



SEPTEMBER 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. Inside this issue:

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## **GHRA President's Message**

Our CULTURE is a Community United in Living Through Unbelievably Rich Experiences! Patience and positive attitude are virtues that encompass our Green Hills residents and staff. It has been a pleasure to work with such people and the various committees this past fiscal year. It has been a busy year with development of a new five-year Strategic Plan, negotiating a new five-year contract with LCS, and considering the repair, maintenance and improvement needs of the community. Budgets have been developed and estimates for future budgets are being discussed and considered. Priorities are being discussed, considered and established based on the needs and resources available. Our committees are busy considering their action steps in the Strategic Plan. We are, indeed, a busy community!

It appears that the Oaks windows and accessories will arrive in late September or early October, a little later than originally indicated. Installation will start late in October and carry on into 2023 as weather permits. Installation will be starting on the 8th floor and working down floor by floor. Each hallway will be renovated once the windows on that floor have been installed. Story Construction is the general contractor for the project and Boone Glass will install the windows. Other contractors, such as RDG, will be involved with different portions of the hallways (e.g. carpeting, lighting, finishes and art). A meeting of Oaks residents will be held in early September to discuss the process and choice of trim colors.

There are many items in our community that are being repaired, maintained, replaced or improved. Most recently, we had to replace the air-conditioning compressors in the Wellness Center due to unexpected compressor failure of the 10-year-old units. Normal life of such items is typically 15-20 years. So, we experienced an unexpected expense of about \$23,000 and temporary loss of use of the pool and certain rooms in the Wellness Center. *continues on next page →*

The compressor failure and last month's failure of the water heater in the Oaks point to the need to have sufficient reserve funds on hand to cover the unexpected losses. Fortunately, we had budgeted for unanticipated failures such as these items. Let us hope we do not have any more unexpected failures this year.

One way to provide the much-needed funds, and to keep your monthly fees from increasing so rapidly, is by expansion of the number of apartments on campus by building the Maples addition. About a 10% increase in the number of residents will occur when the apartments are sold and occupied, along with additional meals and services, it would also increase our operating income by about 10% which will help in keeping your monthly fees from increasing as rapidly as they otherwise would. Eventually, it will also help increase the numbers in Assisted Living, Health Care and Memory Care in the Health Center.

We can't proceed with the Maples addition without your vote. As stated in past Chimes, we need an 80% approval of the resident owners in Green Hills community to proceed. Floor plans and construction costs are being developed and a budget will be developed to determine the cost of each new apartment. The plan is to have the total sales of all apartments fully pay for the new addition. When this information is known, we will, if cost feasible, ask for your vote to proceed with the project.

Remember, a good life is when we smile often, dream big, laugh a lot and realize how blessed we are for what we have. In any event, let us be "The Best We Can Be".

—Jerry Lee Hall, President, Green Hills Residents Association

## THE GREEN HILLS CHIMES

### **Publisher:**

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### **Submissions Deadline:**

15<sup>th</sup> 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  
Loanne Worth x5177

## 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 September 2022:**

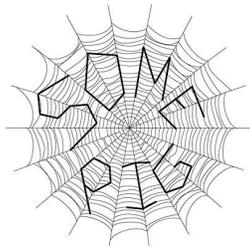
Apts: Jan Essig, x5212

Town Homes: Mary Feyerer, x5170



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

<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
Brooks, Geraldine	<i>Horse: A Novel</i>	Fiction
Martin, Madeline	<i>The Librarian Spy: A Novel of World War II</i>	Fiction
Obama, Barack	<i>A Promised Land</i>	Biography
Parton, Dolly and James Patterson	<i>Run Rose Run: A Novel</i>	Fiction
Patchett, Ann	<i>The Dutch House</i>	Fiction
Rudi, Norman	<i>A Neighborhood of Eagles: Nine Stories of Airmen Who Served during WWII</i>	History



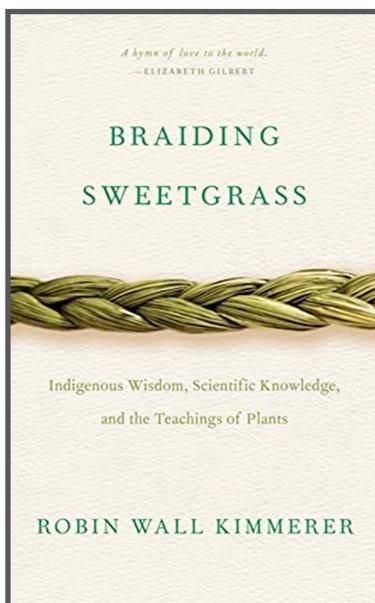
For those of you who missed the Iowa State Fair last month, meet “Pee Wee,” the champion Big Boar, who weighed in at 1300 lbs. He is from Sioux Center.



## BOOK REVIEW

### Braiding Sweetgrass

By Robin Wall Kimmerer



Braiding Sweetgrass is a gentle, passionate account of Native American ecological belief systems. It is written by Robin Wall Kimmerer, an enrolled member of the Native Potawatomi Nation and a Distinguished Professor of Environmental and Forest Biology. Readers are guided through indigenous approaches to the natural world by way of Kimmerer's shared life experiences, and thus can appreciate the themes of reciprocity, gratitude, and reconciliation. Learning these unique approaches allows us to better understand our connection to nature and the need to build a more sustainable future. Though sometimes grim when presenting damage that has been done to the world, Braiding Sweetgrass offers hope by spelling out traditional methods of respectfully giving back more than we take.

—Book review by Marguerite Sibley

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## DINING COMMITTEE: GRILL RESERVATIONS

Providing information about dining services continues to be a goal of the Dining committee. A recent topic was reservations. After listening to concerns of the staff, the committee's recommendation was to limit reservations to table sizes of 6 or less in the Grill.

When 2 tables are put together, the number of people that can be served is reduced by 2, thus losing 2 end seats.

Another concern is the "hot light" area in the kitchen that keeps food warm until served. That utility is limited to 6 plates. It is difficult to serve more than 6 and keep the food warm so all can be served at the same time.

Being mindful of these concerns, particularly in the Grill, is appreciated.

Larger tables can still be requested and discussed with Courtney well in advance to set up special catering. That might include Café Night, use of the private dining room, or when you have family visiting and all want to dine at the same table.

Suggestions for Grill specials can be left in the comment boxes. One thing was obvious at the committee's last meeting: the staff truly wants to please all, prepare food that will be popular, and be able to seat the maximum number of diners during the busiest times in the Grill.

# A SENSORY GARDEN PARTY FOR VOLUNTEERS & FRIENDS

A recent gathering in our GH sensory garden showcased the efforts of volunteers and friends of the garden who plant and maintain the garden.

The garden opened in 1997 and the “mother” of the garden, Mary Eischeid Cory, was present to talk about how the garden originally started.



Bruce Munson tries out the porch swing he just assembled.



Conversation in the Garden



Mary Cory talks about the conception and launch for the garden.



Relaxing in the gazebo.....



The milkweed is ready for Iowa's monarch butterflies to visit

## NEXT IN OUR ART GALLERY:



Beginning September 1, Clark Colby's 4-H Camera Corps' photographs will hang in our gallery for the entire month.

Keep in mind that the students behind the camera lenses are 4-H participants from around Iowa using not only higher-end lenses but also ordinary cell phone cameras.

Clark Colby is part of ISU's extension & outreach programs for 4-H youth. You can find a detailed explanation of his responsibilities on the ISU website, under ISU 4-H Youth Development.

### Ed's Cartoon Corner



Members of the Green Hills Strollers Club, after an outing the first of July, decided to suspend daily walks for the rest of the month.