

# The Journal

April 2022

Volume 26, Issue 4

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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# Villa resident discovers Legos aren't just for kids

It doesn't take long to see why assembling Legos is fun at any age. They're detailed, colorful and challenging.

Bev Fish found this out when the pandemic began and, suddenly, she couldn't volunteer, travel or attend sporting events. She needed a way to keep busy. By chance, she discovered Lego.com and their large and complex sets specifically designed for adults.

The first set she completed was a gingerbread house "I was going to do one and be done

a gingerbread house. "I was going to do one and be done. I could put the gingerbread house away after the holidays," she said. But the process appealed to her detail-oriented nature and the hobby grew. So far, she has completed 25 to 30 sets.

Continued on page two



of the first Lego sets Bev completed,



A bird of paradise is a surprising Lego set and it doesn't need watering!

*Continued from page one* 



Bev's completed pirate ship is a '3-in-1' Lego set with 1,260 pieces; it features moving sails, cannons, pirates, and a shark.

"I didn't want my home to look like a Lego store, so a couple of my nephews who live out of state receive many of the sets and they rebuild them during their school breaks," she says.

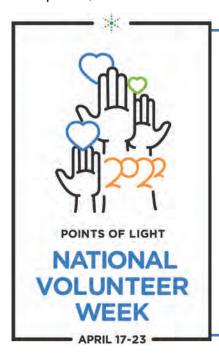
She is currently working on another challenging build of a pickup truck. Like most of the sets she completes, it has more than 1,600 pieces. A few



other completed sets include Minions, Harry Potter buildings, a motorcycle, a houseboat and a pirate ship that measures 18" long and 14" high.

Bev, a villa resident since 2015, said Legos are easy to pick up and put down as time allows so she's not sure how long it takes to complete a set. She admits that it takes patience and focus. She receives the Lego newsletter, shops at the online store and takes advantage of VIP customer rewards.

Bev prefers interacting with people but does plan to keep up with her new hobby even as she pursues other opportunities again. "There's satisfaction in seeing them built."



## Volunteers invited to recognition event

Anyone who has donated their time to serve Western Home Communities in some way is invited to a celebration of volunteers this month.

You are appreciated and we want to recognize you. Have you created greeting cards, written notes, pulled weeds, collected recycling? There are many ways to volunteer and we honor them all!

Consider this your personal invitation. Come celebrate and reconnect with others over a light breakfast at Diamond Event Center.

Thursday, April 28 9 – 11 a.m.

## Saying goodbye to winter...

Great timing: Snow and cold started to fade just as COVID-19 levels dropped and many restrictions were eased, which brought smiles all around!





Marlys Cook and Janet Williamson made everyone smile at Mardi Gras!

Ron & Mary Bro enjoyed Mardi Gras refreshments.



Bonnie Bickett with grandson Dane.



Who's behind that mask? Phyllis Koob attends the

Employees Beth Hines and Meghan Joens at Nation Cottage dressed up for Twin Day on 2.22.22.







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 March 10, 2022. WesternHome

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:* Diana Brandt

Eric & Anita Dowell

### **Peg Coleman**

Louise Frevert Lois Klatt

### **Lloyd Hager**

Pat Schultz

Joan Baumgartner Lorna Ericson Louise Frevert Randy Frank Rich Hager Louise Odle Robert Robinson

### **Gary Hanks**

Eric & Anita Dowell

#### Martha McCutcheon

Marcia Colwell Eric & Anita Dowell Nineteenth Century Club

### **Judy Mohlis**

Louise Frevert

#### Vera Sullivan

Marcia Colwell Louise Frevert Robert Robinson

### **Len Tompkins**

Willard & Kay Jenkins

### **Mary Taylor Scholarship**

foundation

Roger & Vicki Neessen Phyllis Steele

### **Annual Appeal**

Esther Lageschulte Judy Pfalzgraf

### Other gifts

Rachel Edgington
Amber Elsberry
Karla Foust
Dr. Richard & Connie Frankhauser
Marlys Karkosh
Bill & Kathleen Niedert
Chad & Cindy Wiles

## Online giving option proves to be popular

Western Home Foundation has collected nearly \$5,000 in gifts through its new online giving option that launched Dec. 17, 2021.

"We're glad that donor software combined with a new website has made this available," explains Chief Operating Officer Jerry Harris. "It's still new so we want to remind everyone that this is available. It's already proven to be convenient and safe."

Donors may use online giving to designate gifts to specific funds, provide a monthly recurring gift, and/or direct their gifts in honor or memory of someone. It also lets donors choose whether to cover the small cost of processing a debit or credit card payment.

Find the online giving form by clicking a "donate now" button at **WesternHomeCommunities.org/foundation**.



## On the bus again!

In March, after two long years, Windhaven assisted living residents could once again head out together to shop. The weather was perfect for excursions to Fareway and Walmart on a Western Home Communities bus.



WHC buses will be a familiar sight out in the community once again.

Residents wait to board for a recent trip to Fareway.



Ready to ride! Clockwise from left: Jean Bilyeu, Margaret Wiebke, employee Vicky Bunger, volunteer Peggy Makinster, Flo Slawson, employee Haley Bell, LaRetta Husome, Mary Bauer, Maureen Oates and Emogene Marty.







## Chaplain's Corner: Living Like It's True

by Director of Spiritual Care Tim Boettger

Do I really believe what I say is true? If so, does my life reflect it? I've asked myself those questions many times.

During this month of Easter, Christians worldwide celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ. The core claim of Christianity is that, in love, God sent his son into the world to pay our penalty for sinfulness before a holy God. No human being could possibly pay this penalty and live.

Scripture also reveals to us that the once-dead, now-living Christ appeared to more than 500 people after his resurrection, before ascending back to heaven to live and reign forever with God (1 Corinthians 15:6, Luke 1:33). He told his followers it was better for him to leave so he could send the Holy Spirit as a helper (John 16:7). The New Testament reveals that, even in this day, "all those who are led by this (spirit of Christ) are the sons and daughters of God." Romans 8:14.

I say I believe all this and more that is found in the Bible, yet the real test is how I live my life. Many times over the years I've felt God's spirit leading me from one work in his kingdom on earth to another, and I've always tried by faith to follow where I sense he is leading.

Over the past two years, my wife, Kris, and I have felt that disrupting and guiding work of God's

spirit yet again. At first there were hints from him that we didn't totally understand in 2019 that we kept to ourselves. More God hints came near the end of 2021.

Then, in the first three months of this year, a much clearer picture has come into focus, revealing some of what God might have for us in the next chapter of our lives.

Through a number of surprising and Godordained circumstances, a ministry called Inspired Life has come into existence. It focuses on the core of our hearts' passions as a couple and as a family. God has uniquely opened the door for me to direct this work that will be centered on marriage, parenting and Christian education.

This transition has brought about many emotions. It's not without some real sadness that I have announced my resignation as the director of spiritual care at Western Home Communities.

We are hopeful and anticipatory of what God has in store for the days ahead, but also deeply thankful for the last seven-plus years of joy and service that we've shared with so many of you. It is with a true and lasting gratitude that I share my appreciation for the teamwork, partnership, encouragement, support, prayers, tears and joys we have shared.

We now ask again for your continued prayers and encouragement as we work to live out what we say we believe. In that same vein, we want to encourage you to keep discerning how the great shepherd is leading you by his spirit as you also follow unashamedly his good and gracious guiding hand.

### Celebrate Easter with us

We sure hope you can join us for a grand Easter celebration of the living Christ on April 17 at 10:30 am in Diamond Event Center.

Until that in-person gathering, continue to watch our services on YouTube (new message uploaded each Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.) or on CFU cable channel 18 or 95.5: Sunday at 11 a.m. • Wednesday at 3 p.m. • Saturday at 4 p.m.

## Exhilaration of championship remains, 51 years later

Rock star status. That may be the only way to describe roaring crowds, fan mail and media attention. We're talking about girls' high school basketball and the state championship game of 1971 when the underdogs of Farragut, Iowa, brought down the giants of Mediapolis.

Villa resident Bonnie Bickett, a starting forward in her senior year, remembers the moment she knew they would win. "At Vets Auditorium, there was a map with a light for every team in attendance. Lights would go out for teams that didn't move on. Only Mediapolis and Farragut lights were blinking. I knew, in the final seconds of the game, that our light would not go out."

victory at the 1971 girls state Their light was shining again when the team was honored at this year's championship game. "We were treated like queens, like the clock was turned back. We had our picture taken in the winner's circle, we were interviewed and treated to brunch," Bonnie said. "Almost all of my family was able to attend. It was delightful."

In 1937, Bonnie's mother was a part of the Farragut team and went to state where they got third. Her sister also went to state. But it was



Bonnie's team that won a championship, beating Mediapolis 67 to 60.

basketball tournament.

The excitement of their championship kept them in the spotlight over the years. "It changed our lives," Bonnie reflected. "Our coach, Leon Plummer, was amazing. He taught us more than just sports. It was fabulous."

After high school, Bonnie attended college in

Cedar Falls. "Farragut is in the southwest corner of the state, and I came up here to UNI and people knew me. It was a big deal," Bonnie said.

She still maintains an active lifestyle. "I moved here just a year ago and I love it. A group of us played Crossnet® [four-square volleyball] in the pool over the winter and I'm anxiously awaiting pickleball season!"





## Sons of the American Revolution teaches history, honors veterans

In February, Western Home Communities was recognized by the Sons of the American Revolution with a certificate of "Exemplary Patriotism in the display of The Flag of the United



Dave Nation presents COO Jerry Harris with a certificate for Western Home's patriotic display of the American flag.

States of America." The certificate was presented to COO Jerry Harris by Dave Nation, a resident of Prairie Wind and a member of the organization's lowa chapter.

"I have enjoyed the view of the flag at Windridge



As part of the color guard, Dave stands during the presentation of the colors at the rededication of a Revolutionary War monument at the Springville Cemetery near Cedar Rapids. Photo by Andy Abeyta of The Gazette.

from the fitness center whenever I work out," Dave said, "and I understand many of the other Western Home buildings display the flag as well." So Dave requested the certification and made the presentation in his authentic Revolutionary War uniform.

After researching and proving that his fourth great-grandfather was a patriot of the American Revolution, Dave joined the Sons of the American Revolution in June 2020, just before moving back to lowa from Maryland.

Since then, Dave has participated in several events. His first was in May 2021 for the dedication of a restored monument to Nathan Brown in Springfield, Iowa; Brown is one of 43 recognized Revolutionary War veterans buried in Iowa. Dave owns a Betsy Ross flag and was invited to join the color guard.

The Sons of the American Revolution encouraged Dave to continue participating in the color guard so he needed his own uniform. The shirt, pants and vest are made of cotton so they can be laundered easily, but the knapsack is linen and the coat is wool. All that's left to complete his uniform are shoes, which need special attention from a saddle shop.

Part of the organization's goal of preserving American history includes marking graves of all veterans. In March, Dave confirmed that the gravesite of Nancy Harris, who was a nurse and uniform maker for the Mexican War, is located in Fairview Cemetery. She died in a poorhouse in 1909 at the age of 102 and has no gravestone. The lowa chapter will request one from the Veterans Administration, as it has done for about 100 veterans throughout lowa.



If others would like to research their family history, Dave suggests visiting the Sons of the American Revolution database online at sar.org.



## St. Patrick's Day celebrations

On St. Patrick's Day, residents celebrated with mint-flavored milkshakes, lots of Irish trivia, green cookies, music, festive punch, homemade whoopie

pies and the company of good friends!

"Wishing you a pot o' gold and all the joy your heart can hold." – Irish blessing



Resident coordinator Cassie Storlie shared her homemade whoopie pies with Willowwood residents.







Left to right, Willowwood residents Garnet Mehlert, Jane Jackson, and Mary Van Hauen enjoying homemade treats and holiday trivia.



Left to right,
Patti Sulentic,
Doris and Bob
Hewlitt and
David Joens
enjoying good
company and
refreshments at
Windridge.

Morgan Arjes and Sara Rynearson, resident coordinators at Prairie Wind and Windridge, serve up fun and refreshments at Windridge.





Windridge residents Liane Nichols, Dione Young, Jeanne Thuesen and Connie Herbon lift a glass and say, "Cheers!!"



## April Wellness Happenings

by Director of Wellness Morgan Lehmann

### **Wellness Chat**

## Thursday, April 7 at 1:30 p.m. in Grosse Wellness Center

Join Morgan and Jenna to hear about and share ideas for programming and events, plus discuss the upcoming pickleball season. (Lessons coming soon – watch for details to come!)

### Walk & Talk

Fridays at 11 a.m. in Grosse Wellness Center Walk and socialize with fellow residents for 30 minutes and experience the benefits! We'll walk outside as weather permits.

## Healthy & Homemade from lowa State Extension

## Tuesdays, April 5-12-19 from 1:30 – 3 p.m. at Windridge West Lounge

This three-part series focuses on using your time, money and skills wisely to prepare nutritious foods. Topics include Veg Out, Cooking for One or Two, and Cook Now, Enjoy Later. Cost for the series is \$30. Register online at **go.iastate.edu/I65LGZ** or call Morgan at **319-859-9362** for more information.



**Veg Out!** 



Cooking for One or Two



Cook Now, Enjoy Later

## **WELLNESS RECIPE OF THE MONTH Easter Peeps Fruit Kabobs**

### **Ingredients:**

- Pink Easter Bunny Peeps
- Strawberries CUT IN HALF
- Cantaloupe CUT IN 1" CHUNKS
- Pineapple CUT IN 1" CHUNKS
- Green and Red grapes
- Blueberries
- Wooden Skewers

### **Instructions:**

- 1. Wash and dry all of the fruit thoroughly.
- 2. Skewer a red grape, two blueberries, a green grape, a chunk of pineapple, a chunk of cantaloupe, and a strawberry piece onto the skewer, leaving about 2.5" of space on the end of the skewer.
- 3. Dip the tip of the skewer into a glass of water, and then gently add the Easter Bunny Peep to the end of the skewer. As long as the skewer is wet, it should go through the Peep easily.
- 4. Arrange the skewers on a plate in a slight arch to get the full rainbow effect!

## **UNI student helps Thalman Square residents build strength**

A cold January day found Thalman Square residents dreaming of outdoor time in the spring. As they talked about calendar programming, some preferred sipping lemonade on the patio; others wanted to take walks.

Several mentioned they would need to "get stronger" before walking very far. Enter Kelbie See, an intern from the UNI Gerontology program.

Kelbie directed her efforts to working with anyone who wanted to use the NuStep, a recumbent cross trainer. "Residents have been setting personal goals and working toward them," she says. "It's rewarding to see them having fun, increasing their time on the NuStep and also becoming playfully competitive with each other."



Janet Lynch tries to spend 25 minutes each day on the NuStep!



Kelbie appreciates the time it allows her to get to know residents, too. "We end up having some of the best conversations when the residents are on the NuStep," she enthuses. "I get to know about their history and their families."

With all their enhanced stamina, watch for Thalman Square residents coming to a sidewalk near you soon!







## Happy April birthday!

Russell Schultz Barbara McGovern Cliff Hansen John Rice Barbara Spates Milly Anderson Richard Swanson Bonnie Humble Jay Agness Barb A Jacobson Russ Price Dean Hutchison David Lemons Bob Fread	WHAL WHAL WM PW WG WHAL VTH VTH VTH VTH WR VTH VTH PW TS	April	1 1 2 4 4 5 5 6 6 7 7 8 8	Mary Cooley Mick Reifsteck Maurice Casey Jon Hansen Joyce Willy Patricia Cayton Jim Duwelius Peggy Lanigan Karen Zwanziger Greta Magee Mary Fischbach Sheila Baker Jerry Mohling Dick Johnson	WHAL VTH DS WHAL VTH MS WR VTH VTH VTH DS WHAL VTH VTH	April	19 19 20 20 20 21 21 21 22 22 23 23 23 23
Melvin Reimer	VTH CTG	April April	10 11	Dolores Steege Jean Brummel	WR	April April	24 24
Margery Andrew	WW	April	11	LaVerne Middleswart	VTH	April	24
Barb Pershing	VTH	April	11	Howard Uehle	VTH	April	24
Del Carpenter	VTH	April	11	Georgia Smithling	MS	April	25
Marjorie Kohl	DS	April	12	Jacquelyn Eastman	MS	April	25
Marlys Badger	WR	April	14	June Green	VTH	April	25
Ethel Ann Koch	WM	April	15	Reggie Schmitt	VTH	April	26
Anita Kabele	VTH	April	15	Kathleen Washington	WR	April	27
Evelyn Wohlwend	PW	April	16	Kathy Thompson	VTH	April	27
Rob Hogan	WR	April	16	Hans Isakson	VTH	April	27
Kathleen Aranza	PW	April	17	Greg Hankins	VTH	April	28
John Kragt	PW	April	17	Nancie Handorf	WC	April	29
Paul Foote	WG	April	17	Gordy Koch	PW	April	30
Maggie Hemmer	WG	April	17	Jeanne Rogers	TS	April	30
Patrick Brickley	VTH	April	17	Don Walton	WW	April	30
Christine Carpenter Donna Hansen	VTH WM	April April	18 19	Vern Hansen	VTH	April	30

I wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high o'er vales and hills, when all at once I saw a crowd, a host, of golden daffodils; beside the lake, beneath the trees, fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

## Raceway curiosity led to authoring a book

It seems anyone who lived in the Cedar Valley in the 1950s, 60s and 70s has a story to tell about Sunday evening races at Tunis Speedway. The privately owned dirt track hosted midget cars and then full-sized cars from 1948 until 1983, attracting 3,000 to 5,000 fans every week.

Villa resident Jim Volgarino was among them. "I was into car stuff as a kid," he says. "I remember riding my bike to the track and

sitting on the hill near the grandstand to watch the races and thinking, 'Wow. This is so cool."

Little did Jim know he would later write a book about the speedway, located between University and Greenhill in Waterloo, just east of Progress Avenue; you can still make out the track outline on a Google Map aerial view.

Several years ago, as Jim had conversations with friends, he found people had memories of Tunis Speedway, but museums and libraries didn't have any information. Jim jumped in with both feet and began looking for drivers, families of drivers and fans to learn more.

Soon Jim went from having nothing to a cascade of stories, photos and scrapbooks. In 2011, Judd Tunis' family shared enough totes of memorabilia to fill Jim's spare bedroom.

"I picked out and scanned 1,200 photos. These were snapshots, not professional photos, from this community of fans and drivers," Jim says. That's when he began a three-year journey of writing "Dirt Track Dreams: The Tunis Speedway Chronicles," published in 2015.

In 2013, there was a reunion of 700 drivers and families; in 2018, Tunis Speedway was one of the venues featured in a Grout Museum exhibit. A Facebook group allows more than 2,600 members to share photos and memories.



Recently, Jim worked with The Market on a display window at Jorgensen Plaza and The Market is carrying the book. Jim encourages everyone to visit the display and scan the display's QR codes for more information on this piece of Cedar Valley history.

This promotional piece highlighted the

"midget auto races" at Tunis Speed Bowl.



A QR code offers a quick and fun way to find Tunis Speedway's Facebook group.

## **Congratulations!**

In April, these employees celebrate milestone anniversaries for their service to Western Home Communities. We appreciate their loyalty, dedication and service!

Laverne Kelderman 15 years April 2 CNA-HHA, atHome



Dorothy Boll 39 years April 4 CMA-RA, Thalman Square

Ann Buege 5 years April 5 CNA, Deery Suites



Cheryl BearbowerStaton
35 years
April 6
Switchboard Operator



Megan Grimm 10 years April 6 Lifestyle Coach, Fortified Life

Theresa Miller
10 years
April 6
Caregiver,
atHome

Phylesia
Banks
5 years
April 26
Resident coordinator

LaQuanesha Wise 5 years April 26 CNA, Creekside Cottages

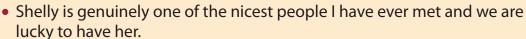


Melanie Buhr 15 years April 27 CRNA, Martin Suites



## ➤ Meet the Employee of the Month, Shelly Deeringer

**Shelly** joined the Western Home Communities family in October 2020 and works as a hospitality coordinator at The Cottages at Creekside in Grundy Center. Here are a few things that were said about Shelly:





- Shelly will bring in treats for the residents.
- She has a great rapport with her residents and coworkers.
- Shelly is truly the face of our core value, servant spirit.

Your Western Home Communities family congratulates you, Shelly, on being named our employee of the month for March 2022.



## We're on Instagram

**@westernhomecommunities** is where you'll find content on our newest social media page. Check it out! Facebook users, we're still busy on that page – just adding Instagram to reach another audience. Engage with us on your favorite platform!

### Time to take a mental break

During Brain Health Week in March, a question on Workplace (employee intranet) asked: *What's your favorite way to take a mental break?* Brain health is important all year, so try one of these suggestions today!

- Spending time with my dogs or chickens
- A walk next to water
- Riding my bicycle and letting the breeze hit my face
- Golf
- Walking or working in my little garden
- Window shopping and doing crafts
- Cranking some tunes and dancing in the kitchen
- Fresh air!



Fortified Life helps preserve assets by controlling future costs of long-term care and providing support and services to keep you independent in your current home for as long as possible.

To learn more, attend an information session:

**April 14 at 2 p.m.** Diamond Event Center **April 28 at 2 p.m.** via Zoom

RSVP to Jacob Bates at 319-260-4267 or jacob.bates@westernhome.org.



### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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### **Building Abbreviations**

Martin Suites MS WHAL Windhaven Assisted Living Thalman Square Memory Support TS Willowwood WW Windgrace WG Windermere WM Windcove WC WR Windridge Windcrest Villas & Townhomes **VTH** Nation Cottage and Thuesen Cottage **CTG** PW **Prairie Wind** DS The Deery Suites

**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 Hudwalker Bowman, editor, at **(319) 859-9337** or **linda.bowman@westernhome.org**.

### In sympathy

Dolores Trimble, MS	Mar. 18
lla Doeden, DS	Mar. 14
Janet Corbin, TS	Mar. 11
Nola Kelly, CTG	Mar. 3
Lloyd Hager, DS	Mar. 2
Terry Hummel, MS	Feb. 26
Bonnie Neese, CTG	Feb. 24
Terry Hummel, MS	Feb. 26



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