

WETZEL NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO

In August 2022 the Brewster Board of Directors established a CEO Search Committee charged with announcing the Brewster CEO position in a nationwide search, receiving resumes from candidates, and recommending final candidates to be interviewed by the Board. After interviewing the final three candidates, the Brewster Board of Directors was pleased to announce their decision to residents, staff, and the wider community on December 20, 2022. The following is the announcement:

Tim Wetzel begins his tenure as the new President and CEO of Brewster Place.

In making the announcement, Brewster’s board chair, Todd Pettygrove stated, “As a not-for-profit, faith-based senior living community founded by Topeka’s four



Congregational churches in 1964, we are very pleased to find a leader of Tim’s caliber who not only has a lifelong history with the United Church of Christ, but over 19 years of executive leadership experience in continuing care retirement communities.”

Tim Wetzel currently serves as Executive Director of Cascade Manor in Eugene, Oregon. Previously, Wetzel served as executive director at retirement communities similar in size as Brewster in Texas and California. Tim has a passion for health and human service ministry, and he has a collaborative consensus building management style. He values fiscal responsibility, good stewardship, holistic care, wellness of the mind, body and spirit, and diversity.

“As a servant-leader, Tim’s values coupled with his experience managing multimillion dollar budgets, and his expertise in strategic planning, finance, and marketing, make him the perfect fit to lead Brewster. He is mission-focused, placing equal value on those serving as those being served. As Brewster begins a multimillion-dollar renovation of Redwood – the first building on our 35-acre campus -- it seems only fitting that Tim Wetzel takes the helm at this point in our history,” said Pettygrove.

Wetzel earned a bachelor’s degree from Heidelberg University, an MBA from Arizona State University, and a second master’s degree in Information Systems Management from Seattle Pacific University. Tim also earned the Diaconal Ministry Certification from the Council of Human Service Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Wetzel’s tenure begins on March 6, 2023. In the interim, Matthew Burns continues serving as interim President and CEO. ■

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.

BREWSTER PLACE INFO FAIR

Thursday, January 19

10:00 am—1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Do you ever wonder about all the great things Brewster has to offer? Brewster Place aims to help residents thrive physically, socially, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually on campus. On January 19 you will have the opportunity to visit with different departments, committees, and clubs to learn more about activities, resources, and support offered all right here on Brewster's campus. Whether you are new to Brewster, or just want to review all of Brewster's offerings, the Info Fair is a great place for you to start! Below is just a short list of who you should expect to see at the info fair.

- **IT (Information Technology)**
- **Diversity and Inclusion Group**
- **Resident Services**
- **Accounting**
- **Community Nursing**
- **Therapy**
- **Sales and Marketing**
- **Dining Services**
- **And much more!**

*Please call Taylor Cooper at
785-274-3348 with any questions. ■*

WUSCA TECH SUPPORT HOUR

Friday, January 20

2:00 pm | The Evergreens Community Room

Residents needing assistance with a tablet, cell phone, laptop, or other mobile device can attend the **Tech Support Hour** with **Washburn University Student Computing Association (WUSCA)**. No reservations required. Students will assist you on a first come, first served basis. Please call Taylor Cooper at 785-274-3348 if you have any questions. ■

COFFEE WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION

Tuesday, January 24

10:00 am—1:00 pm

The Evergreens Community Room

If you are a veteran or just want to stop by and chat with folks from the American Legion, you are welcome to attend this special coffee time. They are eager to get to know the residents at Brewster Place! Coffee and tea will be provided. If you have any questions please reach out to Taylor Cooper at 785-274-3348. ■

DIABETES PREVENTION PROGRAM 24 FOR LIFE

Friday, January 27

10:00 am | The Evergreens Community Room

As part of the National Diabetes Prevention Program and in collaboration with the American Diabetes Association and led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 24 for Life is an evidence-based program proven to prevent or delay Type 2 diabetes. A trained lifestyle coach leads 24, one-hour group sessions to help you change certain aspects of your lifestyle including diet, stress reduction, and participating in physical activity. If you are interested in learning more about 24 for Life, please attend this information meeting. Call Taylor Cooper at 785-274-3348 with any questions. ■



FROM the CHAPLAIN

REV. CAROLINE VAUTRINOT, M.DIV

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year! This is an invigorating time of year. We have just finished our holiday season and can now take a moment to relax and take in the quiet of a new day. The beginning of the year is always a good time for us to take that moment and to think about where we would like to go from this point.

Every year there is talk of New Year’s Resolutions; promises or goals that we make to ourselves to shake up our routine, to become healthier, to enrich our lives in new ways. We have so much enthusiasm about our new plans that we dive headfirst into excited fulfillment of them. Yet all too often, we make these resolutions only to allow them to fall on the wayside after a month or two, our excitement waning with our interest.

What might it be like if we stuck with our hopes for this year? Perhaps we would find ourselves flourishing when these new activities become habits. Whether we decide to challenge ourselves to read a book each month, to try out a new activity, or even to make new friends, staying with our resolutions has the potential to change our lives.

Is there a change you would like to make in 2023? Whether large or small, any change can have a big impact on your life. Take a moment to think about where you would like to be in three months or six. Envision what it will be like to have picked up a new hobby or to have made a new friend. Think how life may have improved and then make the decision to stay with that goal.

I wish you all a happy New Year and twelve months filled with joy. ■

BREWSTER PLACE MEMORIAL SERVICE (RESCHEDULED)

Wednesday, January 4

3:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

Join Chaplain Caroline for a time of remembrance of the friends and neighbors we have lost. All are welcome. ■

OPERATION RED FILE

All Independent Living residents are encouraged to participate in **Operation Red File**, an initiative set forth by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Service (KDADS).

Participants in Operation Red File receive a red magnetic folder that can be placed on your refrigerator for instant access, where first responders will know to look for it.

Red File is designed to help individuals keep critical health information all in one place, so it is easily accessible if needed in an emergency.

Necessary health information may include, but is not limited to the following:

- **Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) orders**
- **Notarized Living Will**
- **Up-to-date medication list**
- **Medical form with current information such as emergency contacts**

If you have questions about Operation Red File, or wish to pick up a Red File, please contact Taylor Cooper at 785-274-3348. ■





CREATIVE ARTS

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

PAINT WITH SAM

Tuesdays | 1:00—3:00 pm

Klinge Activity Center Studio

Join with other painters in this self-directed class. Bring your idea or look through the library of reference pictures. Sam is available to help you through the painting process. All supplies provided, or bring your own!

SAM IN THE STUDIO

Do you want to have focused time to work on specific art skills? Would you like help with a project? Just want to chat? Sam in the Studio is the time for any and all of the above!

Mondays and Tuesdays

9:00—11:00 am | Klinge Activity Center

Mondays and Fridays

1:00—3:00 pm | The Evergreens Art Studio

CRAFT 'N CHAT

First and Third Thursdays

Thursdays, January 5 and 19 | 2:30 pm

Klinge Activity Center

Craft 'n Chat is at a new time at 2:30 pm! Have a project you want to work on in a change of scenery? Join others in this crafty and chatty hour.

ALCOHOL INK WORKSHOP

Thursday, January 12

1:30 pm

Klinge Activity Center

This workshop is back by popular demand! Learn the basics of alcohol ink on ceramic tile. This class is all about letting go and enjoying the process of creating abstract forms with colorful ink. Participants will make two tiles; all supplies provided. Space is limited, so please call Sam at 785-274-3317 to reserve your spot.

MOVIE WITH SAM

Paul Cezanne

Friday, January 20 | 1:30 pm

Main Street Chapel

Paul Cezanne was a French artist who took the lessons of Impressionism and helped shape a new style of painting. His work consists of mostly still life and French countryside landscapes.

VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS CARD MAKING SESSION

Thursday, January 26

1:00 pm

The Evergreens Art Studio

It's that time of year again! This will start off our Valentine's card making extravaganza for Meals on Wheels and the Brewster Health Center. All skill levels of artist are encouraged to participate. Last year, we made 1,243 cards. Can we make that number 1,300 this year?

CALL FOR QUILT ENTRIES

You've been asking for it, and now it's time! Do you have a quilt you'd like to display in the Brewster Event Center Gallery? Call Sam (785-274-3317) to let her know you're interested. There's a little bit of paper work to fill out, and entries need to be given to Sam no later than January 23 at 4:00 pm. ■

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL

NAOMI CASHMAN
BY DIANA REED, RESIDENT

Naomi Cashman is well known in the greater Topeka and Kansas area as a gifted watercolor painter. Her paintings are



filled with her love of nature, natural colors, realism, landscapes, and her love of flowers. In the 1970s and 1980s she was known for her beautiful wood carvings, especially ducks. She traveled

to Maryland, Canada, and Minnesota for five day workshops and started competing. She had power tools, wood burning tools and painted her pieces with oil and pigments.

Naomi grew up on a farm in Brown County, the middle of a five-child family, with two older brothers and two younger brothers. Naomi said, "In the summers, my time was spent mostly preserving food. My mother did the baking while I did all the cooking. We kept the chickens."

For Naomi, 4-H was an important activity and it's where she learned the important craft of sewing. She made almost all of her own clothes.

Naomi enjoyed the company of fellow Brown County resident Maurice Cashman. They married while Maurice was in medical school in Kansas City. Naomi sewed her own wedding gown, a lovely satin dress with beading. Naomi worked at The Plaza as a seamstress doing alterations. Naomi and Maurice were blessed with two daughters.

In the 1980s, Naomi was known for her beautiful wooden ducks and waterfowl. Naomi said, "After about 20 years, I began to have arthritis in my hands and wanted to try something else."

Soon Naomi signed up for a watercolor class. "It was a different ballgame, but I loved every minute of it. It takes you into a different world," Naomi said.

Naomi showed me an adorable Christmas card. She commented, "Our Christmas card for this year is a fantastic Christmas cactus. It blooms every year. It is from my grandparents." Looking at it, time seems to stand still.

Out of a deep appreciation of her childhood memories of the prairie, Naomi loves to paint nature including the easy rolling hills, the grass, the sky and the flowers. Her work is reflective of the joy she finds in nature and her naturally happy spirit. ■

BREWSTERCONNECT

Did you know **BrewsterConnect** members are able to enjoy the exercise, art, and educational programs at Brewster Place for a small monthly fee? Members may also enjoy day trips, our dining venues, and more!

Single memberships are \$55 a month and \$85 a month for couples. Reach out to Alyssa Granado, Quality of Life Specialist, at 785-274-3395 if you or a friend would like to join! ■

MERRY MARKET TOTAL

The total proceeds for the Merry Market held in December were **\$601.25**. We want to thank all of our Brewster residents who created items and/or worked during the event. In addition, thanks to all of our outside vendors who came. It was great to see so many of you out shopping for the holidays. ■

FROM THE ARCHIVES

OUR PAST IS A BRIDGE TO OUR FUTURE

Since 1964 residents of Brewster Place have used their talent, time, and skill to plan service projects in order to give back to the broader community. Resi-

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



BREWSTER
SERVICE
ACTIVITIES
COMMITTEE

dents have done everything from build toys for the Salvation Army to gathering supplies and financial support for organizations and families in need to

hosting the Brewster Bazaar each holiday season.

In May 1966 the Resident Council Bylaws were amended to add the **Welfare Committee** which was responsible for planning and developing various service projects. In fact, in June 1966 after the devastating tornado in Topeka, Resident Council organized a clothing collection center for disaster relief as well as a fund for tornado victims.

In October 1967 the Welfare Committee became the **Service Activities Committee** which continues to be an important committee at Brewster Place. Over the years this group has made important decisions about where proceeds from Trash and Treasure Sales and the Brewster Bazaar would be donated in the Topeka community. Literally hundreds of thousands of dollars have been given in the past six decades. What a legacy!

But now we need YOUR help! The **Service Activities Committee** (which oversees the Brewster Service Fund), is looking for people to serve in an officer capacity. The committee needs a chair, treasurer, and secretary. This committee is responsible for distributing funds collected from service projects to be used at Brewster Place and in the community. For example, each year funds are given to Assisted Living and Brewster Health Center so staff can purchase gifts for those residents. In addition, planning and organizing the Brewster Bazaar each year is vital to Brewster’s ability to give to charities in need in our community.

Meetings are held a few times a year as necessary. **If you would like more information, please contact Sam Banks, Creative Arts Coordinator, at 785-274-3317.■**

CASTING CALL!

We are looking for aspiring and/or seasoned thespians with vivacious personalities for the roles of **Construction Connie** and **Renovation Rowdy** to report on the progress of the Redwood Renovation Project.

Calling all comedians, actors, BIG personalities, TV stars, or anyone else who aspires to become the next “Jack Benny and Gracie,” “Lucy and Ricky,” “Kathy and Regis,” or “Julie and Jamie!”

Males and females residing at Brewster Place are invited to our casting call! No head shots required.

Contact Sales and Marketing at 785-274-3321 no later than Tuesday, January 31, 2023.

There’s No Business Like Show Business!

BREWSTER
GRATITUDE CREW

**STAFF SHOUT
OUTS**

Remember, you can submit “shout outs” for staff by writing on the slip of paper by the Shout Out Boxes in Redwood, The Evergreens and Brewster Health Center. You may also email us at GratitudeCrew@brewsterplace.org. ■



KU OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING SERIES

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY CLASS SCHEDULE

THREE SHIP DISASTERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY: THE TITANIC, THE LUSITANIA AND THE ANDRE DORIA

Tuesdays
January 10, 17 and 24
1:00—3:00 pm
Cultural Arts Center

*Lifelong
learning.
No books.
No tests.
No stress!*

Ocean liners were the primary mode of intercontinental travel for over a century, from the mid-19th century until they began to be supplanted by airliners in the 1950s. The busiest route for liners was on the North Atlantic with ships travelling between Europe and North America. Advances in design and technology eventually resulted in steamship companies proclaiming their ships to be “unsinkable,” a claim proved false by the sinking of these three ships. We’ll learn more about these ships and the hubris underlying these claims.

Paul Post is a native Kansan, currently residing in Topeka. He received a bachelor's in history from Kansas State University in 1971 and a law degree from the University of Kansas Law School in 1974. Now retired from the practice of law, he has been a member of the Topeka Landmarks Commission since 2014 and was commission vice chair in 2018.

AN OCEAN OF GRASS: PRAIRIE WRITING, PAST AND PRESENT

Tuesdays
February 7, 14 and 21
1:00—3:00 pm
Cultural Arts Center

*Learning
for the joy
of it!*

The Tallgrass Prairie has been sustaining, mystifying, plowed almost to disappearance, saved in small acreages, recreated, and much revered. Kansas writers have, since their first contact with what Kenneth Wiggins Porter called “an ocean of grass to the stirrups,” tried to describe and celebrate the prairie landscape. Join Tom Averill on a walking and reading tour through the grasslands and through history, from indigenous writing to contemporary appreciations.

Thomas Fox Averill is professor emeritus at Washburn University where he taught Kansas literature, folklore and film for more than 40 years. He is the author of three story collections and five novels, almost all of them set in Kansas. His most recent book is *Found Documents from the Life of Nell Johnson Doerr: A Novel*.

Brewster Place residents and BrewsterConnect members attend for free.
Please call Jamie Fritz at 785-274-3398 to register. ■



HOMES OF THE MONTH

CONSTRUCTION DISRUPTION DEDUCTION

TWO CONSTRUCTION SPECIALS

A ten percent (10%) discount off the investment entry fee is being offered for *catered living* apartments.

In appreciation for their service, **Veterans or their spouses** will receive a **fifteen percent (15%)** discount off the investment entry fee for *catered living* apartments.

**These discounted plans cannot be used together and will be available for a limited time.*

Exciting things are happening at Redwood! On the heels of our Sky-Breaking Ceremony to launch the Redwood renovation project, Sales and Marketing is delighted to announce a “**Construction Special.**” **Two discounts** are now in place for our *catered living* apartment homes on the second, third, and fourth floors of Redwood.

Apartments range in size from a 500 square foot one-bedroom Carlton, to a 1,040 square foot two-bedroom apartment home. Enjoy three meals a day plus laundry services as part of the *catered living* monthly fee!

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!

Contact Chris Gallagher with Sales and Marketing at 785-274-3351 to learn more! ■

CELEBRATING THE SEASON AND EACH OTHER



Longtime resident and beloved Topeka physician, **Dr. Bart Ramsey**, celebrated his 97th birthday in December. We often see Bart out walking or participating in an exercise class. We are pretty sure he’d prescribe staying active as the secret to a long life!



Betty and Ray Lippe attended Social in December where a very special visitor came to visit. Even though Santa (staff member Galen Schutter) needs to gain a few pounds to fit the suit, he brought lots of joy to the gathering. If you haven’t attended Social on Mondays at 4:00 pm in the Main Street Pavilion, you are missing out!



Alice Eberhart-Wright attends many programs, classes and events. She is a creative spirit and loves taking a few photos along the way. This was taken before the CoreFirst Holiday Concert in December. Alice sang in the Brewster Choir for the event.



OFF CAMPUS — A few highlights!

New Theatre and Restaurant

Wednesday, January 4 | 10:00 am | Come Blow Your Horn

This show is about family and all the crazy, hilarious and wonderful things that happen when parents and their adult children get together. It's 1961, the era of The Twist and swinging bachelor pads. Alan Baker, a 30-ish single guy with time, money and women to spare, welcomes his innocent and naïve baby brother Buddy into his den of iniquity while their horrified parents can only watch and overeat.

AFTERNOON DRIVE AND LUNCH AT DOVER CAFE

Wednesday, January 11 | 10:30 am | Shuttle (pick up from RW and EV)

Let's go see what is happening in Dover and then go for an afternoon drive. Lunch is Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 to make reservation as space is limited.

TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, January 21 | 6:45 pm | Shuttle (pick up from RW and EV)

The Topeka Symphony is delighted to offer Chen Yi's beautiful Romance and Dance, featuring our Concertmaster Zsolt Eder and Assistant Concertmaster Kenya Patzer. We will also present our Young Artist Competition Winner, and we'll play Sibelius's Second Symphony, which Sibelius described as "a confession of the soul." The symphony is grandiose, profound, and ecstatic, and its love themes range from love of country to a meditation on Don Juan, the notorious Italian lover. Call 785-232-2032 for tickets. Call Jamie at 785-274-3398 for a ride on Brewster Bus.

SHOPPING DAY IN KANSAS CITY

Wednesday, January 25 | 9:00 am | Shuttle (pick up from RW and EV)

It's time to shop the after Christmas sales and go to a lovely lunch. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 to make reservation as space is limited. Cost of transportation is \$13. Lunch is Dutch treat.

FUTURE EVENTS

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE

Thursday, February 9 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle pick up in RW or EV Lobby

The Play That Goes Wrong is a 1920s whodunit has everything you never wanted in a show—an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines). Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call, with hilarious consequences! Part Monty Python, part Sherlock Holmes, this Olivier Award-winning comedy is a global phenomenon that's guaranteed to leave you aching with laughter! Tickets are \$32. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 to make reservation as space is limited.

TOUR NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART IN KANSAS CITY

Thursday, February 16 | 8:30 am | Shuttle pick up in RW or EV Lobby

Let's head to Kansas City to explore works of art from across the collections at the world famous Nelson Atkins Museum. A skilled volunteer docents will facilitate a lively and interactive discussion as you are introduced to some of the museum's biggest highlights. Galleries visited may include: African art, Contemporary art, Photography, European art, American art, Ancient art, Native American art, and art from China, Japan, and India. Tour costs \$10. Lunch is a Dutch treat. Transportation cost is \$13. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 to make reservation as space is limited.

NEW THEATRE AND RESTAURANT

Wednesday, February 22 | 10:00 am | Shuttle pick up in RW or EV Lobby

Condo-Monium is a good, old-fashioned farce that is brand new to America from London. It is starring Barry Williams for the Brady Bunch. Cost is \$35 for lunch and ticket. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 274-3398 to make reservation as space is limited.

ON CAMPUS — A few highlights!

CHAT AND GET FAT

Thursday, January 5 | 11:30 am | Cultural Arts Center

Let's kick off the New Year with a potato bar and a chat with friends. The cost for this delicious lunch is \$5. There will be lots of toppings to choose from!!!

KU OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

Three Ship Disasters of the 20th Century: The Titanic, The Lusitania and The Andre Doria

Tuesdays, January 10, 17 and 24 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Please see article on page 7 of this issue.

MOVIE: TOP GUN: MAVERICK

Wednesday, January 18 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

After thirty years of waiting for Top Gun's Maverick to have a sequel. It finally happened. We will show Top Gun: Maverick. It is a 2022 American action drama film that is a sequel to the 1986 film Top Gun with Tom Cruise reprising his starring role as the naval aviator Maverick. Maverick is still pushing the envelope as a top naval aviator, but must confront ghosts of his past when he leads TOP GUN's elite graduates on a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those chosen to fly it.