

VIEWPOINT

WINTER 2020



The Green Hills *Lifestyle* is made for us!



JIM AND FRANKEE OLESON:

“There’s Something *Special* at Green Hills”

For some people, the COVID-19 pandemic completely disrupted daily life. For others, like Jim and Frankee Oleson, it created new opportunities.

“With all the time at home, we got everything unpacked and organized,” says Frankee, who moved to one of the Timberland town homes at Green Hills in mid-November 2019 with her husband, Jim.

The Olesons had lived on the north side of Ames for 35 years before moving to Green Hills. “We loved our previous house, but we were planning for the future,” says Jim, an avid golfer who spent 33 years of his career at Iowa State University researching corn insect pests. “We want to have plenty of opportunities for socialization.”



Photo of Jim and Frankee Oleson

As the Olesons evaluated retirement communities from Ames to Ankeny over the past nine years, the opportunity to have pets remained a priority. That's why they kept looking at various housing options at Green Hills. When the Timberland town home became available, they knew it was the right fit for them and their beloved cats, Sunny and Penny.

"THE FLOOR PLAN WORKED FOR US," FRANKEE SAYS. "WE LOVE THE VAULTED CEILINGS, TALL WINDOWS AND GAS FIREPLACE."

The inviting campus, friendly neighbors and many activities at Green Hills have helped the Olesons feel right at home—even when COVID-19 turned daily life upside down. "The Green Hills leadership team provided weekly updates, along with a video update from Kat, the executive director," Frankee says. "They checked on everyone regularly, too."

Green Hills also adapted many of its services, such as waiving the food delivery fee. "The food here is fabulous," Frankee adds. "I'm a vegetarian, and Green Hills' chefs work with me on meal options."

Since COVID-19 made in-person exercise classes on campus impossible, the Green Hills fitness instructors offered workout videos online via YouTube. When warmer weather arrived, Frankee appreciated how instructors and participants followed social distancing guidelines during outdoor exercise classes, including yoga, strength training and chair pilates.

"Green Hills has done a great job of finding alternatives so we can continue to stay active," says Frankee, who handled marketing for the Iowa State Center and served as the chief executive officer for United Way of Story County before her retirement.

Living life to the fullest is important to Jim and Frankee, who have been married 51 years and appreciate living close to ISU, where they can enjoy the performing arts and sporting events. "There's a sense of something special at Green Hills," Jim says. "We're happy and content here."

"WE'RE HAPPY AT GREEN HILLS!"



FROM CLEVELAND TO GREEN HILLS:

Ruth Chapman Knows *"Iowa Nice"* is Real

To Ruth Chapman, her husband, Roy, was a larger-than-life figure. Tall and strong, he was one of those people who never seemed to get sick. During their 35-year marriage, Roy worked for the roads department for the City of Cleveland Heights, while Ruth, a mother of three sons, ran her own business.

Then the unthinkable happened in the fall of 2019.

A trip to the hospital for one issue unleashed a series of health complications for Roy that lingered for months. "He never came home," says Ruth, whose husband passed away on April 12, 2020.

While Ruth had spent 60 years of her adult life in the Cleveland area, everything changed after Roy was gone. "The house just seemed hollow without him," says Ruth, who grew up in Burlington. "I didn't want to stay. I'm not a big-city girl."

Ruth always maintained strong ties to Iowa. "My great-great-grandfather ran one of the first mills in Iowa," says Ruth, whose family moved to Ohio after her father's career as an architect took him to Cleveland. "I loved letting people in Cleveland know I'm an Iowan."

During her years in Ohio, Ruth earned her master's degree in library science and started Lynn Article Retrieval, Inc. to conduct

research for pharmaceutical companies and other clients. Roy and Ruth traveled to Iowa every year to visit family, including Ruth's mother, who lived in an apartment at Green Hills. After Ruth's mother passed away, the couple continued to visit Green Hills after Ruth's older sister, Toni Whitman, and her husband, Bill, moved to an apartment on campus.

"JUST LAST YEAR, ROY AND I STARTED LOOKING AT LIVING OPTIONS AT GREEN HILLS," RUTH SAYS. "HE WAS DEFINITELY READY TO MOVE HERE."

While those plans weren't meant to be, Ruth still wanted to move to Green Hills. After she put her house up for sale, it sold quickly, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it was exhausting at times for Ruth

to downsize and make the 12-hour drive from Ohio to Iowa in July, she's glad to be home at Green Hills.

Her one-bedroom apartment on the eighth floor of The Oaks offers a stunning view of the city and the countryside. "It has been an easy transition to Ames," says Ruth, an avid genealogist who enjoys the companionship of her 12-year-old dog, Nellie. "There are all kinds of people here to help you. 'Iowa Nice' is real."



Photo of Ruth Chapman

JOHN AND SUZY SHIERHOLZ

Enjoy *Peace of Mind* at Green Hills

Chance favors the prepared. Just ask John and Suzy Shierholz, who loved their spacious home in Ames but knew it was time for a change.

“We had a lot of yard and garden space, which we enjoyed for years,” says John, a retired radiologist. “We raised our three daughters here and wanted to remain in Ames. It was time to look at different housing options.”

While they toured a variety of retirement communities in central Iowa, the Shierholz’s weren’t ready to commit. Then along came the opportunity to build a new Woodview town home at Green Hills. “While this just kind of fell into our lap, it was too good to pass up,” says Suzy, who liked Green Hills’ amenities, from the town home’s vaulted ceilings to the community’s pet-friendly environment.

The couple moved to Green Hills with their dog, Gabby, in August 2019. They enjoyed getting to know their neighbors as they settled in. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March, John and Suzy appreciated their new home even more. “It’s comforting to know the Green Hills team is looking out for us,” says John, who enjoys playing tennis with friends from Green Hills.

Staying in Ames has been a blessing to the couple, who both grew up in Fort Dodge. “When we finished training, we said we were going to live where there’s a mountain, an ocean or at least a lake” says Suzy, who graduated from Iowa State University (ISU) in 1967. “We’re glad things worked out differently.”



Photo of Suzy and John Shierholz

When John’s work brought him to McFarland Clinic in 1976, the couple became involved in the community. They helped establish a parent-teacher association at their daughters’ elementary school, organized the Ames High School Booster Club and more. This spirit of service also motivated Suzy to help create the Story County Community Foundation in 2005.

Through the years, John has helped raise money for the Hospice House in Ames, while Suzy serves on the board of the Mary Greeley Medical Foundation and the board of Ames-based YSS, which assists children and families.

“Ames was a great place to raise our family,” says Suzy, who notes that one of the Shierholz’s daughters lives in Ames, while the other two live in Illinois and Maryland.

**“GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY
IS IMPORTANT TO US.”**

Suzy and John enjoy staying connected to the community, from Zoom online conferences to Green Hills’ transportation to ISU sporting events. “Our kids are glad we’re at Green Hills,” John says. “It’s peace of mind for everyone.”

COVID-19 *Doesn't* Sidetrack

JOE AND SHALA LUDLEY

If Joe Ludley had a motto, it could be, “Any day with trains is a good day.” That’s why he was in his element three years ago, enjoying a model-train show at United Community Elementary School near Boone. Then he stepped off a curb and ruptured his medial collateral ligament by his kneecap.

As Joe underwent physical therapy to manage this painful injury, he and his wife, Shala, started a journey that opened up a whole new world. “We didn’t want to worry about stairs anymore, so we started looking at different living options about a year and a half ago,” says Shala, who met Joe when the two were growing up in Manchester, Iowa.

The couple had lived in Marshalltown for 30 years. As they looked at various retirement communities in central Iowa, they kept coming back to Green Hills. “We wanted to own our own unit and have enough room for some of my model trains,” says Joe, a retired businessman.

The couple purchased a spacious apartment at The Oaks in December 2019. While they planned to move to Green Hills in March 2020, everything changed after the COVID-19. The couple delayed their move until June 2020. While the pandemic was far from over, the transition to their new home couldn’t have been easier.

“Talk about a great staff!” said Shala, a retired nurse and educator. “Everyone is so accommodating and made sure we didn’t have to leave our apartment if we didn’t want to. They brought us our mail and even did our grocery shopping when we gave them the shopping list.”

After the Ludleys moved in, the Green Hills leadership team also called the couple to introduce themselves and answer any questions. “Every day we heard from someone new, including Kat, the executive director; Josh, the head of facilities; and Courtney, who is the head of dining services,” Joe says.

The couple appreciates the way Green Hills is keeping people connected during this era of COVID-19, including social hour events and a book club via Zoom online video conferencing. Joe has also enjoyed setting up his model railroad in the Ludley’s apartment.

The couple’s three grown children are pleased their parents moved to Green Hills, which offers a movie theater, exercise room, swimming pool and other convenient amenities.

“Five generations of our family are Iowa State University (ISU) graduates, so it’s good to be back in Ames,” says Joe, a 1961 ISU grad. “We’re thoroughly enjoying Green Hills.”



Photo of Joe and Shala Ludley

BUD AND JOYCE NICHOL

Appreciate Smooth *Transition* to Green Hills

Ever have life move so fast that you're glad you weren't totally caught off guard? This happened to Bud and Joyce Nichol when they decided to put their in-town acreage in north Ames up for sale in June of 2020.

"A young couple bought our place shortly after we listed it, and we moved to Green Hills by July 10," says Joyce, a retired preschool teacher. "While we'd been thinking about moving, we didn't know things would happen this fast."

The couple had been looking at various options, including Green Hills, since 2019. When they returned to Iowa in March 2020 after spending the winter in Florida, everything seemed to switch into high gear, from their move to campus to all the transitions related the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Green Hills team was so easy to work with through all this," says Joyce, a Parkersburg native and long-time Ames resident. "That made the move much smoother."

While the Nichols had enjoyed the amenities of an in-town acreage for decades, they wanted more freedom. "I got tired of mowing and pushing snow," says Bud, who grew up in Melbourne, Iowa, and retired from a 50-year career in the meat-processing industry.

Green Hills' town homes appealed to them for reasons. "Our town home had been renovated recently, so it was move-in ready," says Joyce, who likes the fact that Green Hills is also pet-friendly. "We have a full basement, plenty of storage, and our furniture fit well."



Photo of Bud and Joyce Nichol

The swimming pool, educational and entertainment options, and computer tech support on campus are big advantages, especially in this era of COVID-19 when people are sticking close to home.

"Green Hills is also such a pretty place," Joyce adds. "The landscaping is beautiful with all the trees. It almost makes us feel like we're still living on our acreage."

While Bud and Joyce knew quite a few people at Green Hills before they moved to campus, they've enjoyed getting acquainted with others in the neighborhood. The couple's two grown children were happy with the Nichol's decision to move to Green Hills.

"THIS TOWNHOUSE IS ALL WE NEED," JOYCE SAYS. "PEOPLE HAVE BEEN VERY NICE TO US HERE."



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WE ARE EXPANDING AGAIN!

Green Hills would like to take a moment and update you regarding a new project we have been planning. Green Hills plans to expand The Maples with sixteen new apartments, square foot ranges from 1,357-1,450. This expansion is in the early stages of development and currently does not have an estimated date of completion.



Ready to learn more?

Call Linda Lauver today
to learn more about the
Green Hills Lifestyle
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