BREWSTER NEWS
November 2026
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THE HOLIDAY TRADITION CONTINUES

On August 19, 1965 a group of 15 Brewster Place residents met to decide the possibility of having a Christmas Bazaar. The purpose would be to give residents and employees the chance to purchase handcrafted items and for the proceeds of the Bazaar to be used for service projects. The first Bazaar was held on December 3, 1965 and was deemed a great success with proceeds of $300. Over the years, the Brewster Holiday Bazaar has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit the Topeka and Brewster Place communities.

Under the direction of **Creative Arts Coordinator Kathy Pflaum,** Brewster Place resident volunteers along with BrewsterConnect members, family and friends of Brewster Place have created another incredible collection of items. Last year the Bazaar set a record making over $17,000 in one day. The proceeds of the Bazaar go to the **Brewster Service Fund** which is managed by residents who serve on the Service Activities Committee of Resident Council. This committee accepts applications from departments and committees at Brewster Place and allocates funds that support various programs on campus.

This year Kathy along with **Service Committe Chair Ann Uhl** will appear on the local morning shows. Be sure to watch on **Monday, November 2 at 9:00 am on KSNT and 4:00 pm on WIBW** as Kathy and Ann spread the word about the Bazaar, its purpose and our wonderful community. ■

MISSION

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

SPIRITUAL

SLOW DOWN, TAKE NOTICE

BY CHAPLAIN JULIE FREEMAN, M.DIV

"Gratitude is the memory of the heart."— Jean-Baptiste Massieu

November has a way of turning our attention toward gratitude. As the leaves fall and the days grow shorter, we naturally find ourselves reflecting on the people, moments, and blessings that have filled our year.

Massieu's quote, ***"Gratitude is the memory of the heart,"*** reminds us that gratitude is more than a seasonal tradition. It is the heart's way of remembering what truly matters. Long after details fade, we remember the kindness of a friend, the support of family, the encouragement of a colleague, or the comfort we received during a difficult time.

This month offers us an opportunity to slow down and take notice. Amid holiday preparations and busy schedules, we can pause to reflect on the gifts that surround us each day: a caring conversation, a helping hand, a moment of laughter, or the simple blessing of sharing life with others.

Gratitude does not require a perfect life. In fact, it often shines brightest during challenging seasons. It helps us recognize that even in times of uncertainty, we are sustained by grace, compassion, and hope.

As we journey through November, may we take time to remember the blessings that have touched our lives and express our appreciation to those who have made a difference along the way. A grateful heart not only honors the past but also brings joy and peace to the present. Wishing you a November filled with gratitude, reflection, and abundant blessings. ■

SPIRITUAL LIFE OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY SUPPER CLUB

Sunday, November 1
4:00 pm | Evergreens Brewster Bean
Bring your dinner or snack and join us for fun, fellowship and curious conversations.

SEASONS OF GRIEF

Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17 and 24
2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel
Beginning in November, you are welcome to join Chaplain Julie for a four-week group to guide you on your grief journey. **Seasons** will be offered once a quarter. If you need grief support, please reach out to Chaplain Julie by calling 785-274-3349 to arrange a visit.

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, November 10 | 10:00 am
Main Street Chapel
Caregiver's Support Group offers residents an opportunity to share their experiences and struggles with caring for their loved ones. Caregiver's Support Group is open to all caregiver's seeking a safe place to discuss the challenges they face.

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

Mondays, November 9 and 23
2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel
Mindfulness Meditation offers a chance to slow down and center yourself in the present moment. Our 30-minute session begins with a short, guided meditation followed by silent meditation and guided closing. Everyone is welcome.

PATHWAYS

Monday, November 16
2:00 pm | Main Street Chapel
Looking for extra support and a place to connect? Join Pathways -- a welcoming group where you can share life's challenges and triumphs, build resilience, and find encouragement. Everyone is welcome.

EPISCOPAL SERVICE

Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the Episcopal Service will be moved to the third Thursday of the month:
Thursday, November 19 at 11:00 am
Thursday, December 17 at 11:00 am ■

BREWSTER PLACE CELEBRATES PRESTIGIOUS PEAK LEVEL 8 RECOGNITION

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IN PERSON-CENTERED CARE

Brewster Place is proud to announce that it has been awarded the **PEAK Level 8 Seal**, recognizing its commitment to providing exceptional person-centered care and creating an environment where residents are empowered to live with dignity, independence, and purpose.

PEAK, which stands for **Promoting Excellent Alternatives in Kansas**, is a statewide quality improvement initiative administered by the Kansas State University Center on Aging in partnership with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS). The program recognizes nursing homes that demonstrate excellence in person-centered care practices.

Level 8 is the highest level of recognition within the PEAK program, designating Brewster Place as a **Mentor Home**. This distinction recognizes organizations that have demonstrated sustained excellence across all 12 PEAK core areas and actively mentor other nursing homes in implementing person-centered care practices.

The PEAK program evaluates four essential domains: **Resident Choice, Staff Empowerment, Home Environment, and Meaningful Life.** Together, these principles emphasize honoring residents' individual preferences, empowering employees, creating welcoming home environments, and supporting meaningful relationships and experiences.

Achieving Level 8 reflects Brewster Place's ongoing dedication to maintaining these standards while helping advance person-centered care throughout Kansas.

This recognition is a testament to the commitment of our team members, whose compassion, collaboration, and dedication help create a community where residents are valued, respected, and empowered.

At Brewster Place, person-centered care is more than a philosophy—it is the foundation of how we serve our residents every day. (borrowed from KSU Center on Aging; Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services) ■

BHC EDUCATIONAL SERIES

Wednesday, November 18
10:00 am
BHC Fink Living Room

Importance of a Good Diet
with Mary Molt, Ph.D., R.D., L.D.

Learn about the importance of your diet with Mary Molt, Associate Director, Assistant Professor, Food, Nutrition, Dietetics and Health at Kansas State University.

Call Chaplain Julie at 785-274-3349 if you have questions. ■

4th TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

Join us each month for rich discussion facilitated by Sara Tucker. Books are available at each meeting and in Chaplain Julie's office. Contact Chaplain Julie at 785-274-3349 for information.

NOVEMBER

Discussion Date: Tuesday, November 24
RYOB -- Read your own book, either a favorite or something new and come prepared to discuss with the group.

DECEMBER

Book Club will pause in December. Happy Holidays! Check out the December Brewster News for the January selection, pick-up date and discussion date. ■

CREATIVE ARTS

WITH KATHY PFLAUM, CREATIVE ARTS COORDINATOR

BAZAAR SAVE THE DATE

Brewster Place Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar
Friday, November 6 | 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Cultural Arts Center

We are officially one week away from the annual Brewster Bazaar. It does take a village every year to put on the Bazaar. All proceeds from the Bazaar go to the Brewster Service Committee. The committee then reviews requests for funding to make decisions on where funds will be distributed. Please see the request guidelines in the October Brewster News for details.

STUDIO CLEANING IN NOVEMBER

After the Bazaar, we will commence with Studio Cleaning. This means we will work together to get the studios reorganized, cleaned, and sorted to be ready to start fresh on making items for the 2027 Bazaar and have other fun activities in the studios. We need to find out what markers are no longer functional and throw them out, organize the floss, get our yarn sorted by color/type and in general make it so we know all the cool supplies we have in the studios. Yes, we do have lots of cool supplies for you to use and have fun with, in the studios. Check out the schedule for a time to come help and explore the items available in the studios.

BLOCK OF THE MONTH

PIECED BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Wednesday, November 11
10:00 am | Redwood Art Studio
We are working on a star themed Block of the Month for the piecing block this year.

PAPER PIECED BLOCK OF THE MONTH

Wednesday, November 25
10:00 am | Evergreens Art Studio
We will learn to do paper piecing, a very precise method for block making.

TEA TOWEL TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 24
10:00 am | Redwood Art Studio
We will continue to learn new stitches as we work on tea towels for Bazaar 2027!

BAZAAR BAKING

Tuesday, November 3
1:00 - 5:00 pm
Klinge Activity Center
Bring your favorite recipes, your ingredients, and your creativity! We're getting together for some group candy making, cookie decorating, and general goodie-creating fun as we prepare treats for the Bazaar. We'll have the oven, stove, microwave, refrigerator, and plenty of counter space available for you to use. Need help getting your ingredients and supplies to the kitchen? Call Jenn at 785-274-3398 and she can help you get your supplies there!

BAKE SALE DONATIONS

We need YOU to help make this year's Bazaar Bake Sale a sweet success! Here are just a few ideas to get your creativity going:

- Granola bars and snack cakes
- Cupcakes and cookies
- Chex Mix and other savory snacks
- Fudge and homemade candy
- Anything chocolate!
- Quick breads
- Sugar-free treats (please label)
- Gluten-free goodies (please label)

BAKE SALE DROP OFF

Bring your food donations to Jen's office at Evergreens or to Detria at the Redwood Info Center during either of these times:
Wednesday, November 4
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thursday, November 5
9:00 am - Noon
Need a little help getting your donation to us? No problem! I'm happy to arrange a pickup. Just call Jen at 785-274-3398 to schedule. ■

NEW SELECTIONS AT BREWSTER LIBRARIES

We have new large print selections at the Brewster Place Libraries located at The Evergreens and Redwood lower level.

The Midnight Train, by Matt Haig
"When your life flashes before your eyes, where would you stop? No one can change the past, but the ***Midnight Train*** can take you there. The chance to re-live the moments that meant most. To see what kind of person you really were. For Wilbur his best days were with Maggie, the love of his life. On his honeymoon in Venice. Before he gave it all away. He wishes he could go back and live differently. But to do so risks everything. A magical, time-travelling love story, from the world of The Midnight Library"

Agatha Chrisitie, Marple: Twelve New Mysteries
A brand new collection of short stories featuring the Queen of Mystery's legendary detective Jane Marple, penned by 12 remarkable best-selling and acclaimed authors. This collection of 12 original short stories, all featuring Jane Marple, will introduce the character to a whole new generation. Each author reimagines Agatha Christie's Marple through their own unique perspective while staying true to the hallmarks of a traditional mystery.

Miss Marple was first introduced to readers in a story Agatha Christie wrote for The Royal Magazine in 1927 and made her first appearance in a full-length novel in 1930's ***The Murder at the Vicarage.*** It has been 45 years since Agatha Christie's last Marple novel, ***Sleeping Murder***, was published posthumously in 1976, and this collection of ingenious new stories by 12 Christie devotees will be a timely reminder why Jane Marple remains the most famous fictional female detective of all time. Stay tuned for more additions in the next couple of months. ■

RESIDENT DIRECTORY

We are updating the **2027 Resident Directory** and plan to have it out in January. To get a better idea of how many printed copies we need, we are asking that if you prefer a printed copy (one per household), that you sign up. Sign up lists will be availabe from November 9 - 30 at Sue's desk at The Evergreens and Detria's desk at Redwood.

A digital version of the Resident Directory is available on CATIE in the Documents section. Many other documents such as the Brewster News, Menus, Wellness Opportunities, Resident Handbook and Resident Council Minutes are also digitally available on CATIE.

If you are interested in signing up for CATIE on your smartphone, laptop or tablet, please call IT at 785-274-3334. If you have any information that needs updated in the Resident Directory (phone number, email address, etc), please call Sue Callen at 785-274-3374. ■

TRANSPORTATION REMINDERS

We have a wonderful transportation team who provide services weekdays, weekends and evenings for programs and events. Because of the limited number of transportation staff, it is very helpful for our drivers to have an accurate, up-to-date list of RSVPs. When you RSVP for a trip or activity, please remember to cancel your RSVP if your plans change and you decide not to attend.

Canceling Monday - Thursday

Activities and Trips
Call Jen Van Dalsem at 785-274-3398
Funerals and Memorial Services
Call Chaplain Julie at 785-274-3349

Canceling Friday - Sunday

Call Transportation at 785-274-3320 ■

JOIN US FOR THESE SPECIAL EVENTS

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

Honoring Those Who Served

Tuesday, November 10

1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Please join us for a special Veterans Day program honoring the men and women who have served our country. The program will include a oresentation of colors, opening prayer, veteran recognition, reflections from our residents about why they served, and a musical tribute with a patriotic sing-along. Following the program, stay and enjoy brownies as we gather together to celebrate, remember, and give thanks to those who served.

ONLINE ORDERING TRAINING

Learn To Order from Dining Services Via CATIE

Monday, November 16

10:00 am | Cultural Arts Center

Did you know you can order meals from The Evergreens Grill and Redwood Restaurant online via CATIE? Instructions were delivered to your door on October 16 and now we will have an in-person training if you need extra help. Please bring your device (phone, laptop or tablet) to the training. If you don't have CATIE yet, you can sign up by calling IT at 785-274-3444.

TOPEKA BIG BAND

Tuesday, November 10

5:30 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Topeka Big Band is an eclectic group of Topeka musicians dedicated to preserving and performing big band music from the1900s to today featuring Big Band Swing, Show Tunes, Rock, Dixieland, Ballards, Top 40, and more.

Sponsored by the Brewster Service Fund.

DR. SARA TUCKER PRESENTS:

Dolly Parton: More Than a Country Legend

Tuesday, November 17

1:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center

Grab your rhinestones and join us as we travel through the life and career of Dolly Parton, from her humble beginnings in Tennessee to becoming a country music superstar, actress, author, and philanthropist.

BREWSTER CHOIR PRACTICES

Tuesdays at 3:30 pm | Main Street Chapel

It's beginning to look a lot like…Christmas! Calling all residents who would like to try the Brewster choir! Dorothy Illif will direct the choir and will rehearse in the Chapel on Tuesdays until the Christmas program on December 15. No experience necessary – just come for the fun! ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW THEATRE: PATSY CLINE

Wednesday, December 2

9:30 am | Charter Bus

Tickets are $42 including lunch and transportation is $13. Call Jen at 785-274-3398 by November 3 for reservations.

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE

Frozen the Broadway Musical

Thursday, December 10

6:00 pm | Shuttle

Tickets are $38 and will be purchased by November 24. Call Jen at 785-274-3398 for reservations.

TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A Hollywood Christmas

Wednesday, December 16

6:45 pm | Shuttle

If you don't have season tickets, you can purchase tickets at the door ($39/$37/$25) Call Jen at 785-274-3398 for reservations.

FESTIVAL SINGERS

Christmas Classics

Wednesday, December 21

6:00 pm | Shuttle

Tickets are $20 and can be purchased at the door. Call Jen at 785-274-3398 for reservations. ■

HOME OF THE MONTH | CATERED LIVING AT REDWOOD

THE CARLTON AT REDWOOD - COMFORT, CONVENIENCE, A PLACE TO CALL HOME

This month, we're featuring the Carlton, a charming 500-square-foot apartment located in Catered Living at Redwood. Thoughtfully designed to make the most of every square foot, this inviting home offers comfortable living with an impressive amount of storage.

The Carlton features a spacious living area with a beautiful tray ceiling, a ceiling fan, and a large window that welcomes natural light. A convenient kitchenette with rich wood cabinetry provides additional storage and functionality, while generous closets and built-in storage help keep everything organized.

This apartment will soon receive a fresh new look with updated lighting, paint, carpeting, and flooring, creating a bright and welcoming space ready for its next resident.

Located in Redwood, the Carlton offers more than just a lovely apartment, Catered Living provides the perfect balance of independence and convenience, allowing residents to enjoy their own private home while taking advantage of the services, amenities, and engaging lifestyle that make Brewster Place so special. Small in size, big on comfort, and filled with possibilities!

Interested in learning more or scheduling a tour?
Contact the Sales and Marketing Department at 785-274-3351. ■

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

Non Brewster Place residents must register onlineor by phone:
Online
Osher.ku.edu
Phone
785-864-6779

Brewster Place Residents and BrewsterConnect members attend for free.
Call Jen at 785-274-3398 for more information.

KU OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

FALL 2026 COURSES

The American Civil War West of the Mississippi: 1861-1865
Thursdays, November 12, 19; December 3
(No class on November 26 due to Thanksgiving)
1:00 - 3:00 pm | Cultural Arts Center
Most histories of the American Civil War concentrate primarily on the campaigns and battles that took place east of the Mississippi. However, the Civil War raged on in the states located west of the Mississippi such as Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, Missouri, and in the New Mexico and Oklahoma territories. This class will focus on those lesser-known campaigns and battles that were nonetheless critical to the preservation of the Union and the eventual defeat of the Confederacy.

Instructor: Robert Smith, Ph.D., is the recently retired director of the Fort Riley Museum. He has a doctorate in history from Kansas State University and has published numerous articles on military history. ■

ROOTED IN SERVICE.
GATHERED IN GRATITUDE.
-est. 1964

Please join us!

BREAKFAST OF THANKSGIVING

Residents, Staff and BrewsterConnect members are invited.

Monday, November 30
8:00 - 10:30 am | Cultural Arts Center

How lucky are we to be part of the Brewster Place community? Whether you are a resident, staff member or BrewsterConnect member, we want you to gather with us as we express our gratitude with breakfast, ornament decorating and a complimentary Brewster Place t-shirt. Ornaments will be hung on the tree on the west side of the Assisted Living breezeway. Please join us! ■

THANKFUL FOR TIME TOGETHER AND TALENTS SHARED

The **Brewster Foundation** was proud to present **Employee Educational Assistance Scholarships** to **Sarah Neal** (prerequisites for an Associate Nursing Degree) and **Kyrsten Babbitt** (LPN Program), **Ashley Cross** (IV Certification) and **Bethany Snyder** (prerequisites for LPN). The Brewster Foundation is honored to support employees in furthering their education and advancing their careers in healthcare at Brewster Place. Congratulations to all the scholarship recipients!

Back Row: Don Buchanan, Tyrone Wilkens, Robert Maxwell, and Todd Pettygrove. **Front Row:** John Salisbury, Sarah Neal, Kyrsten Babbitt, Becky Dinkenson, and Donna Robinson. **Not picutured:** Ashley Cross and Bethany Snyder.

Above: Beverly Robards once again shared her musical talents with us. Beverly is an accomplished pianist and enjoys playing for others. Thank you, Beverly!

Left: Cheryl Menges joined a group who headed to Kansas City for the Ganster Tour and lunch at Union Station. A great time was had by all and apparently we have a few gansters amoung us!

OFF CAMPUS | A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

CHEAP AND CHEERFUL SHOPPING

Wednesday, November 4 | 9:30 am | Shuttle pick up at Brewster Events Center and Redwood

Let's hit the thrift stores! God's Store House, Giving Tree, and Goodwill has been remodeled. We'll have lunch at the Townsite Center. Lunch will be Dutch treat. Space is limited, call Jen at 785-274-3398.

TOPEKA CIVIC THEATRE: FRANKENSTEIN

Thursday, November 5 | 6:00 pm | Shuttle pick up at Brewster Events Center and Redwood

Frankenstein is a popular stage adaptation of Mary Shelly's classic novel, known for its focus on the creature's perspective and its exploration of themes like parental neglect, scientific responsibility, and the nature of good and evil. CONTENT ADVISORY: This play contains mature themes and simulates violence and sexual assault. The use of fog and flashing lighting effects will also be included in the production. Audience discretion is advised. Tickets are $38 each and will be purchased by October 22, but you can add your name to the wait list. Call Jen at 785-274-3398.

TOPEKA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, November 7 | 6:45 pm | Shuttle pick up at Brewster Events Center and Redwood

Topeka Symphony Orchestra will present ***"American Road Trip,"*** featuring bassist Xavier Foley and works celebrating iconic American landscapes. For those who do not have season tickets, you can purchase your tickets at the door for $39/$37/$25. Please call Jen at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT LEGENDS OUTLET MALL IN KANSAS CITY

Wednesday, November 11 | 9:30 am | Shuttle pick up at Brewster Events Center and Redwood

Join us for a trip to Legends Outlet Mall in Kansas City, Kansas. We'll shop 'til we drop with several hours exploring the Outlet Mall. Lunch will be on your own at the many on site restaurant choices. $13 travel fee and lunch will be dutch treat. Please call Jen at 785-274-3398 as space is limited.

WORLD WAR I MUSEUM IN KANSAS CITY

Wednesday, November 18 | 10:00 am | Shuttle pick up at Brewster Events Center and Redwood

Step back in time and explore the fascinating history of World War I at the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri! Join us for an exciting outing filled with powerful stories, historic artifacts, and incredible exhibits that bring history to life. Come discover, learn, and enjoy a memorable day exploring one of Kansas City's most remarkable museums! A boxed lunch will be pre-purchased by November 11 from the onsite "Over There Café" for $15.00 and choices will include ham and cheddar, turkey and swiss, chicken salad, veggie wrap, house or chef salad, plus chips or crackers, cookie, and water. Tickets to the Museum will be $22 and will include the Liberty Memorial Tower and the Featured Exhibition. We'll stay 2 to 3 hours after lunch to enjoy all of the Museum. There will also be a $13 travel fee. Please call Jen at 785-274-3398 as space is limited, and with your reservation please leave your boxed lunch choice as well.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Wednesday, November 28 | 11:00 am | Shuttle pick up at Brewster Events Center and Redwood

First, we'll enjoy lunch at Hermon's Meat Market. Then we'll explore the holiday magic of the Festival of the Trees at the Fairlawn Mall. Stroll through a beautiful display of creatively decorated Christmas trees and enjoy the festive sights and sounds of the season. Join us for a fun and cheerful outing that is sure to put everyone in the holiday spirit! Lunch will be Dutch treat. Space is limited, so call Jen at 785-274-3398.