Message from the Director

Welcome to the Summer 2015 Edition of The Veterans Gazette.

Our VAMC is undergoing many changes. From internal process improvements, to major parking lot and laboratory construction, we are making progress inside and out.

We are just completing our first phase of parking lot construction on the west drive and parking behind Buildings 2, 3, and 4. This we will continue with the entire north parking lot. This project will provide several additional spaces and better traffic flow.

We will also have a new all-season pavilion for Veteran and staff use. It is anticipated this will be completed this fall.

Our Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Department is also undergoing a complete renovation and with that we have increased the number of phlebotomy (lab draw) stations. You will now have labs drawn in the new area on the 2nd floor, which is located on your left just before you enter the lab department.

We continue to implement new initiatives to better care for Veterans. One such initiative is Whole Health which provides an opportunity for Veterans and VA staff to explore, discover, and reconnect to their purpose of partnering for better health outcomes.

As we continue to explore such initiatives, we hope you will begin to experience positive changes at your VA or Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Enjoy your summer!!!

-Ms. Peggy W. Kearns, Medical Center Director
Relationship Based Care

A new and exciting concept is being introduced in the Community Living Center to better personalize the care we are providing to Veterans. Each Veteran will have the opportunity to answer the question, “Who Am I?”

Just look at all of the things this Veteran is besides a patient. Getting to know the Veteran on a more personal level not only makes the Veteran feel special, but truly shows just how much the staff care.

Our VA is embarking on the **Whole Health Scope and Approach** whereby VA staff and Veterans explore, discover, and reconnect to their purpose. **Whole Health** refers to patient-centered care that affirms the importance of the relationship and partnership between the patient and their community of healthcare providers. The focus is on empowering the self-healing mechanisms within the whole person while co-creating a personalized, proactive, and patient-driven experience.

This approach is informed by evidence, and makes use of all appropriate therapeutic approaches, healthcare professionals, and disciplines to achieve optimal health and well-being. Learn more at: [http://www.va.gov/PATIENTCENTEREDCARE/what-patient-centered-care.asp](http://www.va.gov/PATIENTCENTEREDCARE/what-patient-centered-care.asp)
Our VA hosted the annual VA2K and Health Fair on May 20, 2015.

Several VA staff and family members/friends helped clean headstones at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan, on Saturday, April 18, 2015.

The VA held a successful Mental Health Summit in Traverse City to work with Community agencies on providing care and assistance to Veterans in the area.

Re-Creation performed for Veterans at the VA on May 13, 2015.

VA Staff and Family Participate in Memorial Day Parade in Saginaw.

Several VA staff and family members/friends helped clean headstones at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan, on Saturday, April 18, 2015.
**Veterans Community Action Teams (VCAT)** are being initiated in regions throughout the state of Michigan through the Department of Michigan Veterans Affairs. These teams are a collaborative effort in pooling community resources for Veterans which will include our VA and CBOCs for health and benefits. For more information, visit MichiganVeterans.com or call 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838.)

**PTSD Coach** and other resources are available for Veterans who are suffering with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Learn more at www ptsd va gov

**The Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Registry** is now available for Veterans at the VA.

Veterans inquiring about the Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Registry may learn more at the following website: https://veteran mobilehealth va gov /AHBurnPitRegistry/#page/home

In order to receive an examination Veterans MUST complete the registry at the link above PRIOR to being scheduled.

**Announcing New Staff**

We have a new Patient Advocate, Mr. Matthew Klosowski. He is a Retired Army Veteran and looks forward to working with Veterans and staff to help resolve issues that can’t be resolved at the departmental level.

We also have a new Eligibility Clerk, Adam Gonzalez, who joins Gary Bowersock. They can assist you with your eligibility questions and Veteran ID cards.

Our VA now has a dedicated learning channel in each of our waiting rooms. **Channel 79** brings information to Veterans and visitors on Whole Health Topics to include MOVE!, Women’s Health, PTSD, and more...
Community Events

Our VA will hold an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday, July 30, 2015 from 8:00 a.m.—2:45 p.m. in our Medical Center Auditorium.

A Veteran Stand Down will be held in Traverse City, Michigan on July 17, 2015 from 10:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. at the VFW Post 2780, 3400 Veterans Drive.

The purpose of this event is to provide services and information to Veterans who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness.

The VA and community agencies will be present to assist Veterans with a multitude of needs.

Veteran Community Town Halls are continuing throughout Michigan. We have had Veteran Community Town Halls in Saginaw, Traverse City, Clare, and Grayling thus far.

Our next Community Town Hall will be held in Mackinaw/Cheboygan County in August. Date, time, and location are being determined, however, they are widely publicized.

The goal of these town halls is to gather information from Veterans, their family members, and other community agencies and individuals to help VA identify areas for improving care and services.

The July 2015 Health Living Message

Eat Wisely: With a Focus on Diabetes

Veterans Health Administration
Camp Lejeune Program Eligibility Checklist

As authorized by the "Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012" and a subsequent law, the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is providing health care to eligible Veterans and reimbursement of medical expenses to family members who served on active duty or resided on U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with chemicals known as volatile organic compounds.

Enrolling Veterans Who Already Have VA Health Care Benefits:
- The Veteran must present his/her Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) and their health care status will also be confirmed.
- The Veteran will be registered through the Health Eligibility Center (HEC)
- Eligible Veterans will not be charged a copayment for the provision of medical services for the 15 conditions, nor will their third party health insurers be billed for these conditions.

Enrolling Veterans Who Have Not Yet Applied for VA Health Care Benefits:
- Veterans must meet all Federal requirements for Veteran health care benefits, per Title 38 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, in order to qualify for the Camp Lejeune Program:
  - A Veteran must have served on active duty in the military, naval, or air service.
  - The Character of Discharge must have been other than dishonorable (e.g., Honorable, General, or Under Honorable). Veterans who received an Other Than Honorable (OTH) discharge must submit VA Form 10-7131 and have their VA regional office review their character of service.
  - Minimum Duty Requirements: Persons enlisting in the Armed Forces after 9/7/80, or who entered on active duty after 10/16/81, must have completed 24 months continuous active service, or the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty. Exceptions are granted for specific reasons (e.g., early out, hardship, disability incurred in line of duty).
  - Former Reservists must have served full-time and for operational or support (excludes training) purposes.
  - Former National Guard members must have been mobilized by a Federal order.
- The Veteran does not need to have one of the 15 health conditions listed in the Camp Lejeune legislation to be eligible to receive VA healthcare, nor do they need a service connected disability to be eligible as a Camp Lejeune Veteran for VA healthcare.
- Staff will assist the Veteran with completing a 10-10EZ form.
- The Veteran will need to answer the question “Did you serve on active duty at least 30 days at Camp Lejeune from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987?”

Family Members
- The Veterans’ family members must apply for Camp Lejeune benefits separately from their Veteran. Although the Veteran does not need to be enrolled in VA health care, they must meet all VA health care and Camp Lejeune program eligibility requirements.
- Family members should apply by phone at 866-372-1144 or online at https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov
Special Program Points of Contact

Suicide Prevention Coordinator
989-497-2500, extension 11778

Former Prisoner of War Advocate
989-497-2500, extension 11798

Military Sexual Trauma Coordinator
989-497-2500, extension 15713

Multiple Sclerosis Coordinator
989-497-2500, extension 11440

Seamless Transition
989-497-2500, extension 11794

VA Caregiver Support Coordinator
989-497-2500, extension 11953

Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinators
989-497-2500, extension 11916 or extension 11694

Women Veterans Coordinator
989-497-2500, extension 11560

Suicide Prevention Hotline
1-800-273-8255
Press 1

PTSD Awareness
Learn, Connect, and Share
Visit
www.ptsd.va.gov
Community Based Outpatient Clinics

Clement C. VanWagoner
Department of Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
180 North State Avenue
Alpena, Michigan 49707

Bad Axe Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1142 S. Van Dyke Road
Bad Axe, MI 48413

Cadillac Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1909 N. Mitchell Street
Cadillac, MI, 49601

Cheboygan County
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
14540 Mackinaw Highway
Mackinaw City, MI 49701

Clare Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
11775 N. Isabella
Clare, MI 48617

Gaylord Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
806 S. Otsego
Gaylord, Michigan 49735
Community Based Outpatient Clinics

Grayling Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
1680 Hartwick Pines Road
Grayling, Michigan 49738

Oscoda Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
5671 Skeel Avenue, Suite 4
Oscoda, Michigan 48750

Traverse City Veterans Affairs
Community Based Outpatient Clinic
3271 Racquet Club Drive
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

Veterans Affairs Healthcare Annex
4241 Barnard Street
Saginaw, MI 48603

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center
1500 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
1-800-406-5143
Call Center—Extension 11230
Tele-Nurse—Extension 11240

The Veterans Gazette can be accessed at our website www.saginaw.va.gov to access the web links provided.