

## Celebration Villa meeting lofty standards

Tanya McCormick isn't about to rest on her laurels. But as Executive Director of Celebration Villa of Altoona, she admittedly feels a sense of fulfillment that the hard work that has been expended on resident care by McCormick and her staff has not gone unnoticed.

In May, U.S. News & World Report listed its 2022-23 Best Senior Living ratings and Celebration Villa of Altoona made the list, based on a variety of factors primarily dealing with consumer satisfaction.

"Until now, families have had limited information when comparing providers of independent living, assisted living, memory care or continuing care," noted Ben Harder, managing editor and chief of health analysis at U.S. News. "The Best Senior Living ratings fill this informational gap with comprehensive and transparent data to help older consumers and their families identify high-quality senior living

communities that meet their needs."

Celebration Villa is a one-level, ranch-style senior living community tucked within the hills of Fox Hollow Development in Duncansville. It offers enhanced personalized care with six levels of care as well as short-term respite stays. The focus is to provide quality care and promote independence through individualized care plans created by the nursing team, in conjunction with medical providers and resident families.

"Our community first opened our doors in 1996 and has been thriving ever since," McCormick acknowledged. She had started her career in Senior Living at Elmcroft, which preceded Celebration Villa at the Duncansville location.

"A fun fact that people may not know is that we host family events on the third Wednesday of each month and our leadership team and staff play impor-

tant roles in the success of these events." Some past events have included Disco Night, Hillbilly Hoedown, Casino Night and most recently a carnival. On the horizon are Drive-In Movie Night, Great Gatsby Party and an Oktoberfest event. Staff and family members get into character for these events to create memorable experiences for the residents and the families.

Health care facilities have been hit especially hard by Covid-19 and many have been unable to maintain adequate staffing levels. Celebration Villa has so far weathered the storm.

"I am blessed to have an amazing staff," McCormick pointed out. "We have exceptional teamwork from people who make our community exceptional. From direct care to dining, activities to housekeeping, my team jumps-in to help where needed."

The pandemic itself, McCormick believes, made



John Imler, Director of Sales & Marketing and Tanya McCormick, Executive Director enjoy some conversation with Celebration Villa resident Bertie Raia.

health care facilities more aware of the importance of flexibility in dealing with factors that are often taken for granted.

"Heightened infection control measures, challenges with staffing and budgeting

and an abundance of new regulatory compliance guidelines caused us to conduct business with a new set of eyes. It helped tremendously that we had residents and families who were very supportive of what we were

being asked to do. We've been very fortunate." (Celebration Villa has been a member of the Blair County Chamber since 1996. Tanya McCormick is a graduate of the Chamber's Leadership Blair County program.)

## LBCY journey begins for aspiring leaders



Students in the Chamber's LBC Youth program put together a presentation at the recent class orientation.

The Chamber kicked-off its 21st class of Leadership Blair County Youth on July 26th with an orientation held at The Casino at Lakemont Park. The day included a number of team-building exercises, a discussion about the importance of servant leadership and a miniature golf tournament pitting class members against members of the LBC Alumni Association to raise scholarship money.

"We got off to a great start," acknowledged Tami Chadick, who has facilitated the youth program for the past seventeen years. "This seems to be a very respectful group that seems interested in learning what leadership is all about."

There are nineteen students in this year's class from seven Blair County schools. The chance to meet new people was a high priority for class members like Claire Muriceak of Hollidaysburg.

"Making new friends was one of the reasons that the Leadership program appealed to me," she pointed out. "I also wanted to gain some insight on public speaking and I'm already gaining some confidence in that area."

Johanna Heckman of Bellwood-Antis had many of the same aspirations.



"I like making friends, she admitted. "I also strive to be a leader. I play volleyball and leadership is very important to having a successful team."

Word of mouth was one of the primary reasons why Brodie Soler of Claysburg-Kimmel applied for the LBC program.

"I have friends who have gone through the program and they really spoke highly about it," Soler said. "My guidance counselor also recommended it. From just the one day with everybody involved I think it's really cool. I've already learned some interesting stuff."

The LBC Youth program will now meet for a full-day session each month until its graduation next May.

"Our sessions provide the students with a perspective on the county that other high school sophomores seldom get an opportunity to see," Chadick explained. "Many of the graduates of the program have done great things in their communities."

## Corl-Grove leads the way as training provider

It was Alexander Graham Bell who penned the quote, "When one door closes another door opens." Michael Grove and Rhonda Corl took that thought to heart in 2007 when the training center in which they had been working closed.

"We knew that we had to move quickly," Grove remembers. "Within a short time, we were able to obtain liability insurance and incorporate so that we could maintain the twenty-four instructors who needed the support of a training center. It was an interesting time."

Corl-Grove Services provides CPR and first aid training through an affiliation with the American Heart Association. Training is available onsite or at a venue suitable to a client's needs. The Family Resource Center of the United Way of Blair County serves as the location for offsite training.

Grove serves as president/owner of the company. Corl, sadly, lost her battle with heart issues in May of 2021.

"She was instrumental in what we've been able to accomplish," Grove acknowledges. "Our growth over the past ten years has been dynamic. We started with only twenty-four instructors. According to the American Heart Association Instructor Network, we currently provide support to more than 290 instructors in seventeen counties."



Michael Grove is no dummy! He's successfully built a training business that covers seventeen counties.

Through Corl-Grove's corporate trainers and network of instructors, the company services six of the county's seven school districts, several extended care facilities, local law enforcement agencies, EMS providers as well as several fire departments.

"We provide training to businesses, large and small," Grove pointed out. "All told, we service eighteen school districts, federal prisons and county jails. We are an approved federal, state, county and local government contractor. We can provide onsite training to groups as small as six or as

large as thirty, depending on room and spacing requirements."

All those training opportunities were compromised when Covid-19 arrived.

"It severely impacted our ability to train people," Grove admitted. "Onsite trainings stopped due to restrictions. Even some in-house trainers weren't able to train their own employees because of spacing requirements. The American Heart Association and the Pennsylvania Department of Health acted very quickly in recognizing this obstacle and implemented waivers and extensions several times

throughout the peak of the pandemic."

So with ten years of impressive growth, what does Grove anticipate for his company over the next ten years?

"As we continue to grow, we will be aligning with an advanced level training center to be able to provide advanced training locally," he disclosed. "We would then be able to provide training to those in need of Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support." (Corl-Grove Services has been a member of the Blair County Chamber since 2012.

## Senator Ward to keynote Breakfast Club

State Senator Judy Ward will be the keynote speaker at Thursday's Chamber "Breakfast Club," set for The Casino at Lakemont Park beginning at 7:45 a.m.

In keeping with its tradition regarding elected officials as speakers, the Chamber's Public Policy Committee has created a list of questions to ask Senator Ward. If time permits and all the questions have

been asked and answered, the Senator is willing to take questions from attendees.

"We look forward to having the Senator provide insight into the issues that are most important to the business community," explained Chris Michelone of McQuaide Blasko, who chairs the Public Policy Committee. "She's been at the forefront of some very significant

legislation."

The cost to attend the Breakfast Club is just \$20 for Chamber members and \$30 for non-members. That price includes a breakfast buffet.

To register to attend, contact the Chamber at (814) 943-8151 or register online at [www.blairchamber.com](http://www.blairchamber.com). Corporate sponsor of the August Breakfast Club is Stuckey Automotive.



Senator Judy Ward

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