

SENIOR LIFESTYLES

Unity opens nursing facility at St. Mary's Hospital

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Relaxing after a physical therapy session Monday morning, Aug. 9, at St. Mary's Living Center, Beverly D. Wilder summed up her view of the new facility.

"This is like going to heaven," she said.

She noted she especially liked her mattress, because it was new.

For the past two years, Wilder, who has multiple sclerosis, had lived at Park Hope Nursing Home. That long-term care facility was operated on Mount Hope Avenue in Rochester, by Park Ridge Hospital.

Park Ridge formed an alliance with St. Mary's two years ago called Unity Health System. The closing of Park Hope and the creation of St. Mary's Living Center, is the latest fruit of the alliance, according to Unity officials. The center opened Aug. 5.

The building that housed Park Hope has been donated by its owners to the Al Sigl Center, according to B. J. Yudelson, Al Sigl's director of communications.

Renovating St. Mary's to accommodate the center cost \$6 million, noted Stewart Putnam, St. Mary's president, at an Aug. 4 press conference.

Wilder, along with 109 former residents of Park Hope, were moved to St. Mary's Living Center between Aug. 5 and 8. In addition, 10 new residents are living at the center, Putnam said.

The new center is more spacious and comfortable than Park Hope, according to Wilder, who serves as president of the facility's Residents Council. The council meets regularly with the facility's staff to discuss residents' needs.

For example, Wilder said, in the old facility, as many as four residents shared



Greg Francla/Staff photographer

St. Mary's Living Center resident Beverly Wilder chats in her room in the newly renovated area of St. Mary's Hospital Aug. 9 with J. Raymond Diehl II, vice president and administrator of the center.

one room, whereas the new facility consists of 32 single rooms and 46 doubles. Residents were allowed to pick their roommates, Putnam said.

St. Mary's Living Center is divided in four, "communities" or units. Each is named after four historic Rochesterians: Nathaniel Rochester, for whom the city was named; suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony; and abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The Rochester and Stanton units are on the hospital's second floor and house residents with Alzheimer's, dementia and

other conditions. The Douglass and Anthony units house residents like Wilder who have special medical needs.

Each floor has two dining areas, a reception area and a leisure activities room. There are also a beauty salon and rehabilitation facilities for physical, occupational and speech therapy.

Putnam said the new center offers much more room to both residents and staff. At Park Hope for example, the dining room had to double as a physical therapy room and activities center.

"It was a very small facility that wasn't

really designed to be a nursing home for the '90s," he said.

The new facility covers 56,000 square feet, he said, whereas the Park Hope building covers 38,000 square feet.

J. Raymond Diehl II, vice president and administrator of the living center, added that the new facility features a Snoezelen or relaxation room that uses aromatherapy, specialized lighting, rocking chairs and peaceful sounds as therapy for patients with Alzheimer's and dementia.

He added that the living center's corridors are wide and designed to allow residents ample walking area. A courtyard will also soon be open for patient use on the hospital grounds.

Putnam said a single room at the living center costs \$200 a day, and a double costs \$195 a day. However, he added that living costs of 70 percent of the residents are subsidized by Medicaid, the federal government's health insurance program for low-income people.

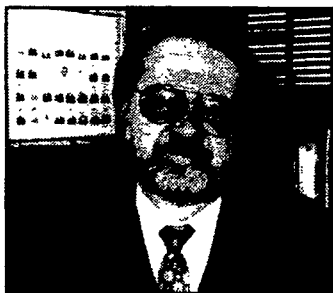
Putnam said the center is also more convenient for its staff, 80 percent of whom live in the neighborhood around St. Mary's Hospital.

Diehl said that in addition to Park Hope's 150 staff members who transferred to the new facility, St. Mary's plans to hire new staff for the living center. The staff includes nurse practitioners.

Although she won't miss the confines of Park Hope, Wilder said she was glad Park Hope's staff members transferred to the new facility.

"I'm really pleased with the staff, the nurses and the aides," she said.

Thoughts to Consider



EDWIN SULEWSKI
Funeral Director

When a person dies at home, what should you do?

You can call your funeral director for specific directions but here is a general procedure. First, contact your physician or emergency team. If the death is unexpected you should notify the police who will in turn notify the coroner. This will also assure that medical help can be given should there be confusion as to whether the person is dead. If the death was expected notify your physician for verification of death. If you wish, contact your clergy and relatives or friends who are close to you. When all medical and legal matters are cared for contact the funeral director who will take your loved one to the funeral home and provide you with support and assistance for the next several days.

SCHAUMAN-SULEWSKI FUNERAL HOME

NEW LOCATION

1717 Portland Avenue
Just North of Ridge Road
(716) 342-3400

When Interest Income Counts, It's time to call Gen-See.



Earn More,
Worry Less

Go with experience
you can trust...

Because Gen-See cares about your retirement money!

Since 1975
GEN-SEE investors have
done better for 5 great reasons:

- Regular monthly checks
- No fees or commissions
- Low minimum initial investment
... \$5,000.00
- High yields and capital growth
- Guaranteed rate of interest for term of Certificate



Make the phone call that will earn you 8.51% annually.

Call 716-881-0696
1-800-507-4393



Gen-See Capital Corporation

REVERSE MORTGAGES

Learn the Facts

If you are 62 Yrs. or older, a reverse mortgage can supply you with additional monthly income or instant cash based on equity in your 1-4 family home or condo while you maintain title and ownership of the property. For info and assistance about government insured reverse mortgages at no obligation call today!

MARIO L. MARTIRANO
REVERSE MORTGAGE SPECIALIST

1-800-881-2954
AGENCY FOR CONSUMER
EQUITY MTGS., INC.

Satellite Office:
2300 West Ridge Rd., 4th Floor,
Rochester, NY 14626

Registered Mortgage Broker - NYS Banking
Department Loans arranged through 3rd party
SPECIALIZING IN FHA/HUD HECM
AND FNMA REVERSE MORTGAGES