

THE GREEN HILLS CHIMES



JUNE 2022

Green Hills Retirement Community
Ames, Iowa

The Chimes newsletter is for Green Hills residents to inform one another about current trends and offerings in our community.

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GHRA President's Message

A few months ago we completed a questionnaire for LCS to participate in a U.S. News and World Report Survey. The comparative results have been compiled from about 2500 communities and more than 200,000 current residents. As a result, Green Hills has been named a "2022-23 Best Senior Living Community." U.S. News & World Report is the global leader in quality rankings that empower consumers, business leaders and policy officials to make better, more informed decisions about important issues affecting their lives. More than 40 million people visit USNews.com each month for research and guidance.

By the time you read this, the Boards will have approved the RA and HCC budgets, the 5-year Strategic Plan, and considered the provisions of the new 5-year management contract with Life Care Services (LCS).

At the Shareholder's meeting you were informed of the increase in monthly fees. Most of the increase is due to salaries and benefits, maintenance, repair and renovation, and inflation, which now exceeds 8%.

Indeed, we have had to provide wage increases to remain competitive in the marketplace. This includes an average merit increase of 5% and an adjustment of starting salaries. Starting wages in four different job categories were raised to \$15.00 per hour. This raise will affect about 34 staff members. This raise in starting salaries was a "must" in order to be able to attract workers from places that are already advertising starting wages at \$15 per hour and/or offering "sign-on" bonuses of \$1000 or more. With the labor market being relatively tight in the Ames area, this was a necessary step.

About 65% of the HCC budget and about 46% of the RA budget is for salaries and benefits. The HCC currently has about 75 Full Time

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Equivalents (FTE) and the RA has about 27 which is a total of 102 FTE between the two companies. The total number of employees at Green Hills is about 145, many of whom are part time.

Adding to this wage issue is the significant amount of maintenance, repair and renovation that must be accomplished to keep our premises in good and safe condition. This includes replacing windows in the Oaks, sanitary line repair in the Oaks, replacing a boiler in the Oaks, redoing hallways in the Oaks, replacing shingles on some townhomes, replacing siding on some townhomes, replacing windows on some townhomes, work on townhome window wells, townhome sunroom replacement, additional concrete work on driveways and sidewalks, and many other items too numerous to mention in this message. All together, we have about \$1.1 million of maintenance, repair and renovation to be accomplished this next fiscal year. If we don't do it now, it will cost more in the future, and we can't afford to ignore repair of some items that may affect our safety or well-being, or our marketing of Green Hills.

The inflation issue is significant because the cost of food, insurance and items we purchase to operate our community have all increased. Inflation also affects what we pay our employees and the costs of maintenance, repair and renovation.

However, even with the large increase in your monthly fee, you will be paying significantly less than our main competitors charge in monthly fees for a comparable size unit. We have the comparative data to substantiate this comment.

Furthermore, none of our competitors can compete with the amenities that we enjoy, such as the therapy pool, the theater, Le Bistro, the salon (hair styling, manicures, massages), banking office, clinic room for consultations and examinations, meeting rooms with up-to-date audio-visual capability, the exercise rooms and classes, the art gallery hall, the Arts and Crafts room, the Community Room, and the library.

We are blessed to have a "Continuum of Care" community including a 5-star Health Care Center with assisted living, memory care, home health care, and rehab capability. We have excellent management, and a competent and caring staff.

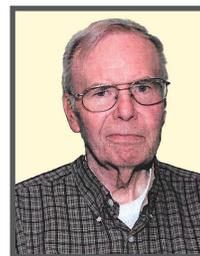
Let's continue to strive to keep Green Hills the "best it can be". If you have questions or comments, please contact me at your convenience.

—Jerry Lee Hall 5/15/2022

New residents:



Priscilla & Charles Sage
405 Oaks



Lester & Alicia Carlsborg
Town Home 2332 Hamilton Dr.



ELECTION RESULTS

Board of Directors Class of 2025:
 Ann Hein
 Paul Rietz
 Allen Trenkle

Advisory Council Class of 2025:
 Fran Berger
 Jan Essig
 Linda Peters
 Norma Speer
 Kelly Tobin

Thank you to everyone who participated and to those who voted!

Election Gratitude

“Thank you for considering me for your vote to Advisory Council. I am looking forward to working for you.”

—Jan Essig

The Green Hills Chimes

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Submissions Deadline:
 15th of each month.
 (No January Chimes)

Do you know someone at Green Hills who is ill, in the hospital, or has lost a loved one in their immediate family?



The Friendship Committee Co-Chairs:
 Paula Toms x5141
 Anne Durland x5398

The Friendship Committee

Please call the following committee members if there are occasions when a contact should be made to recognize illnesses and deaths:

Contacts for June 2022:
 Apts: LoAnne Worth, x5177
 Town Homes: Hanna Gradwohl, x5060



New Books in our Green Hills Library
on the countertop by the windows

Burns, Anna	<i>Milkman: A Novel</i>	Fiction
Hillerman, Anne	<i>The Sacred Bridge: A Leaphorn, Chee and Manuelito Novel</i>	Fiction
Honeyman, Gail	<i>Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine</i>	Fiction
Picoult, Jodi	<i>A Spark of Light: A Novel</i>	Fiction
Rimmer, Kelly	<i>The Things We Cannot Say: A Novel</i>	Fiction
Steel, Danielle	<i>Accidental Heroes: A Novel</i>	Fiction

Recently, Etha Hutchcroft listened to the Ames Public Library’s lecture on humor writing, thought of her “smart” feet and wrote the following:

•••••
• **MY AGING INTELLIGENT FEET**
• Throughout each day
• my trusty Intelligent Feet
• walk me to a room
• where I need to be.
•
• But once there I ponder,
• “Why did I come here?”
•
• My Intelligent Feet know why.
•
• I stand where my body has been delivered.
• I await my lesser intelligent brain to remind me
• why I came
• to this place
• at this time.
•••••

BOOK REVIEW

Last Summer at the Golden Hotel

By Elysa Friedland



This is a light-hearted story about two Jewish men and their wives, the Goldmans and the Weingolds, who built a beautiful hotel in the Catskills in 1960. For many years, it was a highly popular vacation site for Jewish families, the place to be seen and spend time and money. The Catskills were much better than hot New York City with little or no air-conditioning. The children of the Goldmans and the Weingolds loved spending time there over the summer. The best in entertainment was provided for guests' enjoyment as well as other activities and liaisons. As the years progressed though, the owners aged as did the hotel and their children. The story takes us through three dysfunctional generations and their problems and loves. A time arrives when the families decide it is time to get together one more time to discuss what was going to happen to the hotel after an offer is made for the site. For those of you who loved "Dirty Dancing," this is a great read.

a book review from the Green Hills Book Club

From the Continuing Education Committee:

We on the Continuing Education Committee strive to present different topics and various presenters, realizing that some will draw more interest than others. The speakers spend a good deal of time preparing and presenting their information and we appreciate their time and effort. As thanks, we take them to lunch and send them a thank you note; small tokens, but they are appreciative. They are also rewarded by a decent-sized audience that shows interest in their topic. We encourage you to attend these programs when you can, a reward to them for their efforts. The presentations are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. either in the Community Room or the theater. We also encourage you to give us topic and/or speaker suggestions. Maybe you have something you yourself would like to present. Please contact anyone on the committee or put ideas in my box, #1303.

— Norma Speer, Chair, Continuing Education Committee

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

Welcome Baby!

The Employee Appreciation Committee is adding new initiatives as part of our desire to appreciate staff year-round. We tried out the Welcome Baby! idea with two employees who had babies since July 2021, Chelsey Konz and John Hummer. Each of them received a Welcome Baby packet with information about early language and literacy development and local resources. They each chose a board book to keep and enjoy with their baby.

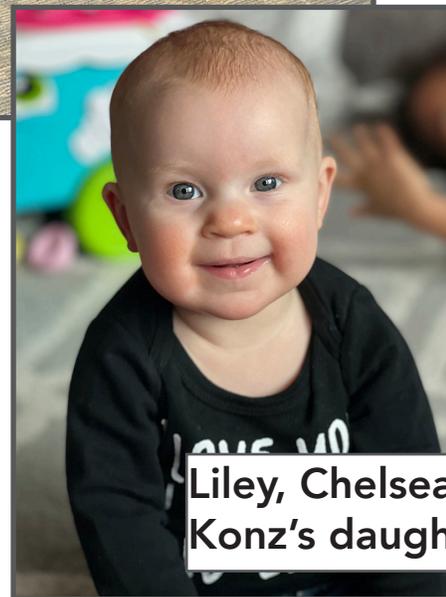
Michelle Price, Human Resources Director, and Katie Schmidt, Health Care Supervisor, have offered special support.

What a joy it was for committee members to see photos and videos of the babies of these employees. They are the youngest members of our Green Hills family. With permission, we share these photos.

Committee members with new mother Chelsey Konz



John Hummer with Lyra



Liley, Chelsey Konz's daughter

ART GALLERY NEWS



Now through mid-June, Ames Artist Naomi Friend (pictured, left, hanging her work) shows one of a kind exposures using cyanotype, combining the process with drawn illustrations of farm animals, both cultivated and native species.



Art Gallery Committee members help Naomi with the display arrangement of her pieces on our gallery walls.



Are you ready for another Residents' group show?

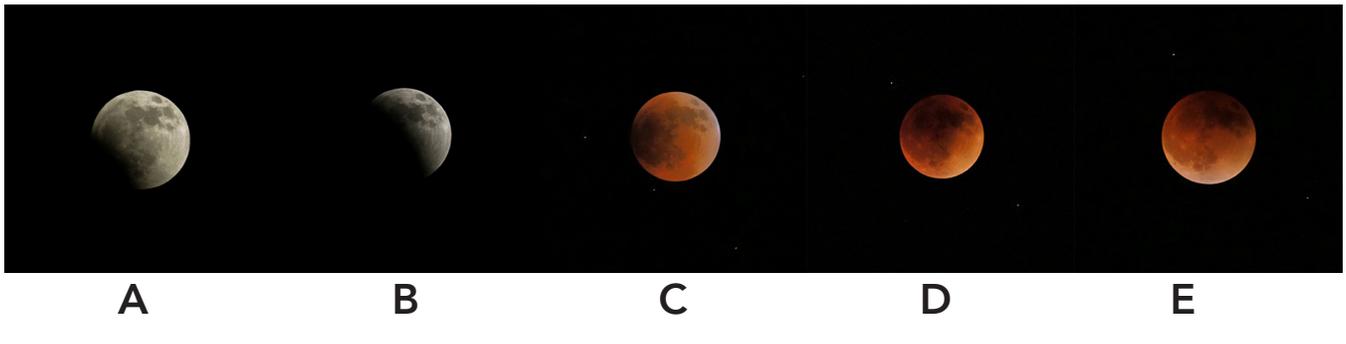
The Art Gallery Committee will once again offer the theme “Rural Reflections”, that was so popular last summer at Green Hills. Once again, we are soliciting from residents’ collections of rural-themed art that missed a showing in our crowded 2021 show.

Contact Rae Reilly, Chair, or any other committee member:
Barbara Bruene, Don Dyer, Molly Ethridge, Carol Grant, Art Klein, or Shala Ludley.
(Committee member Priscilla Sage is out of town this summer)

Allen Trenkle's camera took him to the GH prairie area for the Lunar Eclipse the night of May 15-16

Be sure to look at this Chimes issue PDF file sent to you in your e-mail. It is in full color which is the only way to appreciate Allen's photographs of this perfect eclipse.

Allen writes: Photos of the eclipse were taken from the prairie area here at Green Hills at different times as the eclipse evolved: **A** 9:30 as eclipse began, **B** 9:50 as eclipse progressed, **C** 10:30 start of total eclipse, **D** 11:15 midpoint of total eclipse and **E** 11:40 near end of total eclipse. The term "Blood Moon" describes the red glow of the total eclipse. As time progressed during the total eclipse, the reflection from the sun moved from upper right of the moon down to the lower part of the moon. There will be another total lunar eclipse this year on November 8.



Ed's Cartoon Corner

