

The Meadian



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

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Vocal Point

Council President Joe Bassett speaks up for residents

Vox Populi is the Latin phrase that literally means “voice of the people.” At St. Anne’s Mead, the man who speaks on behalf of the people is 93 year old Joe Bassett, who, for the past two years has been heading up the Resident Council.

As president, Joe communicates the issues, wants and needs of his fellow residents to the facility’s Leadership Team. Sometimes Joe is presenting “minor complaints and requests” to the administration, but just as often he is speaking to congratulate staff for a job well done, including those “little day-to-day things” that can brighten someone’s spirit.



Joe Bassett enjoys the internet, but he shuns social media.

“We get pretty good results, as the leadership team listens and acts,” says Joe. In one case, he reported that parked cars were encroaching on the sidewalk. “This made it difficult and dangerous for residents in wheelchairs to get by. This concern was raised at a Resident Council meeting and the issue was quickly resolved,” says Joe.

In addition to reporting concerns, Joe also plays a role in keeping residents informed about upcoming announcements, events and other items that impact their routines. Joe says it isn’t a tough job but it is important that the residents have a proper interface when needed.





Joe with art instructor, Margaret Wielbut

Resident Councils play an important role in the long term care setting, which includes Assisted Living and the Nursing Home. They are vital to the health, safety, and welfare of residents on all matters related to activities, food, living arrangements, personal care and other aspects of resident life.

Joe has been a resident at St. Anne's Mead since 2011. "I decided I needed a safer place to live," says Joe whose stability in walking deteriorated to the point where he ended up falling a few times. Winter weather, stairways, lack of handrails... all made living at home more dangerous, according to Joe. So, with a recommendation from St. John's Episcopal Church, the former banker and administrator "made it possible" for his

housekeeper to buy the Royal Oak house that he and his late wife lived in for more than 60 years. Then he moved in to St. Anne's Mead. "I made my own decision about where to live," says Joe.

Though he worked for more than 45 years as a partner in a local engineering firm, Joe has been an avid traveler mostly to Australia and New Zealand. Now that his walking has slowed him down a bit, Joe spends part of the day doing watercolors and surfing the Internet for information. However, he emphatically denies doing social media. "When I need to know something, I Google it," says Joe. His computer is surrounded by beautiful examples of the artwork he that creates with the guidance of art therapist Margaret Weilbut.

"I have things around me from my previous residence, and that makes me feel pretty good. My two rooms are very nice. This is home."

A Gentle Reminder

Last month, St. Anne's Mead distributed two letters: a Satisfaction Survey and our Annual Appeal letter. Both are critical to our ability to continue providing outstanding care, safety and comfort. You can help by responding to both as soon as possible. If you have a question about either, you may call us at (248) 557-1221.

Ribbon Cutting in November

Event Will Signal End of Phase 1

The Leadership Team at St. Anne’s Mead is looking ahead to the end of Phase 1 of the building refreshment sometime before mid-November. They are beginning to plan a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house to celebrate the occasion.

“We expect to announce the event in a few weeks and will provide full details at that time,” says Jane Collins, Executive Director. Meanwhile, the project is about mid-way through with wainscoting, moldings and wallpaper up in the main hallway and most of the entrance lobby.

“The transformation is apparent even without the carpeting. When the carpeting and new lighting are installed, that will pretty much complete work in the hallway,” says Jane. “Response has been overwhelmingly positive and we are looking forward to a similar reaction when we reveal the makeover to the public before the start of the holiday season,” she says.



Worth Repeating

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

“I like it here. I really do! The staff are so nice. They work hard for us and I have fun with them, too. The food is very good. I enjoy all my meals. I would and I have recommended this place to anyone.”

-- Resident Mary Classen

Senior Tips

Unless your home is new, it probably wasn't built with aging parents in mind. Here are a few simple examples on how to make your home safer and more comfortable for everyone, especially seniors.

- Arrange furniture so a pathway is clear from room to room.
- Reroute any cords or wires out of the walkway.
- Remove any objects on the stairway.
- Install handrails -- as long as the stairway -- on both sides of the stairs.
- Keep most commonly used items on the lowest cupboard shelves.
- Plug in a nightlight between the bed and the bathroom.



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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.

