

FROM THE MAIN GATE

March 2023

The Hershey's Mill Security Department responds to hundreds of emergency calls within Hershey's Mill each year. In fact, one-third of our local ambulance company medical calls occur in Hershey's Mill; and our Security Department responds to each one, as we are dispatched to emergencies within Hershey's Mill at the same time as local emergency services.

Some of these medical calls are dispatched as, or have developed into, a cardiac arrest situation for the patient, requiring Security staff and emergency services personnel to administer CPR and utilize an AED (automated external defibrillator) to attempt to save the patient's life. For this reason, we carry an AED in our Patrol Vehicle so that we can quickly provide intervention during a cardiac arrest situation, usually before emergency services arrives on scene. In most cases, the quick initialization of CPR and AED use have helped restore some form of heart rhythm by the time the patient is loaded into the ambulance.

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) can happen to anyone – anywhere. Immediate treatment is vital, and a victim's chance of survival dramatically decreases for every minute without treatment. According to the American Heart Association (AHA) Guidelines, when bystanders provide CPR and use an AED to deliver a shock within 3-5 minutes of collapse, or before emergency services arrive, survival rates can increase as high as 70%.

This is why I was grateful to have been approached by members of our HMC-TV organization regarding HMC-TV's desire to purchase additional AED's to be placed in each of our community buildings. This wonderful, very charitable donation by HMC-TV now allows us to house AED's in the following locations:

- Community Center (on the wall in the main entrance foyer)
- Sullivan House (on the wall between the dining room and kitchen)
- Wood Shop (on the wall opposite the main entrance)
- Cove (on the wall between the Cove doors leading to the pool deck)
- HMC-TV (on the wall in the office)

These AED's are fully automated and were specifically designed with the minimally trained responder in mind, as even minimally trained users can use these AED's to quickly begin lifesaving care in just 2 steps:

1. Open the AED lid and bare the patient's chest. (cut/remove any shirt/clothing)
2. Pull the red handle and apply the electrodes to the patient. (using pictures provided on the electrodes).

Understandably, intervening in an unfolding emergency can be intimidating; but these AED's use the following features to help users remain calm and focused:

- Simple, bold graphics that allow both trained and untrained AED users clearly know how to begin.

- CPR-compatible analysis technology that allows the AED to determine whether a shock is needed without the rescuer stopping chest compressions.
- Metronome and CPR coaching, where the AED will use a metronome sound to set an effective pace for chest compressions and audibly guide users in CPR instructions, correcting technique as needed.
- The ability to toggle the AED into Child Mode, which will allow the AED to provide CPR guidance appropriate for children.

Short of carrying itself to the scene of an emergency and applying the electrode pads all by itself, these AED's can perform just about every other function necessary in determining the need for, and administering, a life-saving shock...all while instructing bystanders how to perform life-saving CPR.

Our Security Department would like to say a special **“Thank You”** to HMC-TV for their generosity, and I am sure many residents who understand the significance of this donation would echo that sentiment.

