



## COVID-19 CONTINUES TO DOMINATE THE NEWS

BY JOE EWERT, PRESIDENT & CEO

**C**ovid-19 continues to dominate the news cycle with discussions of the slowed pace of vaccination, the rise in overall positive cases, and concerns over the Delta variant. There is an enormous volume of information being disseminated around all of these issues, and much of what I see can be misleading if one does not look further into the source of the data. I prefer to view Covid-19 data directly through the CDC, although it can be difficult to weed through the wide variety of ways they present the information.

Overall cases across the United States are rising in all 50 states due in part to seasonal patterns of the virus and the arrival of the Delta variant. At the same time, deaths and hospitalizations are near their lowest point since the beginning of the pandemic. Virus related deaths are less than 10% of what we experienced during the winter months. The seven day average deaths in Kansas as of July 20 stood at two.

Why are we seeing rising cases and low illness and death rates at the same time? These divergent data points are caused in part by the impressive effectiveness of the vaccines and the specific populations who have already been vaccinated. Nationwide, the populations most at risk for illness from the virus boast the highest levels of vaccination. Roughly 80% of those in the United States over 65 are fully vaccinated. At Brewster Place that number is close to 99%.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 is still causing death at a rate roughly twice that of the seasonal flu and those deaths are almost entirely among unvaccinated individuals. According to the Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, 99.5% of those now dying from Covid-19 are unvaccinated. We monitor Covid-19 activity continuously to determine if new or additional interventions are necessary for campus. The CDC continues to maintain that vaccinated individuals are protected from Covid-19 including the known variants such as Delta. According to CDC director

BREWSTER  
RESIDENT/  
STAFF  
VACCINATION  
RATE

73%

**CUP OF JOE**  
**Thursday, August 5**  
**10:00 am**  
**Cultural Arts Center**  
Join Joe for coffee and to  
learn more about COVID-19  
updates or interventions.  
Bring your questions too!

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### MISSION

Brewster Place is a retirement community providing all of its residents opportunities for an optimal quality of life.



The Brewster Health Center is accredited by The Joint Commission.



## CREATIVE ARTS

WITH KRIS SAIA, CREATIVE ARTS COORDINATOR | 274-3317

### INTRO TO WATERCOLOR

Friday, August 13

1:00 pm | The Evergreens Art Studio

**T**ake a lesson from our very own Audrey Leamon! Audrey will show us the very basics of using watercolors; if you're a beginner or just need a refresher course, you're sure to enjoy learning from Audrey, whose beautiful work has been exhibited in many galleries. All supplies will be provided. Space is limited, so please call Kris Saia at 274-3317 to reserve your spot.

### WOODCARVING

Monday, August 23

1:00 pm | The Evergreens Art Studio

**B**eginners are always welcome! Instructor Mike Keil will bring tools for beginners to try their hand... give it a whirl!

*It's never too late to create!*

### CALL FOR QUILTS!

**W**e're planning an Autumn Quilt Show for the Brewster Cultural Arts Center and the Dorothy Trueblood Resident Art Gallery. We'll begin collecting quilts on September 7. The show will run September 17 — November 15.

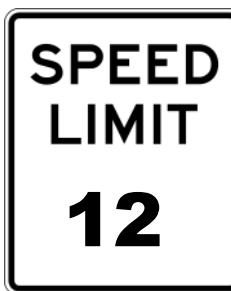
If you have a lovely quilt you'd like to share, please call Kris Saia 274-3317 in August. Quilts should have a "sleeve" sewn to the back so we can hang them properly. ■



### TRASH & TREASURE SALE POSTPONED

**O**ur Trash & Treasure Sale originally scheduled for August 13 has been postponed. We planned to have this sale open to the public and out of an abundance of caution and for the safety of our residents and staff, we are postponing due to COVID-19. Stay tuned for the new date! ■

### SAFETY REMINDER: CAMPUS SPEED LIMIT



The Speed Limit on campus is 12 mph. For the safety of all residents and employees, please adhere to that limit. Thank you! ■



**BPTV Channel 1960**  
Your go-to place for daily news, announcements, updates, music, classes, and fun photos!



## FROM the CHAPLAIN REV. CAROLINE VAUTRINOT, M.DIV

### FRUITS OF OUR HARVEST

**A**ugust is the month where I always begin to think about harvest season. I think about late summer days spent at my great aunt’s camp, plucking ripe berries off bushes either for a quick snack or to be made into pies to share after supper. I remember racing to camp, hoping to get to the small harvest before the birds that always seemed to know just when the berries were at their ripest point to snatch them up before we could get them.

This is the month when the first fruits of labor are plucked from the ground to be enjoyed and to nourish. In ancient Israel and Judah, the people offered God the first parts of the harvest in thanksgiving for the blessings given all year. That it was the first, initial portion of the harvest offered was itself a declaration of faith in the goodness and providence of God in their lives. In giving the first fruits, rather than portions gathered later, the people showed faith that more harvest would follow throughout the season.

In our own time, we often have choices to care for harvests of a different sort. Some of us do care for gardens and will be gathering the products of that labor, but we can all look to the harvests of our spiritual lives and relationships. Whether we are religious or not, we are as connected to one another through our community and shared experiences as the ancients were in their own communities helping each other through the fruits of their labor.

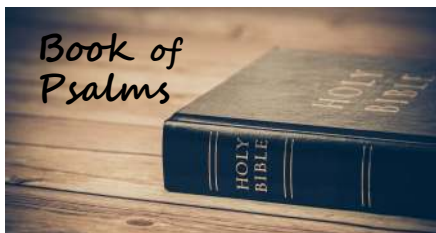
This month, I ask that we all take moments to think about our lives here at Brewster Place. Let us think about how we interact with our community both here and in the wider world. Whether to the Divine or to those around us in our daily lives, what first fruits do we offer? How does each of us see our own harvest?

As we go about our lives throughout the year, we are continually caring for our own spiritual selves and looking forward to the harvest that is to come. Let us work so that we may all share in the fruits of our harvest together. ■

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## BIBLE STUDY

### An Exploration of the Book of Psalms



Tuesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31

1:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

**Y**ou are invited to join Chaplain Caroline for an exploration of the Book of Psalms! Each Tuesday in August, we will be looking at various psalms and discussing their history and their meaning for us today. All are welcome!

**psalm**

*noun*

*Plural noun: psalms*

a sacred song or hymn, in particular any of those contained in the biblical Book of Psalms and used in Christian and Jewish worship. ■



## HOMES OF THE MONTH

The Evergreens 104 *and* 108

**H**ow great would it be if your best friend lived close by, or even right next door! Well, there is an opportunity to make that happen here at Brewster Place. The Evergreens apartments 104 and 108 are both available at this time.

These two homes at The Evergreens are ready for a complete renovation; with Brewster covering the costs for the standard updating! New residents have the opportunity to choose cabinets, countertops, flooring, paint, and so much more. Both apartments still have large bathtubs if you are the soaker type, and want to keep the tub. The tub can also be removed at no cost to the new resident, and low-step onyx showers will be installed.

In addition, both apartments face west and are just an elevator ride up from the Brewster Bean coffee shop and all of the new amenities at the Brewster Events Center. The Evergreens 104 has a nice view of the quiet little neighborhood to the south and apartment 108 has an elevated view overlooking the outside dining area. The gazebo area which is full of flowers and outside seating space is just around the corner from these apartments.

So, check with a good friend about taking a tour and look at the possibilities of living in The Evergreens at Brewster Place. Remember, you can help choose your future neighbors, and receive a bonus! Residents who make a referral to Brewster will receive one month's free rent once the friend moves in!

***To schedule a tour, please contact Chris Gallagher in Sales and Marketing at 274-3351. ■***



[facebook.com/brewsterplace.org](https://facebook.com/brewsterplace.org)



## HEARING AID MAINTENANCE AND CARE

Rick Ediger with  
Ediger Hearing Aid Service  
Thursday, August 26  
1:00—3:00 pm

Cultural Arts Center

**R**ick Ediger will be at Brewster to give a talk about hearing aids, maintenance, care, and will be available to clean hearing aids after the program. We plan to have Rick back quarterly for hearing aid checks and cleaning. ■



## SATURDAY YOGA CLASS

Every Saturday at 10:15 am  
Brewster Events  
Wellness Center  
(lower level of Brewster  
Events Center)

**R**esident Services added a Saturday Yoga class to the schedule in July and it has proven to be a very popular class, so we plan to keep it on the schedule. Try it out! All are welcome! ■



**SITUATIONAL  
AWARENESS  
AND  
RESPONSE  
ASSISTANT**



If you have questions regarding the SARA System or other safety and security issues, please contact Ron Dean, Security Manager, at 274-3370.

## **SARA SYSTEM REVIEW**

BY RON DEAN, SAFETY AND SECURITY MANAGER

**W**e recently had questions from residents about how the **SARA (Situational Awareness and Response Assistant)** system functions and transmits from locations *outside* of a resident's apartment. When you have an emergency, you can press your pendant button anywhere on campus. Once pushed security is notified and will attempt to call you and send an officer to find you. If you are in a group setting and a resident in the group is experiencing an emergency, it is not necessary to press more than one pendant. Below is a more detailed description, provided by IT Manager John Long, of how the SARA system functions.

**The SARA system is controlled by a dedicated computer at Brewster Place.**

### **Normal Operation:**

- There are several wireless network repeaters distributed throughout campus with overlapping coverage, and SARA continually monitors these signals.
- SARA self-monitors for integrity. It sends out a status request to all SARA pendants every three minutes, and verifies that all the pendants are functional on the network.
- Any pendant not responding properly generates an alert to the Communications Center located in Redwood.

### **Alert Event Operation:**

- When a pendant alert button is pushed, the pendant sends out an alarm within seconds to the SARA network.
- The SARA server receives the alert signal and pinpoints the location of the alert using triangulation of the signal with the network repeaters. SARA then simultaneously sends the alert details to the Communication Center SARA Monitor, does a broadcast over the security radios, and generates a voice telephone call to the Communications Center.

### **Alert Resolved:**

- After the person responding to the Alert arrives — either a Security Officer or Community Health Nurse — they will reset the pendant and an all clear message will be transmitted to the Communications Center, acknowledging when help has arrived. ■

# PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

**Tuesday, August 3 | Polls open 7 am—7 pm  
Cultural Arts Center**

**B**rewster Place is in Ward 6, Precinct 3. We will vote in the nonpartisan August 3 primary for one of five candidates for mayor of Topeka. The two candidates who receive the most votes will appear on the November 2 general election ballot along with candidates for District 5 of the City Council and District 2 of the 501 School Board.

If you have requested a permanent advanced mail ballot you should have already received it. All advanced mail ballots must be returned to the election office or to our polling place before 7:00 pm on August 3.

Early voting has begun in the election office at 3420 SW Van Buren Street. The parking lot is off Croix Street between Topeka Blvd. and Kansas Ave. Early voting ends at noon on August 2. Registration books will reopen on August 4 and remain open through October 12.

You can vote here at Brewster Place from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm in our Cultural Arts Center on Tuesday, August 3. ***If you haven't changed your voter registration address since moving to Brewster, you can still vote here.*** You will be given a provisional ballot and must fill in the registration information on the envelope in which your secure ballot will be sealed. Your vote will be counted and the Election Office will update your registration. Always bring your photo ID to vote.

## **The five candidates for mayor are:**

- Daniel Brown
- Leo Cangiani
- Patrick Klick
- John Lauer
- Michael Padilla

## **Precinct committee persons in Ward 6,**

### **Precinct 3:**

#### **Democratic**

- Diana Siegal - 274-5575
- Dale Fooshee - 266-4365

#### **Republican**

- Joan Tempero - 233-5605
- John C. Peterson (lives outside Brewster) 354-7873 ■

...continued from page 1

Dr. Rochelle Walensky, “*if you are vaccinated, you are safe from the variants that are circulating here in the United States.*”

Currently I do not plan additional restrictions on resident or guest access or activities at this time. If needed we will escalate our interventions based on new activity of the virus. We are, however, increasing testing of unvaccinated staff in licensed areas to once each week and all unvaccinated individuals continue to be required to wear masks indoors at Brewster Place. Please help us by assuring your guests understand and comply with this rule. It is important to note that some individuals who have been vaccinated choose to don a mask in certain situations. Please do not assume they are unvaccinated. If you feel safer wearing a mask you should feel free to do so.

Lastly, the vaccination effort continues across the country and here at Brewster. While there is no magic number for herd immunity, researchers generally estimate needing 70-85% of the population to be immune for the virus to truly stop spreading through a community. While the nation and various areas struggle to reach this number, I am pleased that Brewster residents and staff combined are more than 73% vaccinated, and growing. ■



**COMING SOON!**

## **DIGITAL RESIDENT DIRECTORY WITH RESIDENT PHOTOS**

Over the past few months you have heard about K4 technology and how Brewster Place will utilize this technology to facilitate resident engagement. The K4 technology and app is specifically designed for senior living communities and the user-friendly system facilitates resident engagement by allowing residents to view the monthly activity calendar, register for upcoming events and classes, view menus, and so much more.

Another aspect of the technology is a digital directory containing the names, addresses and phone numbers of Brewster residents. This is of course a secure system so only those with access to the app can view this information. One aspect of the directory is our ability to add photos of residents. We haven't done a pictorial directory for many years, and now we are excited to add photos to this digital directory so you can put names and faces together.

**We will hold several photo sessions in September and those photos will then be added to the directory.** You will also be able to submit a photo if you prefer. More information about the photo sessions will be disseminated in August.

If you would like access to the K4 app and all of its features, please contact **Taylor Cooper, Resident Engagement Specialist, at 274-3348.**

## **COMING SOON!**



## **WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S SEPTEMBER 25**

Once again Team Brewster will be sponsoring the **Kid's Corner at the Walk to End Alzheimer's**. This year's walk is Saturday, September 25 at Lake Shawnee. Team Brewster members have been meeting the past few months to plan a week of events at Brewster Place to precede the walk. Opportunities will include painting rocks, an egg smash fundraiser, parade with marching band, and pre-sold t-shirts to raise funds.

**Team Brewster has set a goal to raise \$2,500 that will stay in the local community to support those with Alzheimer's and their families.** More information regarding t-shirt orders, our online fundraising link and specifics about the week in September will be coming soon. Stay tuned!

### **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

#### **Monday, September 20**

- Purple Out — Paint Rocks

#### **Wednesday, September 22**

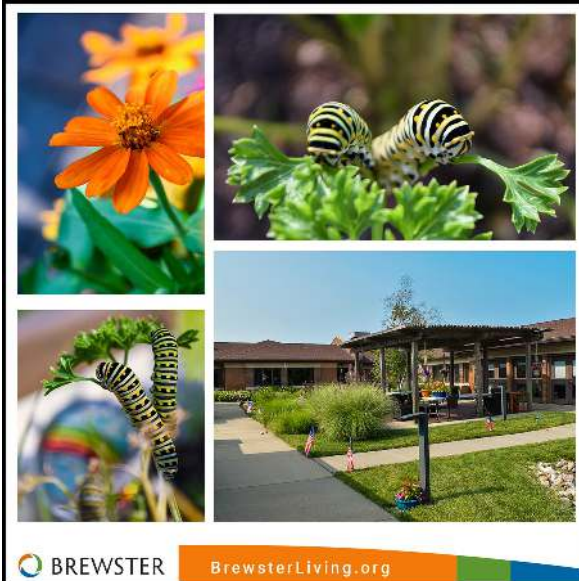
- Brewster Campus Walk (1:00 pm)
- Egg Smash Fundraiser
- Snow Cones

#### **Friday, September 24**

- Campus Parade with Marching Band ■

# BEAUTIFICATION AT BHC COURTYARD

**B**rewster Health Center is known for its excellent care, but did you know it also boasts a gorgeous courtyard right in the center of it all? This space has been an important part of



the lives of residents, families and staff since it opened in 1998. In June, Lisha Tetuan, Quality of Life Specialist, hosted a Gardening Party to begin a “beautification project” to enhance and improve the courtyard space. With the help of Groundskeeper Josh Saunders and the residents of BHC, the courtyard is looking better than ever.

The space now has a variety of flowers including Black-eyed Susans, zinnias, caladiums, periwinkles and the unique yellow lollipop plant. In addition, jalapeños, cherry tomatoes and even a corn stalk are growing. An herb garden is also a feature which at press time, is home to several Black Swallowtail Caterpillars.

A special Tea Party under the pergola was held in July compete with petit fours, baroque music, pink lemonade and lots of stories. The courtyard is a wonderful gathering place and has become a space to enjoy nature, gardening, and create memories. ■

**2021  
GO  
TEAM  
USA!  
WIN  
GOLD!**



**Top Left:** Nadine Mergenmeier attended the big Summer Olympics Party (Day Party) as we celebrated the opening of the summer Olympics with our own games, sweet treats and fun!

**Top Right:** Dave and Roseanna Sterbenz were also in attendance and enjoyed the fun out of the hot sun!

**Left:** Accounting Associate Leslie Blake and Donna Low helped serve strawberry shortcake and spread lots of joy too! It takes many staff and residents to make our events happen. Thank you one and all!



# **ON CAMPUS — A few highlights!**

## **BEVERLY ROBARDS PIANO CONCERT**

**Thursday, August 5 | 1:00 pm | Redwood Lounge**

Come enjoy the beautiful music of our very own Beverly Robards. All are welcome!

## **MOVIE: QUEEN BEES**

**Thursday, August 12 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

*Queen Bees* stars Ellen Burstyn, Jane Curtain, Loreeta Devine and Ann-Margaret and follows Helen, an independent widow, who reluctantly agrees to move to a senior's home. She soon discovers that it's just like high school and Pine Grove Senior Community is full of cliques and flirtatious suitors. What she initially avoids leads her to exactly what she has been missing: new friendships and a chance at love again with newcomer Dan. Please come enjoy this fun movie and get ready to celebrate life!

## **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

**Thursday, August 19 | 2:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

Everyone is invited to celebrate those with August birthdays. Join the Resident Services Team for cake and ice cream and a few laughs too!

## **TOPEKA BIG BAND**

**Tuesday, August 17 | 5:30 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

Back by popular demand is the Topeka Big Band! They will play hits from the past and hope to get our toes tapping and hands clapping. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors!

## **MARTY EDWARDS SING-ALONG**

**Saturday, August 28 | 6:00 pm | Redwood Lounge**

It's always a great night when we gather together with Marty Edwards as she leads a sing-along. Marty will provide popular music from the 40s through the 80s. Feel free to join in the singing and just relax to the music.

# OFF CAMPUS — A few highlights!

## NEW DINNER THEATRE IN KANSAS CITY

**Wednesday, August 11 | 10:15 am | Lobbies**

We are so happy that New Dinner Theatre is back and open. We are headed to see The King, In Concert. It's the biggest Rock show to never happen...til now! Rated as one of the top Elvis Tribute Artists in the world, Victor Trevino Jr. has sold out concerts in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and across Europe. Victor was selected for the ELVIS LIVES tour, (the only Elvis production sanctioned by Graceland) and is frequently featured in LEGENDS IN CONCERT, the longest running show on the Las Vegas strip. Tickets are \$34 and transportation is \$13. Only two tickets remaining so call Jamie at 274-3398 now!

## DAY OUT IN WAMEGO AND ST MARY'S

**Wednesday, August 18 | 10:00 am | Lobbies**

We will start with a beautiful drive to Wamego with a yummy lunch at Friendship House for delicious baked goods. We will then stop at the shops in St. Mary's on the ride home. It will be a wonderful day on the old highways of Kansas. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations. Transportation is \$13 and lunch is Dutch treat.

**COMING IN  
SEPTEMBER**

## AUSCHWITZ EXHIBITION UNION STATION IN KANSAS CITY

**Wednesday, September 29**

**8:30 am | Lobbies**

Union Station presents this international exhibition of unprecedented importance telling the story to shake the conscience of the world. The groundbreaking exhibition brings together more than 700 original objects and 400 photographs from over 20 institutions and museums from around the world. "Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away." is the most comprehensive exhibition dedicated to the history of Auschwitz and its role in the Holocaust ever presented in North America, and an unparalleled opportunity to confront the singular face of human evil — one that arose not long ago and not far away. Tickets are \$19. Transportation is \$13 and lunch is Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 for reservations by August 10. Tickets are non-refundable.

The Brewster News is a monthly publication for the residents and friends of Brewster Place.

The Brewster News is also available online at: [www.BrewsterLiving.org](http://www.BrewsterLiving.org)

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