

The Chelsea Standard

Lending a hand - and a smile

Nurse enjoys working with local seniors at Silver Maples

By Sheila Pursglove
, Special Writer

As a teenager, Kim Parkanzky set her sights on a career in teaching or nursing. The classroom's loss was nursing's gain - and something the Chelsea community has benefited from for many years.

Parkanzky has been clinical coordinator at Silver Maples of Chelsea for 15 months. She assesses and helps with the admission process of new residents, the ongoing medical assessment of residents, contacts doctors as needed, processes new medications and medication changes, and handles staff supervision and in-servicing.

"I truly love working with seniors," she says. "They are a wealth of knowledge and experiences that I love to hear about.

"I love working at Silver Maples. I feel the staff works very hard to assist the residents here with kindness and respect. I always say this is their home and we are privileged to work in their home."

A registered nurse and a graduate of Jackson Community College, Parkanzky initially worked at Foote Hospital in Jackson before spending eight years at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Superior Township. She then worked homecare for Chelsea Community Hospital for 10 years, and remains 'on-call' with CCH.

Parkanzky has been a great addition to the Silver Maples team, said Nancy Kelso, director of Assisted Living.

"Kim is by nature kind and compassionate, and we are fortunate to have that type of person and nurse here interacting with residents, staff, families, and the community," Kelso said.

Parkanzky and her husband Dan, a pharmacist, have called Chelsea home for 21 years. They have two sons — Max, a junior at MSU who hopes to become a veterinarian, and Sam, a senior at Chelsea High School.

Parkanzky, whose sons were active in CHS soccer and wrestling, is an athletic booster in Chelsea schools, has been very active in various school functions, and served on the Chelsea Education Foundation board.

Jerry Wilczynski, executive director of Silver Maples, said Parkanzky brings to her position strong clinical nursing skills and knowledge and previous experience working with older adults.

"Her knowledge, compassion, maturity, sound judgment and unflappable demeanor are tremendous assets to everyone here at Silver Maples, especially for all of the residents and their family members of The Meadows at Silver Maples of Chelsea," he said.

"Because Kim has worked in this community as a professional nurse for many years, there is a certain level of comfort and rapport that she enjoys with the seniors of Chelsea. We're very fortunate to have her on our staff.

"She's a very likeable person and that shows through in all of her human interactions."

Sheila Pursglove is a freelance writer. She can be reached at bingley51@yahoo.com.

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