



THE Villager

A NEWSLETTER OF SUNNYSIDE VILLAGE – CHURCH EDITION

Spring 2015

Cultivating Sunnyside's Natural Beauty PG. 2



Jerome Yoder, Delmar Shetler, Ignacio Ferras and Dan Hernley share the responsibility of Sunnyside's attractive grounds.

Maintaining Sunnyside's softscape requires teamwork

Sunnyside residents enjoy a beautifully landscaped neighborhood. The colors, the cleanliness and the care all beckon to the heart to enjoy our community's outdoor features.

This does not happen by accident.

It is accomplished by a team of four men who come to Sunnyside equipped with more than meets the eye. Three are former science teachers and one came laden with landscaping experience.

"It's really a great place to work because of the staff and the residents," said Jerome Yoder, who has been working landscaping at Sunnyside for nearly five years, handling irrigation systems, spraying, pruning and general tidiness.

Jerome is a retired science teacher of 33 years, as is Dan Hernley, who taught science and math in Virginia for 30 years but now handles some of the administrative work for the landscaping team, along with mulching, blowing, spraying and supervising the vendors who sod and mow at Sunnyside.

Dan loves the freedom the crew is given and the gratefulness of the community. "We're trusted to do what we're supposed to do. I'm still having fun," he said. "It's amazing how many times we are thanked for what we do."

Ignacio Ferras, once a former science teacher in Cuba, moved to this country in 1986. He was also an



Top: Bob Antrim with Jerome Yoder

entrepreneur and opened a grocery store, running it for 30 years. Ignacio has been with Sunnyside landscape team for 13 years. He particularly enjoys planting sunflowers around the grounds.

Delmar Shetler has been landscaping at Sunnyside for five years, mostly around the apartments and the lake, handling trimming, mulching and supervising the tree-trimming vendors. Delmar had worked in landscaping for 18 years, managing crews.

"I knew this was a good place,"

he said of Sunnyside. He said the residents and the staff are great to work with. "It makes you want to come in every day."

Residents are glad they do.

The men will plant flowers and other greenery for residents — as long as they are approved — and answer questions. The landscaping crew moved the Dietzel's rose garden last year to Reuben and Gertrude's new residence at Sunnyside Manor as a surprise for the couple.

Big hearts are part of the package.

They also created a butterfly garden, a sort of cooperative effort

between Jerome and resident Bob Antrim. With Jerome's horticulture knowledge; he assisted with proper location of appropriate soil and suitable sunlight for Bob's selected nectar rich flowering plants.

The garden has had 11 monarch butterfly chrysalises so far, Bob said. "We have so many butterflies now."

He praises Jerome for going beyond the call to help out and make sure the butterfly garden was a success. "He's very agreeable," Bob said. And of the entire landscape team, he adds: "You can ask them to do about anything and they will."

Benevolence comes in many forms



The Sunnyside Foundation's annual benefit sale opened to a crowd of shoppers looking for a good deal on a blue-sky day in March. More than 80 volunteers helped with the sale of \$16,000 worth of goods, resulting in another successful event. The purpose of the sale is raise funds to support Sunnyside residents in financial need which is just one avenue of outreach overseen by the Foundation. Critical assistance also stretches beyond the Sunnyside campus.

This year, the Foundation donated an additional \$8,000 worth of excess items from the sale to well-known local charities, something that is often done throughout the year as part of outreach and disaster relief. The Foundation contributes thousands of dollars' worth of appliances, household goods and furniture to aid numerous local

charities such as Angel's Attic, Habitat for Humanity and the Pines Thrift Store.

"The Foundation not only wants to support our own at Sunnyside but also alleviate life's challenges for others with genuine needs," said Michael Smith, Foundation Director. "We often provide these resources and even grants for individuals such as a single mom starting over and to those who have lost everything from a disaster. We focus our resources where the need is the greatest."

Sunnyside Foundation also offers free services on senior advocacy, fraud prevention, estate planning, and financial planning for retirement. For the Foundation to provide effective and ongoing support throughout the year, we rely on a variety of sources to support our mission.

For more information on how you can make a direct impact for someone in crisis, visit www.sunnysidevillage.org/foundation.htm or call Michael Smith at 941-371-2750.



Left to right: Anne Roine and Betty Evans shop for a bargain. Michael Smith, Foundation Director and Wade Harris, Chairman of the Sunnyside Properties Board of Directors, pause for a break during the busy sale.

SUNNYSIDE Snapshots



Anna Litzen, Sunnyside employee, shows her sale treasure to resident Elie Mackay and Elie's daughter, Kathy.



Lois Merrill and Lucille Kendall attend the annual Sunnyside Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast.



John and Esther Weaver also attend the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast.



Michael Smith, Foundation Director, reverses roles and serves coffee to volunteer Galen Swope during the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. Galen regularly serves beverages to residents in the Lakeside Dining Room.



The Sunnyside Jesters with legendary clown, Jackie LeClaire, of Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey fame.



Residents Rosemary Tantalo and Al and Judy Cline enjoy a laugh during a recent tour with Stan Doerr, President and CEO of Echo Farms.



Sunnyside residents watch the Orioles vs. the Blue Jays during a spring day at the stadium.



Dick Eddy and Gary Cooper concentrate on assignments in an iPad class.

“The best ‘away from home’ home”

Anna Jean Schmidt has lived at Sunnyside Village since 2004. But when her husband became ill with cancer in October 2013, the couple moved to Sunnyside Manor so he could have regular assistance with daily needs he required.

When he passed away in 2014, Anna Jean stayed in the Manor and recently moved into one of the newly remodeled studio elite apartments.

Responding to what residents said they wanted, Sunnyside took three double-room units at the Manor and turned them into four single-room units.

“More and more people are asking for just a single room apartment. They really don’t need

the double room at this time of their lives,” said Lynn Eby, Director of Campus Services.

Everything is new in the remodeled units. The bathrooms all have “roll-in” showers so they are wheelchair accessible with no curbing. All other features in the units such as the kitchenettes are updated.

“I love it here,” she said. “I have the feeling of well-being. I hope everyone else does. I feel safe.”

It’s just what Anna Jean needed, and she’s made it cozy and homey.

“I love it here,” she said. “I have the feeling of well-being. I hope

everyone else does. I feel safe.”

That is an important factor for all residents at Sunnyside, but particularly so for those who have recently lost a spouse.

“If I got sick, I know I would be cared for,” she said. The comfort of having that can hardly be measured. “It really is like one big family.”

The assisted living staff knows each resident’s medical needs and is immediately available if a health issue arises.

Anna Jean’s studio has a kitchenette, sitting room, bed area and bathroom. She eats in the dining room and has access to two libraries, exercise classes, game-playing, sing-alongs and many other residents for companionship.

The Manor residents are taken shopping at least once per week to places like Publix, Target and Bealls. “They really watch over us at the stores,” she said of the Sunnyside staff that takes them.

There is even a residents’ council that offers input on life at the Manor, including the dining room. “I think it’s very good for the Manor to do this,” she said.

With a quick smile and sharp blue eyes, Anna Jean said: “The best ‘away from home’ home!”



Blessing and being blessed

Ray Crozier and Norm Cook have been best friends and co-laborers in several ministries over the years, including Resurrection House and Agape Flights.

But most recently they have turned their team efforts to residents in Sunnyside's Health and Rehabilitation Center. The people they visit regularly are largely infirm and so the two men visit up to 10 of them each week.

"These people are lonely. We think we can bring a little sunshine to them," Ray said. "We develop real bonds with them."

The two men have been friends for more than 20 years, always volunteering in one local ministry or another. Ray and his wife, Kay, have been residents at Sunnyside for three years. Norm and his wife, Dianne, are future residents on the waiting list.

Ray was approached by Sunnyside Chaplain Jarvis Hochstedler about a year and a half ago about visiting some of the folks in skilled nursing. Ray talked to Norm about doing it together and Norm said he was hesitant at first.

"But the Lord changed my mind on that," Norm said, and he agreed to do it. He is not sorry. "I just fell in love



Norm Cook, Carl Jenkins and Ray Crozier meet for their weekly visit.

with it after we started doing it. We both really enjoy the people we visit. We're touched by helping people."

Chaplain Hochstedler lets Ray know of any new residents in the Health and Rehabilitation Center who might enjoy a visit from them and the men will make contact.

Norm often has special materials prepared, maybe reading from something like the Our Daily Bread, while Ray often has a prayer for the person. Of course, they also just hang out and enjoy each others'

company, too.

"Each week, I look forward to seeing Ray and Norm," said Carl Jenkins, resident. "They are nice people and make me laugh."

Norm said Matthew 25:40 became very real to him in his visitations. It reads: "The King said, 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me'.

"It is a privilege to be able to do this," he said and Ray agreed wholeheartedly.



THE Villager

Sunnyside Village

5201 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, FL 34232

941-371-4245, info@sunnysidevillage.org

www.sunnysidevillage.org



Sunnyside is affiliated with Mennonite Health Alliance, Southeast Mennonite Conference, LeadingAge and LeadingAge Florida.

The mission of Sunnyside Village is to enrich the lives of residents, staff and the community by providing homes and facilities, services and programs in a Christian environment.

Sunnyside Wins Award for *Music in the Village*



Congratulations to the Marketing and Activities Departments! Julie Platt and Ann Chisholm accepted a public relations award in April on behalf of Sunnyside Village. The Central West Coast Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association presented the Award of Distinction for *Music in the Village*. Awards of Distinction are presented to public relations projects of excellence that include solid research, planning and meet high standards of production, implementation and evaluation of results and budget. The Marketing and Activities Departments collaborated to develop, brand, and implement *Music in the Village*, a series of musical concerts intended to enrich the lives of Sunnyside residents and visitors to its community. *Music in the Village* concerts featured leading musicians from the Sarasota and Tampa Bay areas and to include a soprano who had performed at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.



Julie Platt, APR, CPRC Marketing and Sales Specialist and Ann Chisholm, ADC, Activities Director accept an award on behalf of Sunnyside for *Music in the Village*