



Newsletter

October 2025

Monthly Celebrations

National Physical Therapy Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October 1st

National Coffee Day

October 5th

World's Teacher Day

October 10th

World Mental Health Day

October 13th

Columbus Day and
Indigenous Peoples Day

October 26th

National Pumpkin Day

October 31st

Halloween

October is Here!

A new month brings exciting events and the beautiful arrival of fall, with crisp air and colorful leaves all around. As we enjoy the season, it's also important to take care of ourselves—especially as we enter flu and cold season. To all our wonderful residents: please remember to stay warm, get plenty of rest, and take any necessary precautions to stay healthy. We care about your well-being and look forward to enjoying this season together!

Spooktacular Trunk or Treat!

Bring the whole family for Halloween fun at our *Community Trunk or Treat* on **October 31st** from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM, featuring decorated trunks, costumes, and plenty of candy. The best-decorated trunk will win a \$100 Visa gift card, so come ready to impress!

Staff Directory

DELORES DARNELL

Administrator
540-661-3100
Ext. 7011

AMNIE DINGUS

Director of Human
Resources
540-661-3100
Ext. 7044

PATRICIA TALLEY

Director of Customer &
Community Relations
540-661-3100
Ext. 8001

JESSICA DAVIDSON

Director of Rehabilitation
540-661-3100
Ext. 7052

LORETTA CLEMENTS

Director of Financial
Services
540-661-3100
Ext. 7013

ROB BLACK

Director of Information &
Technology
540-661-3100
Ext. 8040

JOHN MOLLAN

Director of Maintenance
& Environmental Services
540-661-3100
Ext. 7066

TAMMY TAYLOR

Director of Dining
Services
540-661-3100
Ext. 7009

DEBBIE BYRD

Director of Accounting
540-661-3100
Ext. 7048

STEVEN CALLEJA

Director of Compliance &
Education
540-661-3100
Ext. 8009

GAYLE COLLIER

Director of Activities
540-661-3100
Ext. 7036

MICHELLE WARD

Director of Infection
Control & Senior Living
Clinical Manager
540-661-3100
Ext. 7003

TABITHA PAYNE

Director of Nursing for
the Health &
Rehabilitation
540-661-3100
Ext. 7077

**APRIL MCDOWELL-
RYDER**

Director of Clinical
Reimbursement
540-661-3100
Ext. 7038



A Donation to the Foundation



At Dogwood Village, we are dedicated to caring for people and enhancing the quality of life for each resident by providing a safe, comfortable environment supported by our dedicated staff. Your generous donation to our special project is more than just a contribution—it's a key part of what makes this community strong. By supporting this initiative, you're helping us provide valuable resources and opportunities for growth. Join us in investing in the future of our residents and making a lasting impact on their lives.

*If you are interested in contributing to this endeavor, please contact
Patricia Talley at 540-661-3100.*



Staff Spotlight



Debbie Taylor Dietary Services

"I'm originally from West Virginia and moved to Orange in 1989. I have a daughter and two grandsons who mean the world to me. What I enjoy most about Dogwood is the people—both residents and staff. I love connecting and having conversations, no matter how small. What truly makes Dogwood special is its family-oriented atmosphere; we enjoy each other's company and support one another like family."

Years of Dedication : 5 years

Health and Rehab Upcoming Events

October 2nd: *Bright side Story Time*

H&R Main Dining Room at 10:00 am

October 13th: *Tic Tac Toe w/ Balloons*

H&R Main Dining Room at 2:00 pm

October 16th: *Resident Council*

H&R Main Dining Room at 10:30 am

October 17th: *Pumpkin Roll & Apple Cider*

H&R Main Dining Room at 2:00 pm

October 24th: *Pumpkin Ice Cream Social*

H&R Main Dining Room at 2:00 pm

October 28th: *Autumn Painting w/ Dora*

H&R Main Dining Room at 2:00 pm

Senior Living Upcoming Events

October 7th: *Welcome October Craft*

SL Activity Room at 2:00 pm

October 9th: *Resident Council*

SL Community Room at 9:30 am

October 13th: *Pumpkin Toss Game*

SL Wellness Room at 2:00 pm

October 22nd: *Lunch Outing*

SL Front Lobby Outside at 11:00 am

October 27th: *Manicures by Heather*

SL Activity Room at 2:00 pm

October 30th: *Orange Float Social*

SL Activity Room at 2:00 pm

Weekly Bingo are on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Daily devotions start at 9:15 am every morning. Music events are scheduled Monday through Friday.

Music events are scheduled Monday through Friday. Weekly Bingo are on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Daily devotions take place every morning at 9:15 am.

Join us for our *Bake Sale* on **October 15th** at 9:00 AM for some sweet treats! Don't miss our *Yard Sale* on **October 18th** at 8:00 AM. Then, come out to support a great cause at the *American Blood Drive* on **October 29th** at 10:00 AM. Come back for some Halloween fun at our *Community Trunk or Treat* on **October 31st** starting at 4:00 PM.

Blooming with Excellence: Nicole Hoffman's Journey

Nicole Hoffman began her time at Dogwood Village Assisted Living five years ago as a dining server, where she built meaningful connections with residents and nurtured a growing interest in physical therapy. Her passion was sparked years earlier when she watched her great-grandfather receive care at Dogwood Health & Rehab, and it deepened as she supported her mother through physical therapy treatments. Determined to pursue this calling, Nicole applied to Germanna Community College's Physical Therapist Assistant Program. While waiting for acceptance, she gained valuable hands-on experience working as a therapy aide at Ivy Rehab in Orange, VA—all while continuing part-time at Dogwood. Balancing two jobs and long hours, Nicole's dedication never wavered.



In the summer of 2023, Nicole was accepted into the PTA program. The demanding two-year course required her to focus on her studies and reduce work hours, but the journey was well worth it. After graduating in May and passing her board exam in July, Nicole reached out to Jessica Davidson about joining Dogwood as a Physical Therapist Assistant—a role they had discussed before.

Nicole officially began her full-time PTA role at the end of July, marking a new chapter in her career. Though it meant stepping away from her previous positions, she is excited to grow in this new role and continue serving the Dogwood community with the same passion and care that inspired her journey.

Dogwood Village is proud to welcome Nicole Hoffman back in this new capacity and celebrate her growth, excellence, and commitment to enriching the lives of our residents.

To: Residents and Family Members

Decreasing the Use of Antibiotics

Antibiotics are among the most prescribed pharmaceuticals in long-term care settings, yet reports indicate that high proportion of antibiotic prescriptions are unnecessary. About 50-70% of nursing home residents are prescribed an antibiotic each year and about 25-75% of the antibiotics prescribed are inappropriate. The adverse consequences of unnecessary antibiotic use include adverse drug reactions or interactions, the development of *Clostridium difficile* infections, the emergence of multi-drug resistant organisms, antibiotic failure, increased mortality, and greatly increased costs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention characterizes antibiotic resistance as “one of the world’s most pressing public health threats.” Unnecessary prescribing practices by clinicians and overuse of newer, broad-spectrum antibiotics when either no antibiotic or an older narrow-spectrum drug would suffice are believed to be the primary contributors to this problem. As a result of the above complexities, nursing homes are increasingly recognized as reservoirs of antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

To address these issues, Dogwood Village of Orange County has developed an antimicrobial stewardship program that will decrease the number of antibiotics used unnecessarily and for empiric reasons. Antimicrobial stewardship is the act of using antibiotics appropriately- that is, using them only when truly needed and using the right antibiotic for each infection. This program includes tools, policies, and procedures that aim to guide nursing home staff toward more responsible and effective use of antibiotics. To achieve our goal, Dogwood Village will be monitoring the use of antibiotics, educating staff, family members and residents, and evaluating outcomes. This effort is crucial to improving outcomes for our residents and the nursing home. Your participation will be essential.

If you would like to learn more about antibiotic stewardship a great resource to look at is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. Website: [Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship for Nursing Homes | Antibiotic Prescribing and Use | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/hcp/core-elements/nursing-homes-antibiotic-stewardship.html) www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/hcp/core-elements/nursing-homes-antibiotic-stewardship.html

Michelle Ward, RN, BSN, CLNC, LTC-CIP

Director of Infection Control & Senior Living Clinical Manager





Resident Testimonial

“What I love most about Dogwood is spending time
in the garden — it’s where I feel happiest.”
– Senior Living Resident Audrie



Connect with us on Facebook!

Scan the QR code to follow us on Facebook
and catch all the latest at Dogwood Village!

Follow Us on Other Digital Platforms



www.dogwoodvillageocva.org



www.facebook.com/dogwoodvillage



www.linkedin.com/company/dogwoodvillageoforangecounty

