Meteorological Tower Erected

Wind Resources to be Measured

A meteorological tower was recently constructed on undeveloped property adjacent to Saint Antoine Residence. The tower represents the second phase of an assessment process to see if there is enough wind resource to eventually erect a wind turbine.

The tower has to be in place for one year and will measure the wind resources through the four seasons. A grant from the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation and their renewable energy program will partially pay for this second phase assessment project.

An earlier ‘behind the computer’ study (from information found on the internet) showed that there is sufficient wind velocity to make a wind turbine viable in providing Saint Antoine’s electricity needs.

The meteorological tower is the second phase of the assessment process which, in effect, should support the findings of the ‘behind the computer’ study. Data will be collected daily and transmitted by satellite to a central location in Vermont, the home offices of EAPC Wind, which is the company that Saint Antoine is working with in the Wind Turbine project.

“This second phase of the assessment process has been long in coming,” said Wendy Fargnoli, Executive Director the Saint Antoine Community. “We have found that the idea of renewable energy is very new to our society’s collective psyche and that the process of eventually erecting a wind turbine is filled with many ‘twists and turns.’” Fortunately, we believe that EAPC Wind has served us well along the way, advising and guiding us as to our next steps. Also, North Smithfield’s Department of Building and Zoning has been very responsive to our needs. We are hopeful that everything will turn out positive and that eventually we will erect a wind turbine that will cut our organization’s costs,” concluded Ms. Fargnoli.
**“Attentive and Caring” Describes Villa’s New Memory Care Unit**

“Attentive and caring” is how Dr. Mary Ann Kane describes the staff at the Villa at Saint Antoine. Dr. Kane is a clinical psychologist whose brother, the Rev. Jude McGeough is a resident in the Villa’s new memory care unit (The “Mezzanine”).

“They are right there, friendly and ready to help with any concern that you may have; that gives family members a good feeling,” notes Dr. Kane.

“I also like the way they create a sense of family. Each individual is drawn into the wider group. Friendships are formed and residents feel comfortable and secure,” says Dr. Kane.

“This is exactly what we were aiming for when we envisioned a memory care unit at the Villa,” commented Jean Larkin, Villa administrator. “We didn’t want the residents on the Mezzanine to be totally segregated from the rest of the Villa population. While they have their own group activities, they also take part in activities of the wider population.”

The Mezzanine was officially licensed to begin operations December 1, 2010, after 10 months of writing policies and procedures and designing special care programming that would be approved by the State of Rhode Island’s Department of Health. It serves people with moderate stages of memory loss. Its approach is what may be termed, “inclusive.” It deals with all aspects of the individual, e.g., mind, body, spirit, and socialization, such as eating meals with other residents in the dining room.

Rev. McGeough, moved to the Villa in January 2010. Soon thereafter, because of deteriorating memory loss, his family thought that he might have to move again. However, the Villa administration had been working on opening a memory loss unit, and was licensed just in time for the Rev. McGeough, and several other residents, to stay at the Villa.

Dr. Kane noted that, “We were so fortunate that the Villa obtained a license to operate a memory care unit when it did; my brother and I were both so happy when we learned that he would be able to stay here despite his declining memory. It was home to him.”

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**2011 ANNUAL APPEAL**

Long-time resident, Lillian Kynch, was the subject of Saint Antoine’s 2011 Annual Appeal Campaign. Appeal letters were mailed to more than 5,000 households and businesses in early-April.

Lillian was concerned about how the birds would eat after a second, heavy-winter snowfall covered up the birdfeeder that was right outside her room window. She expressed her concern on many occasions to the staff and thought that no one was listening or really cared.

But, Lo and behold! Along came Dean Gaudini. Someone was listening and mentioned Lydia’s concerns to the facility maintenance staff. Dean brushed the snow from Lillian’s birdfeeder and once again, the birds appeared. Lillian was pleased!

Lillian notes that, “The staff really cares about your wants and desires. They treat you as if you were the only one here. You feel like a real person whose wishes count. And, that feels good inside.”

The Annual Appeal Campaign will continue throughout 2011. The appeal goal is $25,000; thus far, only after about a month, over $15,000 is in hand. People may still contribute to the Appeal and, to this end, a donation envelope is included in this newsletter.

Wendy Fargnoli, Saint Antoine’s executive director, noted that “We are very thankful to our good friends who consistently contribute to our Annual Appeal. Your gifts are very much appreciated and much needed as we strive to foster our mission of caring for our elderly residents and their families.”

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**Resident Lillian Kynch shown with Dean Gaudini, Maintenance Supervisor**

Dr. Kane noted that, “We were so fortunate that the Villa obtained a license to operate a memory care unit when it did; my brother and I were both so happy when we learned that he would be able to stay here despite his declining memory. It was home to him.”
Short Term Rehabilitation to be Expanded

Amy Whalen, Team Leader for Saint Antoine Residence’s Rehabilitation Department, has definitely seen an increase in the number of short term rehabilitation patients she and other members of her staff are seeing. “We are being stretched to the maximum,” says Amy. “Newly-acquired, grant-funded equipment helps a great deal but the rehab room is small and very cramped.”

Occupational Therapist Amanda Renfrew summed it up by saying, “Personnel, space and equipment is just not keeping pace with the growth in our department.”

Wendy Fargnoli, Saint Antoine’s Executive Director noted that, “Everything they say is true. This is why we have made a strategic decision to commit resources to expand our Transitional Care Rehabilitation Program.”

The Saint Antoine Community recently completed a ten-month Needs Assessment Study conducted by David Roush and Associates which showed that Saint Antoine should expand its rehabilitation department in response to community needs. Currently, Saint Antoine does physical, occupational, and speech therapies.

“It is our desire to go into other therapies such as cardiac, pulmonary, and orthopedic rehabilitation,” said Ms. Fargnoli. “In order to do that, however, we must enlarge the rehabilitative space available to us, purchase more equipment (and more updated equipment), and expand our staff personnel.”

“We have a great team and we all work well together for the betterment of our residents,” said Amy. “Just imagine what we could do if we had more space and equipment. We could do group therapy, for instance. Or even have people stay in a “supervised” apartment overnight before being discharged to make certain that they could handle daily living activities from the occupational therapy they have received,” continued Amy.

“We will get there,” said Ms. Fargnoli. “We are all working towards to same goal of better serving our senior community,” concluded the executive director.

Physical Therapists Bob Collins and Amy Whalen assist resident Germaine Ciska on a newly-acquired “stair exerciser” piece of equipment.
Saint Antoine Notes...

Saint Antoine Residence
10 Rhodes Avenue
North Smithfield Rhode Island 02896

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“To serve is our mission, to love is our tradition”

Villa Summer Concerts in the Courtyard

Vini Ames
&
Sh-Bop

New to this year’s Villa Summer Concerts in the Courtyard Series is Vini Ames and Sh-Bop. As might be expected from their name, the group features music from the fabulous fifties and sensational sixties, sometimes referred to as the “golden age” of rock and roll. The group promises to transport you back to those memorable days of hot rods, poodle skirts, mall shops, and good old rock and roll. Tuesday, July 26 - 7:00 PM

CONCERT SCHEDULE

Tuesday, July 12 - 7:00 PM - PROVIDENCE BRIGADE BAND
A Civil War period brass band.

Tuesday, July 26 - 7:00 PM - Vini Ames and Sh-Bop

Tuesday, August 9 - 7:00 PM - Frank Castle’s Dixie Kings
Dixieland music at its best.

Tuesday, August 23 - 7:00 PM - Avenue A
Celebrating swing, jazz, standards & popular music from the 20’s to today.

All concerts free of charge to the public.

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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Office of Development & Communications
Tel: 401.767.2574, ext. 602
Fax: 401.767.2581
Email: rchristensen@stantoine.net

Editor:
Robert W. Christensen,
Director of Development