

THE ERNEST P. BARKA ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY

Nancy L. Lang, Director

2005 started off with our 2nd annual New Year Eve Party. The twenty five residents have developed great friendships and enjoy discussions together. January was filled with interest in the assisted living expansion. The residents council meetings were focused on the construction.

The winter months are difficult to plan activities out of the building so we made our own fun with trivia, Whist tournaments, karaoke, ice cream socials, bingo, pizza parties, and the "battle of the sexes" game. We had several fundraisers to earn extra money for fun things.

Spring and summer were active seasons with attending a play at the Upstairs/Downstairs Theater, a band concert at Epping High School, trips to Swasey Parkway in Exeter for concerts and fireworks, Hampton Beach Half Shell for band concerts, and rides to ice cream stands in the area. We had outdoor barbecues several times along with trips every Thursday to Wal-Mart.

In September work began in front of our building and everyone was excited watching the new paths, plants, shrubs, and landscaping all coming together. On September 21st we had our first formal dinner party with a live band and an outstanding menu provided by our Dietary Department. A special thank you to the dietary staff.

A dark cloud fell over assisted living this past October as our friend and Director of Long Term Care Services, Bill Sturtevant, became seriously ill and passed away on November 7, 2005. This brought great sadness to our residents as he would frequently spend time talking sports with the guys and complimenting the ladies on their hair and attire. He is greatly missed by staff and residents alike.

As the holidays approached decorations went up. New walls were completed and doors were opened as the construction was nearing an end. We look forward to the opening of Fernald I and all the new folks that will be coming to live at the Ernest P. Barka Assisted Living Community.

I could not conclude this report without acknowledging our dedicated staff for the love and care they provide those who live here. Thanks to all our families who are there when we call them and support us.

A heartfelt thanks to Jude Gates and her entire staff for all the support and help provided as they made the construction problems so much easier. Thanks to Verne Rines and his staff for the great job they do daily for assisted living.

I would like to thank the Board of Rockingham County Commissioners for always being interested and supporting the assisted living community.

2005 was a busy and bitter sweet year for everyone, but with faith and hope we push into 2006 with great expectations for a joyous year.