

Jenkins wants seniors to be safe at home

By Laura Mancuso
IVN Staff

Pat Jenkins, RN, MSN has been passionate about helping seniors for 50 years. This is one of the reasons she has started volunteering with the Illinois Valley Wellness Resources (IVWR) to provide low cost home safety evaluations for the community.

“After we get older, we fall a lot; I have fallen a couple times myself,” mentioned Jenkins and luckily she hasn’t hurt herself seriously.

Jenkins, the current vice president of the IVWR Board, shared some statistics from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention: Folks over 65 have a one in four chance of falling and those that have fallen once have a two-three times chance of falling again. One in five of those falls results in serious injury; broken bones or head injury. Over 800,000 people end up in the hospital as a result of falling and may have to heal in a nursing home or a rehab facility. Some are never able to live independently again.

“I’m getting old too and I want the elderly to stay in their own homes, safe, and stay in their homes as long as they can. And this is a way that I can do that. I don’t want to go somewhere else to live either and falls is a big one. Falls will pull someone out of their house quicker than anything else. People that fall, especially with a broken hip, have to go to rehab and they might never be able to go home and live independently - so they may end up in a nursing home or long term living facility, and I don’t want that to happen.”

Jenkins became involved with IVWR (formally I.V. Medical Center) three years ago when Robert Himing, board president was looking for an expert to tell him what seniors needed to stay in their homes. She was invited to a board meeting and has been on board ever since.

IVWR started looking at what kinds of things they could do to keep seniors living in their own homes by

putting out a community survey. The goal of the board is to keep people safe and independent in their own homes. “And I thought, ‘What could I personally do to kick-start this stuff?’” Jenkins said.

She explained that because she had been doing home safety evaluations for a long time, and could help people set up their medications it was a perfect fit for her. “I’m more than willing to do it and in my retirement it feels like a really good thing to do.”

Jenkins has been board certified through the American Nursing Association in geriatrics for about 35 years. She wants the community to know that when she does a safety evaluation she can only give suggestions. “I have to step back because these are your decisions. I can’t force anything and I wouldn’t dream of it. I just want people to have the knowledge so that they know what their options are.

“It is very important that people be honest with me when I’m doing an eval,” Jenkins said. She knows people hesitate to tell the truth because they are afraid of losing their independence. “I just need to get all the information to help them with their needs, and I won’t tell anybody, confidential for sure; just comes with the territory. I will make contact with a family member if they want, but the decision is strictly up to them. I’m on their side; that is why I’m doing it.

“I originally trained to be a nurse in the Women’s Army Corp. and was licensed as a registered nurse and worked in California for a long time,” Jenkins explained. She ended up going back east to Michigan after her divorce to be with her large family: mom, dad and eight siblings. Eventually, she moved 30 miles away to Indiana and lived there for 23 years where she raised her two sons, Jean Paul of Cave Junction and Denis of New Mexico.

Her experience with geriatrics is extensive and includes: management of a rehab unit and nursing homes, starting a geriatric nursing association, developing a shelter model for the abuse and neglect of



(Photo by Laura Mancuso, Illinois Valley News)

Pat Jenkins, RN, MSN prepares her home safety evaluation checklist at I.V. Wellness Resources Friday, Sept. 30.

the elderly, and volunteering for adult protective services for 17 years.

After 911 happened it bothered her very much to be away from her kids and ended up quitting her stressful management position at Mishawaka Community Hospital as director of transitional care and moved to Cave Junction to be with her son Jean Paul Dhenin and his family. She started out visiting for Christmas and then soon started looking for work in Southern Oregon. She quickly found a nursing job at Asante Three Rivers Medical Center.

For the past 15 years Jenkins has been living in the Valley with her most recent experience of owning her own business called RN Case Management Company where she

“helped with guardianships, was a Social Security rep payee, helped with money management, and was a foster care home consultant.” She started that company in 2006 and has recently just retired.

Jenkins said she started volunteering for IVWR because she wants to give back to the community and share her expertise.

She wanted the community to know that IVWR is looking for other volunteers to help seniors with firewood such as cutting, splitting and stacking. All volunteers must have background checks. You can contact IVWR at iwellnessresources@gmail.com.

Jenkins likes living in Cave Junction; she knows all her neighbors

and feels secure that they will help in the event of an emergency. So with her current state license and background check, she is ready to serve.

Any senior in the Illinois Valley is eligible to call Jenkins to do a home safety evaluation and they will be provided with a checklist. She can also set up medications, help with doctor appointments and assist with the hiring of caregivers. And another bonus about Jenkins is that she has a flexible schedule to accommodate her clients’ needs; she is even willing to go out to homes on weekends or evenings. You can call Jenkins at 541-415-0465 to receive services with a “minimal charge.”



FARMER'S ILLINOIS VALLEY

BUILDING & FEED SUPPLY

Your Complete Knowledge Center Headquarters For Your Next Project!

At Farmer's there's always something going on. Weekly specials and "in-store only" special purchase items are changing from day to day, and week to week. At Farmer's you'll find quality products and people to give you the "how to's" when you need help on a special project. Visit Farmer's today – family owned and a part of our community since 1962.

GREAT FALL SPECIALS AT IV BUILDING SUPPLY!

Milwaukee Save \$100 when you purchase a qualifying Fuel Kit & Accessory. BIG Selection!

After \$100 Instant Discount!

\$299.99 Reg. Price \$399.99

#2897-22

Available Now!

Get a **FREE M12 Battery** when you purchase a heated Milwaukee Jacket

Colors available: Black, Gray, Camo

42 Gal Trash Bags • Contractor grade • Heavy duty

Buy 2 & Get the 3rd FREE!

#647926 Reg. Price \$14.49

Must buy two to get the third free.

Great Assortment of Fall Bulbs

- Garlic • Onion
- Daffodils • Hyacinth
- Tulips • And More

3 Gal. Gold Threadleaf Cypress

Low Price

\$29.99

#768968124700

*Special Order Only

12"-15" Norway Spruce

Low Price

\$17.99

#780175001131

*Special Order Only

Eddie's Dogwood White Wonder B&B

Low Price

\$84.99

#CORF0EWB45

*Special Order Only

Now Open! Small Engine Repair Shop

• All Brands • All Models

Bring Your Chain Saw for a Tune-up & Get 10% Off on Parts!

29 oz. Subfloor Adhesive

• All weather • Eliminates squeaks

Low Price **2/\$7.00**

#265741 or \$5.88 ea.

Must buy two to get special pricing.

Husqvarna 435 Chainsaw

• 16" Bar • 40.9CC

Low Price **\$269.95**

#702631

Husqvarna 150BT Backpack Blower

251 MPH

Low Price **\$299.95**

#702672

Get a **FREE Miter Saw Stand** when you purchase a DeWalt Miter Saw

Model DWS780

Low Price **\$599.99** Reg. Price \$609.99

#336265

DeWalt 10" Jobsite Table Saw

Low Price **\$539.99** Reg. Price \$599.99

#347253

541.592.3540

Mon - Fri: 7 am - 5:30 pm & Sat: 8 am - 5 pm

434 Caves Hwy - Cave Junction

Lumber | Doors | Windows | Hardware | Paint | Plumbing | Ranch

Buy online 24 hours a day at www.farmersbuildingsupply.com

You are invited to a new seminar

“Unlock Revelation”

You will discover right from the Bible the true meaning of Revelation’s mysterious symbols. Find clear answers to your Bible questions.

Why Study Revelation?

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.” *Rev. 1:3*

Our Speaker:

John Weston presents a dynamic presentation on Bible Prophecy in a compelling and relevant way. These presentations are well illustrated with beautiful Power Point pictures on the screen that make each subject easy to follow and understand.

*To get your free DVD “Daniel Chronicles” you can pre-register online at www.UnlockRevelation.com Click on Cave Junction.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ: *Rev. 1:1*

With Jesus as the focus you will discover beautiful hope in Bible Prophecy, and the certainty of Christ’s care for us through the final events of earth’s history.

Come on over to the Seventh-day Adventist Church

265 Old Stage Road, Cave Junction

Starting Monday Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. Come and be blessed!

Monday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. Our Day in Bible Prophecy

Tuesday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. The Master Key to Bible Prophecy

Thursday, Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. The War Behind All Wars

Friday, Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. Unfolding the Revelations

Saturday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. Revelation’s Global Peace Plan