SUNNY HILL NURSING HOME OF WILL COUNTY

THE SUNRISER

October 2026

OCTOBER IS RESIDENT RIGHTS MONTH

October is Residents' Rights Month, an annual event designated by Consumer Voice to honor residents living in all long-term care facilities and those receiving care in their home or community. It is an opportunity to focus on and celebrate the dignity and rights of every individual receiving long-term services and supports.

Residents have the right to self-determination and to use their voice to make their own choices. This year's theme, Join Us at the Table, highlights the central role that food, mealtime, and community play in residents' daily lives. Food is comfort, culture, identity, and connection – a daily experience that shapes dignity and quality of life. A person living in a long-term care facility maintains the same rights as an individual in the larger community. These rights include:

DIGNITY AND RESPECT
Residents have the right to make their own choices. Sunny Hill must treat residents with dignity and respect and must provide care in a manner that promotes the resident's quality of life.

SAFETY
Sunny Hill must provide services to keep the resident's physical and mental health, at their highest practical levels. Sunny Hill must be safe, clean, comfortable and homelike.

PERSONAL PROPERTY
Residents have the right to keep and use their personal belongings and property as long as it doesn't interfere with the rights, health or safety of others.



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On behalf of Sunny Hill's Administration and Administrative Staff, Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant and the Will County Board, here's wishing you and your loved ones a safe and pleasant holiday season!



ADMINISTRTATOR'S CORNER

Dear **Residents, Family Members and Community Friends,**

Residents' Rights Month observed every October, honors individuals living in long-term care facilities and those receiving care at home or in the community, emphasizing their dignity, self-determination, and right to make choices about their care. The 2026 theme, "Join Us at the Table," highlights the central role of food, mealtime, and community in residents' daily lives. It recognizes that meals are not just about nutrition but also about comfort, culture, identity, and connection, shaping dignity and quality of life. This theme encourages residents to share their experiences, preferences, and traditions around food and dining. Staff, family members, advocates, and Ombudsman program representatives are invited to listen to residents' stories, uplift their voices, and ensure that meals reflect dignity, choice, respect, and community
Furniture installation for resident rooms is progressing smoothly throughout the week of September 18 through October 2.

Each morning, throughout the week of Sept 28 through Oct 2 residents on the Avenues are being assisted after breakfast and escorted to the MDR at approximately 9:00 a.m. while the furniture removal and installation occurs. The removal and installation process is taking an estimated 4–5 hours per Avenue. Our moving team has been performing excellent work — they are skilled, efficient, and experienced in safely moving furniture in and out of resident spaces. In addition, the nursing team is diligently removing all items from drawers and storage areas, then returning them afterward to ensure each resident's belongings are organized, and room is set up according to residents' personal preferences and safety considerations.

We are pleased to announce that the recent upgrade to our entryway security system is now fully operational. This enhancement reflects our ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all residents and staff. The newly implemented measures strengthen protection of resident areas while modernizing our access control technology.Each evening at 8:30 PM, restricted access is activated for the front and rear dock doors. During these hours, entry into these points can only be gained using designated staff keycards. This update ensures that only authorized individuals can enter the building through these key locations.

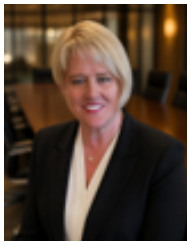
In addition to restricted entry, a layered access system is now in place. Once someone enters through the main front or rear doors, they will not have direct access to resident areas without an assigned security keycard. This added level of control is designed to safeguard resident spaces in the unlikely event that someone gains unauthorized access through an entry door. By limiting movement beyond public areas, we further strengthen the physical security of the household.

The upgrade also includes enhanced camera surveillance throughout these access points. Our new monitoring equipment features expanded capabilities, offering clearer imaging, improved coverage, and modernized functionality to support prompt response and comprehensive oversight. These cameras help ensure that activity in entry zones is recorded responsibly, with a focus on maintaining safety while respecting privacy.Staff cooperation is key to the success of this upgraded system. We ask all team members to keep their keycards secure, report lost or malfunctioning cards promptly and follow entry procedures consistently. Doing so helps maintain the integrity of our security measures and supports a safe environment for everyone.

We are excited to share an update on the progress of the new covered Pavilion planned for the Sunshine patio area. The project is currently awaiting final plan approval from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Once approval is received, we are hopeful that construction can begin by the end of October. The Pavilion will be a 30 x 30 structure featuring a durable rooftop covering, designed to provide residents with a comfortable and shaded outdoor gathering space throughout the year. This wonderful enhancement is being generously funded by the Friends of Sunny Hill. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated committee whose ongoing support makes meaningful improvements like this possible for our residents.

May we all stay safe and blessed as we continue to navigate our journey and extend grateful thanks for each new day and pray for ongoing resilience, strength, and wellness of our Sunny Hill family.

Wishing everyone a wonderful upcoming Holiday season!



MAGGIE MCDOWELL, LNHA, RN
Administrator

SUNNY HILL ADMINISTRATION

Administrator
Maggie McDowell, LNHA,RN
Assistant Administrator
Jackie Hosey, LNHA
Director of Nursing
Dawn Green, RN
Assistant Director of Nursing
Ana Marie Mendiola, RN
Edita Evans, RN
Kathie Miner, RN
Infection Preventionist
Ieva Ciccio, RN
Director of Finance
Shelly Felkins
Admissions/Marketing Coordinator
Charlotte Mather
Director of Food & Nutrition Services
Julie Cherrington, LD/RD
Director of Environmental Services
Craig Maki
Director of Life Engagement
Kristen Lovell
Maintenance Manager
Tyler Bargas
Human Resources Division Manager
Kenya Tucker
FNS Manager
Crystal Smith

Nursing Department

MDS Nurses:
Marbe Flores, RN
Joanne Crowder, RN
Maria Victoria Cortes, RN

Skin Care Nurses:
Grace Bambule, RN
Jennifer Grace, RN

House Nursing Supervisors:

Evangeline Baad, RN
Milan Boril, RN
Jennifer Calma, RN
Ferdinand Cantor, RN
Ruth Erosomele, RN
Margarita Flores, RN
Alicia McLaughlin, RN
Mardy Mon-Alon, RN
Aaron Murphy, RN
Marizza St. Onge, RN
Concercria Gladney- Carter, RN

The Sunriser
Published four times yearly for the Family Members and Community Friends of Sunny Hill Nursing Home of Will County
For more information, offer suggestions or submit materials,
contact Jackie Hosey ,Asst. Administrator
815-774-4375

MEMORIAL GIFTS

THE FOLLOWING MEMORIAL GIFTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE FRIENDS OF SUNNY HILL. THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF THESE RESIDENTS AND LOVED ONES ARE IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.



RICHARD HALLER
Eileen & Spyro Analytis
Diane & Theodore Dastych
Sandra DePratt
Diane & James Haller
Barbara Hanson
Lori Heitman
Elizabeth Hock
Colleen & Michael Holem
Danette Krieger
Robert & Colleen Krol
Kay & Daniel Lennon
John & Rebecca Logan
Karen Nebe
Robert & Betty Pluth
Evonne Rutz
Patricia Supergan
Maureen Vavrus

PHYLLIS HOLMQUIST
William & Margaret Benoit
Diane Budzinski
Gary Carneghi
Diane E. Keck
Craig & Mary Lewis
Marlene Lewis
Maggie McDowell
Lori Ryan
Tom & Karen Isberg Sorbero

RORY A. RAUMAN (Son of past Sunny Hill resident Carmen Rauman)
David & Kim Rauman Matuszewski & Family
Salvadore & Miriam Castelan
Doug Jenco
Ron & Sandy Rodriguez
Linda & Stan White

MARY ELLEN TEA
Jody Sobodos
Gerald & Deborah Strohman

SANDRA MARA
Patricia A. Hannon
Sunny Hill Book Club & Karen Isberg Sorbero

RAUL GUTIERREZ
Tom & Karen Isberg Sorbero

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS CAMPAIGN
Renee Bowman – In Honor of Mary Suarez
Daniel Follenweider – In Memory of our Sweet Shoppe Volunteer Rose Follenweider
David & Carol O'Dell - In Memory of Carolyn Szklanecki
Robert O'Reilly – In Memory of Kathleen O'Reilly





STAR AWARDS

Nursing
Olivia Diaz
Peter Paul Cabera
Fatimo Ishadimu
Xavier De Jesus
Eva Bankah- Yawson
LaQuitta Jones
Simon Karanja
Milan Boril
Vanessa Jones
Christina Galvin

EVS
Tameka Thomas
Heidi Vasquez
Maria Contreras Loza

Life Engagement
Jill Baker
Darren Gresham
Erica Bell

SOC SVS
Maggie Kane

FNS
Mary Evans

Reception
Cathy Miller

RESIDENT RIGHTS CONTINUED





PARTICIPATION IN CARE
A resident may participate in developing a person-centered care plan which states all the services Sunny Hill will provide and everything the resident is expected to do. This plan must include the resident's personal and cultural choices. Sunny Hill must make reasonable arrangements to meet the resident's needs and choices.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY
A resident has the right to privacy and confidentiality of their personal and medical records.

MONEY MANAGEMENT
Residents have the right to manage their own money. Sunny Hill must not require a resident to let them manage their money or be the resident's Social Security representative payee.

RIGHTS TO STAY IN THE FACILITY
A resident has the right to keep living at Sunny Hill Nursing Home. A resident must be given written notice if Sunny Hill requests that the resident move from the facility. A resident can be asked to leave for the following reasons:
The resident is a danger to themselves or others
The resident's needs cannot be met
The resident has not paid their bill after reasonable notice
Sunny Hill Nursing Home closes

Sunny Hill Nursing Home Social Workers are always available to support our residents and their families. For general questions or assistance please contact,

Maggie Kane (Social Worker for Avenues 1 and 3)
mkane@willcountyillinois.com
(815) 727-8483

Kristie Meloy (Social Worker for Avenues 2 and 4)
kmeloy@willcountyillinois.com
(815) 774-4456

Madeline Schott (Social Worker for Avenues 5 and 6)
mschott@willcounty.gov
(815) 727-8713



If you have any questions regarding these rights, please contact Jackie Hosey, Assistant Administrator, at 815-774-4375.

INFLUENZA

Influenza, commonly called "the flu", is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. Some people, such as individuals 65 years and older, pregnant women, young children, and people with certain chronic health conditions, are at higher risk of serious flu complications. Influenza (flu) can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. Flu symptoms usually come on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms: fever or feeling feverish/chills (*It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches or fatigue (tiredness).*

People 65 years and older are at higher risk of developing serious flu complications compared with young, healthy adults. This increased risk is due in part to changes in immune defenses with increasing age. While flu seasons vary in severity, during most seasons, people 65 years and older bear the greatest burden of severe flu disease. In recent years, for example, it's estimated that between 70 percent and 85 percent of seasonal flu-related deaths have occurred in people 65 years and older, and between 50 percent and 70 percent of seasonal flu-related hospitalizations have occurred among people in this age group.

The best way to protect against flu and its potentially serious complications is with an annual flu vaccine. Flu vaccination has many benefits. It has been shown to reduce the risk of getting sick with flu and also to reduce the risk of more serious flu outcomes that can result in hospitalization or even death. Although immune responses to vaccination may be lower in older people, studies have consistently found that flu vaccination has been effective in reducing the risk of medical visits and hospitalizations in older people. A flu vaccine is needed every year for two reasons. First, a person's immune protection from vaccination declines over time, so an annual flu vaccine is needed for optimal protection. Second, because influenza viruses are constantly changing, the composition of flu vaccines is reviewed annually, and vaccines are updated to protect against the viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming flu season. For the best protection, everyone 6 months and older should get vaccinated annually.

The single best way to reduce the risk of seasonal flu and its potentially serious complications is to get vaccinated each year, but preventive actions like avoiding people who are sick, covering your cough and washing your hands also can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like flu. This also can include taking steps for cleaner air and hygiene practices like cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

If you get the flu:
· Take every day precautions to protect others while sick.
· Stay home and avoid contact with other people, except to get medical care.
· Get lots of rest and drink plenty of liquids.



Addressing misconceptions about flu vaccines

Getting a flu vaccine will not give you flu

Flu vaccines cannot cause flu illness. Flu vaccines given with a needle (i.e., flu shots) are made with either inactivated (killed) viruses, or with only a single protein from an influenza virus. The nasal spray vaccine contains live viruses that are attenuated (weakened) so that they will not cause illness.

Flu illness can be serious

Flu can be a serious disease, particularly among young children, older adults, and people with certain chronic health conditions, such as asthma, heart disease or diabetes. Any influenza virus infection can carry a risk of serious complications, hospitalization or death, even among otherwise healthy children and adults. Therefore, getting vaccinated is a safer choice than risking illness to obtain immune protection.

****FLU SHOTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL RESIDENTS!****

With the flu and cold season upon us, flu vaccinations will be administered to all residents who have consented accordingly. It is the goal of Sunny Hill Nursing Home to keep everyone as healthy as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please see our Infection Preventionist, Ieva Ciccio, at 815-768-8463.

THE FRIENDS OF SUNNY HILL



The Friends of Sunny Hill, a 501C-3 IRS tax-exempt organization, raises funds and awareness through their Sweets & Treats Shoppe profits, annual Sunshine Holiday Bazaar, which includes their famous BBQ luncheon and bake sale, annual Valentine Balloon Sale, their twice-yearly mailing campaign, and memorial gifts. Regular board meetings of their 15-member board, which includes three Sunny Hill Residents, determine the organization's endeavors.

If you would like to help support the mission of The Friends of Sunny Hill, contact:
Maggie McDowell at mmcdowell@willcounty.gov or
Karen Sorbero at (815) 347-2309, email: sunnyhillfriends@gmail.com

Your donation can be made by:
(1) visiting our website at www.friendsofsunnyhill.com,
(2) Scan the QR Code

(3) Mail to:
THE FRIENDS OF SUNNY HILL
421 Doris Avenue
Joliet, IL 60433

The Friends of Sunny Hill is a 501C-3 not-for-profit organization.
For more information, please visit: www.friendsofsunnyhill.com
The Friends of Sunny Hill Facebook page is: Friends of Sunny Hill

THE FRIENDS OF SUNNY HILL T-SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE!

The Friends of Sunny Hill have an online store where you can purchase t-shirts or sweatshirts with the Friends of Sunny Hill logo or Sunny Hill Nursing Home logo. These shirts are ordered by YOU and shipped directly to your home. Prices vary depending on the type of shirt you order.

Proceeds from the sale of these shirts will benefit the Friends of Sunny Hill, whose mission is to provide the highest quality of life enhancement for the Sunny Hill residents.

Order at https://friends-of-sunny-hill.printify.me





FRIENDS OF SUNNY HILL

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

JUMP START YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING & SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF SUNNY HILL!

23TH OF OCT

Sunny Hill Nursing Home of Will County
421 Doris Avenue, Joliet , IL

FROM 10AM-3PM

Gifts - Community Vendors- Bake Sale- Split the Pot Raffle

$12 BBQ Lunch

Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Chips, Coleslaw, Dessert, & Drink

Phone ahead to pick-up large orders
815-727-8710

Cash, Credit, Google Pay, & Apple Pay Accepted

Scan to Learn More!


CALLING ALL
VENDORS & MAKERS!
FRIENDS OF SUNNY HILL
ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR
SUNNY HILL NURSING HOME
421 DORIS AVENUE JOLIET IL 60433
We are looking for unique, festive booth spaces!
Handmade crafts and holiday decor
Jewelry, apparel, and accessories
Curated gifts and direct sales
October 23, 2026
10AM-3PM
Set up time begins at 8AM
Booth space for $30 includes:
one 6ft table and chair
TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT
Karen Sorbero
815-347-2309
sunnyhillfriends@gmail.com


CALLING ALL
Bakers!
The Friends of Sunny Hill would love to feature your delicious bakery treats at our upcoming...
HOLIDAY BAZAAR -
LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE!
Friday, October 23, 2026
10AM-3PM
Baked goods may be dropped off at the Sunny Hill Reception Desk in our front lobby
October 19th -22nd
Please label and package your bakery items (individual or small packages are preferred)
Sunny Hill Nursing Home of Will County
421 Doris Ave Joliet
815-727-8710

HALLOWEEN

Candy Donations

LIFE ENGAGEMENT IS REQUESTING CANDY DONATIONS FOR OUR ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE AND COMMUNITY TRICK OR TREATING EVENT. PLEASE BRING ALL DONATIONS TO RECEPTION

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT
KRISTEN LOVELL
LIFE ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR
815.727.8711 OR
KLOVELL@WILLCOUNTY.GOV

SUNNY HILL NURSING HOME OF WILL COUNTY JOLIET IL 60433





VITAS HOSPICE PRESENTS

ANNUAL VETERANS DAY *Ceremony*

Join us in honoring our veteran residents!

Vitas Hospice will be hosting our annual pinning ceremony for our veterans. All are welcome to attend!

TUESDAY

10 NOV 2026

10:00AM

Questions? Please contact

KRISTEN LOVELL 815.727.8711

SUNNY HILL NURSING HOME
421 DORIS AVENUE JOLIET IL 60433
815.727.8710


YOU ARE INVITED TO
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS CELEBRATION
MUSIC . FOOD . DRINK
SATURDAY
12 DEC
FROM 2PM-4PM EVERY AVENUE WILL HAVE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Friends of Sunny Hill Bake Sale
1PM-4PM Located in the Lobby
Sunny Hill Nursing Home
421 Doris Avenue Joliet, IL 60433

SUNNY HILL
NURSING HOME OF WILL COUNTY

The leader in Resident Centered Care and Active Living.

421 Doris Avenue
Joliet, IL 60433

Phone: 815-727-8710
Fax: 815-774-4379
Email: sunnyhill@willcountyillinois.com
www.sunnyhillnursinghome.com

Find us on Facebook !
Search Sunny Hill Nursing Home and "like" us today. You will find the most current information on what's happening here at Sunny Hill.

We need your e-mail address! Please stop by reception or call us at 815-727-8710 with your information.

Sunny Hill's Wish List



Halloween Candy
Halloween Decorations
Seasonal Crafts
Christmas Decorations

Call the Life Engagement Director, Kristen Lovell at 815-727-8711 with any questions



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2026 Resident Rights Month
10/2 You have the right to Nachos! Nacho Social
10/5 John Boda Musical Entertainment at 10:00am
10/13 OktoberFest w/ Musical Entertainment Glenn Ellison
10/14 Remembrance Ceremony at 2:00pm
10/23 Holiday Bazaar
10/29 You have the right to choose your own flavor! Dirty Soda Bar
10/31 Halloween Trick or Treat open house w/Musical Entertainment by the Fedoras at 2:00pm

Bingo held regularly
Book Club and Senior Scholars on Tuesdays
Wal Mart Trips on Wednesdays
Lunch Outings weekly

November 2026
11/2 John Boada Musical Entertainment at 10:00am
11/10 Veteran's Day Ceremony at 10:00am
11/11 Veteran's Day
11/12 Frank Rossi Musical Entertainment at 2:00pm
11/20 Christine Ronna Musical Entertainment at 2:00pm
11/26 Thanksgiving Day



December 2026
12/7 John Boda Musical Entertainment at 10:00am
12/12 Home for the Holidays Celebration 2:00pm-4:00pm
12/25 Christmas Day
12/31 New Years Eve Party Musical Entertainment with Moonshiners