

The Meadian



A newsletter published periodically for families, friends and residents of St. Anne's Mead

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

A Tour Worth Taking

First look at St. Anne's Mead begins with its No.1 fan

Our Admissions Director, Robin Harris is a natural when it comes to showcasing St. Anne's Mead to visitors. She will greet you with a bright smile and welcome you with her caring heart. In feedback surveys, she consistently gets high marks for conducting facility tours of potential residents. "It's what I enjoy doing," says Robin. "Helping people find solutions to their particular needs."



Robin came to St. Anne's Mead from St. John's Hospital more than five years ago bringing with her a solid background in customer service and occupational health. Her primary responsibility is to provide information about St. Anne's to families and to gather information about prospective residents for the staff at St. Anne's.

"We have to make sure that our services and capabilities match an applicant's needs and wants, and at the same time ensure that the new resident doesn't pose a health or safety risk to current residents," says Robin.

In conducting tours, Robin spends a lot of time answering questions about location, fees, family visits, diets and menus, security, and special needs. "I also encourage visitors to talk to the families of other residents, or directly to the residents themselves. They can provide valuable, unbiased information," says Robin. "I often meet families at a very vulnerable time in their lives. A decision to move Mom or Dad



into a facility can be very stressful. Ultimately the decision comes down to what matters most: their health & safety” she says.

It’s these kinds of interactions with family members and their loved ones that motivate Robin every day. “It’s important for me to be able to help. If the fit isn’t right, I’ll recommend a facility whose services are a better match,” says Robin.

Off hours, the mother of three college students enjoys spending time with her family -- especially her granddaughter Brooklynn -- and her group of “sorority sisters” who meet regularly. “I appreciate solitude, a good glass of wine, reading and practicing meditation, something I’ve just started learning to do,” she says. “I love promoting St. Anne’s Mead. It’s a hidden jewel that I used to pass every day, never realizing what a warm and inviting place it is.”

Time to Celebrate

Phase One Renovations Are Now Complete

The completion of Phase One of St. Anne's Mead building refreshment will be celebrated publicly on Nov. 20. A ribbon cutting ceremony at 11 am opens the festivities. Other events will then continue throughout the day including facility tours, food, wine, desserts, and a special limited seating history telling that begins at 7 p.m. Seat reservations can be made by calling Robin Harris at 248-557-1221.

New Entry Doors Hint At Changes

The first evidence that there is something new at St. Anne's Mead is the inviting set of white, French doors. These beautiful doors lead to a redesigned foyer that looks and feels like the front porch of a summer cottage. "That's the look we went after," says Shirley Maddalena, interior design consultant, who envisioned the design that sets St. Anne's Mead apart.



In the foyer, the cottage look is accentuated by a wall-sized photo-mural of a Michigan waterfront, wainscoting, millwork, carpeting, window shutters and wicker furniture that evoke a sense of being “up North.” Five-foot photo reproductions hang in the main hallways giving residents beautiful views that inspire memory and nostalgia. “We wanted an environment that was warm and friendly, reminiscent of happy

family vacations,” says Shirley.

In addition to the foyer, the makeover includes the main hallways, the dining room, the Welcome Room and the reception area.

The celebration on Nov. 20, marking the end of Phase One, comes after more than a year of planning and four months of demolition and installation.



Worth Repeating

Here's what they are saying about St. Anne's Mead

“The recent improvements to the interior add a great amount of pizzazz!”

-- Sister Mary Schmidlin, friend

“They keep making it prettier and prettier, nicer and nicer. It's sweet to be here”

-- Chris Creswell, resident



Go Ahead, Write Us Off

Donate for year-end tax savings

Making a donation to a not-for-profit like St. Anne's Mead before Dec. 31, can significantly reduce your 2014 obligation to Uncle Sam.

In the 33% tax bracket? The actual cost of a \$100 donation is only \$67 (\$100 less the \$33 tax savings). As your tax bracket increases, the real cost of your gift decreases, making contributions more attractive for those in higher brackets.

But note: A contribution is deductible in the year in which it is paid. Putting the check in the mail constitutes payment, and a contribution made on a credit card is deductible in the year it is charged to your credit card, even if payment to the credit card company is made in a later year.

Consult your tax adviser in any case.

Senior Tips

How to Celebrate the New Year When Staying Up is Difficult

Many senior residents find it difficult to stay up until midnight but you and your parent can still ring in the New Year together by watching the ball drop in the United Kingdom. The time here will be only 7 pm EST. Once the senior reveler hits the hay, you'll still have time to enjoy the arrival of 2015 when the ball drops in New York City.

If you plan to ring in the new year in the traditional way, hold a quiet event for your parents and one or two of their close friends. Pass the time till midnight with a board game and snacks or watch a movie.

Another option is to save New Year's Eve festivities for New Year's Day.

Call to arrange a private party in one of our lounges.



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Our Mission

St. Anne's Mead mission is to provide compassionate and professional health care and supportive services to seniors in a safe, secure, and loving home.

In keeping with our faith-based traditions, we endeavor to serve the unique needs of individuals and their families while preserving dignity and enriching lives.

