# senior IVINC

Thursday, January 27, 2022

**Danbury Senior Living is** combatting the winter blues PAGF 4

Stride Mobility is your one-stop shop for mobility solutions PAGE 2



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Stride Mobility LLC, a durable medical equipment company, is located in Huron. We're your one-stop shop providing mobility solutions for adults and children, ensuring a maximum level of freedom and independence.

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New products are arriving daily, such as our new Wrangler, an allterrain scooter, with its big tires, shocks, digital dashboard, LED headlights and brake lights; as well as the Maxima, a new heavy-duty scooter with a weight limit of 500 lbs.

We are also offering our customers lift chairs which incorporate mas-

sage and heat, USB connectivity, and cupholders; innovative portable toilet chairs that look less "medical" and look great outside the bedroom; handles for car doors to allow easier entry and exit for passengers or drivers; and trays that fit underneath lift chairs or couches offering practicality and style.

Heading up inside sales is Tom Hendershot with over 15 years experience in the durable medical equipment industry. Tom is responsible for our 4,000 sq. ft. showroom which is equipped with hands-on simulation rooms and state-of-the-art equipment to meet ever-changing mobility and home care needs.

Owner Mark Schnieders welcomes you to visit us online at www. stridemobility.net, at our brand-new showroom at 2455 Sawmill Parkway in Huron, or give us a call at 419-616-6017. Life doesn't stop moving, and neither should you. Tom and our professional staff of rehab coordinators and Certified Assistive Technology Professionals are ready to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Or, we'll come to you, whether you are in a private residence, nursing home, or place of business.

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We have a "Contact Us" page on

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Getting out and about is a vital component of many seniors' daily lives, but it's important that aging men and women recognize how much exercise is healthy for them. The Department of Health & Human Services notes that adults need a mix of physical activity to stay healthy. That mix should be a combination of moderate-intensity aerobic activities, which can include golfing, swimming and even gardening, and muscle strengthening activities like weightlifting that make the muscles work harder than usual. The DHHS recommends adults combine 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity per week with at least two days of muscle-strengthening activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that these guidelines are safe for individuals who are 65 and older, generally fit and have no limiting health conditions. Individuals who do not fit that criteria should consult with their physicians before beginning a new exercise regimen, as it's possible that they could be putting their health at considerable risk if they attempt to follow guidelines designed for people who are generally fit. It's also important that healthy seniors avoid overdoing it in regard to exercise. Though the DHHS suggestions are the minimum recommendations, going too far beyond those guidelines without first consulting a physician could increase seniors' risk for injury, illness or even death.



our web site that goes directly to a staff member to assist with any and all questions you may have! We also now have a "Donate Now" button and are always in need of the public's generous support of our programs. We appreciate any and all support!! If you are interested in volunteering please use the "Contact Us" form on the RSVP service page to let us know how you can help!

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# YOUR MOBILITY MATTERS How Can We Help?





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### Danbury Senior Living is a fantastic option for seniors who are combatting the winter blues

Winter is a time of year that can cause feelings of loneliness in all of us, but our senior loved ones who are living alone can tend to feel that more than most. Being isolated due to weather or lack of transportation can affect seniors and cause loneliness to lead to depression.

Did you know that, according to Pew Research, 20% of Americans over 60 live alone and that number increases with age. And yes, over 60%



report feelings of loneliness. Here are a few ways we can help:

1. Make communication a priority. Some older adults go days without speaking to anyone at all, especially those who are in poor health or who have limited mobility or transportation options. Nothing beats an in-person visit but if you can't see each other, talking on the phone or video chatting can make a world of difference.

2. Encourage and facilitate social activities through local organizations. Places like churches and community senior centers are a great place for individuals of all ages to meet like-minded people and find opportunities for group activities. Offer to be their transportation and escort to encourage them to participate.

**3. Identify opportunities to combat loneliness at any time**. For those times in between when loneliness can strike, create a list of family and friends they can call. It can be kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, neighbors, and even their church. For many of my senior friends nothing beats a 5-minute conversation of "Hey, how are you today? Can you believe this weather?"

4. Bring by a meal. Just like the rest of us, many seniors don't eat right when they are depressed. If you can visit in person, bring their favorite lunch or dinner by and enjoy it with conversation. That hour out of the day can mean the world to them. You'll also be able to make sure that they're getting a hearty, healthy meal.

Danbury Senior Living is a fantastic option for seniors who are combatting the winter blues. With life enriching activities, neighbors of the same age and interests, and chef-prepared meals daily, your senior loved one can wipe away the winter blues and enjoy each day to its fullest. Visit www. DanburySeniorLiving.com or call 440.596.3797 to learn more.



# 4 Steps for Recovery and Daily Living After a Stroke

(Family Features)

In the weeks and months immediately following a stroke, an early rehabilitation program offers the best possible recovery outcomes. While each patient's journey may be different, starting the path toward rehabilitation as soon as it's medically safe allows stroke survivors to mitigate the lasting effects.

According to the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, each year, approximately 800,000 people in the United States have a stroke. About 4 in 5 people who suffer a stroke will survive, but the majority have some degree of physical impairment or disability.

#### **Early Intervention**

The first three months after a stroke are especially critical. Although recovery may continue for years after a stroke, this golden time in the immediate aftermath of a stroke is when the brain is most able to adjust to the damage done by the stroke so the survivor can learn new ways to do things.

"There is a critical period of neuroplasticity, which is the brain's ability to create new connections where there has been damage from a stroke," said Elissa Charbonneau, M.S., D.O., chief medical officer of Encompass Health and an American Stroke Association volunteer. "The early period after a stroke is crucial for helping the brain to establish those connections again." **Customized Rehabilitation** 

Once a stroke survivor's medical condition is stabilized and he or she is ready to leave the hospital, post-stroke rehabilitation can help restore function and teach new ways to complete everyday tasks. Rehabilitation may take place in an inpatient facility, skilled nursing facility, long-term acute care facility or nursing home. Outpatient clinics and home health agencies can also provide rehabilitative care in certain circumstances. One patient's rehab journey might



include therapy to improve balance, strength or mobility, while another might need speech or other therapies. A rehabilitation designed for the individual is critical.

**Support for Your Journey** Following a stroke, your medical team will likely help connect you with a local rehabilitation center where you can find experts to guide your rehabilitation and recovery. Other resources, including the American Stroke Association, provide resources for stroke

SEE PAGE 10



Wouldn't it be comforting to know she will receive the care she needs and her legacy will be protected?

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# How to create structure after retirement

Professionals typically look forward to retirement and the freedom that comes with it. The notion that commuting and deadlines will one day be a distant memory is enough to make anyone excited for retirement. But when the day to leave the daily grind behind arrives, many retirees admit to feeling a little anxiety about how they're going to find structure.

Retirement is a big transition, and Robert Delamontagne, PhD, author of the 2011 book "The Retiring Mind: How to Make the Psychological Transition to Retirement," notes that some retirees experience anxiety, depression and even a sense of loss upon calling it a career. Some of those feelings can undoubtedly be traced to the perceived lack of purpose some individuals feel after retiring. Without a job to do each day, people can begin to feel useless. Overcoming such feelings can be difficult, but finding ways to build daily structure can make the transition to retirement go smoothly.

• Find something to truly engage in. Professionals who truly enjoy their work tend to be fully engaged, so it's no surprise if such individuals have a hard time adjusting to retirement. Some may suggest volunteering can help fill the void created by retirement, but researchers with the Sloan Center on Aging and Work at Boston College have found that only those individuals who are truly engaged in their post-retirement volunteering enjoy the psychological benefits of such pursuits. So before retirees dive right in to volunteering as a means to creating structure, they should first exercise due diligence and find an opportunity they'll find genuinely engaging.

• Embrace the idea of "bridge employment." "Bridge employment" is the name given to the trend that has seen retired individuals take on part-time or temporary employment after they have retired from full-time working. COVID-19 has no doubt



skewed post-retirement working statistics since the World Health Organization first declared a pandemic in March 2020, but a 2019 survey from the LIMRA Secure Retirement Institute found that 27 percent of pre-retirees with at least \$100,000 in assets planned to work part-time in retirement. Even part-time work can

provide enough daily structure to help retirees feel as though each day is not just a free-for-all.

• Make a concerted effort to be more social. Volunteering and working are not the only ways to create structure in retirement. A concerted effort to be more social can help retir-

**SEE PAGE 10** 

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# Thursday, February 3, 2022

11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Register in advance for this Zoom webinar by visiting the LINK below:

#### https://tinyurl.com/2p8jmhy9

Questions can be directed to VirtualSeminars@promedica.org



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# **Protecting Your Lungs Can Start with a Scan** Understanding the benefits of screening



Family Features

Not too long ago, smoking used to be everywhere. In fact, many people remember the days before there were even smoking and non-smoking sections in restaurants. People who smoked and others who didn't mingled in the same dining room. They sat side-by-side on a plane. Some rode in the backseat of a smoke-filled car, and no one gave it a further thought.

Today, things are done differently. However, those memories can be an important indicator for those who smoked back then to advocate for their health with a lung screening.

Importance of Early Detection Lung cancer has the highest mortality rate among cancers, killing men and women more than any other type. If found in its earliest stage, however, lung cancer is more likely to be successfully treated, according to the American Cancer Society. In fact, detecting lung cancer in its early stages can make the survival rate as high as 90%.

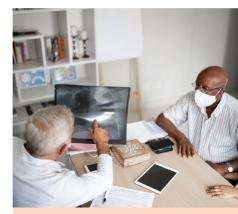
"Unfortunately, lung cancer symptoms typically don't show up until the disease has advanced and when they do appear, they can be similar to common respiratory illnesses with cough, shortness of breath or pain in the chest, back or shoulders" said Dr. Ella Kazerooni, professor of radiology and internal medicine at the University of Michigan and chair of the American Cancer Society National Lung Cancer Roundtable. "Screening detects lung cancer when there are no symptoms. That's why it's important for people at high risk of lung cancer to get annual lung

scans to help increase the likelihood of catching cancer early when it's most treatable. A lung cancer screening is a painless evaluation that usually takes minutes to complete."

However, according to a study published in the "Journal of the National Cancer Institute," the national average of at-risk individuals getting screened is only 5%.

In 2021, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), a panel of national experts in disease prevention and evidence-based medicine, updated guidelines for who is eligible and recommended for annual lung screening. However, the Epic Health Research Network reported 87% of at-risk individuals eligible for screening based on the USPSTF guidelines didn't receive an annual

SEE PAGE 10



## Questions to Ask Your Doctor About a Lung Cancer Screening

If you're concerned about your risk, have a history of smoking and lived through the time when smoking was everywhere, don't wait for symptoms to bring up the subject with your doctor. Schedule an appointment to talk to a provider and see if you qualify for a scan or could benefit from annual screenings.

Many organizations, including the American Cancer Society, recommend lung screening as an opportunity to identify lung cancer in its early stages, but screening isn't for everyone. A lowdose computed tomography (LDCT) scan is the only method recommended for lung cancer screening in high-risk patients.

When discussing yearly lung cancer screenings with your health care provider, it may be helpful to take notes during your appointment, or you may want to have someone with you to listen and ask questions. Consider asking questions such as:

- Is lung cancer screening recommended for me?
- How do I know if my insurance covers LDCT screening?
- What are the benefits and risks of LDCT screening?
- How will I get the results of my LDCT scan?

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# **BENEFITS OF SCREENING** FROM PAGE 8

screening despite it being covered by insurance.

#### What is a Lung Cancer Screening?

A lung cancer screening is a preventive health check, like a mammogram or colonoscopy. It checks the lungs and looks for any changes from year to year. If there's something unusual in the lungs, a screening can help detect it at an early stage.

A low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) scan is the only method recommended for lung cancer screening in high-risk patients. A LDCT machine takes a 3D picture of the lungs. This type of scan uses 75% less radiation than a regular CT scan and doesn't require the use of needles. Often, there are no symptoms of lung cancer. A LDCT scan can find something before patients know it's there because the symptoms are easy to mistake or don't appear until the cancer is well advanced. Who's Eligible for Screening?

Lung cancer can affect anyone. A family history of lung cancer, a personal history of lung disease, lifestyle or environmental factors can put a person at elevated risk. Most importantly, a person's age and smoking habits can be an indicator of whether he or she should consider screening.

More people now qualify for yearly LDCT scans, according to the updated guidelines published by the USPSTF. The guidelines lowered the eligibility threshold based on a person's age and smoking habits. An annual LDCT screening is recommended for people who meet this criteria:

■ 50-80 years old

- Actively smoke or have a history of smoking within the last 15 years
- Heavily smoke or used to heavily smoke (people who have smoked for 20 "pack years" or more)

Pack years are determined by the number of cigarette packs smoked per day by the number of years a person has smoked. For example, smoking one package per day for 20 years equals 20 pack years.

If you're concerned about your risk, have a history of smoking and lived through the time when smoking was everywhere, don't wait for symptoms to bring up the subject with your doctor. Talk to your health care provider to discuss the benefits and risks of screening and find out if a scan is right for you.

Learn more about how you can take control of your lung health and support loved ones who may be at high-risk for lung cancer by visiting screenyourlungs.org.

## STRUCTURE AFTER RETIREMENT FROM PAGE 6

ees fill their days with interactions with like-minded individuals who may be experiencing the same feelings. Join a book club, a local nature group that goes on daily or semi-daily morning hikes or another local community organization. These are great ways to build structure and meet new people. Retirees can create social media accounts to find local community groups that cater to their interests. Even if it seems hard to believe, plenty of retirees are seeking to create structure in retirement life, and social media can make it easier to find such individuals in your community.

Structure and retirement may seem like strange bedfellows. But many retirees seek structure after calling it a career, and there are many fun ways for seniors to create more organization in their lives.

## AFTER A STROKE FROM PAGE 5



# Lorain County Office on Aging

320 N. Gateway Blvd., Second Floor, Elyria, OH 44035



rehab and recovery including step-bystep videos for stroke survivors and caregivers.

These tools help answer your questions, explain what to expect and address practical concerns like how to approach daily living tasks such as grocery shopping, doing laundry and meal preparation.

#### **Preventing a Recurrence**

After a first stroke, 1 in 4 survivors will have another. Although some risk factors, like age, gender and family history, are beyond control, survivors have the power to reduce that risk by working with a doctor.

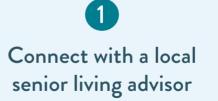
Simple habits like eating healthfully, moving more and taking medications as prescribed can help your brain and reduce your risk of a repeat stroke. Controlling conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes and sleep apnea also reduce your risk of having another stroke.

Find additional recovery tips, including advice from stroke survivors, caregivers and health care professionals, at stroke.org/recoverytips. ASSISTED LIVING MEMORY CARE INDEPENDENT LIVING HOME CARE



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