

## PRAYERS FOR WISDOM AND GUIDANCE

BY MATT BURNS, INTERIM CEO

As I walk around campus, the question I hear most frequently is, “How’s it going?” I thought I’d take time to answer that question, not only for the residents of Brewster Place, but also for those who receive the Brewster News off-campus — family members, board members, prospects and others in our community.

Many of you express concerns regarding Brewster’s **financial health**. I am happy to report that we are meeting most of the goals that were put in place during the budget process. Our **debt service ratio** — which is our ability to repay our debt from current operations — is 1.93. We are budgeted to be at 1.69 and mandated by the bank to be at 1.20. Our **days cash on hand** — or the number of days we can keep up with our operating expenses with current cash — currently stands at 229 days. We are budgeted at 224 days cash on hand and required by the bank at 125. We are not meeting our **budgeted operating revenue** because of lower than budgeted census due to transfers, however, it is still higher than operating expenses which is what we want. The good news is that census is climbing!

With regard to our **census**, Brewster Place is filling up. We only have three open apartments in The Evergreens and one open apartment on the southwest side of campus. Redwood is virtually full as well with only one open apartment on the second floor remaining vacant. The Sales and Marketing Team has been doing a great job, but kudos should also go out to all of you for telling your friends about the quality of life at Brewster. Marketing’s current challenge is to create excitement and pre-sales for our soon-to-be remodeled Redwood apartments and the Penthouse Suites. I believe we already have four on our waiting list!

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Do not be  
afraid,  
you who are  
highly  
esteemed.  
Peace!  
Be strong now;  
be strong.

-Daniel 10:19

### 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.



## FROM the CHAPLAIN

REV. CAROLINE VAUTRINOT, M.DIV

### EACH SMALL STEP

Last month, my husband and I took a trip to Mt. Rainier National Park. From the moment we entered the park gates, we were struck by the sheer amount of natural greenery and beauty surrounding us. There were trees that grew straight up and proud, covered in moss and lichen, babbling brooks and rushing streams full of clear snow melt from the mountain, and every once in a while a glimpse of Mt. Rainier itself, majestic and snow-covered.

We hiked a trail up one of the smaller peaks and it was a strenuous experience. Throughout the whole hike up, I often had to stop to catch my breath, trying not to think about how much longer until we reached our destination. Every time we continued on, I remembered the proverb, “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

There are so many times in life when we are tired and begin to think that the journey we are on or the task we are completing is no longer worth the effort. We think about how tired or fed up we are in the present moment and want to give up and turn back. The path ahead may seem insurmountable, too far to complete.

Yet we also know that the journey is made up of the smaller moments. One cannot complete a large endeavor without each individual piece. When the whole journey seems too big for us to handle, we must remember to focus on the steps. The next step is all we need to make in order to achieve our goal.

This works just as well for a hike up a steep mountain as it does for any of the goals we are journeying towards in life.

Whether our desire is to be more active or to eat healthier, we are able to take small steps each day to achieve our goal.

When I reached the end of our trail, I was able to look out on one of the most beautiful vistas I have seen, high up enough to see for miles on that clear day, and feel the life force of Creation surrounding us.

That view made the effort matter. Let us all remember the power of small steps this month, knowing that anything can be accomplished one step at a time. ■

## BIBLE STUDY

### EXPLORE THE GOSPEL OF JOHN!

Tuesdays, August 16—September 27  
1:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

Come join Chaplain Caroline for an exploration of the Gospel of John! This seven-week study will dig into the themes, history, and meaning of this thought-provoking gospel. Beginning August 16, we will be meeting every Tuesday at 1:00 pm in the Chapel through the end of September. All are welcome!



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



# CREATIVE ARTS

WITH SAMANTHA BANKS, CREATIVE ARTS COORDINATOR | 785-274-3317

## PAINT WITH SAM

Tuesdays, August 9 and 23

1:00—3:00 pm | Redwood Klinge Activity Center

In this self-directed class, Sam is available to offer help with any painting project. Come with an idea or look through reference books to find inspiration. All supplies provided, or bring your own!

## ART FUNDamentals: CHARCOAL

Wednesdays, August 17, 24 and 31

10:30 am | The Evergreens Art Studio

1:30 pm | The Evergreens Art Studio

It's a new month and that means a new art medium to learn! Come learn some drawing and shading basics with charcoal. Classes are designed for beginners, but any level of artist is welcome to join in. You do not have to attend every class.

## MAKE IT MONDAYS

Mondays, August 8 and 22

1:30 pm | The Evergreens Art Studio

**August 8** — Needle felting is back! This time, we'll be making round lapel pins with different designs.

**August 22** — Art Drop Day is September 6. In this class, make a small piece of art that you can leave for someone in the community on that day!

## CHAT 'N CRAFT

Thursdays, August 4 and 18

2:30 pm | Klinge Activity Center

Do you crochet, knit, embroider, or any other do stitchery? Come join Sam in the Redwood Lounge to gather and chat around any needlecraft.

## MOVIE WITH SAM

*Mary Cassatt*

Friday, August 19 | 1:30 pm

Main Street Chapel

In this documentary, learn about the first woman impressionist Mary Cassatt, an American artist who lived and painted in France. Cassatt opened new avenues not only for women in the arts, but for how women were portrayed in artwork in their day-to-day lives.


## DRAWING DIARIES

Thursdays, August 11 and 25

1:30 pm | The Evergreens Art Studio

Just like you don't have to be a master writer to keep a journal, you don't have to be a master artist to keep a drawing diary. In this workshop, Sam will talk about the benefits of routine sketching and give examples of how simple a drawing diary can be. You will leave with your own sketchbook to decorate and start journaling. **Seats are limited so call Sam (785-274-3317) to reserve your spot. ■**

**create** everyday!



**OPEN**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY**  
**7:00 am—11:00 am**  
**Located at The Evergreens**



# CEO SEARCH COMMITTEE

## AUGUST UPDATE

- A CEO Search Committee has been established by the Brewster Board of Directors.
- The charge to the search committee is to announce the position opening, receive resumes and nominations, and recommend 3-5 candidates to be interviewed on the Brewster Place campus by the entire Board of Directors in October.
- The CEO position announcement will be released nationwide in the coming days.

### CEO SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Chuck Engel — Chair of Search Committee, Board Member
- Glenda Bower — Resident Representative
- Robert Maxwell — Foundation Representative
- Janis Swanson — Creative Services Specialist, Staff Representative
- Darin Stephens — Board Member
- Audrey Sunderraj — Board Member
- Terry Harbert — Board Member
- Todd Pettygrove — Board Member, Chair ■

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The **Redwood project** is still on schedule to begin construction on or about November 1, 2022. Our biggest hurdle now is to obtain the financing needed for the project. Our recent change in leadership has caused some lenders to be nervous about our level of risk, but we are working to allay their fears and regain any lost confidence.

We have begun to see more cases of **COVID-19** on campus. Unfortunately, this continued challenge seems to be a part of life now. The good news is that with the vaccinations and boosters, COVID-19 seems to merely be an inconvenience now rather than something that is life-threatening. Brewster staff continue to work hard to care for those who receive a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. We have canceled a couple of large gatherings in Redwood, but we will not be changing any other protocols at this time. Please be a good neighbor and care for each other by avoiding crowds and remaining at home if you are ill.

Lastly, but not least of all, I would like to ask for your **prayers** for myself as well as the Brewster community. I read in the book of Daniel the other night that the first thing Daniel did when faced with a life challenge was to go and ask his friends to pray. I would ask you to pray for God to give the Board of Directors as well as Brewster leadership wisdom and guidance as we navigate the coming days. Pray for our new CEO, whomever he or she may be, that God would lead that person and prepare that person to be successful with their service to Brewster. On a personal level, I would ask you to pray God would grant that my leadership and decisions would be beneficial to all who are a part of the Brewster community on campus and at large.

Thank you for your support, guidance and prayers as we move forward together to fulfill our mission. ■

## EVERYONE has a STORY to TELL



**VIRGIL AND JOYCE FUNK**

BY DIANA REED, RESIDENT

Virgil and Joyce Funk have followed a kind and traditional life, helping people, being part of their church family, and quietly living a beautiful life.

“I grew up on a farm in Marion County near Hillsboro,” said Joyce with a smile. “My grandmother loved quilting and my mother loved quilting,” she added.

Joyce produced an adorable pot holder and grinned while she held it up to show. “My first embroidery was when I was five or six years old,” she said. “It wouldn’t win a prize and the stitches aren’t very straight.” All at the table were surprised at the lovely first effort, three red cherries on their stems, made by a little girl.

Someone commented, “It is a treasure,” and a round of sweet giggles applauded the first serious effort, a pot holder, years and years old.

Joyce continued, “When I was in the eighth grade, I made my first quilt — a flower garden — and I’ve continued through the years, with help from my grandma and mother.”

Virgil and Joyce said that they went to high school together and married after their college education. First, Joyce taught in the west side Lyon County one-room schoolhouse with eight students. She also had to stoke a fire in the schoolhouse and clean the one room school in Plymouth each day. Joyce soon turned her interests to her son, Steve, who joined the family in Topeka and was the pride and joy of the family.

In 1961, Virgil and Joyce moved to Topeka where Virgil taught school and was a principal for a total of 38 years. Virgil said, “While in Topeka, I was principal in every

community in Topeka.”

After his retirement, Virgil enjoyed gardening in his one hundred square foot garden. He enjoyed raising several varieties of potatoes, squash, beans, and peas as well as tomatoes. In the two years since they moved to Brewster Place, he has had a 6 x 8 foot garden plot where he now raises cucumbers and tomatoes. In the past two years, he says he has read more than he has read his whole life.

Joyce now continues to quilt and sew. With the Redwood building project, she mostly sews at home now at her own sewing machine, making table runners and quilt tops.

The Funks enjoy their fellowship at Southern Hills Mennonite Church. Joyce enjoys helping with the yearly Kansas Mennonite relief sale, a good social time and quilt sale. She enjoys remembering making her many beautiful quilts through the years. One of her favorites was for her parents 50th wedding anniversary. Joyce asked family and friends to contribute a quilt square which became a beautiful family quilt created by Joyce. A quilt of remembrance is a pieced quilt handmade by her grandmother. It is precious and now carefully used for family picnics. Quilts and quilts — memories through the years.

Virgil and Joyce also enjoy their extended family, their son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. Their lives are full of love. They have spread that love through their communities their whole lives — teaching, guiding, leading and giving. Like a lovely sewn quilt, their life together has been beautifully sewn and pieced together. ■





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BY CHELSEY WESSEL  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST

### INTERGENERATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Washburn University** — If you are interested in working with the Gerontology Class at Washburn University, please contact Chelsy Wessel at 785-274-3394. Pairings are limited.

**Pauline Central School** — If you are interested in working with the third grade class at Pauline Central, please call Chelsy Wessel at 785-274-3394.

### BREWSTERCONNECT

BrewsterConnect is sitting at 122 memberships and still growing! If you would like to learn more about this monthly membership plan to Brewster, please contact Chelsy at 785-274-3394.

### VOLUNTEER, RIGHT HERE

There are opportunities and needs on campus and within our community to volunteer. Please contact Bruce Bower, Volunteer Committee Chair, at 785-274-5529. ■



## ELECTION DAY!

**Tuesday, August 2**  
**Polls Open**  
**7:00 am—7:00 pm**

Brewster residents who are registered to vote can do so in the Cultural Arts Center. Call Transportation at 785-274-3320 if you need a ride.

## PENTHOUSE ART STUDIO UPDATE

BY SAM BANKS, CREATIVE ARTS COORDINATOR

**W**hile we are excited that part of the new remodel plan includes a new art studio on the first floor of Redwood, it will be a process to get there. The first step is to move the current studio to the Klinge Activity Center, located in the basement of Redwood.

We will do all that we can to make this temporary studio into a comfortable, functional, and inspiring space by the end of August.

The Penthouse studio will be closed to all residents for at least the first two weeks of August while we move supplies to the Klinge Activity Center. The plan is for this temporary studio set up to have a few spaces for painters and seamstresses to work on projects.

Thank you all so much for your patience and understanding as we undertake this task. I look forward to welcoming you into the new studio space. ■

## WOODSHOP NEWS

**T**he woodshop has inherited a nice top from a dressing chest. We have no use for it and would like to pass it along to someone who is interested,

It is 50 inches wide and 35 inches tall. A large center mirror (19 x 33) is framed by shallow book and knickknack shelves (four on each side, with each shelf approx. 6 x 10) behind glass doors. Light is supplied on each side. There are two sliding drawers on the bottom. The unit is 10 inches deep and stained dark.

Please call Bruce Bower at 785-274-5529 or Don Buchanan at 785-286-0986 and we will arrange to meet you there to see it. ■

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION

### THE WOLGASTS: FROM TEMPLIN, GERMANY TO TEMPLIN, KANSAS

Thursday, August 25 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

While looking into the genealogy of his ancestors, Larry Wolgast has studied the history of his ancestors for the past 350 years. What was life like in 17<sup>th</sup> century Germany where his ancestors lived? He found that wars, conscription, and property rights that favored the aristocracy pushed hundreds of thousands of Germans to emigrate to the United States. When they arrived in the New World, they traveled by train, flatboat and horse-drawn wagon, a journey of months from their home in Germany to their new home in Kansas. ■

## FACT OR FICTION?

Remember the trivia game, **Fact or Fiction**? Not only is it entertaining to play, it gives us an opportunity to exercise our mental faculties by determining whether a story is, indeed, fact or fiction.

### For example:

1. Eating bananas will attract mosquitoes, while eating garlic will repel them.
2. Many animal shelters will not allow any black cats to be adopted right before Halloween.
3. Play-Doh was originally invented as a wallpaper cleaner.
4. There will no longer be Catered Living offered in the Redwood building.

Some may know whether the first three statements are true or false or at least make an educated guess, but what about number four? Have you heard this story and wondered if it's true?

The **fact** is Catered Living is currently available in Redwood on floors two, three, and four. Marketing for the Penthouse Suites (sixth floor), The Fives at Redwood (fifth floor) and the Club (first floor) has begun for occupancy in 2024. The new apartment homes will have full kitchens and ensuite laundry. Communication regarding the progress of renovation and marketing events will be reported in upcoming Brewster News articles. Watch for future updates! ■

*Answers can be found on the off-campus highlights page.*

## GRATITUDE CREW NEWS

In the July issue of the Brewster News we highlighted the efforts of the Gratitude Crew — a group of staff members who have established a mission of *creating a culture of service, connectedness and gratitude*.

During the month of July a banner was available for you to share your ideas of how to express gratitude. The ideas will be collected and shared in September.

The Gratitude Crew has begun sending a weekly email to staff to share news and “shout outs” to fellow staff. We would love to hear from residents too. If you experience something with a Brewster staff member that deserves a positive “shout out,” please email us at:

**GratitudeCrew@brewsterplace.org.**

We will share your comments in the staff weekly email. Thank you! ■

## REMINDER



The speed limit at Brewster Place is 12 mph.

# THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

## BIRCHWOOD 2 COTTAGE

This month's Home of the Month is a fan favorite! Birchwood 2 Cottage is bold in color and beautiful with possibilities. If you're scouting locations, this scene-stealing cottage is one you don't want to miss. With a total of 2,000 square feet of living space on two levels, there is plenty of space to design your set.



Another main feature is the lovely built-ins on the main and lower levels for all your props. Enjoy a great cast of neighbors, a backdrop of mature shade trees, and sidewalks stage right and stage left for easy walking. Just 15 steps from the enclosed courtyard, you will find yourself in the action at the Market, Pavilion, Chapel, Wellness Center, and Salon. Only one take is needed to reserve your drama-free lifestyle and live your happily ever after life. Audition today!

Contact Chris Gallagher with Sales and Marketing today at 785-274-3351. 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 learn more about the amenities, programs, classes, and events at Brewster Place, please visit our website at [BrewsterLiving.org](http://BrewsterLiving.org). ■

## THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!



**Glenda Sleeper** participated in a dance routine choreographed by Wellness Specialist Julie Schmanke at the Red, White and Brewster celebration in late June. "Put me in, coach!"



**Cynthia Montague and Assisted Living Kai-zen Alfred Johnson** shared a hug at the ice cream event after the Red, White and Brewster show. All staff and residents enjoyed ice cream and fellowship together as well as receiving a free Brewster t-shirt — "Let your light shine!"



**Joanne Harrison** looked beautiful in her colorful blouse as she celebrated her birthday with others at the monthly Birthday Party. We also celebrate resident anniversaries with cake, ice cream and a few jokes thrown in.





# OFF CAMPUS — A few highlights!

## **SUNFLOWERS, LUNCH AND A DRIVE**

**Wednesday, August 3 | 9:30 am | Shuttle (pick up from RW and EV)**

The sunflowers should be blooming and the morning should be perfect. Then we will go to lunch and maybe some other fun along the way. If interested in going, please call Jamie at 785-274-3398.

## **TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE**

**Thursday, August 11 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle (pick up from RW and EV)**

Topeka Civic Theatre presents their summer musical **Hello, Dolly**. This musical adaptation of Thornton Wilder's hit play *The Matchmaker* bursts with humor, romance, energetic dance, and some of the greatest songs in musical theatre history. The romantic and comic exploits of Dolly Gallagher-Levi, turn-of-the-century matchmaker and "woman who arranges things," are certain to thrill and entertain audiences again and again. Nonrefundable tickets are \$32. Dinner is not included. If interested, please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

## **KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY**

**Wednesday, August 17 | 9:30 am | Shuttle (pick up from RW and EV)**

This award-winning museum tells the story of the people of Kansas. See the Santa Fe's oldest surviving locomotive, No. 132, from 1880. A. K. Longren's 1914 version of the plane in which he made the first successful flight of a Kansas-built plane in 1911. Named one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas History. However major changes are coming to the Kansas Museum of History. It is time to say goodbye to the past. The Museum will be closing for major renovations effective September 4, 2022. From August 17 to September 3 admission will be free. It will be fun to explore one last time. We will find lots to check out. If interested, please call Jamie at 785-274-3398.

## **NEW THEATRE IN KANSAS CITY**

**Wednesday, August 31 | 10:00 am | Shuttle (pick up from RW and EV)**

The Theatre present *Freaky Friday*. The show is a new musical adaptation of the beloved novel and the hit Disney film and is a heartfelt, comedic and unexpectedly emotional update on the American classic. When an overworked mother and her teenage daughter magically swap bodies, they have just one day to put things right again. By spending a day in each other's shoes, Katherine and Ellie come to appreciate one another's struggles, learn self-acceptance and realize the immeasurable love and mutual respect that bond a mother and daughter. Nonrefundable tickets include lunch are \$36 and transportation is \$13. If interested, please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

### **Answers to Fact or Fiction from page 7.**

- Eating bananas will attract mosquitoes, while eating garlic will repel them. **Fiction**
- Many animal shelters will not allow any black cats to be adopted right before Halloween. **Fact**
- Play-Doh was originally invented as a wallpaper cleaner. **Fact**
- There will no longer be catered living offered in the Redwood building. **Fiction**

# **ON CAMPUS — A few highlights!**

## **OSHER: JOHN BROWN: ABOLITIONIST OR TERRORIST?**

**Tuesdays, August 2 and 9 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

This course is instructed by Jim Peters. He will show how John Brown opposed slavery and became the leading exponent of violence in the abolition movement. We'll examine his life and association with Bleeding Kansas, the sacking of Lawrence, the Pottawatomie massacre, the battles of Black Jack and Osawatimie, incursion to free Missouri slaves, and the failed raid on Harper's Ferry. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 to register.

## **TOPEKA TUBA EUPHONIUM ENSEMBLE**

**Thursday, August 4 | 2:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

We are excited to host the Topeka Tuba Euphonium Ensemble for the first time. It will be fun.

## **MOVIE: ELVIS**

**Wednesday, August 10 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

This iconic movie ELVIS is Baz Luhrmann's biopic of Elvis Presley from his childhood to becoming a rock and roll star in the 1950s while maintaining a complex relationship with his manager, Colonel Tom Parker. The film is seen through the eyes of Elvis' controversial manager and explores the highs and lows of Presley's career.

## **NATIONAL BANANA SPLIT CELEBRATION**

**Wednesday, August 24 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

Go bananas, because it's National Banana Split Day! Give your taste buds the thrill of delicious ice cream and a fresh banana topped off with whipped cream. Surprisingly, the original banana split wasn't created in an ice cream parlor but in a pharmacy in 1904. Banana splits were the brainchild of David Evans Strickler, a pharmacist's apprentice who enjoyed experimenting with new soda fountain sundaes in his free time. They were so popular with the college crowd that students willingly paid 10 cents, double the price of a normal sundae. Come to the Cultural Arts Center to have a banana split!

## **AUTHOR EVENT: ZOOM PRESENTATION WITH AUTHOR FAYE KELLERMAN**

**Tuesday, August 30 | 6:45 pm | Cultural Arts Center**

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library is hosting a zoom meeting with bestselling author Faye Kellerman. Kellerman will talk about her work and journey especially her newest book called The Hunt. It will be great fun. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 to register.