

AMERICA’S HEALTHIEST HOMETOWN

A weekly report on The Villages’ efforts to become “America’s Healthiest Hometown” Compiled by Daily Sun Ombudsman **Larry D. Croom**
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Did you know?

Dr. J. Stephen Long, who practices at Colony Care Center, enjoys watching the TV shows “Antiques Roadshow,” “American Pickers” and “Pawn Stars.”

Fixing health care: All about ARNP Rosemary Kipp

Primary care doctors, specialists and other medical providers have been recruited as part of an initiative to revamp health care right here in Florida’s Friendliest Hometown. The Villages Health is partnering with USF Health to bring in family doctors, care providers and specialists who will work as a team, all in the best interests of serving patients. This weekly feature will introduce these innovative medical providers who have joined this effort.

Why did you become a nurse practitioner?

I’ve always had a feeling for women and their care. I worked in public health for 16-plus years doing home visiting for moms and babies, so I’ve always worked in women’s health.

What is your favorite thing about being a nurse practitioner?

The interaction with the patient and being able to help someone along the way, either by what we’re doing for that particular visit or just by listening. A lot of it is listening.

What is your philosophy on health care?

I believe in preventive health care. I believe in seeking medical care when you have a problem, and I think that we have excellent health care available to us.

How does it feel to be a part of the initiative, along with The Villages Health, that’s sweeping through Florida’s Friendliest Hometown?

I hope that we can accomplish something through having both groups work together and that the patients will benefit from it. The end result is the patient – that



Care center: USF Health Specialty Care Center
Specialty: Gynecology
Age: 65
Certified: ARNP-BC
Nursing school: Daytona Beach Community College
Nurse practitioner education: University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
Board certified: Women’s health care (National Certification Corporation)

the first result as well as the end result is a pleasant one for the patient and that they will benefit from having the communication. I think that’s always going to be a plus.

Next week Find out all about Sherry Rockman, a physician assistant who practices at Colony Care Center.

Creating America’s Healthiest Hometown What’s the best thing about being a doctor?

“Helping other people. Not in the superficial sense, but really changing their lives, really digging deep to really making that difficult case or that difficult surgery or the difficult time that patient is having easier in some way. Either investigating further, taking longer, being more careful in the operating room or just trying to ease someone’s feelings, it’s really all about helping that person as a whole.”

Dr. Kathleen Steepy,
OB-GYN, USF Health
Specialty Care Center



Care Centers in The Villages

Primary care

The Villages Health Colony Care Center

280 Farner Place, 352-674-1710

The Villages Health Santa Barbara Care Center

1575 Santa Barbara Blvd., 352-674-1740

The Villages Health Pinellas Care Center

2485 Pinellas Place, 352-674-1720

The Villages Health Mulberry Grove Care Center

8877 S.E. 165th Mulberry Lane (Opening March 10)

The Villages Health Lake Sumter Creekside Care Center

1050 Old Camp Road, Building 100 (Opening spring 2014)

Specialty care

USF Health Specialty Care Center

1400 N. U.S. Highway 27/441, Building 810
352-674-8731



George Horsford / Daily Sun

Dolores Arnott, of the Village of Mallory Square, talks with Dr. Robert Reilly recently during her new-patient visit at Colony Care Center. Reilly, who will serve as medical director for the opening of the new Mulberry Grove center and then at the Lake Sumter Creekside facility, says he’s excited about the upcoming opportunity to work with USF Health medical students here in The Villages.

Ready to teach the future

Villages Health doctors excited about training USF Health students

By **LARRY D. CROOM** / DAILY SUN OMBUDSMAN

The Villages Health is getting ready to strut its stuff.

That’s because medical students from the University of South Florida soon will be spending time and training with the primary care doctors and other medical providers at the care centers located throughout Florida’s Friendliest Hometown.

It’s an opportunity that excites Dr. Robert Reilly, the former director of a large residency program of internal-medicine residents at Stony Brook University Medical Center in New York.

“I can’t wait,” he said. “We are so poised and so well suited to host students.”

Reilly, the medical director who also will oversee the upcoming openings of both the Mulberry and Creekside Landing facilities, said he would’ve loved to have had a primary care model like the one that exists here in The Villages to show his residents when he was teaching in New York.

“If they had this kind of model there, the interest in primary care would just flourish,” he said. “We’re doing it the right way. There’s a lot of places where they’re not, and I think there’s a little disillusion when the students get into those clinics and see how they’re not functioning the way that they always thought they should.”

Reilly said medical students want to have very positive experiences when they

do their various rotations.

“If you’re a student, you’re all, ‘show me some great stuff and show me doctors who are satisfied with what they’re doing,’” Reilly said. “Here, they’re really going to experience that.”

Dr. Joe Hildner, chief medical officer of The Villages Health, said the students will see what the future of primary care should look like.

“We’re really kind of inventing a better way for patients and doctors to get to know each other,” Hildner said. “So it seems like an ideal place for a student to come and see what’s coming and what’s next.”

Reilly said that having students in the primary care centers will also prove beneficial for the physicians who teach them.

“What’s great about having students is they challenge you,” Reilly said.

Coming March 2: Dr. Robert Galvin, chief executive officer of Equity Healthcare at The Blackstone Group and the former chief medical officer for General Electric, offers his thoughts on The Villages Health.

“They ask questions, and if you don’t know the answer you better sure as heck find it and get back to them so you can teach them. They keep you on your toes.”

Dr. Elliot Sussman, chair of The Villages Health, said he believes the students will get extremely excited about primary care after spending a month here.

“They’ll see how rewarding it is in terms of understanding the science, understanding people and forming these lifelong relationships with patients,” he said. “And they’ll understand how one works in this changing, medical environment – what team-based care is really all about and how we keep patients as well as they can be.”

Hildner said the opportunity to host students is humbling.

“Primary care is a noble, noble specialty, and the opportunity to show both the science and the art and to pass on that tradition to the next generation of

doctors is just an honor,” he said. “We’re the ones to do it, because I believe that the primary care of the future is actually being invented here. This is where primary care does its thinking and does a little (research and development) and introduces a better approach to something that’s been around as long as there’ve been people and doctors. We’re continuing to improve it, so that’s the place I would want to go as a student.”

Reilly said he’s hopeful that some of the students eventually will want to come back here as physicians with The Villages Health.

“That’s the holy grail. That would be fantastic,” he said. “You know the person because you worked with them. And you know that they kind of get it because they’ve been here. There’s no getting them to buy into the model. They embrace it from the get-go because they’ve already seen it and experienced it.”

Dr. Saul Rosenblum, medical director of Santa Barbara Care Center, agreed.

“That will mean we’ve instilled the enthusiasm in enough people that they want to continue doing what we’re doing,” he said. “It passes the baton because some of us will at some point get older, retire, whatever, and you want to be able to hand that baton on to competent, enthusiastic young physicians.”