



# health, fitness & seniors



## Client and Staff Safety Is Top Priority For Homewatch CareGivers of South Orange

Homewatch CareGivers of South Orange began in-house COVID-19 testing of all staff and certified home health aides in July and just completed two months of 100% of its workers. "With caregivers essential to the elderly and those in need of assistance with personal safety and activities of daily living, keeping our clients and staff safe is our main concern," said Larry Aronson, owner of Homewatch CareGivers of South Orange. "This is just the latest of many safety protocols we implemented to ensure well-being of those in our Homewatch community."

While Homewatch CareGivers (HW) was sending care givers to local testing facilities, it was not satisfied with the response time. Homewatch plans to continue testing all its staff on a regular basis. In addition, care givers are required to self-screen (including temperature checks) before checking into work each day.

Care givers are provided the necessary PPE (personal protection equip-

ment) appropriate for their needs.

Nurses and social workers monitor care givers as a health check-in and provide additional training.

HW nurses work closely with facilities on their safety protocols. Travel plans are monitored, and state quarantine regulations are followed for clients and caregivers.

Safety protocols are readjusted in compliance with the recommendations from the NJ Department of Health and the CDC.

Homewatch CareGivers, an accredited home healthcare agency received the 2020 Leader in Excellence Award as a Best in Homecare Provider and Employer. Homewatch CareGivers has served the local community for over 11 years. "While COVID-19 challenged the agency's value directed service, our highly responsive and caring team of social workers and nurses continues to meet the needs of families and clients in our community," noted Aronson.



Residents toasted the return of al fresco dining at Crane's Mill retirement community in West Caldwell.

## Al Fresco Dining Returns to Crane's Mill: Residents Hail Return of Restaurant-Style Dining



Crane's Mill residents raised their glasses and toasted to the long-anticipated return of sit-down, restaurant-style dining. As of last week, residents of the West Caldwell retirement community had the option of lunch or dinner, three days a week, under the community's wedding-style tent.

As part of the kick-off week, resi-

dents gathered for a special champagne toast and picnic-style lunch. The menu included gourmet chicken salad sandwiches, homemade potato chips, salads, desserts, and, of course, sparkling wine.

Hand sanitizing stations were installed nearby, while servers and maitre d's ensured tables were properly distanced. Face coverings were worn except when eating.

Crane's Mill at West Caldwell is a retirement community operated by Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, Inc. It is located at 459 Passaic Avenue, West Caldwell. For more information, call 973-276-6700; or email cranesmill@lsnmj.org; or visit its website at www.cranesmill.org.

## Local Doctor Of Audiology Uses New Technology To Reach and Treat Patients During COVID-19

During COVID-19, a local doctor of audiology is utilizing new technology in order to better reach and connect with patients who are still considered the most "at risk" population, those with hearing loss.

Dr. Rhee Rosenman-Nesson, who founded Hearing Doctors of New Jersey, is using what is called "tele-audiology" to help people who have difficulty hearing. Rosenman-Nesson says that technology now allows her to adjust and program patients' hearing devices through their internet connection, all without ever having to leave the safety of their home.

"Tele-audiology is the perfect solution to help people whose hearing aids are just not helping them enough," stated, Dr. Rhee Rosenman-Nesson. She went on to say, "a patient that I've been helping was struggling to hear with her hearing aids. When she was in my office, everything sounded great but when she went home, she was still struggling to hear clearly. Due to COVID-19, we decided to do a tele-audiology appointment from her living room. Remotely, I was able

to adjust her hearing aids while her husband was speaking with her and the TV was on. We got the settings just right and even made sure she could hear her husband with the AC on! It was so exciting for both of us because I was finally able to help her hear clearly in the situations that matter the most to her. Thanks to tele-audiology, her problem was finally solved!"

There are always silver linings if you look for them. In this case, the pandemic has created a need to innovate the way doctors deliver care for their patients. Through tele-audiology, audiologists are able to remotely adjust hearing aids for people while they are in the place that they are having difficulty hearing. This unique approach allows for a level of personalization, which Dr. Rhee Rosenman-Nesson says "finally allows us to customize their hearing aid settings and ensure that they never say 'what?' again."

Hearing Doctors of New Jersey is excited to have created this way of delivering hearing care for our community and can be reached at 973-577-4100 or at www.hearingdoctorsofny.com.

### Spotlight on Elder Law:

## Out of Crisis, Perhaps Change?

By Yale Hauptman, Esq.

Elder Law Attorney

The global pandemic has caused havoc in everyone's life. The immediate effects of the current crisis are obviously negative. Out of every crisis, however, there are often some

positive changes.

New York was the first region in the country to be hard hit by Covid. Hospitals were overwhelmed and as a result many people stayed away, choosing to fight the illness at home. Hospital at home services, which before Covid have been used on a limited basis to treat certain chronic conditions, have been utilized to treat Covid patients who otherwise would have needed to be admitted to a hospital.

Medicare relaxed its requirements to permit coverage for this type of treatment. Once a doctor provides authorization, a home health care agency can come in to the patient's home to provide services under Medicare's home health benefit. Telemedicine visits, intravenous lines and oxygen have also been provided and patients have monitored their own vitals through the use of pulse oximeters. A phlebotomist can come to the home to draw blood.

For many patients this type of home treatment has worked well and they have recovered from the illness. Hospitals have avoided the crush of cases in their emergency rooms and intensive care units. We are likely to see this type of home treatment in other areas of the country hard hit by the Coronavirus.

Longer term, as we see studies on how to improve our public health system, perhaps we will see more home treatment for other conditions beyond Covid. This could certainly be applied to the treatment and monitoring of the elderly with the hope that Medicare will be expanded to allow for it. It is still early and we don't yet know how things will play out but it is an intriguing development for many Americans as we think about how our lives will be changed in the long term as a result of the current crisis.

For more information about this and other elder law topics, go to www.hauptmanlaw.com.

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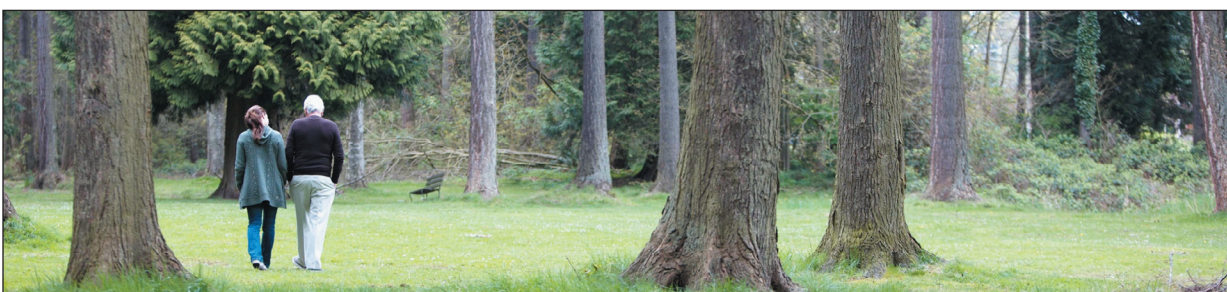
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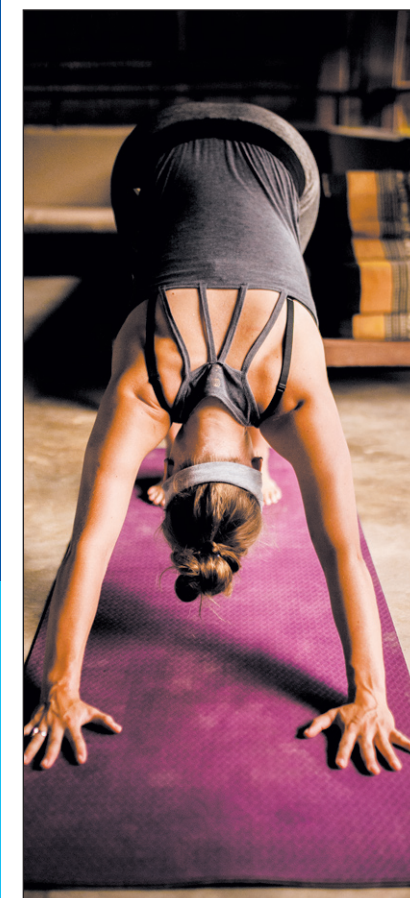
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