

Our Green Hills *Decision*



BOB AND JEAN WATSON

“Iowa Nice is Real:” Bob and Jean Watson *Thrive in Ames*

Moving to a new home means new adventures and new memories. Just ask Bob and Jean Watson, who moved 22 times in 24 years, due to Bob’s military career. Through all those changes, the Watsons always considered Ames one of their favorite homes.

“We fell in love with this community,” says Bob, who moved his family to Ames the first time in 1972, when he was working with the U.S. Navy’s Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC). “The people are friendly, caring, honest and sincere.”



It was tough for the Watsons (including Bob, who was born in Florida; Jean, a North Carolina native; and their four children) to leave Ames, but Bob's military career required a move to California in 1975.

After Bob achieved the rank of colonel and retired from a 24-year career with the U.S. Marine Corps, the Watsons decided to return to Ames in 1984. Bob joined the Iowa State University (ISU) Foundation as a controller. He later became the associate vice president and director of leadership gifts at the ISU Foundation before retiring in 2000. "We're proud that three of our children and five of our grandchildren are ISU graduates," Bob says.



"I wish we'd come here five years sooner"

Following Bob's retirement, the couple chose to stay in the home they had purchased in 1984. A few years ago, however, they decided it was time to look at various retirement communities around Ames.

The couple knew they didn't want an apartment. "We like having access to a yard," says Jean, who has been married to Bob for 62 years. "We also wanted to own our own home."

Bob suggested touring Green Hills, since he had watched the neighborhood grow through the years. "We looked at about five town homes here over a number of months, but nothing was quite what we were looking for," he says.

Everything changed, however, when a three-bedroom, three-bath town home with a patio came up for sale in 2021. "We loved it," Jean says. "Our children were delighted when we said we were moving to Green Hills."

The Watsons are the second family to own this town home, which includes plenty of storage space. "We've never had an attached garage before, so this is great," says Jean, who appreciates easy access to delicious meal options and light housekeeping services at Green Hills. "We also like seeing the wooded area from our kitchen window."

It's easy for the Watsons to stay connected to the Ames community, where Jean is a long-time P.E.O. member. The couple also maintains close ties to ISU, which offers the Robert and Jean Watson Advancement Internship to help students learn fundraising skills and pursue careers in institutional or non-profit development.

The Watsons encourage their friends to consider Green Hills. "I wish we'd come here five years sooner," says Bob, who looks forward to using the woodworking shop on campus.

"Iowa Nice' is real, the people at Green Hills are great, and we love living here."



LEE STORLIE

Lee Storlie Embraces New Adventures at Green Hills

While he's not an author, Lee Storlie's life has had so many astonishing twists and turns that he could write a novel. Many of his stories take flight from his customer service career with United Airlines.

"I'll never forget the time we flew Ronald Reagan during his 1980 presidential campaign," Lee says. "He was so gracious and personable and said, 'Come on in, I want you to meet Nancy,' while the plane was stopped for refueling. It was great to meet them both."

Lee, who worked in Chicago, Detroit and the Twin Cities, crossed paths with other well-known people, including members of the Minnesota Vikings NFL team, and Jimmy Hoffa, the infamous labor union leader who mysteriously disappeared in 1975.

Other people Lee met weren't high profile, but they caught his attention, including an adult and child who were trying to board an international flight. "I had a gut feeling something wasn't right," says Lee, who did some investigating. "This saved a kid from being abducted to Italy."

The airline industry shaped Lee's life far beyond his customer service work. His wife, Diane, was a flight attendant. The couple married in 1962 and enjoyed many years together, complete with various trips around the world, before she passed away in 2015.

As time went on, Lee and his family decided it might be time for a change. "My daughter Sally said, 'Dad, you've been in your house for 52 years,'" says Lee, 80, who lived in Burnsville, Minnesota, just south of Minneapolis.

While his spacious home and big yard were great when he was raising a family, Lee decided to move closer to Sally and her husband, who live in Ames. "I sold my home in one day," says

Lee, who didn't expect the process to move quite so quickly.

As Lee's family helped him check out living options in Ames, they decided to tour Green Hills. When they stepped into apartment 703 in The Oaks, everyone loved it. "My granddaughter Brooklyn said, 'That's the apartment for you,'" Lee says. **"Ames has everything I need."**

With the help of his family, including his son-in-law, Rich, Lee moved to his new home in June 2021 and couldn't be happier with his choice. Lee uses the exercise room several mornings a week and enjoys making new friends. "The Green Hills team is so kind, and I feel safe and secure," he says.

Lee's apartment offers a great view of Jack Trice Stadium at Iowa State University (ISU), along with a spectacular vantage point to watch 4th of July fireworks. "Ames has everything I want," adds Lee.

Lee, who's a fan of 1950s rock-and-roll legends like Elvis Presley and Buddy Holly, is also interested in trains, including the Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad. This is one more ironic twist in Lee's life. "When I was 13, a car I was riding in hit a train on January 14, 1954," says Lee, who crashed through the windshield. "I recovered, though, and became a train buff."

Lee can share a wealth of stories like this with his new friends at Green Hills. "Iowa Nice' is real, and I love the people here. They're my family now."

VIKKI MORAIN

Green Hills “Feels Like Coming Home” for Vikki Morain

Purpose is the thread that weaves an extraordinary life together. Vikki Morain was reminded of this when her life took an unexpected twist.

“I think often of my husband, Tom,” Vikki says. “He was less determined to accomplish extraordinary things than to do ordinary things with extraordinary love – and ended up doing both.”

Vikki met Tom when the two were undergraduates at Graceland College (now Graceland University) in Lamoni, Iowa. The couple married in 1969 and moved to Ames in 1973, where they taught at Iowa State University (ISU), with Tom specializing in history and Vikki in child development. “Ames was a great place to raise our two sons,” Vikki says.

After Tom’s career brought him back to Graceland University in 2001, he and Vikki lived in Lamoni for 20 years. They enjoyed their wooded acreage, which reminded them of their Ames home.

Life became much more unsettled, however, following a doctor’s appointment in early 2020. Tom was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Seven months later on October 10, he passed away at age 73. “Going from ‘we’ to ‘me’ was a huge challenge,” says Vikki, 75, who is grateful she got to spend nearly 52 years of married life with Tom.

As she reassessed her future, Vikki enrolled in a Zoom teleconference through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at ISU to learn more about senior housing in Story County. “I

wanted to know what options are available,” Vikki says.

While Vikki was ready to move back to Ames, she knew she didn’t want to move again after that. Green Hills offered an appealing option, but she was concerned that it might feel confining, since she was used to acreages.

Those worries faded immediately, however, when she and her son Michael toured a town home with a spacious sunroom. “I thought, ‘Ok, I can land here,’” Vikki says.

Vikki has discovered even more to love about Green Hills since she moved to campus in September 2021. She appreciates the mature trees and wildlife in the neighborhood as she rides her semi-recumbent e-trike on the trails. She enjoys swimming in the pool and picking up a Greek salad for lunch. “*I also like not being responsible for mowing the lawn or scooping snow from a quarter-mile-long driveway,*” Vikki says.

This gives her more time for her favorite hobbies. An experienced woodturner, Vikki keeps her lathe and bandsaw in her spacious basement. Her sunroom is perfect for her weaving loom, where she makes colorful scarves, blankets and wall hangings to sell through her Etsy store online.

When she’s not in her “loom room,” Vikki likes to socialize. “I’m having fun getting reacquainted with friends I knew when I lived in Ames before, plus I’m making new friends, so it’s a double bonus,” says Vikki, who also maintains her 40+ year business as a Mary Kay consultant/ director.

Vikki is glad that Green Hills’ safe, secure environment offers peace of mind for her sons, including Michael in Des Moines and Joel in upstate New York. “**Green Hills is a lively, engaged community filled with bright, well-traveled, interesting people,**” Vikki says. “**Living here feels like coming home.**”



LEW KLINGE

Keep Going, Keep Growing: Lew Klinge *Returns* to His Iowa Roots



Call it the best seat in the house. A sunroom can feel like a retreat in your own home, especially when it’s filled with lush, green plants like the ones in Lew Klinge’s town home at Green Hills.

“I’ve always liked plants,” says Lew, 73, who grew up near Postville, Iowa. “There’s a photo of me admiring some zinnias when I was five.” Lew also liked adventure. After earning his horticulture degree from Iowa State University (ISU) and serving in the U.S. Army, he worked as a park ranger on Theodore Roosevelt Island on the Potomac River. Lew, who was based in the Washington, D.C. metro area for 50 years, traveled the country during his career with the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, however, Lew found himself thinking more about his family in Iowa. “The pandemic was very lonely when you live alone,” says Lew, who was living in Alexandria, Virginia, at the time.

When he returned home to visit his mother, brother and sister, Lew started thinking about moving back to Iowa. “At first I thought I might buy a small house. But I decided it would be better to be in a retirement community with healthcare close by.”

One Sunday when Lew was visiting his brother in Panora, Lew drove to Ames and walked around the Green Hills campus. He liked what he saw, did more online research and scheduled a Zoom videoconference call with Green Hills after reviewing a listing for a specific town home.

“This one had a loft,” says Lew, who also liked the property’s sunroom. “I bought the town

home sight unseen and was pleased with it as soon as I moved in.”

Lew has gained an even deeper appreciation for Green Hills’ many advantages after moving to campus in May 2021. His spacious home has room for all his antiques and other favorite items. He enjoys walking on the trails around campus and has gotten acquainted with all his neighbors. “I’ve never lived in a safer place,” he says.

Ames’s central Iowa location also makes it easy for Lew to visit his family. When they come to his home, it’s convenient to order food from Green Hills for pick up or delivery.

Lew also enjoys being close to Reiman Gardens and is interested in volunteering there. Since horticulture shaped Lew’s career, he has established a scholarship for ISU students interested in horticulture, landscape architecture or music.

Green Hills’ “lock and leave” lifestyle appeals to Lew, who has visited 48 states and all seven continents. “I want to travel more,” says Lew, who adds that Green Hills’ housekeeping services and his low-maintenance home free up more of his time. “I would love to see more of America by train.”

This is all possible, since life at Green Hills is simpler and more affordable for Lew. “**It’s easy to run errands, my doctors are in one place at the same facility, and I’m glad I moved here. It’s a good change.**”





JOHN AND MARY FEYERER

From Chicago to Green Hills: John and Mary Feyerer *Celebrate* the “Cruise Ship Experience”

Your priorities change as you go through life, especially when you reach retirement age. For John and Mary Feyerer, retirement motivated them to move from Illinois to Iowa in 2005.

“We moved from the Chicago area to Ames to be closer to our daughter and son-in-law, who are both doctors in Carroll,” John says. “It’s nice drive to over there to see the kids and grandkids.”

Family wasn’t the only consideration as the Feyerers decided where to settle. They looked at various communities in the South, including a suburb of Austin, Texas, along with central Iowa. They liked Ames’ heritage as a university town.

After moving to a town home in Ames, the Feyerers began volunteering. “We wanted to connect with the community,” says John, who got involved with a senior center, RSVP of Iowa, and the Ames Police Department, where he helped with fingerprinting. “The folks in Iowa are fantastic,” adds John, who was a corporate credit manager in the Chicago area and Green Bay, Wisconsin, for 45+ years.

“They’re so welcoming.”

The Feyerers enjoyed living in Ames and spending time at their winter home in Florence, Arizona. As time went on, however, the couple began to reassess their future. “Now that we’re in our early 80s, we wanted to have a backup plan in case something would happen to one of us,” says John, who has been married to Mary for 58 years.

The couple looked at a number of retirement communities in Arizona and central Iowa, including Green Hills. Once they found a Green Hills town home they liked, they sold their Ames town home, sold their Arizona home and moved to campus in October 2021.

“*This is the nicest setting we’ve ever had,*” says John, who enjoys relaxing on the patio with Mary and taking walks around the neighborhood. “We can see the birds, squirrels and chipmunks and enjoy the beautiful scenery.”

“They’re so welcoming.”



Other factors also sold the Feyerers on Green Hills, including:

- **Exceptional amenities.** Green Hills offers excellent food, a well-stocked library, exercise facilities, entertainment options and excursions to events at Iowa State University (ISU) and beyond. “Green Hills is a like a cruise ship, only it’s not going anywhere,” John says. “You have everything you need right here, plus the staff are friendly, knowledgeable and skilled.”
- **Opportunities to connect with the community.** Mary enjoys her book clubs and bridge club. John, who served on a neighborhood architectural committee in Arizona, is interested in serving on Green Hills’ finance committee.
- **Peace of mind.** “People here look out for each other,” says John, who appreciates having high-quality healthcare options nearby. “We feel safe and secure at Green Hills.”
- **The people.** “It’s easy to strike up a conversation,” John says. “We share similar life experiences, since we’re in the same age range. If you ask, ‘Do you remember when?’, they do!”

While John and Mary both grew up in Illinois, they’re glad they moved to Iowa and Green Hills. “Iowans are unbelievably nice, and Green Hills is fantastic,” John says. “We’re proud to call Iowa home.”





GREEN HILLS™

2205 Green Hills Drive | Ames, Ia 50014
515-357-5000 | GreenHillsRC.com

Experience Green Hills!

Green Hills offers you the opportunity to be part of our Connections Program.

Limited number of annual memberships available!

Participate in Green Hills' social and dining activities, membership in the Wellness Center, transportation to Ames and Iowa State cultural and sports events, and so much more.



GREEN HILLS
CONNECTIONS