

**Saratoga Retirement
Community
Administrator's
Report**

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How are things in Saratoga?

It has been a while since I gave the Order a status report on the Home. I will start with our residents. They are impatient to get into Cal-Villa with their own private rest rooms. They are excited about seeing all the earth moving equipment in full use. One lady complained that she is behind in watching her soap operas on TV because she is constantly looking out her window to watch the construction crews. Overall, morale is very high and complaints are few. Because of natural attrition, we are losing residents and now have twelve rooms available for immediate move in. Call Geri Rush or Marlene Bois if you are tired of house keeping and cooking, 408-867-3891.

The Home depends on good staff to provide hands-on care and make people feel secure. Apparently we are doing a good job. Three residents who moved out have just returned. This is not uncommon. Because of all the management changes due to the building program, there is some resulting insecurity. I am grateful to report that all key members are determined to see the new campus achieved and will perform as required. Morale is high, although we are critically short of some line personnel such as certified nursing assistants (CNAs). Applications are being accepted at the reception desk. It is with great pride that I can again report that our old Health Center did very well on our annual state survey. Administrator Gary Vernon and Director of Nursing Rita Malhotra are doing outstanding jobs

The old Home and Health Center (Infirmary) buildings are still functioning without any immediate problems. Cal-Villa is empty and being prepared for complete renovation and expansion. The new Health Center's pad is prepared and the foundation will be poured any day now. The

Saratoga Home Residents' Report

The ChatterBox

By Jane Jensen

Do not say that things are dull here at the Home with the "old" folks. We are a very active bunch. Many types of activities are participated in by the residents. There is never a dull moment. Another two months are passing much too rapidly in this our prime of life.

It was November 1998 - one year ago —when an elaborate ground breaking ceremony was held in front of our Home. Many speeches and promises were given and now, one year later, something is

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cottage sites in the draw are being prepared and the new sewer and water lines are being trenched. Everything west of the old Main Building is being worked on. The old buildings that once were there are long gone. With continued over-site by our project manager and a little luck with the weather, we will re-open the new Cal-Villa in about 18 to 20 months. The new Health Center should come on line at the same time

In conclusion Pacific Retirement Services (our management firm) is accelerating the Phase II portion of construction. The Board of Directors have already approved the first step for licensing, construction and funding. This is a complicated business and I sometimes attend three meetings a day just to keep up with the new developments. We are fortunate in having an experienced management team to guide us along and help avoid costly mistakes. Two important people of PRS that I greatly admire are Dennis Russell who over sees operations and Brian Mc Lemore who over sees the building and marketing areas.

This has been a long article. A lot has been achieved. Please call me if you have any questions about the new campus.

**Rita Malhotra, RN, Named Director
of Nursing at Saratoga Health Center**

SARATOGA – The Saratoga Retirement Community Health Center has a new director of nursing services. "Rita Malhotra, RN, joined the Health Center Family on May 3, and she has already made some great improvements effecting the health center as a whole" said Administrator Gary Vernon. She was born in Kanpur, India, and raised in New Delhi, joined the Military Nursing Services in 1979 and was commissioned a lieutenant in 1982. She reached the rank of captain in 1990, was married and came to the United States in 1991. She has been working with seniors since 1992.

Upon coming to the United States, she could not practice as an RN since there is no reciprocity between the two countries. Not letting a minor thing like that stop her, she started out as a certified nurses aide, passed her LVN boards and challenged the RN boards to regain her status. After working for a time as a charge nurse for an area nursing home chain, she was promoted to assistant director of nurses. Seeing her potential they sent her to their intensive Director of Nurses School for 11 weeks back east. Shortly thereafter she was transferred by her company to a facility in Walnut Creek, as the director.

She responded to an ad for a position of director of nurses from the Saratoga facility. After several interviews there was no question Rita Malhotra was the director the Saratoga Home was looking for.

"I suggested to Rita to take a little time and make her own observations about what needs to be done and what she wanted to do to improve the quality of life for our residents and staff. She did that in short order and atmosphere in the health center has improved significantly already." said Brother Vernon. She is definitely a hands on director who is out amongst the residents and staff dealing with issues on the spot. When it comes to quality care, she does not take no for an answer.

