

The

BUZZ

WORD

Volume

Issue 2

11

February 2020



**“One person caring about another
represents life’s greatest value.”**

www.vvh.vermont.gov



VERMONT VETERANS' HOME

Fulfilling the Promise

The Vermont Veterans' Home was established in Bennington in 1884. It is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. The VVH offers a complete range of specialized care services for its residents. VVH goals focus on insuring the dignity, independence, and the highest possible care and quality of life for each resident.

VVH is licensed to meet all levels of care for its residents and the VVH's departments and staff work together to provide those levels of care.

For any Further Questions Please Contact:

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robyn.boland@vermont.gov
802-447-6523



<http://vvh.vermont.gov>

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From the Administrator... Melissa Jackson



January was a tough month at VVH for our Veterans, Members and Staff. We had a very hard time shaking the GI Virus, but it looks like the end has arrived. I cannot stress enough how important it is that you do not visit if you are not feeling well. A “slight cold” can quickly turn into pneumonia for some of our Veterans and Members.

No matter when you visit handwashing is a must, not just when you leave but when you arrive at the building. Soap and water are the best option, especially with the GI virus, but hand sanitizers are available. (FYI hand sanitizer ***does not*** kill the GI virus.) With the use of modern technology, i.e. Facetime, Skype, Zoom, etc., we can arrange a video conference with your loved one if you are sick but still want to “visit”. This can be arranged through their Social Worker.

As a safety reminder, please only use the main entrance to the building at all times but especially with the snow and ice. Although there are walkways through our gardens, these are not approved entrances to the Home. To keep our Veterans, Members, Staff and visitors safe we need to know who is in the building at all times. This is especially important in the very rare instance that we would need to evacuate the building.

VVH has established infection control and emergency preparedness plans that are reviewed by the VA and State annually and are available for your review by contacting Administration.

Melissa A. Jackson, MBA, LNHA, FACHCA
Chief Executive Officer
Vermont Veterans' Home
www.Vvh.vermont.gov

February Fun Facts

On February 6, 1971, Alan Shepard became the first man to hit a golf ball on the Moon.

Feb 9th 2:34am Full moon– Snow Moon

February comes from the Latin word *februa*, which means “to cleanse.” The month was named after the Roman *Februalia*, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement.

- The **violet** signifies watchfulness, loyalty, and faithfulness. Give a violet to someone to let them know that you’ll always be there for them. The **primrose** lets someone know that you can’t live without them.

Like the violet, February’s birthstone is a purple color. It’s the beautiful amethyst.

- This gem is a form of quartz; it can range from a pale lilac color to a deep, rich purple.
- The name is based on a Greek myth that speaks of a nymph named Amethyst who was inadvertently turned into white stone; in remorse, the Greek god Bacchus poured wine over her to turn her a beautiful purple.
- The amethyst was thought to prevent intoxication and keep its wearer thinking sharply. It was worn by English royalty in the Middle Ages.

REHAB SPOTLIGHT!



1 too-many cookies,
2 too-many cookies,
3 too-many cookies,
4 too-many cookies.....
Even Santa had to work
off the holiday goodies



Party
on
with
Fred



Barbershop Quartet 4-part harmony brings it home



Shooting some stick



Valentine's Day Word Search

H U G S A A E Y S W B I
Y Z V H A V R R G K G O
W C B A O S E R J E N Z
T K H L L W Y R O J P Z
B C D O O E Z E C W H Y
I A I L C M N X U H E L
D N F G T O E T P C A M
U D Q E I P L M I V R C
S Y E G O F V A D N T Q
I W Z J U F T N T R E W
S E K W P R X Q Z E O T
Y E I E K I S S E S K A

Gift

Hugs

Love

Arrow

Candy

Cupid

Heart

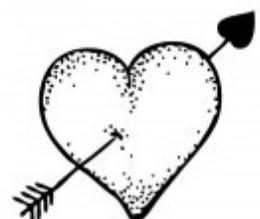
Sweet

Kisses

Flowers

Chocolate

Valentine





Strategic Plan Meeting

missing from photo: Barbara Vince

The Germ Team is working hard trying to plan ahead for the germ season. Soon they will be hosting an event where you'll be able to see what the naked eye cannot with a blacklight! For more information, please contact **Patricia Babcock** at 802-447-6467 and she can tell you all about it!

HAND WASHING 101

EVERYDAY we touch things that harbor germs, bacteria and viruses. Elevator buttons. Gas pumps. Doorknobs. Keyboards and cell phones. Germs lurk **EVERYWHERE**. And their impact on the spread of illness and overall health should not be ignored. Here are a few insights that we hope will inspire you to wash your hands a little more often.

THE PROBLEM:

GERMS ARE EVERYWHERE

**ONLY ONE
OUT OF 3 ADULTS
WASH THEIR HANDS
AFTER COUGHING OR SNEEZING**



On behalf of the Veterans/Members, we sincerely thank the following for their generous donations:

Joel Whiting
American Legion Ballard– Hobart Post #36
Jeffery S. Holmes– Post #84
Department of Vermont Auxiliary VFW
VFW Auxiliary Post #798– Gloria
Rodrique
Clifford Harrington
ORMSBY CHAPTER DAR
Wallace Mattison
Harned-Fowler Post 6471 VFW
VFW Auxiliary Post #6689
Pownal American Legion Aux. Unit #90
VFW Post #1332
DAV Auxiliary Bennington Chapter #4
VFW District #4
Phyllis & Rhonda Roberts
Joan Abolafia
Gloria Toro
Becky Vachon
Martha Sermier
Nelson Blanchard
Sacred Heart/Saint Frances Church
North Bennington School & Paradise
Prospect Rehabilitation
Alec McMorris
Caroline Peckham
April Erwinski
DVDs4VETs
Cheryl Harrington

In Loving Memory of James Feeney

Beverly Feeney

In Loving Memory of Edward Waite

Virginia Hosley

In Loving Memory of Mo Davis

Charlene & William Tattersall

Events Calendar

February 8th: Ladies Tea
sponsored by the American Legion
Auxiliary at 1:30pm in the Activities
Room

February 14th: Valentine's Dance
at 1:30 pm in Patriot Hall

In Loving Memory of Edward Molitor

Thomas & Maura Longenecker

In Loving Memory of Sandra Hayes

East Pownal Fire Department
Mark & Julie White

In Loving Memory of Edward Woodard

Ken & Elaine Coonradt

In Loving Memory of Joseph Dragotta

Linnea Nelson
Franklin Risatti

In Loving Memory of Josephine Cadiz

Robert & Gwendolan Hannan
Ed Hallenbeck & Anne Myers
Bill & Rose Wolfe
Stephen Dombrowski & Michael Merrigan
Alice L. Bennett

In Loving Memory of Guy Nido

Stephanie & Richard Arsenault
Clarence & Loretta Benedict
Howard & Edna Bemis
Robert & Deborah Bradley Family Trust
Leonard & Diane Chapman
Reginald & Genevieve Jacobs
New England Fuel Institute, Inc.
Proctor Gas, Inc.
VFDA
John & Susan Wright
John Willard Jr.
Ladies' Benevolent Society
Zettella & Raymond Penson

From Deputy Administrator— Colonel Al Faxon

I received a call this week from a family seeking information on an uncle who never made it home from the Vietnam War. I provided them the website information for research on Vietnam casualties (coffeldatabase.org) and could not stop from researching the Marine on my own.



He was a CH-46 pilot whose aircraft was shot down returning from a medivac mission in South Vietnam. Reading about this hard charger who risked his life along with his crew to save another is something society does not.....and will ever understand. American servicemen and woman are the bravest people I have ever met. Reading about this past hero only reminds me we can **Never Forget!**

Through your military service you have participated in defending freedom both here and around the globe. It is important that you realize your efforts and unselfishness have positively impacted the lives of our fellow Americans and those in the countries you served in.

Thanks for stepping up!

Semper Fi

AF



ACTIVITY PROFESSIONALS WEEK

Jan. 19th - 25th

Our Activities employees are the very best!

**“Spread love everywhere you go,
let no one ever come to you without
leaving happier.”**

Our team lives this philosophy every day!!



THE BUZZ WORD

Three ways for you to receive the Vermont Veterans' Home monthly newsletter:

- ♦ Vermont Veterans' Home website:
www.vvh.vermont.gov
Click on About Our Home
Click on Newsletters
 - ♦ Email
 - ♦ Mailing List
- To be added to our lists please contact:

The Buzz Word
Vermont Veterans' Home
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201

Kiauna Wait
(802) 447-6510
Email: Kiauna.wait@vermont.gov

VVH WISH LIST

I-Pod Shuffles
(4th Generation)



Neck Pillows Body Pillows
CD Players I-Tune Cards
Costume Jewelry Stamps
Newspaper Subscriptions Outdoor Benches
Earphones for TV and Music
Two pocket front wheelchair/walker bags

**Please make check for monetary donations
out to Vermont Veterans' Home:**

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Your donations are gratefully accepted.

THANK YOU

We are looking for people with music talent and or special talents of any kind who would like to give time to our Veterans and Members on our special care unit. Please contact Michele Burgess at michele.burgess@vermont.gov or call 802-447-6520.

DONATION INFORMATION

Your donations are gratefully accepted.
Please make check out to Vermont
Veterans' Home:

**Vermont Veterans' Home
Business Office
325 North Street
Bennington, VT 05201**

Please indicate to which fund(s) you are
donating:

Members Assistance:

Directly to Veterans/Members
Furniture, Haircuts, Clothing
Other personal needs

Namaste Program Fund:

Oils for relaxation
Supplies, Equipment

Unrestricted Fund:

Facility equipment
Large purchase

Activities Fund:

Entertainment

Music & Memory Fund:

iPods, Headphones, iTunes cards

NEW: Veteran's Mobility Trail

Monetary donations toward
a paved walkway around
the perimeter of the VVH

PLEASE NOTE:

**** We will NOT BE ACCEPTING
books, puzzles, magazines, VCR
tapes, CDs or DVDs or clothing
at this time. THANK YOU to all
who have donated to our
Veterans at VVH.**

THE KING'S PICTURE



Once upon a time, there was a Kingdom. The king there only had one leg and one eye but he was very intelligent and kind and ruled his kingdom so everyone lived a happy and healthy life. One day the king was walking through the palace hallway and saw the portraits of his ancestors. He thought that one day his children would walk in the same hallway and remember all the ancestors through these portraits but due to his physical disabilities, he was not sure how his portrait would look.

So he invited many famous painters from many kingdoms to his court and announced that he wanted a beautiful portrait made of himself to be placed in the palace. Any painter who could accomplish this feat would be greatly rewarded.

All of the painters began to think that the king only had one leg and one eye. How could his picture be made very beautiful? So one by one, all started to make excuses and politely declined to make a painting of the king. But suddenly one painter raised his hand and said "I will make a very beautiful portrait of you which you will surely like." The other painters were curious. The king gave him the permission and the painter started the portrait and when he was finished he announced that the portrait was ready!

All of the courtiers and painters including the king were stunned when they saw the king was sitting on a horse with his leg visible, holding his bow and aiming the arrow with his one eye closed. The king was very pleased to see that the painter had made a beautiful portrait by cleverly hiding the king's disabilities. The painter was greatly rewarded by the King.

Moral: We should always think and focus on the good things and overlook another's deficiencies so we can approach issues positively even in a negative situation.

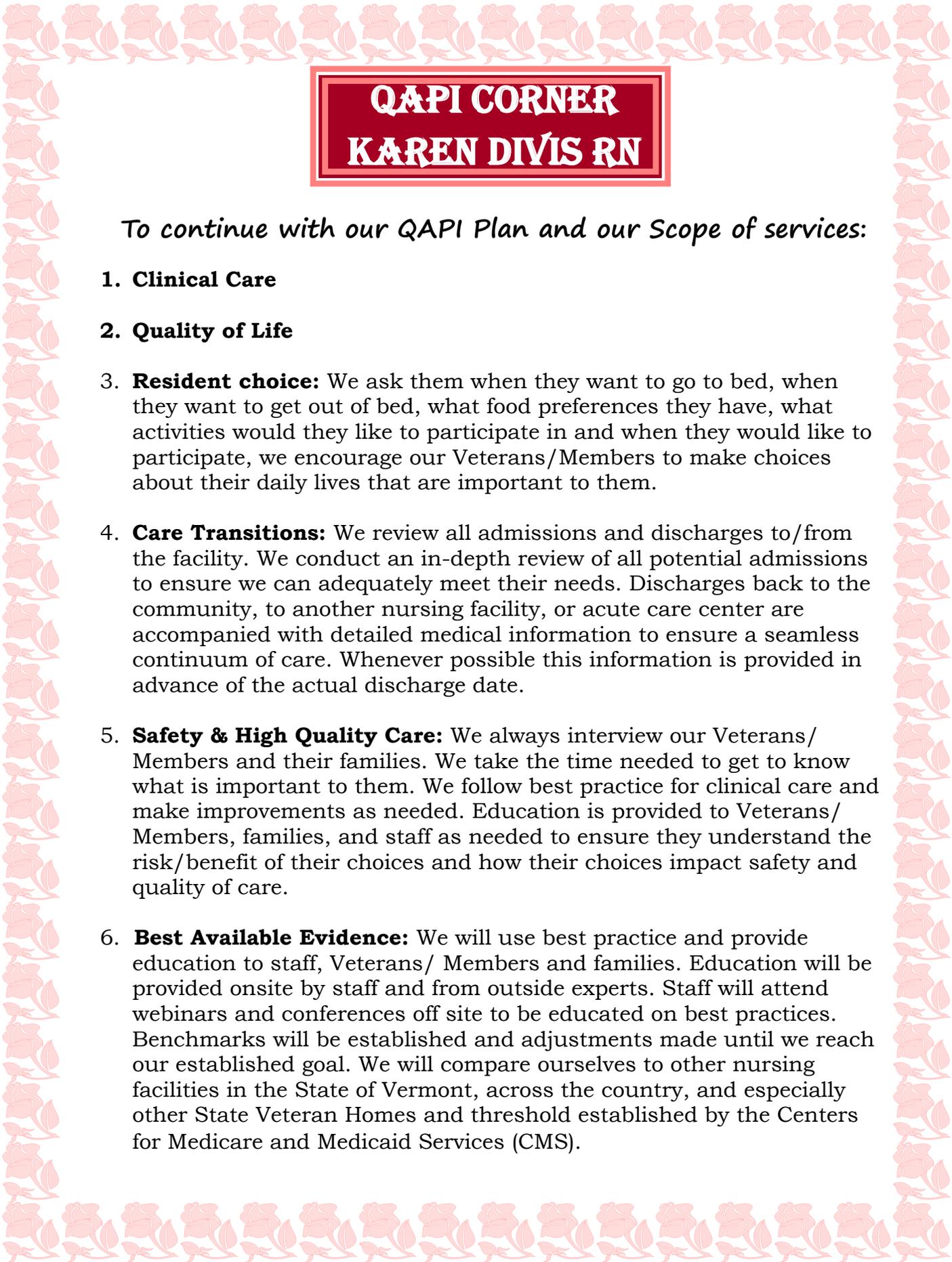
Show your Support at the VVH Apparel Store!

T-Shirts-\$15	Sweatshirts-\$25
Sweatpants-\$20	Zip Hoodie-\$35
Polo Shirts-\$25	Baseball Cap-\$20
Winter Hat-\$12	Scarf-\$12
Ornaments- \$8	VVH Pens-\$3
Small Totes- \$15	Large Totes-\$20
Wind Breakers: Unlined: \$23 - \$27	Lined: \$27 - \$31

Hershey Kisses Contest

Kisses Jar is displayed in the front lobby in the merchandise case. **Guess slips** are in the Canteen. Fill out a slip and then place in the Complaint/Concern wooden box also in the Canteen. Whoever guesses the closest amount -without going over - WINS !!

Drawing is February 14
Sponsored by the Resident Council



QAPI CORNER
KAREN DIVIS RN

To continue with our QAPI Plan and our Scope of services:

1. Clinical Care

2. Quality of Life

- 3. Resident choice:** We ask them when they want to go to bed, when they want to get out of bed, what food preferences they have, what activities would they like to participate in and when they would like to participate, we encourage our Veterans/Members to make choices about their daily lives that are important to them.
- 4. Care Transitions:** We review all admissions and discharges to/from the facility. We conduct an in-depth review of all potential admissions to ensure we can adequately meet their needs. Discharges back to the community, to another nursing facility, or acute care center are accompanied with detailed medical information to ensure a seamless continuum of care. Whenever possible this information is provided in advance of the actual discharge date.
- 5. Safety & High Quality Care:** We always interview our Veterans/ Members and their families. We take the time needed to get to know what is important to them. We follow best practice for clinical care and make improvements as needed. Education is provided to Veterans/ Members, families, and staff as needed to ensure they understand the risk/benefit of their choices and how their choices impact safety and quality of care.
- 6. Best Available Evidence:** We will use best practice and provide education to staff, Veterans/ Members and families. Education will be provided onsite by staff and from outside experts. Staff will attend webinars and conferences off site to be educated on best practices. Benchmarks will be established and adjustments made until we reach our established goal. We will compare ourselves to other nursing facilities in the State of Vermont, across the country, and especially other State Veteran Homes and threshold established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).