

the OAK COTTAGE *of santa barbara* NEWS

January 2015

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*there is
no greater
love.*



In the News...

Welcome Joe!

Oak Cottage is thrilled to introduce the appointment of **Joe Franken** as the **Executive Director** for our new community. He brings with him a wide breadth of local experience in a variety of senior care settings. Oak Cottage will give him the opportunity to apply his skill sets to what we anticipate to be a very special home for residents challenged with cognitive decline and hospice needs.



Joe first came to California from the east coast in the 1970's. He began his life's work with the senior population at **Casa Dorinda**, a long-established life care community here in Santa Barbara. As Joe grew close to the people he worked with, he became increasingly aware of his passion to continue to engage with seniors as they entered the later stages of their lives. In his work, he helped to develop programming that allowed seniors to embrace

their unique histories, explore new ways of interacting with their environment, and to focus on new life achievements within this environment.

In the 1980's Joe was offered the opportunity to pursue his Nursing Home Administrator's license. He successfully completed the program, passing the State exam in the top of his class.

After 21 years of employment at Casa Dorinda, Joe moved through a variety of executive positions in many of Santa Barbara's most noted senior communities. Simultaneously, Joe held the position of the Los Padres Region's secretary, an organization now known as **Leading Age of California**.

In 2002, Joe and his young family moved from Santa



Joe's wife, Kimberlee, and their children Wes and Riley

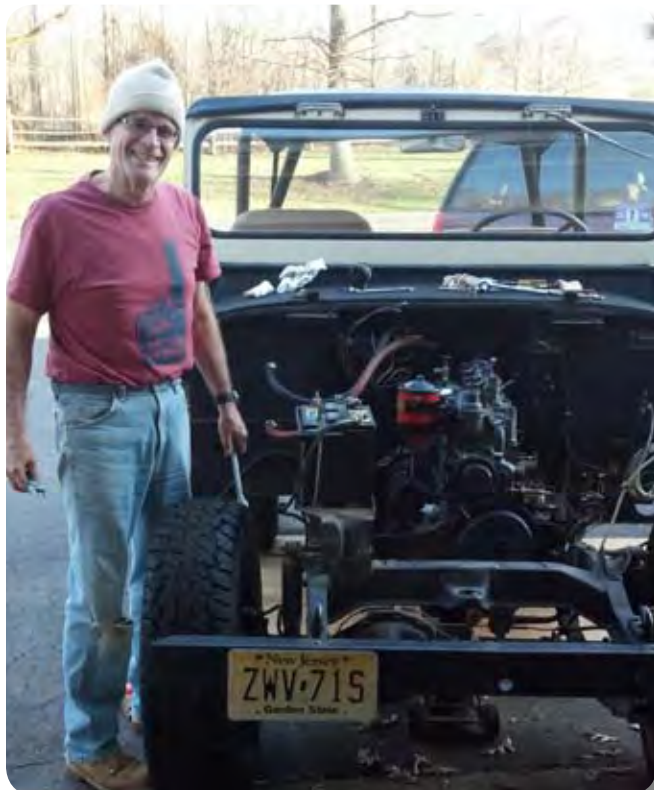
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In the News... (Cont. from front cover)

Barbara to the east coast, wanting to live closer to Joe's parents and siblings. It was at this time that Joe's employment led to an Administrative position at Burlington County's Buttonwood Hospital, followed by the position of Associate Administrator at The Masonic Home of New Jersey. Each of these large communities maintains 200 to 400 beds, and 400 to 500 employees.

Most recently, Joe led **Acacia Hospice (as its Administrator), to a Four-Star ranking** in the National "We Honor Veterans" program, being credited as New Jersey's first Non-Profit Hospice to do so.

The opportunity to be Executive Director at Oak Cottage of Santa Barbara sees Joe and his family returning to the Santa Barbara area. Joe's wife Kimberlee, a Registered Nurse, looks forward to continuing her nursing career on the west coast. Joe's son, Wes, is a senior in college, studying Landscape Contracting. Joe's daughter, Riley, will be graduating with her AA degree in the fall. In Joe's spare time, he has a passion for restoring vintage cars.



The need for personalized and family-based memory care services in Santa Barbara continues to grow. Joe is looking forward to applying his years of experience, as well as his personal desire to constantly improve upon the concept of residential care as the needs and preferences of seniors evolve here locally. He and the rest of our management team will be available to work directly with families and their loved ones in developing care programs that introduce warmth, safety, retention of skills, and joy in the every day.



Kimberlee's Buffalo Chicken Dip

Ingredients:

- 2 (10 ounce) Cans Chunk Chicken, drained
- 2 (8 ounce) Packages Cream Cheese, softened
- 1 cup Ranch Dressing
- 3/4 cup Pepper Sauce (such as Frank's)
- 1 1/2 cups shredded Cheddar Cheese
- 1 bunch celery, cleaned and cut into 4 inch pieces
- 1 large bag Tortilla Chips

Instructions:

Heat chicken and hot sauce in a large skillet over medium heat until warm. Stir in cream cheese and ranch dressing. Cook, stirring until well blended and warm. Mix in the shredded cheese, and transfer the mixture to a slow cooker. Cover, and cook on low setting until hot and bubbly. Serve with celery sticks and tortilla chips. Makes 5 cups.



In the News...

Welcome Matei!

Oak Cottage is also thrilled to introduce the appointment of **Matei Geanta** as the **Wellness Director** for our new community. Having been born in Arad, Romania to a family already deeply dedicated to the wellbeing of others his father being a successful physician and his mother a well-respected nurse you can almost say this path was pre-destined however, that was not to be the case early on. In 1989 Matei his mother and sister made the long and arduous journey to the states following the revolution ousting the communist regime in Romania. They settled in Santa Barbara following a brief stay in Los Angeles and begun their new lives. Matei attended Santa Barbara Junior High School followed by Santa Barbara High School and earning an AA degree with a minor in business management from Santa Barbara City College.



Through the early years Matei started a career in the financial industry, banking, which was to lead to him to achieving the role of Bank Manager of several local large banks, which he ran successfully for almost a decade.

In 2004 having been married and with a child on the way the journey back into the nursing field slowly begun. Following the successful management of a local Nursing Placement Agency the family decided to make a move to the east coast, Naples Florida, in 2005. Matei worked in several successful Nursing placement agencies around the Naples area, in a management role as well as in sales. This slowly exposed him to the great need and compassion needed for the ever-growing population of folks needing medical care. Having grown up with parents deeply involved in the care of people in need, Matei decided that it

was time to do more and enrolled in Nursing School in 2009. Following graduation at the **top of his class** and successfully passing the National Nursing Exam Matei begun his career in nursing. In Matei's spare time, he is an avid fisherman!



Matei and his family moved back to Santa Barbara in 2011 where Matei continued his work as a nurse gaining experience in several highly respected medical institutions such as **Santa Barbara**

Cottage Hospital, Casa Dorinda and Assisted Living where he worked in different capacities but with one common goal, to serve his patients.



In the News... (Cont. from page 3)



Matei's family



family recipe...

Matei's Eggplant Salad

Ingredients:

4 whole eggplants
 Half finely chopped onion
 1 TBS dried whole milk
 1 TSP olive oil, salt to taste, pepper to taste

Instructions:

Take 4 whole eggplants and begin roasting them on the open burners of your stove, (this will be messy and be sure to stand by as it is also a fire hazard) roast them equally on all sides until thoroughly blackened on all sides. Remove from fire and take out all contents of each eggplant being careful not to include any of the burned covers. Place the meat of the eggplant in a strainer and let it strain in the sink for several hours, 2. Place the eggplants on a cutting board and finely chop them until they become a fine paste. Add the rest of the ingredients in at this time and mix together. Place in the refrigerator and let it cool down over night.



Enjoy over toasted home made bread!

Construction Update



Construction is still on track for a soft-opening in mid-March. Currently we are installing drywall, exterior cementitious sheathing, completing the roof installation and connecting to all major utilities.



Construction Update



Some of our special amenities like an integrated Roam Alert system to protect our residents, a facility wide fire and smoke alarm system, and a commercial grade professional kitchen are also being installed as we speak. Later this month we will also be investing in a building wide wireless system for WIFI access as well as a wireless Sonos sound system. The sound system will be broken down into neighborhood “zones” so that we can personalize our playlists to suit our resident’s preferences and memories of musical performers they favored. Just around the corner (in early February), we will commence with the remainder of the site and landscape work, and will start the finish work at our neighborhood interiors. Stayed tuned for further updates on our progress!



Contact

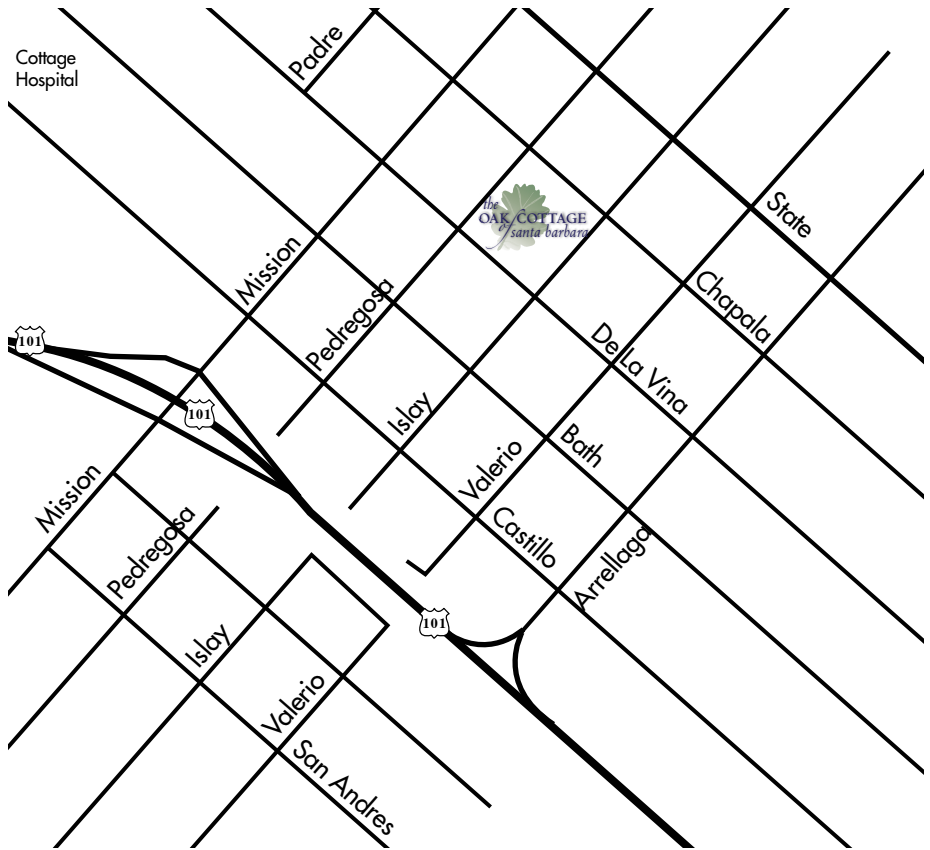
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Please forward our newsletter on to friends and family. We are welcoming additions to our email list and will be providing bi-monthly updates on our progress.

