

# The Asbury News

News and Information for the Residents of Asbury Heights

November 2023

## Emergency Drill Successful Nursing Center Performs Mock Emergency Response

In October, Asbury completed a full-scale disaster drill as annually required for skilled nursing facilities per the guidelines of Life Safety (a branch of the Department of Health). We did this in coordination with UPMC Emergency Preparedness and nine other UPMC skilled nursing facilities.

The team was aware that a drill was to take place, but were purposely given minimal information beforehand as not to be too prepared for the mock scenario. In the scenario, a portion of the roof had blown off due to a round of severe thunderstorms in the area. The team was tasked to evacuate 18 residents from Asbury and transport them to partnering UPMC Senior Communities campuses.

“The drill allows us to test our Emergency Operations Plan in a low-stress environment and produce best practices to lean on each other, communicate, and do what is best to keep our residents safe,” said Joey Boyles, executive director.

UPMC Senior Communities established a Command Center with all 10 facilities and their senior leadership to ensure the proper “mock” transfer of 18 residents from the Asbury campus.

“A huge thank you to Holly Villella, Lisa Osborne, Laura Scales, and all those involved for their coordination and involvement,” added Joey.



*Asbury is prepared to handle different emergency situations.*

**Asbury**  
HEIGHTS

Part of UPMC Senior Communities

# Halloween Happenings

Residents and staff, both participants and spectators, were thrilled to see the Halloween Parade return after a three-year hiatus. Over a dozen residents and staff donned their costumes for all to see in the Benedum-Driver Lounge and Mall. A panel of resident judges declared the winners of each category.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's Costume Contest!

## Most Creative

**Jack Boettger**, activities coordinator, as Yodeler

## Best Group

**Clarissa Spahr, Macrina Bagay, and Hope Limbruner**, activities, as witches

## Cutest

**Lexi Wirth and Claire DeCoursey**, activities, as kitty cats

## Scariest

**Fred Goellner**, resident, as Plague Doctor

## Funniest

**Paige Rothhaar**, CNA, as corn on the cob



## Twice as Nice Shop Open Tuesdays and Thursdays

Twice as Nice shoppers will be greeted by a new face on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1 and 3 p.m. Claire DeCoursey, activities assistant, Asbury Villas, will be on site to greet shoppers and assist them with their shopping needs.

Claire's involvement with the Shop comes as longtime volunteer Bette Lou Reichard considers stepping back from her duties. Asbury thanks Bette Lou for her decades of volunteer service.

## New Resident Reception An Opportunity for IL Residents

All independent residents are invited to the first **New Resident Reception** on Tuesday, November 28 between 10 and 11 a.m. in the Social Room.

Assorted pastries, donuts, and bagels will be provided as well as fresh fruit, coffee, tea and juice.

If you reside in one of our independent communities, please join us to welcome your new neighbors and help them transition to their new home at Asbury.



## Fighting Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a serious matter that affects one in five people in Pittsburgh. According to the city's website, this equates to over 60,000 individuals struggling to have a healthy and adequate food supply.

To help address this issue, Asbury partners with Living Stones, a local organization that works to feed those in need. Living Stones supplies Asbury with aluminum pans that dining staff fill and freeze with leftover food. Volunteers from Living Stones then collect the food and transport it to their freezers for distribution throughout the community.

In addition to this partnership, Asbury collects food for people and pets during the annual Scouting for Food and Chow Wagon campaign in April. Thanks to generous donations from residents, families, and staff, Asbury was able to contribute 585 units of food to this year's campaign.

## Maintenance Reminder *Reporting Emergencies*

If you experience a maintenance emergency on the weekends, holidays, or after normal business hours, please contact Security at (412) 571-5151 to report the situation. A call will then be made to the maintenance staff on-call for further assistance.

## Employee Recognition Program

As we soon approach the upcoming holiday season, we know many residents ask how they may recognize the efforts of our Asbury Staff and contracted service providers including Dining Services (Cura) and Housekeeping (Metz). A popular request each year.

Our policy does not permit any team member to accept cash or gifts of value. Violation of this policy can jeopardize employment for the staff member. Therefore, an Employee Recognition Program, established by the Asbury Foundation, provides those who wish to participate with an opportunity to monetarily express their gratitude for outstanding service provided.

For the nearly 400 older adults entrusted to our care, the skills and efforts of all our staff and contracted providers are required to deliver high quality and compassionate care. Contributions from the Employee Recognition Program are used for a variety of employee appreciation specific events held throughout the year, such as Welcome to Work Days, Team Building Events, Raffle Give-a-Ways, a holiday party, and more.

If you would like to make a gift, please contact Courtney Kartman at 412-571-5106 or [kartmanca@upmc.edu](mailto:kartmanca@upmc.edu). Gifts made to this program qualify as a charitable tax deduction.

*A contribution to Asbury Foundation by a Resident, Resident Family/Friend, Employee, and/or Vendor is not a condition of admission, continued stay, employment, and or continued business relationship.*



# Resident Council/Community Meetings

## Independent Residents

Monday, January 15 at 1:30 PM  
Hickman Chapel

## Asbury Villas

Wednesday, December 13 at 2:30 PM  
Lifestyle Center

## Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Tuesday, December 19  
Staff will meet with residents one-on-one

## Spring Lane and Laurel Lane

Wednesday, December 18 at 2:00 PM  
Ramp

## Asbury Place

Monday, December 11 at 2:00 PM  
Great Room



# Upcoming Meals and Special Events

## Gingerbread Day

November 21

## French Toast Day

November 28

## Thanksgiving

November 23

## IL Chef Dinner

November 30



# It's Time to Vote for Your Favorite Pet

It's time to vote for your favorite pet from the Hot Dogs & Cool Cats display in the Mall.

Voting will be open on Friday, November 17 and end on Monday, January 1. Votes will be tallied Tuesday, January 2. Visit the Mall to cast your vote. In the meantime, promote your pet!

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