

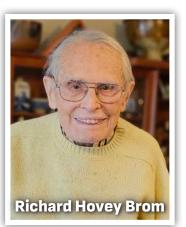
Western Home Communities is a charitable Christian service organization that assertively creates fulfilling lifestyles for those we serve, their families and our employees.

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Third floor gets a name: Brom Family Cottage at The Deery Suites

Hovey Brom looks back and recalls an interesting life. He lived through the Great Depression, survived a tragic accident as a teenager, served active duty in Europe during World War II, thrived in a 64-year marriage and worked for more than six decades as a successful architect.



Now the 98-year-old resident of Prairie Wind is giving back to Western Home Communities.

"It just seemed logical," he says, humbly. "I just felt it would be good to express my thanks for all the things I've done with them."

Brom's work with Western Home Communities began with designing a dining room renovation and expansion of the

downtown building in the late 1980s. That led to his firm becoming the architects for Martin Health Center and Iowa's first retirement communities – Willowwood, Windgrace and Windermere.

The connection became personal years later, when his wife, Marge, suffered strokes and moved to what is now Martin Suites. She then became one of the first residents of Thuesen Cottage when it opened in June 2015.

Continued on page two

Marge and Hovey at a Waterloo Rotary picnic in 2012. Photo courtesy Waterloo Rotary Club.





"We were always pleased with her care, which was very good," Hovey says.

From Marge's room on the south side of the cottage, they watched Prairie Wind being built. It seemed natural that he would move in as he realized their home had become too much to manage.

He still went into the office daily until six years ago, at 92. Hovey now enjoys life surrounded by music, books, and art – much of it the sculptures and watercolors he created. Vivid details from high school, college and the war flow easily during conversation.

"I first got to know Hovey during my college internship at Western Home, as he worked on the dining room project, and it's been a joy," says President of Cedar Falls Operations Jerry Harris. "We're honored that he made this investment and happy that his family legacy will be recognized for decades to come at The Deery Suites."



Hovey and Marge pose outside Martin Suites in spring 2015, shortly before her move to The Cottages. Photo courtesy of the Waterloo Courier.



Open house for new construction villas

Tell your friends and former neighbors who haven't made the move to WHC: A public open house is scheduled so potential buyers can see for themselves what villa living looks like.

601 and 611 Wild Rye Way Sunday, March 24 ■ 1–3 p.m.



Note: The open villas are reserved; Phase10B villa construction is already underway on the north side of Wild Rye Way and some lots remain available there. **Event is weather permitting and will be canceled if it rains.**





Surviving an active shooter

Cedar Falls police lieutenant Dennis O'Neill will present the course, "A Citizen's Response to Active Shooter Situations," for the next Friends program on **Monday, March 11**, at 10:30 a.m. in the Windcove dining room.

"The goal is for participants to sit, listen and learn," said Lt. O'Neill. "We don't want people to be afraid, but we do want them to be prepared with accurate safety information and procedures...[as] active shooting incidents across the nation have not slowed down."



Swing and sway to big band tunes

On **Thursday, March 28**, Friends of WHC and Fortified Life will co-host the Cedar Valley Big Band from 4:30–7:30 p.m. at Diamond Event Center. Plan now to attend this live concert featuring talented local musicians playing all the great swing standards!

Save these dates

▶ The 2024 Volunteer Appreciation event will be **Wednesday, April 17**, from 9–10:30 a.m. at Diamond Event Center. All Western Home Communities volunteers are welcome! No invitations will be sent, so mark your calendar now.

A memorial service of remembrance honoring those who have died in our care from July 1– Dec. 31, 2023, will be held **Sunday, April 24**, during Fresh Wind Worship service.

Register now for Teepa Snow

Teepa Snow of A Positive Approach to Care[®] brings her interactive approach to learning about dementia to Diamond Event Center on **June 11 and 12** from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. with lunch included.



Teepa presents in a non-threatening, user-friendly style with extraordinary expertise and humor. Anyone who wants to understand more about brain change and improve the culture of dementia care is welcome. **Visit westernhome.org/teepa to select your date and purchase tickets.**



Western Home Foundation and Western Home Communities appreciate being honored through estate gifts, memorials and other donations. We list donor names each month as



one way of thanking donors for their generosity. This list reflects gifts received through Feb. 8, 2024. For information on supporting Western Home Foundation, contact Director of Administrative Services Susan Steffy at susan.steffy@westernhome.org or (319) 222-2022.

In memory of: Bob Beach (directed to the Employee Appreciation Fund)

Shirley Merner Michael & Jan Reifsteck Richard & Martha Stanford

Sandra Brasch Robert Robinson

David Briden Jane Briden

Sue DeBower

Richard & Martha Stanford

Barbara Kirkle Mary Franken

Raymond Kuhlman

Marjorie Behrens Larry Brandt

Steve McCrea

Marlys Folkers Dennis Staebell Richard & Patricia Sulentic

Norbert Roy

Robert & Jodi Feser Mary Franken JoAnn Johnson Bea Koontz Donna Pohl Ned Ratekin Norbert Roy Family Joan Rozendaal Barb Seufferlein Dianne VanGorp Bonnie Wissink Rachelle Yousefi

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Use your IRA for a gift annuity

Support WHC and receive income at the same time

If you're 70¹/₂ or older, you can make a one-time election of up to \$53,000 from your IRA to fund a charitable gift annuity (married couples can donate a total of up to \$106,000 in 2024).

Consider these benefits:

- > You'll receive steady monthly income for life.
- > You'll likely save on taxes since the distribution doesn't count as taxable income.
- > You'll leave a legacy to Western Home Communities.

Bonus: Payout rates climbed again on Jan. 1 to their highest level in 16 years. This means you earn more income each month.

Want to know more about using this asset – or your anticipated refund from Western Home Communities – to create a charitable gift annuity?

Attend a free lunch 'n learn on Thursday, March 14 at 11:30 a.m. Light lunch will be served, so RSVP to Susan Steffy in the foundation office: susan.steffy@westernhome.org or (319) 222-2022.







CHAPLAIN'S CORNER Spring and Easter, every day! *by Director of Spiritual Care Enrique "Q" Ochoa*

"Sing a new song to the Lord! Let the whole earth sing to the Lord...Each day proclaim the good news that he saves." Psalm 96:1-2.

Like many of you about to read this article, I love spring! March is the time of the year where winter is "closing shop" and ready to open the doors for the coming of warmer weather. Ever since I was a child, I remember conversations with my mother about how amazing it truly is that life comes back to trees, fields, gardens and plants that through the cold winter months seemed so dead! I believe that we are truly witnessing a tangible miracle of the Lord when we see a brown patch of winter ground give way to green grass and color-filled blooms and flowers.

2024 is a fairly rare year where Easter Sunday lands in the month of March, the 31st to be exact. What is not rare is that we are invited to ponder the significance of what is celebrated on Easter every year: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

According to Scripture, Jesus - the Son of God was crucified and his dead body was placed in a cold, dark tomb. We are told that he did this *willingly*, to put the punishment upon himself for all the sins of humanity, including yours and mine. The kicker is that he paid with his life, even though he committed no sin himself!

Now don't miss this: A holy God *accepted* this sacrifice - and demonstrated his power - by raising Jesus from the dead. No one else has that kind of power! Talk about a miracle! What was once dead, is now alive; what was once far off from God, can now be close to him. We are told that by faith in the risen Christ, we too can experience the hope and the miracle of new life. Death is no longer the final word for a believer.

Spring and the holiday of Easter come but once a calendar year; the invitation to live in the power and abundant life found only through faith in the risen Jesus is an every day invitation! Will you let him show you this miracle?

"For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:19

Join us for weekly worship at Diamond Event Center

All are welcome at Fresh Wind Worship services on **Sundays at 10:30 a.m.** We invite you to participate in a time of music, fellowship and exhortation.

Recordings of the services continue to be broadcast on CFU Cable channel 18 or 95.5 at 11 a.m. on Sundays and 3 p.m. on Wednesdays, and they are posted on the Fresh Wind YouTube channel and Facebook page.

Residents should refer to their monthly calendars for information on Bible studies, communion services and other spiritual opportunities in their communities.

Volume 28, Issue 3



SCENES OF THE SEASON



Dancing of all types was enjoyed at this year's Valentine's dance!



Dick and Linda Buchanan (left) and Elaine and Mick Rosenau (right) share a laugh with Director of Resident Relations Maria Murphy at the Valentine's dance.



Windermere residents Aileen Sandell, Marcia Jensen, Donna Hansen, Milly Martin and Carol Watson looking sharp in pink and red at their Valentine's party!



Prairie Wind residents Ned Ratekin, Carol Black, Marianne Trent, Bea Koontz, and Bette and Dave Lewis (left to right) visit with resident coordinator Sara Kolthoff at their Mardi Gras party.

The greatgranddaughter of Prairie Wind resident Dick Domrath loves to visit Gilmore, the pub's namesake lion.





Lorna Ericson, Barb Jacobson, Marcia Colwell, Connie Herbon and Connie Rasmussen enjoying valentine festivities at Windridge.



Villa residents on Iris Drive gather monthly for fun events...in January, it was a chili cook-off!

Joan Rozendaal, Neva Kaesser, Darlene Hansen, Carol Black and Prairie Wind resident coordinator Sara Kolthoff.





Model train takes over villa bedroom

The first thing you notice about Gary Brown's model train town is its sheer size. It takes up nearly the entire third bedroom of the villa he and his wife, Donna, have called home since 2008.

As you get closer, the intricate details delight: Trees ablaze in fall color. A campground dotted with tents, Airstream trailers and canoeists on the water. Lighted windows in the shops and homes. Signals that flash and crossing arms that close where streets intersect with track.

And let's not forget the trains, all six of them: three for passengers, one for tankers, one for containers, and another carrying John Deere tractors. They meander from one end to the other. Gary uses a command station to change directions and sound their horns.

"I've pretty much got it finished now," he says, but you get the feeling he might still make a few tweaks. After all, he's been working on this hobby since early 2019. He started with one base module, then decided to add two more – that's when the extra bed had to go. It's all built at N scale. The Lionel trains you may recall from childhood are O scale, about four times larger.

"You can pack so much more in a small size, and I've got a lot going on here," he admits.

His layout includes neighborhoods, shopping districts, an implement dealer, barrel factory, industrial areas and a park. The design process unleashed a creative side Gary never knew he had.

"I'm more a geeky kind of guy," says the former business owner. "And so the artistic part comes when you're doing the build of the model as you look for things to make it more realistic, the trees, the grass. And that's what I've never been good at before."

Gary enjoys it so much that he's not done yet. He's working on an even smaller Z scale model in their garage, and last summer he laid tracks outside for an O scale that Donna requested to enhance their landscaping.



Gary Brown stands near his model train town, housed in a former bedroom of his and Donna's villa.





Every proper city in lowa must have a John Deere implement dealer!

westernhome.org/gary-brown.





WELLNESS HAPPENINGS

by Director of Wellness Morgan Lehmann



Rotating Class: Pickleball Agility

Wednesdays in March 12:30–1:00 p.m. JP Wellness Center Classroom

Get ready for spring: This class will focus on agility drills that can translate to the pickleball court.



Get yourself ready for a rousing game of pickleball.



DeMaris Hochhalter makes a shot at the 2023 Bean Bag World Series.

Bean Bag Baseball World Series

9 a.m. on Friday, March 22 Diamond Event Center

Spectators welcome to cheer on the teams as they compete!



This group donned red and gathered to walk for their heart health on national Wear Red Day on Feb. 2.

Showing their colors on Wear Red Day were, from left, George Ahrenholz, Hannah Collier, Jake Bates and Erika Kramer.



Grosse Aquatic & Fitness Center will open at 5 a.m. beginning March 1.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

A new monthly series by villa resident and volunteer Jim Volgarino

This family began the Western Home legacy

Some six million Germans moved to the United States from 1820 to the start of World War I, seeking new opportunities, an escape from political oppression and the ability to practice their faith freely.

Among them were Heinrich "Henry" Pfeiffer and his wife, Anna Barbara. He set up a lager brewing operation in Lewiston, Penn., in 1853, but eventually wanted to head farther west. They landed in Dubuque for a year before traveling by train and ox cart to Cedar Falls, where Henry established the young community's first lager beer brewery; it operated until 1882 when Iowa became a dry state.

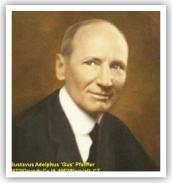
The couple's 10 children included Henry Jr. (1857), Paul (1868) and Gustavus Adolphus, or Gus (1872). At the age of 25, Henry Jr. married Annie Merner, daughter of John and Anna Marie Merner, one of the town's original pioneer families.

The couple made their home above the Pfeiffer drug store at 303 Main Street, which today houses Main Street Exchange. Henry Jr., Paul and Gus also operated other drug stores in Parkersburg and Oelwein.



Henry and Gus decided to move to St. Louis in 1891, entering the pharmaceuticals industry as the Pfeiffer Chemical Company. Paul soon followed, and they built the company through acquisitions that ultimately made them very well-to-do.





Henry Pfeiffer Jr.

Gustavus "Gus" Pfeiffer

The brothers moved to Philadelphia and then New York City. Paul decided big city life was not for him, so he moved to Arkansas and established his own philanthropic legacy. Henry Jr. and Gus, along with their wives Annie and Louise, gave millions of dollars to dozens of organizations, including colleges and libraries.

Cedar Falls beckoned the brothers back often. Their father died here in 1903 and their mother in 1908. In 1911, they offered the family home and land plus \$20,000 for construction so the family's longtime denomination, the Evangelical Association, could build an elder care home known as The Western Old People's Home.

The Pfeiffers gave more money for building additions in the 1920s. Gus also sent each resident a gold coin for Christmas starting in 1912 and continuing into the 1920s.

The drug store location is now the site of Main Street Exchange; the corner business is now Caboose Stop Hobbies at 3rd and Main.



Old-fashioned research helps when tracing family history

Fourth in a series by Prairie Wind resident Dave Nation

We may live in the digital age, but not all historic records are online. That's when a trip to your local library, genealogical society or courthouse could be helpful.

Libraries often have genealogy sections where you might find family histories or newspaper archives. A genealogical society may have volunteers to help you do research with their collections.

I visited the Black Hawk County courthouse in Waterloo and discovered an interesting collection of resources on the second floor at the County Recorder's office. A room off to the side contains large, heavy books with records including plat maps, and indexes to deeds and contracts.



The Black Hawk County courthouse contains a treasure trove of information regarding land transactions.

The indexes refer to a book and page number for records that are available in the same room on microfiche. There is a self-service computer that can be used to display the actual documents and to print copies (for a fee). The indexes are handwritten and grouped by letters of the alphabet for a period such as January 1931 to December 1938. Entries are listed twice, once by the last name of the grantor who sold the property and once by the grantee who bought it.

There are also details for each deed identifying the section, township, range, and a description.

If you're not familiar with the US Public Land Survey System (USPLSS) it can be a little intimidating, but with a little detective work you can work out the progression of properties that your ancestors owned. You can also use these descriptions to find the properties on plat maps from different time periods, which are in the same room. Looking at



These land deed records date back to 1854 and are stored at the Black Hawk County courthouse.

the actual deed will give additional information such as the price paid for the property.

Another rich source of information is available in wills and probate records. These can be requested on the third floor at the Clerk of Court's office. If you provide a name and date of death, they will look for records and return microfilm of any documents found. There is a freely accessible computer that is equipped to read microfilms and you can request copies of what you find.

With a combination of these resources, I was able to understand how property was distributed after my ancestors' deaths and, in some cases, how it was lost due to the Great Depression.

Finding physical records in the area your ancestors lived can provide a more complete picture of their lives and a better understanding of what life was like back then.

To find genealogical societies in Iowa, visit iowagenealogy.org. Want to learn more about family histories in Cedar Falls? The Historical Society can help. Visit cfhistory.org/historical-research.

Happy March birthday!

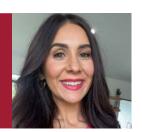
Norm Gerdes	VTH	March 1	Amy Lindgren	
Joan Loslo	VTH	March 1	Darlene Surface	
Kurt Wiethorn	WHAL	March 2	Mary Lou Dean	
Jean Zarifis	WR	March 2	Denny McGivern	
Carol Watson	WM	March 3	Wendy Schmitt	
Gene Haller	WC	March 4	Rosalie Tentinger	
Karen Kavlick	VTH	March 4	Bob Grosse	
Jay Edelnant	VTH	March 5	Bill Snyder	
Larry Leutzinger	PW	March 5	Blair Thielen	
Rick Heth	VTH	March 6	Marcia Woolley	
George Jorgensen	VTH	March 6	Kathy Amrhein	
Ginny Casteel	PW	March 7	Jeff Hansen	
Lillian Shoemaker	WC	March 7	Joan Kussatz	
Dean Dreyer	VTH	March 8	Beverly Murphy	
Betty Prusha	TS	March 8	Bette Lewis	
Ken Cox	VTH	March 9	Deb Panther	
Kathleen Earnest	MS	March 9	Reno Rodeghiero	
Marlene Hartman Sheetz	VTH	March 9	LaVerne Puetz	
Marylou Treichel	VTH	March 9	Nancy Colvin	
LaRue Boom	VTH	March 10	Jeanne Fritts	
Bob Diedrichs	PW	March 10	Judy Pfalzgraf	
Stan Paterni	WG	March 10	Joanne Tefft	
Philip Schroeder	VTH	March 11	Dee Way	
Pam Kragt	CTG	March 12	Kathryn Warhol	
Shirley Uehle	VTH	March 12	Chuck Amrhein	
Jo Grover	WG	March 15	Norman Kitchen	
Dennis Hagenow	VTH	March 15	Ron Moehlis	
Marleta Matheson	PW	March 15	Ken Morlan	
Margie Polacek	PW	March 15	Gary Sheetz	
Jani Rothlisberger	VTH	March 15	Ruth Tomson	
Susan Tapper	VTH	March 15	John Hartman	
Jane Anderson	VTH	March 16	Mary Jo Woody	
Carol Eastman	WC	March 17	Milly Martin	



Congratulations!

The following employees are celebrating a milestone anniversary at Western Home Communities this month. Join us in thanking them for their service and dedication.

MAJA ALICIC 5 years March 4 Speech Language Pathologist





MARK EGGLESTON 5 years March 11 Spiritual Care Administration & Visitation Chaplain

MICHELLE LADWIG 32 years March 25 Hospitality Coordinator, MS

ospitality oordinator, MS

Thank you, shuttle drivers!

Meet the Employee of the Month, **STEPHANIE BERKY**



Stephanie works as a resident coordinator at Windcove. She has been part of the Western Home Communities family for almost 17 years, since May 2007.

Here are a few things residents said about Stephanie:

- Stephanie is always there and very helpful.
- She is a good cook and we love to eat!
- Stephanie goes the extra mile to meet our every need.
- > She does everything with a smile.
- Stephanie is a great team player.

Your Western Home Communities family congratulates you, Stephanie, on being named our Employee of the Month for February 2024.

The volunteer shuttle service is off and running, thanks to the dedication of a dozen drivers. Residents report their gratitude for the new weekday service that takes them to and from buildings on south campus. We appreciate the volunteers who've made this happen!

Back row, from left: WHC Cedar Falls President Jerry Harris, Ron Leibold, Pat Brickley, Rodney Tomson, Larry Peterson and Glenn Groothuis; front from left, LaVerne Middleswart, Director of Lifestyle Enrichment Carolyn Ayers, Carol Brickley, Bob Clark, Greg Hankins, Duane Moreau and Director of Safety and Transportation Mark Abernathy. Not pictured are Mick Reifsteck and Jim Hanson.





Notes of appreciation

The rose vase was very thoughtful and lovely. Thank you for caring for our father. Your service is so important! Many blessings to all of you. **The Robert Hayes family**

When my mother, Clare Staebell, lived in Windridge, she was well taken care of. I had no idea that everyone here could be my "grief catcher." It has always been, how can we help? Steve was happy to move here from the time our name was on the waiting list. My thanks to the first responders, Fortified Life, and Jorgensen Plaza event center staff. *Kathy and the family of Steve McCrea*



Clean up in March

Clean up or pamper yourself. Soaps, lotions, essential oils and more are 20% off in March.



The Market is open Monday - Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Coffee is available weekdays at 7 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Building Abbreviations

Cottages, Nation & Thuesen	CTG
Deery Suites	
Martin Suites	MS
Prairie Wind	PW
Stanard Family Assisted Living	
at Deery Suites	SFALDS
Thalman Square Memory Support	TS
Villas & Townhomes	VTH
Windcove	WC
Windgrace	WG
Windhaven Assisted Living	WHAL
Windermere	WM
Windridge	WR

The Journal is a monthly publication of the WHC office of communications and public relations. To subscribe, ask questions, offer content suggestions or unsubscribe, please contact Linda Maughan, editor, at (**319**) **222-2025** or **Linda.Maughan@WesternHome.org**.

IN SYMPATHY

Michael Blevins, CTG	Feb. 17
Richard Berky, MS	Feb. 16
Shirley Harris, MS	Feb. 16
Judith Metzger, CTG	Feb. 8
Diane Weston, DS	Feb. 1
Bobbye Callahan, CTG	Feb. 1
Lester Nighswonger, DS	Jan. 28
Richard Monson, CTG	Jan. 26
Ron Jones, CTG	Jan. 22
Claire "Skip" Merfeld, WG	Jan. 21
Barb Kirkle, PW	Jan. 20



5307 Caraway Lane Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

westernhome.org

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Looking for great food? You're in luck!

Try our March features and feel your taste buds dance.

March 7, 8 & 9 • Catfish Sandwich \$18

Fried catfish topped with house-made pickles, savory gochujang honey and green cabbage all pressed between a toasted bun.

March 14, 15 & 16 • Reuben \$18

garnished with green onions.

Oven-roasted corned beef topped with sauerkraut and house-made Thousand Island dressing on toasted marble rye bread.

March 21, 22 & 23 • Salmon Béarnaise \$32 Pan-seared salmon béarnaise served alongside roasted asparagus, smashed baby bakers and

March 28, 29 & 30 • Prime Rib \$28 Sliced local prime rib served with a loaded baked potato and seasonal vegetable.

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