

# The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley

An Assisted Living Residence  
[www.ridgewoodshenango.org](http://www.ridgewoodshenango.org)

Volume 2

Fall 2010



## *Courtyard Complete*

In the summer of this year we completed our courtyard project that included improvements such as a new pagoda structure with an attached arbor and brick paver surface, a picket privacy fence at the far end, the addition of two winding walkways, a new fountain, a fire ring as well as tables and chairs and benches. Assorted shrubs and plantings were also added.

The plan utilized two existing walkways, four large trees, the existing fountain and many of the existing shrubs and plantings on the perimeter of the courtyard area. The plan was designed by Shannon McConnell, a landscape architect with Cottage Gardens of Hermitage.

“The courtyard area is a beautiful and functional area,” explained Ron Duez, Administrator. “It will be a great place for residents to socialize as well as to entertain their families and friends.”

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$38,000. To date more than \$22,000 has been received in donations and the Partners in Senior Care Board of Directors added \$9,000 from the 2010 capital budget for the project.

“Proceeds from our commemorative bricks are also being used,” Duez explained. Bricks which remember or honor someone are available at the facility. They line a walkway leading to the front porch of The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley.

As part of this project, Duez says, “We are seeking donations to help cover costs of new automatic door openers for doors that open to the courtyard from various points. We plan to install five openers as funds permit. The cost for each is approximately \$2,500.”

In 2011, Duez reports that there is a plan to improve the waterfall on the west side of the building. The plan includes the planting of a variety of new flowers and shrubs.

## *Courtyard Donors*

Mr. Doug Anderson  
Anonymous  
Mr. Bob Beach  
Mr. Steven Bible  
Dr. & Mrs. Volker Breitfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Despo, Jr.  
Mrs. Dorothy Goodrick  
Mr. Michael Goodrick  
Dr. Ted Goodrick  
Mrs. Sally Kaiser  
Mrs. LuAnn King  
Mr. & Mrs. G. Bryan Oros  
Mr. Larry Redfoot  
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Riley  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Wallace

*Individuals giving to our “Brick Campaign”  
also supported this project.*



## *Waterfall*

# 2010 in Review

By Ron Duez, Administrator



In 2010 I celebrated five years as administrator here at The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley. During these five years I have seen many positive changes and improvements for which I give credit to our board of directors for their vision and concern for our residents, and to our staff who care for our residents with dignity and respect. I also recognize and give thanks to those individuals who give generously to support our projects as we work to make The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley a “great place to call home.”

Currently we employ 26 individuals who perform a variety of jobs including nursing, personal care, housekeeping, food service, activities, maintenance, and administrative support. During my tenure our staff development has become stronger. We have a high percentage of a staff who has worked with us for more than five years and some who have been here since our inception in 1998.

Our resident census has grown and become more stable. In an unpredictable economy, a stable census affords us the opportunities to not only meet residents’ expectations but exceed them with more choices and opportunities.

As for completed projects, we have developed a beautiful courtyard so residents can enjoy the outdoors; updated the dining room with new flooring, draperies and furnishings; purchased a lawn tractor enabling Leo to keep our grounds beautiful; built a pavilion for residents and staff to enjoy with friends and family; purchased a computer system for residents to keep in touch with family and friends via email, world affairs via internet, and personal interests through a wealth of software programs; and added a large garage to house our two primary transportation vehicles. As we look to the future we will continue to explore new possibilities for our residents and staff. This next year we are planning an upgrade to our waterfall providing yet another outdoor space for residents to enjoy. All of these projects improve the quality of daily life for residents at The Ridgewood.

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*If you’d like to receive a copy of this newsletter via email please write to Rita Clemente at [clemente@lifeatstpauls.org](mailto:clemente@lifeatstpauls.org) and you will be added to our electronic mailing list. Questions or comments can also be emailed to Clemente.*

## *Hermitage Holiday Light Parade*



This annual event started in 1998 and features over 70 participants in various categories competing for over \$2,500 in awards and cash prizes. The parade traveled on East State Street and Route 18 ending up at Hermitage Elementary School.

## *Courtyard Social*



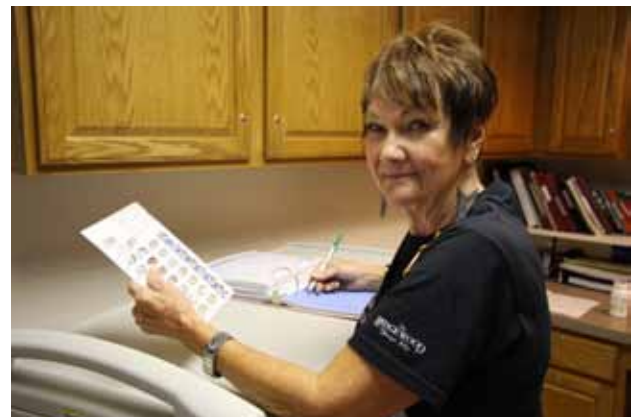
In September, residents enjoyed their first of what will likely be many socials in the new courtyard. Wine and cheese and crackers were the highlight of the gathering, along with great fellowship - of course!

## *Pharmacy Services Enhanced*

In July, The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley established a working relationship with PMG (Pharmacy Management Group) to provide prescriptions to residents. According to Julie Fabian, LPN, the service provides new and better benefits to residents.

Medications come packaged as a 30 day supplies in blister packs. The benefits include daily delivery of medications, a pharmacist on call 24 hours a day to address concerns, delivery on the same day as STAT orders, and an easier to use mechanism to insure medications are taken properly lending less chance for medication errors. Fabian describes time saving benefits saying, "The blister packs make it much easier to manage narcotics. Also, a nurse from PMG comes to the facility regularly to check PRN medications and other miscellaneous prescriptions such as eye drops and insulin to insure medications are not outdated. All of these things give our staff more time to help residents with their self-administration."

As part of the program the Pharmacist from PMG will also contact the doctor directly to obtain refill orders. PMG agrees to meet the costs of other pharmacies and their program works with medications from the VA.







# 8th Annual Strawberry Festival & Auction



The 8th Annual Strawberry Festival & Auction was our biggest ever hosting more than 400 people and raising over \$7,500. Proceeds benefit our Good Samaritan fund which helps cover costs of care for some residents who have exhausted resources.



Over the past couple of years we have established working relationships with many organizations and individuals in the community; two more recent are VNA Alliance Home Health Care Company and PMG (Pharmacy Management Group). These relationships surely enhance the services we offer to residents.

Also over time family members have become more involved in life at The Ridgewood. Main events throughout the year that continue to grow are our Annual Family Picnic, the Strawberry Festival and Auction, and our Family Christmas Tea. In addition, residents have plenty of regular opportunities to make memories with family members and friends.

On behalf of all of the staff at The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley thank you for the opportunity to serve our residents and their family members and we look forward to all that 2011 has to offer. We wish for each of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

## 2010 Sweethearts at 90



In 2010 twenty residents celebrated their 90th or older birthday. Gertrude Lynn celebrated her 101st birthday.

Gertrude was born in Smithton, PA. She graduated from East Huntington H.S. then went on to The University of Indiana for 2 years. When finished she taught 2nd grade for twenty years.

Gertrude married James and they had four children, ten grandchildren, and six great-grand children.

This is her third year living at the Ridgewood and she tells us, "I like it here very much. Everyone is so nice. I like my apartment and the good eats!"

Gertrude enjoys reading, puzzles and television. Her best memories, "raising my children were my happiest years."



Gertrude Lynn



VNA Alliance provides home health care services throughout Mercer County as far south as Grove City and at The Ridgewood at Shenango Valley for residents who choose their services.

VNA Alliance has strong community ties with partners who have stood the test of time by providing excellent care to their residents as well. VNA Alliance's partners include St. Paul's Continuing Care Community, Wesbury United Methodist Retirement Community, Meadville Medical Center and Concordia Visiting Nurses.

Its mission is to deliver quality home health services, in good faith, on behalf of those who entrust themselves to our care and to minister to the unique needs of each individual with respect, dignity and compassion.

VNA Alliance offers skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, home health aides, speech therapy, mental health nursing and wound care to name a few.

In July, VNA Alliance held its 1st Annual Golf Tournament. The proceeds from this fund raiser support the purchase of Telehealth Monitors, an in home monitor for various health conditions. The Telehealth monitor is available to residents at The Ridgewood when certain conditions exist.

On a monthly basis a nurse from VNA provides blood pressure checks for residents, staff and anyone from the

community who stops in. The clinics are on the 4th Friday of each month.



The  
**RIDGEWOOD**  
*AT Shenango Valley*

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