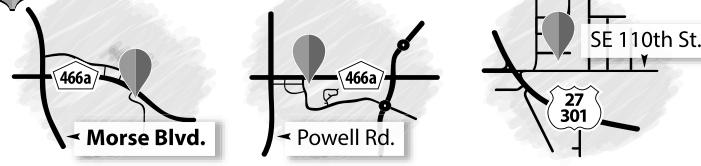


THE VILLAGES HEALTH



Colony Care Center
280 Farmer Place, 674-1710

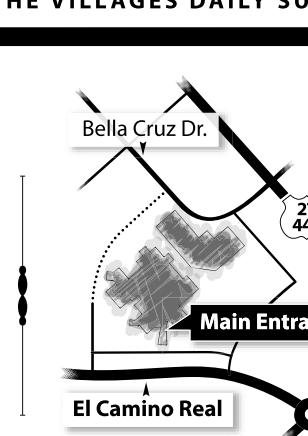
Pinellas Care Center
2485 Pinellas Place, 674-1720

Bellevue Care Center
5051 SE 110th Street, 674-1730

Santa Barbara Care Center
1575 Santa Barbara Blvd., 674-1740

Mulberry Grove Care Center
8877 SE 165th Mulberry Lane, 674-1750

Lake Sumter Creekside Care Center
1050 Old Camp Road, Building 100, 674-1760



MEDICAL CAMPUS

Specialty Care Center
1400 N. U.S. Highway 27/441, Building 810, 674-8731

The Villages Regional Hospital
1451 El Camino Real, 751-8000
Urgent Care: 751-8863

america's healthiest hometown



Dr. Christine Stopryra, medical director of the Mulberry Grove Care Center, says one of the best things about being a paramedic was the opportunity to share in people's lives in a variety of different circumstances.

Stopryra Learns Valuable Lesson As Paramedic

Villages doctor says experience with special patient taught her to have "professional skepticism."

By LARRY D. CROOM
Daily Sun Ombudsman

DDr. Christine Stopryra's paramedic days might be behind her, but a valuable lesson learned while volunteering with a rescue squad in Hampton, Virginia, never has left her.

It happened when she met Mack — a volunteer firefighter in his 80s who would pay social visits to hang out with the crews.

"It was my first or second day there and he asked me to check his blood pressure for him," said Stopryra, medical director of The Villages Health's Mulberry Grove Care Center. "I said, 'Sure.' Here I am, a new paramedic, taking his blood pressure and it's a good number."

Stopryra, who was just 28 at the time, said Mack thanked her and offered her his bottle of Coke before heading to his house just three doors away from the fire station.

"Half an hour later, there's a call and all the firefighters know it's Mack's house," she said. "When we got there, I said,

'He was just in the firehouse and asked me to take his blood pressure.'

That's when the firefighters who were trying to save Mack said that he had never asked for any kind of help and had never complained about his health. They said that if they'd known he wanted his blood pressure checked, they would have taken him to the hospital immediately.

"The lesson he taught me was, have professional skepticism when someone asks you about a medical complaint," she said quietly. "Don't just assume, because they give you a smile, that everything's OK. Maybe there's something there they're not telling you."

As Stopryra continued on her journey to become a physician, she said she always remembered the man whose last act was to teach her that valuable lesson. And, she added, it came into play many times during her days in the rescue squad and the emergency room she worked in as she continued down the path to enter medical school.

"You get to share in people's lives in all kinds of circumstances," said Stopryra, who worked in the medical accounting field before pursuing medicine. "That's whether you're saving their life and the family's really grateful

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DR. CHRISTINE STOPRYRA

medical director,
Mulberry Grove Care Center

COMING JULY 12

Villager Frank Lancione says Villages Health brings him peace of mind.

or they have a loved one who's coming to the end of their life."

Stopryra said it's extremely important to treat patients with dignity while providing comfort during such a difficult time.

"It's an honor to be there, to be able to participate with the patient and the family at an end-of-life experience," she said. "I've had a lot of those."

Dr. Joe Hildner, director of medical affairs for The Villages Health, said Stopryra is one of those doctors who takes great pleasure in improving things, inventing better ways and enabling herself and those around her to be more capable of success.

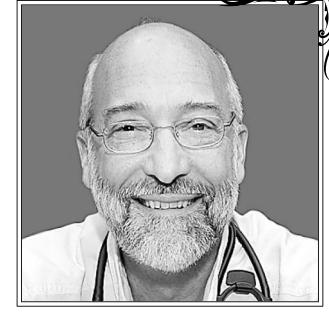
"I have no doubt that as she functioned as a paramedic, she kept thinking, 'I'd like to be able to do more for these people,'" Hildner said. "And now — whether patients or co-workers — we are all better off by nature of Christine and the creative energy she brings to everything she does."

Dr. Robert Reilly, who worked with Stopryra at the Creekside Care Center before she moved to Mulberry Grove, agreed.

"She's a terrific doctor," said Reilly, who serves as Creekside's medical director. "She's got the mix of all the good stuff. She has great bedside manner, cares for her patients deeply, is very smart and is a diligent, hard worker. And because she's got that medical-economic background, she understands dollars and cents and how we best spend them. So she's a terrific asset for The Villages Health."

TALK WITH A DOC

Dr. Joe Hildner, director of medical affairs for The Villages Health, earned his medical degree from Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago. He is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Hildner's former practice, Family Doctors of Bellevue, merged with The Villages Health in November 2012.



1

When did you decide to become a doctor and why?

The summer before my junior year of college, I took note of my natural gifts, talents and aptitudes; contemplated my personal mission — what I felt I was put on this Earth to accomplish and to feel fulfilled or purposeful; and realized that the above lined up very accurately with doctoring — primary care in particular.

2

What is your philosophy on health care?

I don't manage diseases — my patients do. I show them how. I help each individual become as 'well' as he or she chooses to be, placing profound emphasis upon the art of shared decision-making.

3

Why is an electronic medical record important?

In a paper world, a new patient would come to the doctor's office, get handed a clipboard and fill out a bunch of check boxes. The doctor might look it over and stick it in the back of the chart. So if your last tetanus shot was seven years ago, you don't need one now. You need a tetanus booster every 10 years. So three years from now, something needs to go "ding." Something needs to say, 'now your tetanus shot is due.' But if it's hiding in the back of a chart on some form you filled out long ago, nothing goes ding and you go without care that you need. The only way to have that is to have an electronic medical record to help you be a better doctor.

4

Are there other ways an electronic medical record helps?

Yes. When doctors work together and communicate with each other, patients just get better care. When you have a paper chart in your office and I have one in mine, they don't talk. But if you and I are on the same electronic medical record, we can team up on this care together.

What is the importance of having audiologists as part of The Villages Health?

Answer Provided by
DR. AL TURRI
director of audiology,
The Villages Health

We are right there with your primary care physician. It's not that you go get your hearing tested and maybe they send a report and then maybe your doctor gets feedback. I'm two doors down from your primary care physician. My reports are in the same electronic medical record. My requests for other specialists to get involved and reasons why are alerted to your physician. It's immediate. There's no guesswork.

As someone with hearing loss, what does being an audiologist mean to you?

Answer Provided by
DR. LAURA PRATESI
Audiologist

It is very personal. I grew up in a very well-educated family, with parents who loved me and had the resources to help me. We were in the Atlanta area, so we had access to very good health care and doctors. I fell through the cracks and I knew that if it could happen to me, it could happen to anybody in any walk of life. The day I was fit (with hearing aids), I decided to dedicate the rest of my life to help people who are like me.

As an Air Force veteran, what would you say to somebody who is thinking about a military career in audiology?

Answer Provided by
DR. TRESSIE WALDO
Audiologist

If you want to have the opportunity to explore all aspects of audiology, then the military is a really good way to do that. You can go to the large medical centers and work with your ear, nose and throat physicians. But then you also have the opportunity to have the industrial exposure to working with the noise-exposed.

DID YOU KNOW?

Dr. Edwin Menor, a general surgeon at the Specialty Care Center, enjoys playing soccer and is a huge fan of the History Channel.

