

BELL TOWER Life

A Newsletter to Celebrate the Spirit of the
Residents, Family and Staff of Bell Tower Residence

February 2020

*baby
it's cold
outside*

Whether you love winter or feel like you could do without it, there is no getting around winter in Wisconsin as long as you're here. Winter gives us the chance to enjoy cold fresh air and beautiful snow, but it also can be challenging in many ways. There are a few ways you can help an older person or someone with dementia navigate safely through these colder months.

Stay warm, safely. Dressing in layers makes it easier to adjust to temperatures. Sweaters that can be put on or taken off going outdoors or in. Thermal layers such as "long underwear" provide an insulating layer outdoors or in a drafty room. Someone with dementia may not notice how temperature changes affect them. It is especially important to make sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather. Electric blankets may present a risk for burns if they get too hot. Consider removing electric blankets from the home. If space heaters are used in the home make sure they have automatic turn-offs if they get hot and keep blankets and papers away from them.

Slips and falls can be catastrophic for the elderly. If they must go outside in slippery conditions, remind them to "walk like a penguin!" Small, careful, slow steps are best and use a cane or walker if needed.

Studies show that symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease and dementia may worsen in the winter or even present for the first time. Check frequently on your loved ones and don't "brush off" symptoms of memory loss or confusion. Be extra attentive to safety needs make sure they are warm and not at risk for getting lost outside.

Have fun! Yes, we need to stay safe, but the winter can get awfully long without some fun.

❄️ **When the roads are clear, take a drive.** Visit old neighborhoods or favorite farms, drive through the parks, watch for wildlife. Deer and eagles are plentiful this time of year.

❄️ **Have a movie night or game night.** Make some hot chocolate and popcorn and settle in for some favorites.

❄️ **Find ways to be social.** Winter can be an especially trying time of year and getting out to socialize is one way to beat the blues. Go to the Merrill Enrichment Center, church or out to dinner. For those at Bell Tower Residence we keep up with our outings and activities all through the winter.

At Bell Tower Residence we work hard to provide our residents with care for their unique needs while providing a warm and comfortable home. Our activities provide opportunity to meet new and old friends and make those winter days just a little warmer. Thank you to all of our residents, families, staff and volunteers who make Bell Tower Residence a wonderful home!

Bell Tower Residence is a Non-Profit Wisconsin Illinois Senior Housing Inc. Community



Kris McGarigle
Bell Tower Administrator





Resident Birthdays

February 11

Eileen Kroening

February 25

Lorraine Raddatz



Resident Anniversaries



Cub Fischer 14 years

Mary Kramer 7 years

Nancy Natzke 5 years

Kathy Sanford 4 years

Barb Peterson 3 years

Charlette Swope 3 years

Janet Bares 1 year

Elaine Hinke 1 year

Janice Hornung 1 year

Jim Hornung 1 year

Employee Birthdays



February 2

Keith Lunders

February 5

Samantha Brown

February 5

Angel Fremming

February 6

Nicole Gruett

February 6

Jennifer Nacker

February 15

Bev VanderVoort

February 15

Morgan Wolfram

February 24

Melissa Wimmer

February 27

Paula Meyer

Employee Anniversaries



Kathy Wiesneski 10 years

Paige Henke 4 years

Big Welcome To Betty Weix & Diane And Ed Chartier



Can you find all the hearts in our February issue?

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Welcome To The Team



Steve Annis is Bell Tower's new Maintenance Assistant. Steve has lived in Merrill all his life. He has a beautiful wife, two sons, two cats and one dog. Steve enjoys hunting, fishing, pontooning, family and remodeling his home and cabin. He is on the board for Trinity school and is happy to be here.

GROUNDHOG DAY

FEBRUARY 2

**Phil's
predictions
since 1887**

**Early
Spring**
no shadow
18 times

no record
10 times

**More
Winter**
shadow
104 times



**Punxsutawney Phil vs.
the U.S. National Temperature**

	SHADOW	TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES		DID PHIL GET IT RIGHT?
		February	March	
2018	✓	☀️	☀️	✗
2017	✓	☀️	☀️	✗
2016	✗	☀️	☀️	✓
2015	✓	❄️	☀️	✗
2014	✓	❄️	❄️	✓
2013	✗	☀️	❄️	✓
2012	✓	☀️	☀️	✗
2011	✗	❄️	☀️	✓
2010	✓	❄️	☀️	✗
2009	✓	☀️	☀️	✗

❄️ Below ❄️ Slightly Below ☀️ Slightly Above ☀️ Above

40% In the past 10 years, Phil has been **RIGHT 40%** of the time.

Source: www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/



WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD



**Betty
Weix**

Betty was born on November 26, 1939. She fell in love and married Mark Weix. Mark and Betty loved to travel and have been everywhere. They have ten children, three daughters and seven sons.

Betty enjoys reading the paper, listening to the radio and cleaning. Betty is physically active and likes to stay busy.

Betty and husband, Mark go to St. Roberts (St. Francis) in Merrill and attend church every Sunday and on all the Holy Days. Betty is looking forward to attending church services here along with going to rosary and prayer services. She has a sweet demeanor and warm, welcoming smile and is very happy to be joining husband Mark here at Bell Tower.

"We're so happy you're here! Thank you for making Bell Tower your new home!"

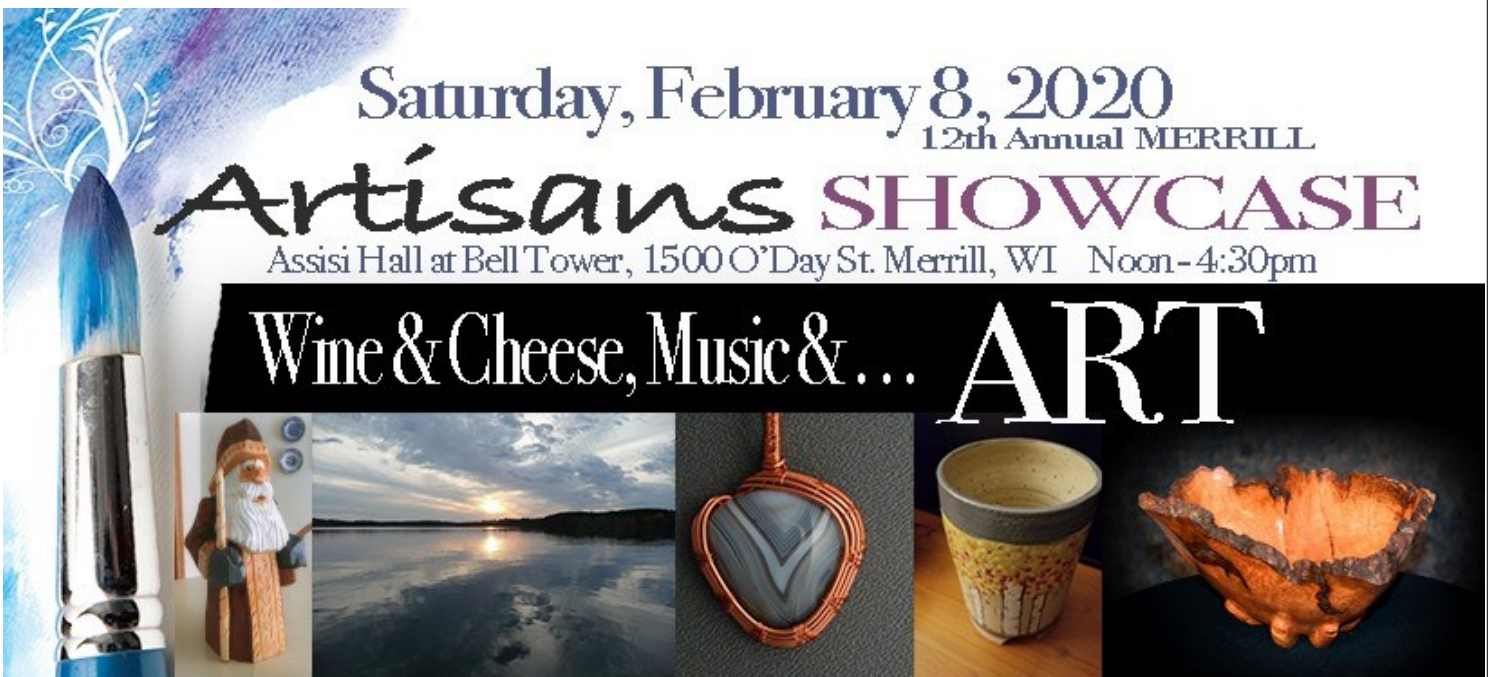
Saturday, February 8, 2020

12th Annual MERRILL

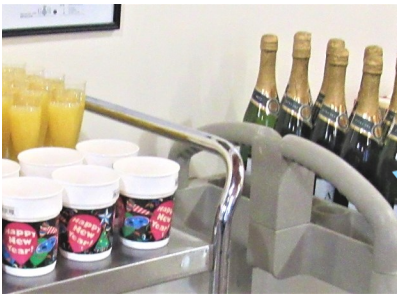
Artisans SHOWCASE

Assisi Hall at Bell Tower, 1500 O'Day St. Merrill, WI Noon - 4:30pm

Wine & Cheese, Music & ... ART



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captured moments

Feb. 14



Above: Resident Cliff M. celebration with family and residents. **Below Left:** Pieced for Peace Quilt of Valor group presented Cliff M. with beautiful quilt. **Below:** Cliff's sister, Ruth R. with Cliff. **Top Right:** S. Rose with resident Nancy N. on her birthday. **Bottom Right:** Chaplain John playing guitar and singing with resident Vera L.



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Top Left: Dorothy J., Life Enrichment Coordinator Ashley, Dorothy B., Ruth R., Estelle K. and Lillian J. **Top right:** Residents having a great time playing cards. **Below:** Residents John S., Jerry W., Roger O. and Leroy O. having a rousing game of Kings In The Corner!



Above: Pastor John and resident Lillian M. sharing a story and a laugh.



Below: Daughter Brenda with Dad, Leroy O. enjoying lunch at the Eagle's Club.



Residents Charlette S., Ann R. and Kristin S. enjoying lunch at the Eagle's Club.





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DONORS FROM OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2019

Grace Batchelder
David Becker
Peggy Birdsall
Mavis & Doug Bloom
Margaret & Jerry Breuer
Barb Buehler
Lorraine & Bill Buehler
Central Carpet
Mary Chenier
Faye Clark
Constituent
S. Pat Cormack
Jack & Dee Crowley
Kathleen Deates
Deanna Dotter
Geraldine Dotter
Bernard & Geraldine Enkro
Dennis & Terri Fey
David & Carol Finanger
Fraternal Order of Eagles Ladies Auxiliary #584
Vincent Geisler
Arnold Gennrich
Kathy Graham
Tom & Therese Grund
Steve Hartzheim
Elaine Hinke
The Florence Huss Memorial Fund
for Bell Tower Residence
John & Susan Jaeger
Barbara Janowiak
Karen Karow
Mary Klocksinn-Melrose
Richard & Cindy Knospe
Mary Kramer
Tom & Nancy Kryshak
Mary Lagerbloom
Ralph & Ruth Langhauser
Ina & John Lehto

Rose Akey
Angela & Thomas
Andreska
Ceil & Warren Bartelt
Jon Barthels

Marilyn Loen
Allen & Nancy Lohrbach
Russ & Carol Manc
Sue Marczak
Sara Marquardt
Bernadette Martin
Ron & Mary Mauer
Kris McGarigle
James & Nancy Monti
Lance Nienow
Dr. Donald & Charlotte Nowinski
Kathleen Nutter
Barbara Ott
Pat & Larry Peeters
Richard Pehle
Jeff & Barb Peterson
Geraldyn Plautz
Randy & Kathy Pophal
Daniel Pupp
Sue & Kris Rehwinkel
Richard & Lynn Reindl
Kristen Schefdore
Schmitt Manecke Donner Auxiliary Post 1638
Marie Schotz-Kocoshis
Brian Sladek
Kathy Spencer
Marcella Storseth
Joyce Sumnicht
Kay Tessmer
Thomas & Merril Tlusty
Maxine & Jay Tlusty
Randy & Kris Ullmer
United Health Foundation
Mariann VenRooy
Breigh Voigt
Eileen & Bear Wadzinski
Mark & Sandra Walter
Mrs. Nick Wegh
Betty Weix
Nancy Wilde
Edward & Barbara Wink
Bill & Kathy Wulf
Veronica Zwirchitz

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VALENTINE'S DAY WORD SEARCH

A	V	U	A	N	G	C	A	N	D	Y	Q	E	I	Y	N	J	E	T	F
J	R	R	Z	A	O	C	G	C	S	G	C	B	O	U	Z	P	A	W	Y
T	D	Y	Q	C	B	P	M	K	O	J	S	R	U	T	Q	W	O	P	D
I	B	D	Y	D	G	W	A	B	S	R	I	T	L	X	M	P	V	Z	R
H	O	V	O	O	N	E	A	H	E	T	G	O	U	H	A	B	L	W	B
N	V	S	W	E	E	T	F	W	D	F	U	T	U	J	A	B	J	E	H
M	E	S	C	S	B	A	O	O	I	F	Z	H	S	T	Q	M	T	L	T
X	O	Q	B	Q	S	L	D	U	K	I	V	C	E	W	N	U	Z	O	U
X	K	Z	W	W	F	O	G	W	W	C	J	X	S	D	C	R	T	V	X
C	D	B	S	K	W	C	C	H	E	Z	H	D	O	B	J	I	G	E	W
A	N	I	L	I	E	O	S	N	H	V	D	H	R	D	A	H	U	B	Z
R	P	W	N	S	S	H	E	A	R	T	S	L	G	B	Z	N	D	G	M
D	L	O	W	S	E	C	T	R	G	C	D	I	P	U	C	F	L	V	S
R	N	P	P	O	Q	N	W	E	O	T	N	G	A	W	E	C	J	C	F
J	O	E	F	W	R	W	I	D	R	E	C	I	T	B	C	X	A	M	Q
E	R	M	U	T	M	R	N	T	F	Y	H	R	R	Z	S	A	F	A	L
R	S	B	V	N	N	R	A	K	N	I	P	U	G	U	L	F	K	Q	E
J	S	B	K	O	H	B	W	H	Z	E	A	R	O	Y	U	Y	W	J	K
O	C	U	D	D	L	E	D	U	X	R	L	C	C	R	E	V	N	O	X
B	O	W	E	W	R	R	N	G	Y	K	R	A	O	Z	N	V	G	H	V
D	Y	D	Z	C	U	O	Y	E	V	O	L	I	V	H	I	U	W	D	G
N	G	O	K	Q	T	V	Z	L	V	S	K	M	N	S	M	Y	V	D	S
L	U	N	T	L	W	L	P	B	Q	P	J	S	B	W	E	Z	J	W	E
T	K	F	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	E	K	Q	X	S	B	X	V	L	V
A	Q	U	H	S	X	L	I	C	S	A	B	E	R	Y	H	C	G	O	U

Valentine Cupid Be Mine Pink Candy Cuddle Hearts Red Chocolate Hug
Card Roses February Kiss Love I Love You Flowers Love Arrow Sweet Friend



Bell Tower Is So Sweet

By Ashley Hilgendorf, Life Enrichment Coordinator

It's February and most of the time when people think of this month, it is with thoughts of flowers, chocolates and Valentine's given between loved ones and friends. This month our residents have the opportunity to make Valentine crafts, a special treat and celebrate the love holiday with a Valentine Party.

The residents will be making a Valentine's Day Dog craft. Who doesn't love puppies? This adorable craft will resemble a puppy and can easily be turned into a Valentine card or just used as decoration. Then the residents will have the opportunity to dip strawberry flavored marshmallows in melted chocolate then roll them in festive Valentine sprinkles to make Valentine Marshmallow Pops. This craft and treat will help our residents get in the spirit of celebrating Valentine's Day on February 14. Currently, we have the most couples living at Bell Tower then we have had since opening our doors back in 1990. *Seven couples currently reside at Bell Tower. Weix's, Hornung's, Bjorklund's, Buntrock's, Sazama's, Hagen's and Case's.* I thought it would be fun to ask these couples a few simple questions in the spirit of Valentine's Day. The questions asked were; how long have they been married, best and or favorite Valentine's Day memory with each other and what's the secret to a long marriage?

Mr. & Mrs. Hornung have been married for 60 years. Their favorite Valentine's Day memory was going out to eat and sharing a box of candy. Mrs. Hornung would also receive beautiful flowers from Mr. Hornung. The Hornung's say the secret to a long marriage is continuing to love each other and becoming good friends and forgetting the bad times.

Mr. & Mrs. Case have been married for 76 years. Their favorite Valentine's Day memory was when they took a trip to Australia and their secret to a long marriage Mr. Case said is God only knows.

Mr. & Mrs. Bjorklund have been married for 70 ½ years. Their favorite memory was on the November 6, 1948 after attending a homecoming concert in the UW-Madison Fieldhouse. They strolled down to the State Capital Square where they got engaged. The following Valentine's Day, 1949 they both surprised each other with a professional photo of each of them. The photos are cherished and displayed in their home. Their secret to a long marriage is enduring love, patience and laughter.

Mr. & Mrs. Sazama have been married for 59 years and 8 months. Their best and favorite Valentine's Day memory with each other is their marriage. The Sazama's say the secret to a long marriage is to just say yes!

Mr. & Mrs. Buntrock have been married for 60 years. Their favorite Valentine's Day memory was on their first Valentine's Day together. Mr. Buntrock gave Mrs. Buntrock a box of chocolates and they spilled all over her sweater. Mr. Buntrock says the secret to a long marriage is to dance the polka. Mrs. Buntrock said silence is golden. Then both agreed that sometimes you really just have to bite your teeth.

Mr. & Mrs. Hagen have been married for 57 years. Their favorite memory together is spending winter months in Florida and summer months in the Detroit area. Mrs. Hagen said the secret to a long marriage is love.

Mr. & Mrs. Weix have been married for 58 years. Their best memory was taking their honeymoon driving around Lake Superior. It was about the only time just the two of them got away, since having a large family. The secret to a long marriage for them was Mrs. Weix prayed a lot and both believed in their faith and that you're supposed to stay together.

Our seven couples currently residing at Bell Tower come with over 300 years of marriage combined! Each couple is unique and special in their own way. It is truly a blessing to be surrounded by all the years and wisdom of these married couples. **Have a Happy Valentine's Day!**

In Loving Memory of



Karen Krueger passed away on Wednesday, January 1, 2020. She had been a resident since March, 2019. Karen was born on October 27, 1948 in Merrill. She married Michel J. Krueger on December 18, 1976. They had one son, Eric (Jennifer). In 1996 they started Krueger Plumbing, LLC, where she actively worked in the office until a few years ago. Karen enjoyed cooking, gardening, working on arts and crafts and sewing. Karen especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, Gabrielle and Joseph. A private Memorial Service will be held at a later date. *We extend our heartfelt prayers and support to the friends and family of Karen Krueger.* ♥

Norm Thurs passed away on Monday, January 6, 2020. He had been a resident since December, 2010. Norm was born on September 17, 1929 in the Town of Hamburg, one of five sons to the late Gustave and Gertrude Thurs. For 37 years Norm worked as a manager for the Athens Co-Op, a job he truly loved. He was a lifelong member of St. Peter Lutheran Church, a member of the Pomeranian German Club and the Hamburg Fire Department. Among his favorite pastimes, he enjoyed fishing, working in the woods, spending time with his family at "The World's Fair" in Athens and he loved his John Deere 420 tractor. Most of all, Norm enjoyed helping family and friends when needed. The funeral service for Norm was held on January 13 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in the Town of Hamburg. ♥



After a long day of thrashing, they'd all have a drink of Marathon beer and another one after supper. Norm's dad has his hand on wooden beer keg. Norm is sitting on the ground.

We extend our heartfelt prayers and support to the friends and family of Norm Thurs.



A Non-Profit WISH Community

1500 O'Day Street
Merrill WI 54452
www.BellTowerResidence.org



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I LOVE YOU

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

And over all these virtues
put on love, which binds
them all together in
perfect unity.

COLOSSIANS 3:14

