Here we are at the end of another fiscal year. We had some pluses and some minuses but overall, I think we are ahead of where we were last year:

- We have the new ED open.
- The hospitalist program has increased our inpatient activities.
- The Fountains is finally licensed and quickly taking in new residents.
- The completion of the professional office building is rapidly approaching the finish line in early November.
- We have teleradiography now so we can get films interpreted right away when that's necessary.

Conversely, we have experienced some events that have made it challenging to meet our many financial obligations. These challenges include:

- Medicare deciding to recoup approximately \$200,000 they believe we were overpaid last year.
- Slow billing/collections for some of our ambulance services while they were outsourced. (We're out of that contract now, and catching up).
- A marked decrease in our surgical workload while Dr. Lorentz is on leave of absence.
- The cash requirements from the final stages of our construction program.

All of these factors combined to teach us a few new lessons in cash management and expense reduction.

These have been painful but beneficial lessons that many of us will retain for a long time, if not forever. No pain, no gain? Maybe so.

Collectively, we are an excellent health-care staff. Some of us might even be great. But as excellent as this staff is, there are ways we can be better. Of course, im-



H.A. 'Tony' Turk
Administrator

provement of a staff comes only from the performance of individuals. Here are some hints to think over and work on, if they fit:

If you make a mistake, admit it (report it if it's an unusual occurrence) and then try not to make the same one again.

If you borrow something (including equipment), return it to the right place and in a timely manner. For instance, where are all the wheelchairs we are supposed to have?

Read the instructions. We all know "real men" don't, but they might be more efficient if they did.

Take care of our stuff. Use things as they are intended, and use them with enough care to keep them from being broken. This could apply to anything from a copying machine or fax to an ambulance.

Follow the rules. Most, if not all, of them exist for a reason. Most of the time you can probably discern the reason. If not ask or look things up.

The *Administrative Manual* is a collection of policies (i.e. "rules") that apply across departmental lines. Ever seen it? Better than that, have you ever paged through and read any of it? What in the policy on dress codes applies to you? What are your shoes supposed to look like as regards style and appearance/cleanliness?

Okay, that's just one example, but in any event, follow the rules. If a rule doesn't fit or work anymore, report that to a supervisor. Maybe it needs to be changed. Not everything works or lasts forever.

Pick up (or clean up) after yourself. The old line about "your mother doesn't work here" (to pick up after you) fits. Have the sensitivity and consideration to do what you can in this regard.

Pick up after those less considerate than you are (in case they didn't read and heed the item in the preceding paragraph). If it looks like litter (inside or outside), it probably is. If you are still healthy enough to bend, squat, stoop or whatever to get it, please do so. And perhaps be thankful that you're up to the task physically.

Okay, enough of this. All I want to convey is that by "kicking it up a notch," we can be an even more impressive organization. And why shouldn't we?

"I've got a theory that if you give 100 percent all of the time, somehow, things will work out in the end."

— Larry Bird, Boston Celtics

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We're on the Web!
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Pet Photos Wanted



Timeclock Bulletin Board Needs Art

Paramedic Mike Mader's dog, Magnus, relaxes after another tough day in the EMS. Which made us think: Do other employees or Pink Ladies have interesting photos of their pets? If so, you're invited to bring a photo to post on the bulletin board beside the timeclock. The photo can be of a pet you currently own, or a special pet from your past, but please label your photo so we know who belongs to whom. You can post the photo on the board yourself, or you can e-mail the photo to Rhonda Moran, rmoran@sweenyhospital.org and she'll post them for you, the way we did with the snow pictures back in December (anyone remember snow?)

Snoop Scoop

Many SCH employees helped care for Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Houston shelters. EMS personnel who went to help included **Rusty McAlvain, Ryan Jones, Steve Dietz, Mark Walker, Bryan Jones** and **Daniel Jones**, although only the last two were identified in time to make it into the hospital's news release for the *Brazoria County News*.

EMS wasn't the only service helping out, either. Physical Therapist **Lisa Brunner** and Occupational Therapist **Peggy Boineau** also went to the Astrodome to help treat Katrina evacuees.

Mamie Sanchez in the Business Office is selling cookbooks for her church. The books are \$10 each with lots of great stick-to-your ribs recipes.

Physical Therapy Director **Lisa Campbell** has a new last name since marrying **P.T. Brunner** on Aug. 20.

Another newlywed is former SCH nurse **Donna Isaksson**, who found



Former SCH nurse Donna Isaksson married Frank Houser of Rockport.

love with boat captain **Frank Houser** of Rockport. They were married Sept. 10 in a barefoot ceremony at Goose Island State Park.

Eleven registered nurses attended the Certified Emergency Nurse Review Course offered here in August. They were **Lori Rohan, Cindy**

Grandjean, Cathy Sisson, Linda Fishbeck, DeDe Rodriguez, Elaine Montier, Ron Woolsey, Lisa Orr, Marcy Murrell and **Rhonda Moran. Marie Breakiron** and **David Filipp** served as instructors.

Marie recently completed a demanding online course through the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center to become a certified clinical educator. The program is offered in conjunction with the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses.

Martha Webb, GN is now Martha Webb, RN, since passing her state board exams. Congratulations also are in order for **Celia Garza**, LVN, who earned ACLS certification this week.

New Employees

- Stacey Davis, OTR
Brazoria Pediatric Rehab
- Nema Higdon, The Fountains
- Rose Struzinski, The Fountains
- Belinda Wilkinson, X-Ray Tech