

EDUCATION IS KEY TO AVOID BEING SCAMMED



DATA FROM 2023

- In Kansas \$40 million was lost to scammers
- Nationally, \$10 billion was reported lost
- 2.6 million fraud reports were made
- Seniors report a higher than average loss of \$1,000 compared younger people

To report fraud: [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud)

Living at Brewster Place gives residents a sense of safety and security. With 24/7 security keeping watch on our campus, it's hard not to feel safe. In addition, residents are urged to wear their SARA pendant while on campus so in an emergency, a simple push of the button will alert security of the resident's location on campus to provide assistance.

While Brewster Place can provide measures to keep staff and residents safe on campus, it's up to everyone to do their part. This now includes educating ourselves to the new threats we face from scammers who want to take advantage of us via phone calls, emails and internet scams. Seniors are especially vulnerable because scammers want to access their lifelong savings and assets.

The **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** provides information to educate all of us about potential scams.

Four Signs That It's a Scam

1. Scammers **PRETEND** to be from an organization you know.

Often scammers will pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government and use a real name such as the FTC, Social Security Administration, IRS or Medicare. Some pretend to be from utility companies, tech companies or even charities. They will use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So the name and number you see might not be real.

2. Scammers say there's a **PROBLEM** or a **PRIZE**.

They might say you're in trouble with the government or that you owe money or that someone in your family had an emergency. Others will lie and say there is a virus on your computer or problem with one of your accounts. Scammers will also lie and say you won a lottery or sweepstakes but that you have to pay a fee to get it.

3. Scammers **PRESSURE** you to act immediately.

Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.

4. Scammers tell you to **PAY** in a specific way.

They often insist that you can only pay by using cryptocurrency, wiring money through a company like Western Union, using a payment app, or putting money on a gift card and then giving them the numbers on the back of the card. Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), then tell you to deposit it and send them money.

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MISSION

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

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How to Avoid a Scam

Block unwanted calls and text messages.

Take steps to block unwanted calls and to filter unwanted text messages.

Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect.

Honest organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers. If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.

Resist the pressure to act immediately.

Honest businesses will give you time to make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to pay or give them your personal information is a scammer.

Know how scammers tell you to pay.

Never pay someone who insists that you can only pay with cryptocurrency, a wire transfer service like Western Union or MoneyGram, a payment app, or a gift card. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.

Stop and talk to someone you trust.

Before you do anything else, tell someone — a friend, a family member, a neighbor — what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.

Resources to learn more:

<https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud>

<https://www.ag.ks.gov/in-your-corner-kansas/home>

Election Year Scams

Because 2024 is an election year, scammers will target voters with bogus registration sites, requests for donations to fake PACs, and other fraud.

Common election year scams include: Voter Registration Scams

If someone claims you are not registered to vote and offers to register you by phone, hang up. You can only register to vote online, by mail or in person at a local election office. The safest option is to register at a government location or by mail.

Robocalls

AI-(artificial intelligence) generated phone calls or social media posts are being used to fake a person's voice to influence your vote or tell you your voting place is closed. Be suspicious of robocalls and just hang up.

Donation Scams

If you want to donate to candidates, go to their certified website. Don't answer phone calls or click links in email or text that ask for donations.

Fake Surveys, Petitions and Polls

It's common to receive phone calls from political polling companies. A legitimate survey will ask how you plan to vote and your political affiliation. Do not share your birthdate, name, address, email address, Social Security number or driver's license. Real polls do not offer prizes or gift cards and will not ask for your credit card number.

Questions and Concerns

If you think you have been scammed or need help reporting a scam, please call Brewster Place Security at 785-274-5000. ■



OUR DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

BY CHAPLAIN JULIE FREEMAN, M.DIV

In diversity there is beauty and there is strength. -Maya Angelou

Summer's here! June is the official start of summer and all the fun it brings. Picnics, vacations, or simply sitting outside in the warm sunshine with plenty of sunscreen of course. Father's Day and summer solstice celebrations this month bring people together for community and fellowship. There are two more important celebrations that happen in June.

Pride Month Speaker

Thursday, June 6

3:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

Caroline Morrison will share her personal experiences, challenges and answer questions.

Juneteenth, which occurs on June 19, honors the day in 1865 that federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to ensure that all enslaved people were freed two and half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. Juneteenth is considered the longest running African-American holiday and officially became a US federal holiday in 2021. Juneteenth is celebrated nationwide with parades,

barbeques, and block parties among other events.

June also commemorates **Pride Month** for the LGBTQ+ community. Pride month honors the long struggle for inclusion marked by the Stonewall Riots in June 1969. LGBTQ+ culture and activism is celebrated through activities like concerts, marches, film festivals and other programs. The Brewster Place Diversity and Inclusion Group has invited a speaker to share their experience in recognition of Pride Month. Please join us for this educational event.

JOIN CHAPLAIN JULIE FOR THESE EVENTS

Sunday Supper Club

Sunday, June 2

4:00 pm | The Evergreens Brewster Bean

Bring your dinner and join us for fun, fellowship and curious conversations.

Mindfulness Meditation

Monday, June 10

10:30 am | Main Street Chapel

The Mindfulness Meditation group offers a chance to slow down and center yourself in the present moment. All are welcome.

Unbound Gratitude Group

Monday, June 17

2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel

Finding life again after loss through gratitude with Chaplain Julie.

Morning Devotions

Sunday mornings

9:30 am | The Evergreens Brewster Bean

Join us for coffee and a short devotion with Chaplain Julie.

Weekly Worship Service

Every Sunday

1:00 pm | Brewster Health Center

Weekly Vespers

Every Sunday

2:30 pm | Main Street Chapel ■



FINANCIAL STABILITY AND EXPANSION

THE BREWSTER PLACE STORY PART 6 | BY JANIS SWANSON, EDITOR

*This article was compiled using **The Brewster Place Story: A Dream Come True** which was published in 1981.*

In the mid 1960s, newspapers and magazines were featuring sad stories about retirement homes that were unable to meet their commitments. Brewster Place was different and by July 1965 the occupancy rate at Building I (Redwood) was 80%. This allowed a payment of \$250,000 to be paid on the principle of the loan from the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System (the original loan to build). Board members and Executive Director Nathan Barr knew that financial stability was the first priority so that the lifetime leases that were sold would always be honored.

On June 8, 1966, a major tornado hit Topeka and it's not surprising that Brewster Place offered temporary housing to 14 tornado victims. During this time it became apparent that the most sought after units were larger and more expensive. This fact lead the board to consider future plans to build west of Building I. In 1968 a Long Range Planning and Development Com-

mittee was formed which looked at the feasibility of building west of Building I. Also in 1968, a second floor to the Medical Unit was added (now Assisted Living Frontier).

Even though new construction costs were high, the fact that Brewster Place had 188 residents and a waiting list of 30, a special meeting was called in June 1971 to consider and approve a plan for further development. Accepted were the blueprints drawn by Ekdahl, Davis and Depew for 12 townhouses



(Aspen), six two-bedroom and 20 one-bedroom apartments (North and South Terrace).

The \$1,000,000 development was financed by Shawnee Federal Savings and Loan. The Tilford property (three acres of land west of Building I) was purchased for \$62,500.00 and Jayhawk Construction was awarded the general contract. It's hard to believe, but Brewster West as it was called, was completed in September 1972.

More to come in the next issue! ■

DID YOU KNOW?

The very first issue of the **Brewster News** was published 60 years ago this month—**June 1964**. The newsletter was written by Mr. Lester F. Filson, the first resident to move into Brewster Place. It was four typed pages of 8 1/2 by 11 paper which noted on the last page: "It is the first issue of what we hope will be a regular newsletter." Sixty years later, what Mr. Filson and others started is still a monthly staple providing news, events and information about our community. A copy of every issue since 1964 has been saved and is available to read. Please call Janis Swanson at 785-274-3389 if you are interested in reading from the archives. ■



CREATIVE ARTS WITH JASON BERRYMAN

Phoneography

Friday, June 7

10:00 am

Redwood Art Studio

Thursday, June 27

10:00 am

Redwood Art Studio

Phoneography + Editing

Tuesday, June 11

10:00 am

Redwood Art Studio

Friday, June 28

10:00 am

Redwood Art Studio

Learn (or practice!) taking spectacular photographs with your smartphone! In these workshops you will not only practice taking better images on your cell-phone but also (if you'd like to go the extra step) how to edit your images as well.

Easy Abstract Watercolor

Wednesday, June 12 and

Thursday, June 20

10:00 am

Redwood Art Studio

If you've ever wanted to start watercolor painting (or haven't in a while) then this is the project for you! Using only paper, paints, a brush, and water you will learn a few basic techniques and finish with a completed painting.

Quilters Group

Every Monday at 9:30 am

Redwood Art Studio

This group of hand quilters is working on the quilt for the drawing at the November Bazaar.

Open Art Studio

Mondays and Fridays

1:00—3:00 pm

The Evergreens Art Studio

Tuesdays and Thursdays

1:00—3:00 pm

Redwood Art Studio

Did you miss a class you wanted to attend? Would you like help with a project you are currently working on? Open studio time is a great opportunity to learn about art from others or chatting while you work on your own creations! ■

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS BEGIN

Alcohol Anonymous Meetings

Every Wednesday

2:00—4:00 pm

Brewster Events Center

Wellness Center

If you have any questions, please contact Taylor Leone, Director of Social Services, at 785-274-3397.

Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) is a group for anyone with a desire to stop drinking or those who have a previous history of alcoholism or addiction. Attendees can just sit and listen and learn more about recovery or can share about their situation. The purpose of all meetings is for A.A. members to, *"share their experience, strength and hope with each other so that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism."* Anonymity serves as the spiritual foundation of A.A. and provides protection for all members from identification as alcoholics. We ask that those who attend uphold the anonymity of other members in the group. ■

THE NEW GO BAG

WHAT YOU NEED IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT

Launched in February 2003, **Ready** is a National public service campaign designed to educate and empower the American people to prepare for, respond to and mitigate emergencies and disasters. The goal of the campaign is to promote preparedness through public involvement.

This spring has seen an unprecedented amount of severe storms in our region. Brewster Place residents are educated about where to seek shelter during severe weather. It's important to be prepared so we hope this information will help you prepare your "Go Bag" in case of any emergency. For more information please visit Ready.gov/disability

The Bag

Your carryall must be large and sturdy enough to hold the essentials and small enough to grab on the run. A backpack is a great option. If you're not able to carry a heavy bag, get a duffel bag on wheels.

Food and Water

Add lightweight, nutrient-dense foods, such as protein bars, instant oatmeal, nuts and seeds, and water. A "go bag" should have enough food and water for at least three days. Remember to pack enough for your pets too.

Personal Essentials

Pack a first-aid kit and a change of clothing. Other items that should be in your "go bag" are an emergency blanket, important family documents, personal hygiene items, books, and a game or puzzle.

Medication

Prescribed medications including a full list of medicines you take or need, dosage instructions and any allergies. Emergency contact information and phone numbers as well as contact information for your durable medical provider. ■

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS — TUESDAY TOPICS

The League of Women Voters of Kansas is a grassroots, volunteer, **nonpartisan** political organization with nine local Leagues throughout the state. For over 100 years, LWVK has encouraged and informed active participation of citizens in government and has influenced public policy through education and advocacy. **The League never endorses candidates or political parties.**

The League of Women Voters of Topeka Shawnee County normally meets at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, but due to summer camps at the Library, the Tuesday Topics for June and July will be held at Brewster Place.

Tuesday Topics

Tuesday, June 4

11:45 a.m. | Cultural Arts Center

Lisa Sandmeyer, Superintendent of the Historic Topeka Cemetery will speak about the organization's history, current projects, and plans for the future.

Tuesday, July 2

11:45 a.m. | Cultural Arts Center

Adrienne Olejnik, Vice President of Kansas Action for Children, will speak about their goals, mission, and advocacy for children in Kansas.

Residents and the public are invited to attend these educational sessions. ■



KU OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

**NO HOMEWORK. NO PRESSURE.
JUST LEARNING FOR THE JOY OF IT!**

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

SUMMER 2024

The Musical Theatre of Lerner and Loewe

Tuesdays, June 11, 18 and 25

1:00—3:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Three of the most enduring musicals from Broadway's Golden Era — Brigadoon (1947), My Fair Lady (1956) and Camelot (1960) — were created by the team of writer Alan Jay Lerner and composer Frederick Loewe. This class will explore this memorable collaboration with emphasis on these three shows, as well as Lerner and Loewe's other notable projects, including the film Gigi (1958). Their work earned Academy Awards, Tony Awards, Golden Globes and Kennedy Center Honors.

Young Generals of the American Civil War

Tuesdays, July 16, 23 and 30

1:00—3:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

During the American Civil War, the United States Army grew exponentially in size. In order to command the increased number of troops, general officers were created from younger members of the military. This class will focus on the generation of young leaders who served in the ranks of the Union Army attaining senior military positions outside the traditional norm. The class will look at the careers and war making abilities of officers in both the Western and Eastern Theaters. The first class will examine the military exploits of Western Theater generals William T. Sherman, Benjamin Grierson, Judson Kilpatrick, and John Schofield. The second class will move to the Eastern Theater and focus on Union generals Winfield Hancock, John Gibbon, George McClellan, Alfred Pleasonton, and Joshua Chamberlain. The last class will examine the Civil War careers of three of the youngest Union generals that attained senior rank, George Custer, Philip Sheridan, and Darius Couch. ■

ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Beginning in June, any off-campus trips scheduled by Jamie Fritz, Activities Coordinator, will now have bus pick-up and drop-off at both The Evergreens and Redwood. At Redwood, the bus will load on the west side only. We hope this makes it easier for those who live on the west side of campus and at Redwood. Thank you for your patience while construction was occurring. ■



Tune in for music,
movies, updates,
and more!



REMINDER

The speed limit at
Brewster Place is
12 mph.

HOME OF THE MONTH | COTTONWOOD VILLA 106

Cottonwood Villa 106 has just become available. It is one of 13 apartment homes that make up the “big yellow building” on the northwest corner of campus. The villas opened in 2018 and have beautiful common spaces inside and out.

This 1,436 square foot apartment home has a balcony with a southern exposure. Stainless-steel appliances, marble quartz counter tops, inset microwave, and wall oven make the kitchen beautiful and functional. Spacious closets, low step-in onyx showers, and large side-by-side washer and dryer add to the easy living at the villas. The elevator takes you to the underbuilding parking level where you will also find a cozy exercise room and on-site storage unit.



Next door is Villa 105 which is also available. This home has an open design and 1,850 square feet of living space. The larger villa has a beautiful den and wraparound porch. All of the apartment homes in this newer building make you want to sit back on the porch with a tall glass of tea, or play cards near the gaslit fireplaces in the common areas. If you would like to tour one of the open villas or any property on the Brewster campus, call Sales and Marketing at 785-274-3351. Residents in Independent Living who make a new referral to Brewster Place will receive one month’s free rent once the friend moves in. **For Villa apartments, residents will receive two month’s free rent** if the friend is new to campus and not currently on a wait list. ■

A WEEK OF CELEBRATIONS TO MARK OUR 60th!



Jane Romig attended the 60th Anniversary BBQ and Band event on May 16. Residents, staff and families enjoyed great BBQ from our own Brewster Place dining staff and wonderful music from the Bill Foley Band. It was a special evening!



Virgil Funk lives at the Cottonwood Villas and attended the 60th Anniversary T-Shirts and Treats event. We had 225 residents and staff create a **60!** for a wonderful photo op to mark the occasion. To see more photos from the week, visit our Facebook page.



Sharon Fundis spoke at the 60th Anniversary Ribbon Cutting. Sharon was the first resident to move into the newly renovated first floor of Redwood. Brewster’s original building has served us well over these 60 years. Here’s to 60 more!



OFF CAMPUS — A few highlights!

NEW THEATRE AND RESTAURANT: WAITLIST ONLY

Wednesday, June 5 | 9:45 am | Shuttle (pick up at BEC)

New Theatre is bringing back George Wendt and Bernadette Birkett in *Squabbles*. It shows the good, the bad, and the in-laws. Jerry and Alice are happily married until her father decides to move in with them. Then his mother moves in with them. Then all hell breaks loose...family style. Tickets are \$36 and includes lunch. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

LARGE GARDENS OF TOPEKA

Wednesday, June 12 | 9:00 am | Shuttle (pick EV and RW west side)

Let's go explore some of Topeka's beautiful gardens that are especially delightful in the summer. We will spend the morning at the amazing private garden of Bob Saathoff. This is an outstanding shade garden that offers many interesting features and plant species. We will then take a lunch break and rest. We will finish with a walk around Ward Meade's Garden. This garden offers vibrant colors, fragrant blooms, and a peaceful retreat into nature. Lunch is a Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE

Thursday, June 13 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle (pick up in EV lobby and RW west side)

TCT presents *The Gods of Comedy*. It is a story about Daphne and Ralph. They are young classics professors who have just made a discovery that's sure to turn them into academic superstars. But something goes disastrously wrong, and Daphne cries out in a panic, "Save me, gods of ancient Greece!"...and the gods actually appear! The Ivy League will never be the same as a pair of screwball deities encounters the carnal complexity of college coeds, campus capers, and conspicuous consumption. Tickets are \$35. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

CHEAP AND CHEERFUL SHOPPING

Wednesday, June 19 | 9:30 am | Shuttle (pick up in EV lobby and RW west side)

Looking for unique finds, budget-friendly fashion and fun. We will scour Topeka looking for one of a kind but affordable fashion and home décor. We will take a break and grab a quick lunch. Then continue on for more shopping. We never know where the bus will take us. Lunch is Dutch treat. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

SUNFLOWER MUSIC FESTIVAL

June 21, 26 and 29 | 6:30 pm | Shuttle (pick up in EV lobby and RW west side)

Sunflower Music Festival brings the world's greatest musicians to Washburn's White Concert Hall to perform free concerts. Since its founding in 1987, the tradition of the Festival is excellence, cultivated selection by selection, instrument by instrument, year after year. Brewster will provide transportation to the orchestra performances.

SMALL GARDEN TOUR

Wednesday, June 26 | 9:00 am | Shuttle (pick up in EV lobby and RW west side)

Let's go explore some of Topeka's beautiful small gardens that are delightful in the summer. We will spend the morning in an amazing private garden. Everywhere you turn will be a picturesque setting. This is an outstanding shade garden that offers many interesting features and plant species. We will then take a lunch break and rest.

ON CAMPUS — A few highlights!

4th OF JULY CHOIR PRATICE

Thursday, June 4, 11, 18 and 25 | 3:30 pm | Chapel

Calling all music lovers. Do you enjoy singing, having fun and patriotic tunes? Join Dorothy Illiff and special choir to celebrate Red, White and Brewster. We are looking for enthusiastic voices to come together and perform. No experience is necessary just a love for fun and music. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 if you have any questions. All rehearsals offer a tasty treat.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Tuesday, June 4 | 12:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Brewster Place is excited to host Tuesday Topics for the League of Women Voters'. The guest speaker will be Lisa Sandmeyer, Superintendent of the historic old Topeka Cemetery. She will speak about the history of the Cemetery as well as tell some interesting stories about several people who are buried there. You are welcome to bring a lunch and enjoy it during the presentation. No lunch will be provided to purchase in the Cultural Arts Center.

SANTA FE BIG BAND

Tuesday, June 4 | 6:00 pm | Brewster Events Center—outside

Come and enjoy the annual summer concert of the Famous Santa Fe Band. If you love big band music this is for you.

KU OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING SERIES

The Broadway Musicals of Learner and Lowe

Tuesdays, June 11, 18 and 25 | 1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

See article on page 7.

BUCK ACADEMY PERFORMERS

Tuesday, June 11 | 6:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Come and enjoy fun summer talent show for the Buck Academy.

FUTURE EVENTS

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE

Thursday, July 25 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle

TCT presents the hilarious award-winning musical Tootsie based on a 1982 hit comedy film starring Dustin Hoffman. The main character, Michael Dorsey, will go to any length for his career. Michael Dorsey is a skilled actor with a talent for not keeping a job. Desperate and out-of-work, Michael makes a last-ditch effort at making his dreams come true...by disguising himself as actress Dorothy Michaels. In a meteoric rise to Broadway stardom, Dorothy soon has audiences falling at her feet while Michael (disguised as Dorothy) is falling for his co-star, Julie. It isn't long before Michael realizes that maintaining his greatest acting success is going to be much harder than he expected. Tickets are \$35. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

NEW THEATRE AND RESTAURANT

Wednesday, August 14 | 945am | Shuttle

New Theatre summer musical spectacular is Disney's Newsies. Newsies spins the inspirational tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy who dreams of a better life. When the unscrupulous newspaper tycoon, Joseph Pulitzer, raises prices at the newsboys' expense, Jack along with spitfire reporter, Katherine Plummer, rouse the downtrodden "newsies" to stand up against Pulitzer and fight for what's right. Tickets are \$38 and includes lunch. Transportation is \$13. Please call Jamie at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.