JEFFERSON COMMUNITY Health & Life GARDENSIDE

Gardenside News

Volume 33 Issue 11 November 2026

October Brings Trick or Treaters and More



Bruce Grummert holds a chicken during the Whispering Acres presentation. Watching are Don Mahllman, Mark Schoenrock, and Richard Krause.

By Nate Behrends
Evening Activities Coordinator

October swept right up and was over before we could blink an eye. Jill Kuzelka with Whispering Acres came in with different types of chickens and tortoises and explained each one. It was very fun and educational for all.

Bill Chrastil performed, and is always a crowd favorite. Bill came to us as a Merry Makers performer funded by the Dream Weavers Foundation. Chris Sayre also came to play and sing with his storytelling and twist to a lot of folk and Nebraska-based songs. He is very informative and fun to listen to, as well.

The St. Michael's Altar Society came to play Bingo. It's always a popular activity for residents. We decorated pumpkins in October, and made edible ghosts. A JCH&L nurse and a Gardenside resident both talked about their experiences with breast cancer to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Balloon tennis was played with vigor as it seems Wayne might be the main target. It definitely makes the residents laugh. Word games in the evening are also always good for a laugh or two. Mondays are movie nights: we laugh, we cry - all good for the soul. We took a bus ride out to see the crops and harvest in full swing. We saw a lot of farmers doing what they love.

Halloween kids and costumes were great. Everyone had fun passing out candy and goodies to trick or treaters. A door decorating contest was also held, and we will have results in next month's news letter.

The November entertainment list is full. Mark Irwin will be our Merry Makers entertainer through the Dream Weaver Foundation. Mark will perform on Friday, Nov. 6, at 3 p.m. Bobby Gadoury will be here on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 3 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Until next time - happy Thanksgiving and thank you for your support!

Recognizing Farmers



Honoring farmers - Elinor and Richard Krause, Ervin Hennerberg and Clarence Marschman were among farmers honored.

Admissions

- Norbert Kowalski, Oct. 23
- Kathy Empfield, Oct. 26

Birthdays

- Richard Krause, Nov. 4
- Richard Schlichtman, Nov. 13
- Elinor Krause, Nov. 15

Deaths

Gardenside had 2 resident deaths since the last newsletter. Our sympathy is with the families of:

- Joann Ohlde, Oct. 9
- Helen Keen, Oct. 7

Thank you!

Thank you to Roger and Kathy Retzlaff, who donated Husker shirts to residents. Go Big Red!

Our Team to Serve You

Interim CEO
Lana Likens
Gardenside Administrator
Deb Sutton, RN, NHA
Director of Nursing—Laura DeBoer RN
Assistant DON—Heather Kracht, RN
Medical Director—Dr. Abby Hanzlicek
Infection Preventionist —
Savannah Boomgaarn, LPN
Social Services Coordinator— Amanda Lewis
Social Services Designee — Krystal Ward
Activities Coordinators
Wayne Franzen, Nate Behrends
Rehabilitation Aide
Mary Feldkamp
Dietitian
Lisa Edeal, Cassie Whitmore
Pharmacy Director
Brandon Bleich, PharmD
Facilities Director— Judd Stewart
Facilities Supervisor—Chad Mans
Director of Envir. Services— Steph McDaniel
Housekeeping/laundry supervisor —
Melissa McBride
Director of Purchasing
Cody Sodowsky
Director of Public Relations
Lana Likens

Most recent state survey:
In a folder on east side of the wall by the Activity Room.

E-mail: wayne.franzen@JCHealthandLife.org
Website: JCHealthandLife.org
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News to share

Would you like to join your family member for a meal at the holidays? Please call with the number of people to help assure adequate food and seating. Holiday meals are $10 and guests will go to the cafeteria to get their meals. Please let us know for Thanksgiving by Nov. 20. (Non holiday meals are $5 each.)

Starting in January we will have a dental provider. They will be here 4 times a year for cleanings, and the dentist will come 1-2 times per year for exams. They are able to do routine dental care here at Gardenside. There is no charge to those on Medicaid. If you would like more information, please reach out to Amanda Lewis, social services coordinator.

Resident clothing reminder: With the seasons changing please make sure your loved one has appropriate clothing for the weather.

All door decorations will need to be sprayed with fire retardant spray. Please take any door decorations to the nurses desk so we can get this done prior to putting on door. All electronics will need to be checked prior to being plugged in; please bring those to social ser-

Results of the most recent state survey are available on the east side of the wall by the Activity Room.
Nurse staffing hours are posted west of the nurses station.

Pretty calendar goes here

Menus go here

If you would like to join us for a meal, please let us know a few days in advance by calling 402-729-6849 so we can plan for food and space. Regular meals are $5 (tax included) and holiday meals are $10 (tax included.) You will pick up meals and pay for them in the JCH&L cafeteria.

Wearing Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness



In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, resident Janis Westerhoff and JCH&L Acute Nursing Director Deanna Lierman told residents about their experiences as survivors of breast cancer.

Access During Construction

Thank you for your patience as we deal with all that comes with construction. We know parking is a concern. For those who need assistance getting into Gardenside, please let us know. Remember, doors 31 and 32 are not be available for entry or exit for the duration of the project. Only construction staff and their vehicles are allowed inside the fence.

Those visiting Gardenside can use the main JCH&L entrance (accessed from H Street) or the main Cedarwood entrance (accessed from 22nd St.) The main entrance is open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.
Cedarwood's main entrance is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Extra maps are available in the breezeway.

JCH&L apologizes in advance for any inconveniences. We strive to keep inconveniences to a minimum. If you have questions or concerns, please visit ***with Laura DeBoer, director of nursing.***

Please help keep our residents healthy!

There are some colds and flu circulating, and we remind you to help keep our residents healthy. Please don't visit when you aren't well. We can make Facebook, Skype and phone calls available to you. Please make arrangements in advance by calling 402-729-5220 (option 1.)

If you must come into Gardenside but feel you may have been exposed to something, please wear a mask. Masks are available at each if our entrances. Of course, we always encourage visitors to use good hand hygiene, as well.

As we get into fall, we encourage family members and visitors of residents to get your annual flu vaccination.

Wheel Chairs Walks A Fun Way to Get Out







On a beautiful fall days, activities staff organize wheelchair walks with volunteers helping residents take residents outside. Top - residents and volunteers pose for a photo. Above left, residents and volunteers take a look at the construction area. Bottom right, everyone leaves the circle to check out the fall weather.

Recognizing Our Farmers



Recognizing our farmers - *June Weichel, Janis and Jack Westerhoff, Elinor and Richard Krause, Ervin Hennerberg, Mark Schmidt, and Clarence Marschman were recognized for being farmers. Each household was given a plaque that says "On the 8th day, God created the farmer."*

Enjoying Entertainment

Residents enjoy entertainment by Chris Sayre.



Pampering Feels So Good!

A spa day experience brought pampering for many residents. At right, Wayne pampers Arlene Kellogg, Rhonda pampers Judy Kinghorn, and Billie pampers Elinor Krause. The day included hand and foot massages and facials.



Whispering Acres Brings Chickens and Tortoises to Visit







Top left, Jill Kuzelka of Whispering Acres shows residents a tortoise. Top right staff show Don Mahlman and Mark Schmidt a tortoise. Bottom right, residents and staff look at on of the many varieties of chickens Jill brought to show.

Decorating Pumpkins









Top left - *Keith and Rita Snyder show the pumpkin they decorated. top right - June Weichel, March Schmidt and Don Mahlman work on pumpkins. Bottom left, Dorothy Reid shows her pumpkin. Bottom right, Ruby Hess and Clarence Marschman show their pumpkins.*

JEFFERSON COMMUNITY
Health & Life
GARDENSIDE

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Photos Inside!

Happy Birthday!



Happy October birthdays to Gerry Seimsen and Mark Schmidt.