

VIM VOICE



July/August 2021

NOTES FROM PAM



Dear Volunteers;

As we work through the third quarter of 2021, we enter one of our busiest seasons. August/September sees the recredentialing and redeeming of all our medical staff, board of directors and paid staff. All nursing and medical licenses need to be current as do CPR certificates and TB tests. **If you have changed your mailing address, phone number or email address—please let me know.** The auditors will be concluding our annual audit and the clinic report highlighting our past ten years of success will go to press. Plans are underway for our Annual Volunteer meeting that will be reinstated after a year's absence due to the pandemic. And Bourbon & Bubbly, our signature fundraiser, is just around the corner! If you can help with any of these events, please let me know.

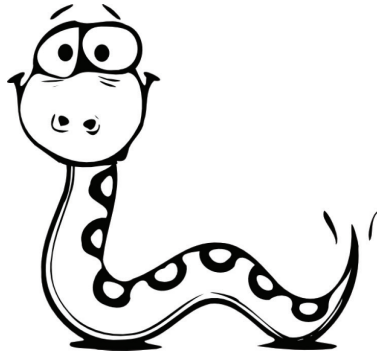
— Pam

Mandatory Vaccination Policy

BJVIM has implemented a mandatory vaccination policy effective immediately requiring COVID vaccines for all volunteers and employees. In accordance with BJVIM's duty to provide and maintain a workplace that is free of known hazards, we are adopting this policy to safeguard the health of our volunteers, employees and their families, our patients, visitors, and the community at large from COVID-19. In addition, we are asking that you make a copy of your vaccine card and give it to Pam so she may put it in your file.

Individuals seeking an exemption from this requirement for medical or religious reasons should contact Dr. Casey, our medical director and infectious disease specialist.

Due to the rising risks of Covid both to vaccinated and unvaccinated here in Jasper and Beaufort County, we are striving to mitigate risk as much as possible. To this end, we are asking all unvaccinated volunteers to abstain from volunteering until they are 3 weeks out from their second shot of Moderna or Pfizer or 3 weeks from the Johnson & Johnson. We should also stress, we need to stay out of the clinic for 14 days if known to have a close exposure to an active case—even if you have been vaccinated.



Please be on the lookout.

A black snake about 2 feet long was spotted in the parking lot a few days ago. It slithered into the woods and has not been seen since, but please be vigilant!



Within the next 30 days you will see the installation of new phones and a new phone system.

This system will allow us to add more extensions, including those to the dental clinic, WelVista office, the Ridgeland clinic, and an extension specifically for our Latino patients to leave messages. I hope this will be a great addition to the workflow of the clinic. In partnership with the new phones, Lee has been working diligently on improving our outgoing and incoming fax system. Incoming faxes will now be housed in a “cloud” for easy access. Outgoing faxes will be sent directly from our computers. Lee will be working with everyone individually to learn this new system. Thanks to Lee for all her hard work!

After securing DHEC certificates and the South Carolina Dental Board approval, **we are now able to begin seeing patients!**

Pattie will be doing cleanings and x-rays on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and dental checkups with the dentist on Thursdays. Dr. Walter Fingar has agreed to be the dental director and Barry Chudnofsky will be a volunteer dentist. We have

Dental News

also collaborated with the former Smile Mobile to open the clinic on the first Saturday of each month for free dental care to

the underserved in Beaufort County. Members of the Rotary of Beaufort and Access Health of the Lowcountry will be providing their own equipment and dentist to deliver care. Linda Wolf (who will be working with Pattie Swanson, our hygienist) on Tuesdays will also help with the monthly Saturday clinic. New to the dental clinic is Bari Younce who will serve as a dental assistant.



RIDGELAND CLINIC

Special thanks to Lisa Carroll and Moonstar Advertising for their help and professionalism in designing a special page on our website for the Ridgeland Clinic. There now is a special link under clinics for the Ridgeland clinic listing services offered, days and times open and how to become a patient. There is also a video in Spanish for our Latino patients. Bluffton updates and the dental clinic updates will soon be added to our site.



Through the help of our anonymous donor,

we have been able to hire a nurse to manage the Ridgeland Clinic. Michelle Wallace has been training

with Ruth for much of July and now will be in Ridgeland on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Joining Michelle is newly hire Raquel Solanto who will serve as our receptionist and interpreter on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Sara Carley will remain as the receptionist on Monday mornings. While we have added these permanent positions, we are still in great need of volunteers, both medical and non-medical, to help bring additional services to Ridgeland.

Continuing with our donor's support,



Michelle and I recently went to Charleston to pick up a new telemedicine cart. This cart will be outfitted with peripherals needed to enhance telemedicine appointments. Dr. Evans and Michelle will be working on bringing this service to Ridgeland.



Dr. Epps will now be seeing patients on the fourth Thursday of each month. He has been eager to have a clinic in Ridgeland and now his Ridgeland patients will be able to be seen closer

to home! Also, in August Michelle and Raquel will begin screening new patients and WelVista application appointments will resume. We hope to begin a monthly diabetic clinic and a nutrition class in the very near future.

We are putting our donor's gift to good use!



Very Special thanks to our very own nurse Kate Mace who nominated BJVIM to the Sun City 100 Women Who Care. Kate spoke on our behalf —telling the group of the role BJVIM plays in our community. Pictured above is Kate and Resource Development Director, Dennis Toney, receiving a check for \$10,100 to be used for women's health and other patient programs as needed. 100 Women Who Care is a group of community women who gather 4 times a year to donate \$100 each to a local nonprofit organization. We have also received funding from 100 Women Who Care-Hampton Lake. In addition to the wonderful gift, over 1/3 of our volunteer base comes from people who live in Sun City.



Please Save the Date!

Thursday, September 16th is the date of this year's Volunteer Meeting. This date is a little different from the one posted in the June newsletter. Palmetto Electric Community Room is not taking reservations at this time, so the location and date had to be moved. Please plan on joining us from 9:00am - 2:30pm at the Rotary Community Center at Oscar Frazier Park in Bluffton as we review success of the past 18 months, learn about new programs and look

to the future growth of BJVIM. Breakfast will be available at 8:45am with a special catered lunch by Southern Spice at 12:30pm. The agenda and guest speakers will be announced in the next few weeks, so read the bulletin board when you check in for your shift. A sign-up sheet will also be posted on the bulletin board. I look forward to celebrating our 10th year anniversary with you!



Kathleen Denigris, RN

Kathryn Boudreau, admin & translator

Debbie Myhre, admin

Richard & Stella Cerreta, admin

Linda Aragon, admin



If you received any Neutrogena suntan lotion it has been recalled.

Please Stop using ASAP and discard.

