



May 23, 2024

Dear Residents, Families and Staff:

I trust this message finds you all in good health and spirits.

Throughout my many years of involvement with Villa Colombo Vaughan, I have been consistently enchanted by the vibrant spirit of our community. Our shared cultural heritage forms the cornerstone of our identity, and it is heartening to witness the culturally rich activities and programs that celebrate this heritage. From the joyous occasions of special celebrations to the everyday pleasures of baking, painting, and engaging in friendly visits, our community thrives on the bonds we share.

I urge each and every one of you to take note of the diverse activities, including the musical performances, featured on our calendar. Your presence and participation in these events not only enrich your own experience but also contribute to the warmth and vitality of our community. Whether you are a resident, a family member, or a dedicated staff member, your presence is valued and welcomed.

Let us continue to come together, to celebrate our heritage, and to create cherished memories that will sustain us through all seasons.

Activities

We are delighted to announce a series of upcoming events at Villa Colombo Vaughan, aimed at enriching the lives of our residents. On June 23rd, we will be hosting a Bake Sale in the Piazza from 11am-1pm. On June 9th, we will be hosting a seniors month event in our piazza from 1:45-2:45pm. We are encouraging all residents and families to attend. Throughout the month of June, in our Salone, we

will be hosting Euro Cup Italy Games Watch Parties. These will take place on June 15th, 20th and 24th at 3:00pm.

Last month, we said Farewell to Father Claudio Moser. Father Claudio has been an integral part of our community, touching the lives of many with his unwavering faith, compassion, and guidance. Whether it was through his uplifting sermons, his comforting presence in times of need, or his genuine care for each member of our community, Father Claudio has left a mark on us all. Starting in May, Father Siro Lunardon, who is familiar with Villa Colombo Vaughan, will be supporting our community.

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the Family Council at Villa Colombo Vaughan. The primary objective of this council is to foster enhanced communication and collaboration between family members and our dedicated team. The Family Council serves as a platform to identify areas for improvement, set goals, and develop actionable plans to achieve them. Through monthly meetings, which may be conducted virtually or in person, we aim to keep our community informed and engaged. Additionally, the council will provide educational resources on pertinent topics within our home and surrounding community. It will serve as a supportive environment where thoughts and opinions can be freely shared, ensuring that the voices of our residents and their families are heard and valued. Above all, our beloved residents remain at the heart of every decision made by the Family Council. We look forward to the positive impact this initiative will have on our community.

Volunteers

We extend our deepest gratitude to our invaluable volunteers whose unwavering support enriches our programs and brightens the days of our residents. Their dedication truly makes a difference at Villa Colombo Vaughan.

We are currently seeking enthusiastic individuals to join our volunteer team! Volunteers play a vital role in enhancing the lives of our residents through various activities including bingo, music socials, special events, baking, outings, and friendly visiting. Each volunteer contributes to fostering the warm atmosphere that defines our community.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, we encourage you to reach out to our new Volunteer Coordinator, Daniella, for more information on how to get involved.

Italian Heritage Month

June is dedicated to celebrating the significant contributions of Italian-Canadians to the fabric of our nation. It's a time to pay tribute to the remarkable achievements, enduring successes, and irreplaceable impacts that Italian immigrants and their descendants have given to Canada. Canada is home to more than 1.5 million Canadians of Italian descent, which makes it one of the largest Italian migration groups in the world.

The formal recognition of June as Italian Heritage Month in Ontario dates back to October 7, 2010, when Bill 103 was passed into law by the Provincial Legislature. This designation ensures that the rich cultural heritage and enduring legacy of Italians in Canada are forever honored and celebrated throughout the month of June.

Seniors Month

June holds a special significance as Seniors Month in numerous regions, serving as a dedicated period to honor and commemorate the remarkable contributions and achievements of older adults within communities. It stands as a moving reminder of the valuable role seniors play in shaping the fabric of society through their wisdom, experience, and dedication.

Seniors Month in June provides an opportunity for society to express gratitude and appreciation for the wealth of knowledge, skills, and wisdom that older adults bring to the table. It offers a platform to celebrate their limitless accomplishments, from professional achievements to volunteer efforts, which have enriched the lives of countless individuals and communities.

Quality Improvements

Palliative Care: Our team is committed to enhancing the consistency of our palliative care services by conducting comprehensive interdisciplinary

assessments of holistic needs for each resident. We aim to ensure these assessments are completed upon admission and whenever significant changes occur. Sharing the assessment results with family members facilitates discussions on how our team can best assist and ensure the residents' needs are met with compassion and understanding.

Support Groups: Our Support Groups offer families facing similar concerns an opportunity for socialization and mutual support. These groups provide a supportive environment for developing networks and coping strategies.

Fall Prevention: With a focus on resident safety, our goal is to reduce the incidence of falls and minimize associated injuries. Utilizing tools such as the Fracture Risk Score, we adopt a proactive approach to identify high-risk individuals and tailor care accordingly. By implementing preventive measures, we strive to create a safer environment for all residents.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: We are dedicated to fostering a respectful and inclusive workplace for our diverse team members. To achieve this, we aim to increase the number of staff members completing equity, diversity, and inclusion education upon hiring and annually thereafter. By enhancing understanding and awareness, we aim to bridge any gaps and promote a culture of respect and acceptance.

Education: to ensure the highest quality of care, our staff members will undergo training in Gentle Persuasive Approaches (GPA). This training equips them with practical strategies for confidently addressing behaviors associated with dementia. The training modules include an Introduction to Personhood, Brain and Behavior, The Interpersonal Environment, and Gentle Persuasive Techniques for Respectful Self-Protection, both individually and in teams. At Villa Colombo Vaughan, we are committed to providing compassionate care and creating a supportive environment for our residents and staff alike.

Resident Satisfaction: We are committed to continuously improving our services based on feedback. While 89.4% of residents highly agree that our team listens to their needs well, our goal is to raise this percentage to 92%. Ensuring residents feel heard and respected is paramount to their care and well-being.

Safety Measures

To prioritize the safety of our residents, staff, and visitors, we collaborate with York Region Public Health and UniversalCare to implement rigorous safety protocols. Visitors are required to sign in at the front desk for contact tracing purposes. We also encourage the use of masks, hand sanitization, and adherence to COVID-19 symptom guidelines.

Best Practice for Infection Control Measures

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, we kindly ask that you refrain from visiting until symptoms subside. Additional precautions include wearing a well-fitted mask in public settings, avoiding non-essential activities where mask removal is necessary, and refraining from visiting high-risk individuals or settings until fully recovered.

Donations

Despite the Ministry of Long-term Care (MoLTC) providing funds for the operational portion of the home and recognizing that you are paying for a service that is predetermined by the MoLTC, these amounts are not adequate to ensure that our delivery of service for our residents is executed at a level that is in keeping with our Italian Cultural values and traditions.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of Villa Colombo Vaughan's annual fundraising campaign for the 2024 season! Our goal is to grow our community of donors and acknowledge your valuable contributions to our residents, community, and home. We truly believe it takes a village to support a family, and we are immensely grateful to have you as a part of our Villa Colombo Vaughan family.

As a not-for-profit home, we rely on donations to support our valuable Italian cultural delivery of care, through supplies and incentives to help make our resident's quality of life unique and fulfilled. Kindly note when making the donation to support Villa Colombo Vaughan in the drop-down menu in the ["Donate Now" link on this page](#). Your donation would support future capital improvements, including our roof and resident furniture. We greatly appreciate all your generosity.

Thank you.

Sam Parisi

Director of Quality

Villa Colombo Vaughan