



*The Tree Unites the
Branches; The Branches
Bear the Fruit*

O The RANJ TREE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FAIR RETURN OF ENTRY FEES BILL A2747: This bill, which passed the Legislature July 1 and was signed by Governor Murphy on August 17, only affects newly issued refundable contracts. The new law has no effect on contracts agreed upon prior to the enactment of the new law. For newly issued, refundable contracts CCRC management should issue revised Disclosure Agreements eliminating the requirement that vacated units must be reoccupied prior to refunding the entry fee.

EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR VETERANS' PROPERTY TAX DEDUCTIONS TO RESIDENTS OF CCRCs: Bill A3163 was approved by the NJ Assembly on June 30. Concurrent Resolution ACR134 was placed on the Assembly Desk on June 30. The Senate bill S1331 was passed on June 25. Concurrent Resolution SCR 110 (required for a constitutional amendment) was also passed on June 25. Senate and Assembly sessions are scheduled for September 13. However, the agendas are not yet available. It is not likely that full legislative approval will be granted in time to place the bill on this year's ballot. Gary learned that the bill will make progress next year without again going through the already completed committee approvals. It is likely that the 2019 fall general election ballot will include this amendment.

NACCRA AND LEADINGAGE ANNUAL MEETING AND NATIONAL CONVENTION: The National Continuing Care Residents' Association (NaCCRA) will hold its annual fall meeting in the Philadelphia Convention Center on October 27-28. This is the same time as the LeadingAge annual meeting. All residents of CCRCs are invited to attend the NaCCRA meeting beginning 9:00 am on Sunday, October 28. The agenda includes a presentation by Katie Sloan, the President of LeadingAge. There will also be State reports. (I am a member of the NaCCRA Board and will present a New Jersey report.) A luncheon will be provided for residents who attend the LeadingAge meeting on Sunday. Food is readily available in downtown area restaurants. (Reading Terminal is popular and nearby but Pennsylvania Dutch merchants close on Sunday.) All residents can register for the full convention as Elder/Resident on the LeadingAge website. For added guidance, go to the NaCCRA website, click on "News" and then "Upcoming Meetings." Parking is available nearby; however, you can take the PATCO train from NJ. Take 295 South to exit 31. Follow signs to Woodcrest Station. Exit the train at 8th and Market and walk to the Convention Center. Google "PATCO" for information. For more info call/text me at 973-723-5699 or email me at 2whalins@gmail.com. Please let me know if you will be attending.

Ron Whalin

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HARVEY PETERS, *Crane's Mill*
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Medford Leas, *Medford*
Monroe Village, *Monroe Township*
The Oaks at Denville, *Denville*
The Pines at Whiting, *Whiting*
Seabrook, *Tinton Falls*
Stonebridge at Montgomery,
Skillman
Wiley Christian Retirement
Community, *Marlton*
Winchester Gardens, *Maplewood*

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PLENARY MEETING OCTOBER 17 AT CRESTWOOD MANOR

FIELD TRIPS FOR SENIORS

by Paul Basham, ORANJ Secretary

Educators have long held that field trips provide valuable experiences for students. The same is true for senior residents in retirement centers. Field trips can be a source of enjoyment and can enable retirees to have a change of scenery and see themselves as part of the bigger world. The key to successful field trips is careful planning. The destinations of field trips can be as varied as the interests of the residents. During the trip the staff and residents can enjoy a camaraderie not experienced back in the retirement community.

At Applewood, located in Freehold, it's easy to live an active life – well. Wanda Garrin, Engaged Living Coordinator, has found many trips to be very popular among the active and outgoing residents at Applewood. A trip to the “Grape Escape” involved making fresh mozzarella and learning about wine.



**Applewood Field Trip
Wine and Cheese at the Grape Escape**

Other popular Applewood trips: Fonthill Castle and Museum, Washington Crossing Inn & Tour of the Johnson Ferry House, the Cloisters in NYC, the Dale Chihuly Exhibit at the NY Botanical Gardens, Andrew Wyeth Studio Tour, Historic Ocean Grove Walking Tour, Grounds for Sculpture and plenty of trips to plays, operas and Atlantic City. Garrin explained that there are several goals to the trips she plans. “Our trips are fun and educational while providing a great opportunity for residents to build long-lasting friendships.”

Dara Chaty, Activities Coordinator for the Crestwood Manor in Whiting, said some of their field trips have been to the Philadelphia Zoo, the Dog Sanctuary in Freehold, Sight & Sound Theater in PA, the Surflight Theater on Long Beach Island, the Wheaton Village in Millville, Atlantic City and the Blue Claws Baseball

Games. Dara said “The residents always enjoy new experiences such as cultural, educational and social trips that enhance their quality of life.”

Liz Schaus-Guzzo, Director of Resident Activities for Meadow Lakes, (A Springpoint Community) in East Windsor, said some of their field trips have been to the Grounds for Sculpture, the Holland Ridge Tulip Farm, the Senior Safari at the Great Adventure, the Pegasus Theater, The Morris Museum, the Morven Museum & Tour, the BAPS Mandir and the Drumthwacket. Liz said, “Although we have a very large campus with a full schedule of activities and a robust lifelong learning program, it's always nice to ‘get away’ for a day. It's an opportunity to learn something new you might not otherwise get a chance to know.”

Shoronda Clarke, Activities Director for the Atrium at Navesink Harbor at Red Bank, said that every month groups of residents are taken to New York City, where they are dropped off and picked up at either Rockefeller Center or the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Also, they go on trips to Atlantic City, Monmouth Racetrack, Museums in Philadelphia, the Count Basie Theater, Two River Theater and the NJ Repertory Theater. In addition, they have their own pontoon boat, which they use for scenic rides and evening nature cruises, when a volunteer from the parks system comes along to talk about nature and wildlife on the Navesink River. Shoronda said these trips enable their residents to stay connected to everything they hold dear.

Kristin Williams, Resident Life Director in the Oaks at Denville, said that field trips “are one way to keep people from spending too much time alone. We want our people living full, active lifestyles.” Some of their field trips have been to the Papermill Playhouse, the Sleepy Hollow Tour, the Walkway over the Hudson, Broadway Shows, Duke Farms, Kukuwait and many restaurant trips.

Justine Merlin, Director of Life Enrichment for the Pines, a Senior Living Community in Whiting, said that their community provides local shuttle service for appointments and shopping and for special field trips, which help their residents maintain lifelong leisure interests. Some of their trips have been to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, the Bucks County Playhouse, the Grunin Center for the Arts, the Grounds for Sculpture, the Baps Shri Swaminarayan Temple in Robbinsville as well as museums and concerts.

FIELD TRIPS (continued)

According to Nancy Neri, Activity Director for Wiley Christian Retirement Community of Marlton, favorite field trip destinations have included the Sight and Sound Theater, the Winterthur Museum, the Masonic Temple, the Nature Tour by Boat in Cape May, the Philly Pops, "A Salute to the Military & First Responders," the Constitution Hall and the Revolutionary War Museum. Neri has scheduled other field trips closer to home, such as to a cranberry bog, the Ocean City Boardwalk, the Pitman Theatre, the Smithville Park and the Evesham Historical Society.



**Wiley Mission Field Trip
Nature Tour by Boat**



HEARING ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM AT CRANE'S MILL

by Harvey Peters, VP Northwest Region

"Hearing loss is an invisible disability. There's no white cane, no crutches, no jerky movements, no bandages or visible braces." "Being a person with a hearing loss is like being in Paris and knowing just enough French to ask a question, and then being completely unable to comprehend the answer," wrote Katherine Bouton in *Shouting Won't Help: Why I — and 50 Million Other Americans — Can't Hear You*.

Hearing loss is not only an individual's problem, it is a social problem as well. Spouses, friends, families, dinner guests, and discussion groups suffer from the loss of communication due to this disability.

HEARING (continued)

At Crane's Mill a team of two residents and staff decided to tackle this as a social problem that was hindering life among all residents, hearers and non-hearers alike. After sharing personal stories, reading books and publications, and consulting with experts, they decided that their first goal would be to initiate an informed conversation within the community in order to demythologize false assumptions, present factual information, and find practical and realistic solutions, including both aural therapy and support groups.

Following a survey to identify residents' questions, three interactive 25-person workshops were led by Pamela Paskowitz, PhD, Executive Director of the Summit Speech School, which teaches deaf children to listen and talk. Those who attended the workshop spread the word and others began asking for more information and reliable resources.

To date over sixty residents have been given ear wax removal in by the resident health care staff, some for the first time. "Wow, my voice sounds so different," said one upon leaving the nurses' office. Spouses have benefited by gathering and sharing their experiences with each other. "I now realize what my husband has been dealing with all these years, and I'm not alone," one woman remarked to the others.

We are working on finding useful technology for better use of phones, TV, and recordings. The local high school "techies" come to help. Meetings and assemblies have improved by encouraging speakers as well audience members to use portable microphones and to make sure all are included in the conversation. We explained how special hearing technology can access the hearing loop that has been installed in the main auditorium.

A discussion is underway with the Summit Speech School about a program for aural therapy. We hope to establish similar conversations with local colleges that have programs for hearing disabilities.

Some residents are mystified by it all. Some are hopeful. Many are curious and waiting for new opportunities for hearing enhancement.

Links:

<http://summitspeech.org/auditoryoral.html>

<https://katherinebouton.com/>

www.hearingloss.org

<https://www.asha.org/>

<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing-loss-older-adults>

For more information contact me at
harvpeters@aol.com

OCTOBER 17 SPEAKERS - CRESTWOOD MANOR

SUSAN KRUM, AUDIOLOGIST



Dr. Susan Krum will discuss the dimensions of hearing loss, including cognitive issues, behavior consequences, and treatment options. Dr. Krum, who has been an audiologist for over 30 years, spent 16

years at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Initially hired as Director of Speech and Hearing, she worked her way up to become VP of Ambulatory Operations at the RWJ Health System. Dr. Krum is currently a professor at Rutgers University teaching Health Administration courses for master's level students.

SHEILA Y OLIVER - LT GOVERNOR

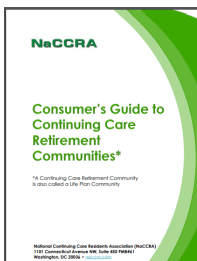


Sheila Oliver has been appointed Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs by Governor Murphy. She is a 40-year resident of East Orange and a native of Newark. She was elected to the General Assembly in 2003 and became Speaker in 2010.

She has taught college courses in achievement motivation, nonprofit management, and precollege preparation, served as a consultant to a variety of nonprofit organizations, and spent several years as the director of the Essex County Division of Community Action.



NaCCRA Consumer Guide



One copy of the new NaCCRA publication, *Consumer's Guide to Continuing Care Retirement Communities* has been mailed to RAC presidents in the package of printed copies of this newsletter. The Guide is also available on the NaCCRA website

naccra.com/pdfs/NaCCRA-consumer-guide-042018web.pdf

This 22-page document is easily printed. The Guide is intended to help prospective residents find the great CCRCs and to help current residents monitor the ongoing health and performance of the community where they now live.

Written by current residents, the Guide gives the resident's perspective on topics that interest prospective contract signers. It is a straight-forward, easy-to-understand, and accurate presentation of subjects of interest when choosing a CCRC. It is equally of interest to residents in assessing practices and governance where they live.

Arbor Glen Relunched as Laurel Circle

It is with great excitement that we share the news that Arbor Glen has been relunched as Laurel Circle. This move enhances the financial viability of the community and will bring major investments over the next several years that will upgrade the campus and services provided to our residents.



The transition from Arbor Glen to Laurel Circle represents the start of a new chapter for the community. Life Care Services, the third largest manager of full-service senior living communities in the country managing more than 130 communities nationwide, will take Laurel Circle to an even higher level for its residents.

As we continue our membership in ORANJ, we will share news of the improvements and changes that will be made and the positive impact they have on current and new residents.

*Ellen McCourt, President
Laurel Circle Residents Association*