

ELFINDALE

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Elfintales

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**"Dignity
in Life"**

Quality Life

Quality Care

**Excellent
Teams**

**Outstanding
Facilities**

**Quality
Reputation**

Stewardship

Excellence in Living Creekside at Elfindale

Creekside Resident Spotlight Shines on – Tops and Denie Mills

*W*e began in a most rudimentary fashion; asking each other what our first names really were. There aren't too many people who strictly go by a nickname or their last name, but this is the case for "Tops" and "Denie". Even the Creekside membership directory lists their nicknames adjacent to their phone number. "Tops" first name is Myrtis and "Denie" is short for Wardene. Denie was named after her father and has always been known by an abbreviated form of his name. And "Tops" was a family nickname that he's had since forever and he doesn't know where it came from.

When asked where they met each other Tops piped up quickly, "on the street!", but Denie smiled, told the truth, and said they met at a roller skating rink in Denver in 1940. Being the shy gentleman that he is, Tops rolled right up next to Denie and asked, "What's your name?", and the rest is history. They were married in 1942, shortly after Tops signed up for the Army Air Corps and shortly before being shipped to the South Pacific for three years.

Tops recalls going to the recruiting sergeant for the Army Air Corps and being charged \$1.00 to be recruited! While he served with the Air Corps he worked with B-17 and B-24 bombers. He was in charge of "gutting" the belly of the plane, removing the bombing racks, and placing two

rows of six cameras each. As the bombers flew over countries in the South Pacific Tops would make sure the cameras were taking pictures of everything they saw. Denie said, "He took thousands of pictures and never sent me a single one."

After the War Tops worked for the railroad in Denver for a short stint and then accepted a position with the Civil Aeronautics Administration, we know it today as the FAA. Initially stationed in Oklahoma, Tops fought tooth and nail for a transfer, not that anyone can blame him; and was stunned when he was accepted for a position in Frankfurt, Germany! With three children in tow and living in housing right next to the United States Consulate, Tops and Denie loved life in Europe and had a ball! Every other week they would visit Brussels. They enjoyed the after-hours parties and social life each evening. Tops may have let it slip that it's amazing anything got done with all the good times everyone was having. Tops and Denie took advantage of their time in Europe traveling all over the continent as much as they could.

A tradition they greatly enjoyed in Europe is called "Faching". "Faching" means "party", and boy was it ever! "Faching" began at the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, each year and went through Easter of the next year! Whenever anyone went "faching" they would wear a mask and on "Rose Monday", the day after Easter the masks would be



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put away until the next season for “faching.” Tops remembers an employee who came to work one day wearing his mask and Tops asked him, “What’s going on?” He replied he wanted to go “faching” all day. Tops said he couldn’t spare him the day but that after work Tops and Denie would go “faching” with him and his wife. Sure enough, after work was done they went to a large hall where people were dancing; Denie remembers the hall was so full of people that it was impossible to dance side to side with your partner, you simple had to dance up and down with your partner! “All of Europe was fun, all of it” is their fond memory of their time in Europe.

When seven years was up they came back to the United States, asked to return to Europe, but there was a mandatory two year waiting period before they could go overseas again. So Tops stuck it out for one year in, of all places, Oklahoma! But that was long enough! He went to the office one day and retired from the FAA that same day. He came home to Denie and said, “I’m retired!” That was in 1974 and they spent the next 20 years in a travel trailer sightseeing across the United States! They finally settled down in Washington State, built their own house in retirement, and lived there before moving to Springfield to be closer to one of their children. They loved the “outdoor atmosphere” Washington provided and all the places to go fishing.

Denie has always loved to dance. She grew up taking dance lessons and remembers dancing as a teenager, with Lawrence Welk the Emcee, at the grandest parties Denver had to offer each weekend while Lawrence Welk was in town for the winter months. Tops didn’t dance, but Denie told her family one day he would and sure enough Tops learned to love dancing when Denie was around too.

No doubt a great sense of humor has enhanced their marriage together. They’ve been married for 72 years and Tops went on about it being the hardest, most uncomfortable 72 years of his

life and Denie simply pointed her finger at him and said, “bang.” Later on Denie admitted she had been telling others they’ve been married for 74 years, but when corrected she laughed and said, “It must’ve felt like 74 years instead of 72.”

It was hard to put an end to this enjoyable conversation. Their stories and interaction were all very enjoyable. It wasn’t hard to tell that the only things they love more than Europe and the Lawrence Welk Show which they never miss for any reason, ever, is their children and each other.

Creekside Busy Raising Money for the Fight against Alzheimer’s

The Creekside Crusaders once again joined the fight against Alzheimer’s. With carved watermelons, a “Purple John”, preorder bake sale, selling tickets to a Springfield Cardinals Game, a drive through cinnamon rolls and

coffee to go, “casual for a cause” Friday, a “Tackle Trivia” Night and Kiss a Goat, we were able to exceed our goal of \$2500. At last count we raised over \$3200. We would like to say thank you to all who helped support our efforts, and were a part of our “Walk to End Alzheimer’s” team!



Lights, Camera, Action!

KY3 News is one of the top three stations in the NBC network so naturally it was a thrill to take a tour of the station that is right around the corner from Creekside. The Community Members experienced a guided tour of the building including the Hall of Fame, Editing, and production rooms. They got to watch reporters and newscasters as they were writing stories to be broadcast on an upcoming newscast. The highlight of the trip to KY3 was the chance to sit behind the scenes and watch the live broadcast of the noon news that day. The “green screen” used for the weather by Abby Dyer was totally green and blank! It was fun to watch Abby point to things on the map that weren’t really there

with pinpoint accuracy. Steve Grant was working the news desk and after the news ended they both stayed after and answered questions and told us many interesting facts about the history of KY3.



ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

After accepting the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, Mikeal, our Executive Director, challenged the entire Creekside team. The Leadership Team, the Housekeeping Team, and the Dining Services Team all accepted the challenge to have ice cold water poured over them! It was a blast to see the expressions while people anticipated the ice cold water and then their reactions after they had been doused by the water! Everyone enjoyed supporting this great cause and doing our part in the battle against ALS.



Creekside One Year Injury Free Celebration

Creekside at Elfindale celebrated being one year injury free! We had our one year anniversary on July 3! We celebrated with Jack Vetter and others from our Home Office coming to congratulate and encourage us. Each team member was treated to an excellent meal and exquisite service. Now we're on our way to



making it two years without an injury! Our safety team did an excellent job keeping us aware of the importance of being safe and injury free.



Author Cindi Elli Donates Her Book "The Dream Travelers" to the Creekside Library

The Dream Travelers: From the Beginning is a children's book compiled by Cindi Elli, the daughter of one of our members at Creekside! The Dream Travelers go on exciting and frightening adventures and meet historic and appropriate teachers- Winston Churchill, Mozart, Nelson Mandela, Neil Armstrong and others. We are so privileged to receive this book! The book will be on store shelves very soon, be sure to take a look; it will make a wonderful present for a child or grandchild!



Community Members Help with School Supplies

For a couple of weeks our members gathered and collected and gathered some more school supplies for Portland Elementary school we have partnered with. We collected over 2500 pieces of school supplies! Our members also enjoyed sorting and counting the supplies. When we took



them to the school you can see we needed a wagon to carry the supplies into the school! We love every chance we get to help others!



George Washington Carver

We are fortunate to have the George Washington Carver National Park only about an hour away!



We enjoyed a trip to his museum, watching a video about his contribution to society and even taking a hike to see some land marks. While we were at the museum we learned that this park was the first



national park to be dedicated to an individual who wasn't a United States President! We also enjoyed the hands on activities at the museum and learning all the wonderful uses of a peanut!

Up, Up, and Away!



Community Members recently went to the National Weather Service Building on the northwest side of Springfield. Dan Gaede, the head Meteorologist, shared many

interesting facts about how our local, regional, and global weather data is obtained. Everywhere around the world at the exact same time a weather balloon is released into the atmosphere to gather data. In Springfield our balloons are launched at 6:00am and 6:00pm. All the data is entered into a computer system and is shared globally. This helps with establishing weather patterns, fronts, hurricanes, and seasonal forecasts. Dan told us that there are regional, state, and foreign forecasts available to all meteorologists and they are able to use that data to come up with their own local forecasts. This explains why different news stations here in Springfield may have a different forecast because it depends on what models they use and how they interpret them. The tour provided an incredible amount of current information and also about how weather forecasts have changed over the years.



Author Laura Valenti Visits!



Laura Valenti, an Ozarks freelance writer, author and jewel, came to tell us how it is that she began writing and what it takes to be a successful author. One series of her novels come from her time working at a jail. Another series of her novels recounts

the beginnings of Bennett Spring State Park and follows a family as that place is developed over generations.

We enjoyed the opportunity to speak with Laura and ask her many questions. Laura, as a beginning author, received much of her encouragement of Ellen Gray Massey, another accomplished author who lived at Creekside!

Marty the Magician

Marty the Magician always puts on a good show for our community members. One lucky lady was the recipient of a colorful hat that appeared from shredded tissue paper! Marty was able to make a ketchup bottle disappear and did many other tricks for us as well. Marty has a famous rabbit he brings along with him for his shows also. Of course, our community members enjoy seeing his rabbit tricks also!



Covenant Players Performs at Creekside

Since 1963, Covenant Players has pioneered the use of drama as a communications resource in the church. Units of Covenant Players travel throughout the world communicating the reality of the Gospel. We were fortunate to enjoy a presentation by the Covenant Players at Creekside! They performed numerous skits for us, each with a life lesson.



We were also treated to a couple of musical pieces they performed for us as well. The music was wonderful; the skits were funny, poignant, and very enjoyable!



Jim Kendrick and Family Play Gospel Music

For months Jim Kendrick has been a favorite at Creekside! Jim and his wife come to Creekside once a month and lead us in singing Gospel Music Favorites. We had heard rumors about a family band and their ability to play but were skeptical until... Until they all showed up to play for us one Friday evening!

Jim, his sons and daughter offered us a lovely evening of entertainment joking, playing, and singing together. It was a real treat for us to see his entire family play with Jim. One of Jim's sons lives in Dallas and drove up to Springfield just to play with the family again!



A Fancy Spelling Bee

For our birthday party activity we had a unique activity. Our decorations were bee themed, our snack looked like honeycomb, and our punch was yellow. To match our decoration theme our activity was a blind spelling bee! Each participant had a blind fold and had to feel the letters of a three lettered word. Our words they had to feel to spell were "say", "met", and "dog".



Our blind spelling bee champion won a prize that's even sweeter than honey; the champion won a free homemade pie made by "grandma" our baker!



Bracelet Making

Some of our members were treated to a visit by Molly from a local leather hobby shop in Springfield! Molly taught us how to weave a silk thread bracelet using a Kumihimo disk! The steps were "up, down turn, repeat." We did that and voila!



beautiful bracelets emerged. Some were purple, some were red, some white, and some were a kaleidoscope of colors! We can't wait to have Molly back in October and we'll make jeweled bracelets!

Kissing a Goat for Alzheimer's

Creekside Crusaders raised over \$400 in our battle against Alzheimer's! For three weeks each team member at Creekside had a glass jar with their name on it. At the end of three weeks the employee who had the most money in their jar "won" and had to kiss a goat!



We had two winners; a top male and female fund raiser! Daniel, a dining room server was the overall top fund raiser and kissed



Senora a most beautiful goat! Mikeal, our Executive Director was the top female fund raiser and you can see how much she enjoyed kissing Lilly. Our community members enjoyed petting the goats and joined in the festivities!



How to Beat the Heat

During a week of 95-100 degree weather how can we beat the heat? How about an ol' fashioned ice cream social! Our members enjoyed dreamsicles, ice cream sandwiches, and other varieties of ice cream treats. We also enjoyed some trivia questions. We learned that 2% of American households don't buy ice cream. Sunday is the day that the most ice cream is sold. Per capita, New Zealand consumed the most ice cream, and in Japan they enjoy oyster flavored ice cream. We enjoyed the chance to visit with each other and cool down!



Scarves for Our School

Our members have taken on a monumental task! Just in time for Christmas, we hope to make enough scarves for each student! Our members have cut out yards of cloth, snipped yards of cloth and we've begun weaving yards of cloth. We will be working on this project over the next number of weeks, and everyone is glad to be helping out in every way they can! You can see some of the scarves we've made being worn by our members too!



Our partnership with a local elementary school has greatly enhanced the sense of purpose and kindness among our members. We greatly enjoy collecting schools supplies, making scarves, and helping out with the school every way we can. At the beginning of the school year the school asked our members to cut out name tags for the students and they completed all of them in less than a week!



Creekside Employee of the Year

Congratulations to DJ Halley, Campus Relations Coordinator, for being chosen as the Employee of the Year!



Creekside Calendar

COMMUNITY MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Al Heatherly	.X
6	Stine Mix	14
6	Dorothy Cline	37
7	Bradley Waite	V-1B
8	Charles Gray	F
17	Bill Nickerson	V-1C
20	Roger Bruner	12
20	Charles Mitchell	T
21	Gilbert Smith	V-5C
30	Neal Anderson	65
30	Harriet Neely	105
30	Joan Blach	135
30	Robert Shelton	109
30	Betty Lewis	204

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Brian Gallinger	32
1	Francis Brown	AA
1	Liz Bryant	212
3	Anna Beth Brock	27
4	Steve Burkey	57
4	Barney Toalson	129
12	Nita Fox	229
13	Anna Price	66
14	Sam Pusateri	R-9B
17	Robert Langston	112
17	Lois Alban	233
18	Corrine Bates	47
20	Roland Alexander	227
20	Sandy Cullers	38
21	Beverly Baright	L
22	Marilyn Clauson	41
26	Elaine Gould	11
26	Donald Hausman	72
26	Jo Anne Waite	V-1B
26	Mary Wise	232
27	Ronald Hurd	69
29	Martha Johnson	125
31	Lola Shannon	215

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

4	Gail & Gerald Chaney	17
11	Bettie & Al Heatherly	.X

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

6	Betty & Roy Lewis	204
7	Norma & Don Cox	V-5A
18	Dorothy and Dan Thrall	V-3C
28	Marilyn & Raymond Clauson	41
30	Jean & Joe Cauldwell	22
31	Helen & Gene Morgan	43

WELCOME NEW COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Merton & Cathrine Arnold
 Donna Bane
 Agnes Blazeovich
 Bonnie & James Christenson
 Loren & Norma Denny
 Sylvia Dorris
 MaryLou & Sam Farmer
 Harriet & Harold Fritz
 Jonathan Glover
 Charles Gray
 Sue & Don Hausman
 Lucille Huston
 Katheryn Moler
 Thelma & Llyod Pendergrass
 Charles "Whitie" Robertson
 Dean Smith
 Rosa & Ralph Snyder
 Betty Verhofstadt

TEAM MEMBERS SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Ryan Turner
 7 DJ Halley
 11 Eric Tessaro
 14 James Watson
 30 Nancy Smith

TEAM MEMBERS OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

8 Eric Wallace
 16 David Gray
 22 Nichole Goodwin
 27 McKenzie Hubbard
 28 Lisa Burdick
 28 Curtis Laughlin

LET US KNOW

Please call 417-831-3828 to let us know what sort of information you would like to see in future issues! If you would like to have the Elfintales emailed to you please call Denice at 234-4311.

Administrative Staff

CREEKSIDE AT ELFINDALE

Executive DirectorMikeal Loneman
 Lodge Relations Coordinator/Admissions Reta Cagle
 Public Relations Coordinator..... Denice Gage
 Life Enrichment Coordinator..... Eric Tessaro
 Campus Relations Coordinator..... DJ Halley
 Community Development Coordinator.....Lisa Burdick
 Hospitality Specialist Coordinator Michelle Alexander
 Executive Chef..... Jamie McGuigan
 Maintenance Supervisor..... Don Martin
 Office Manager.....Debra Morris
Elfintales Editor.....Denice Gage

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Excellence in Living

ELFINDALE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Elfindale Retirement Community offers gracious living for adults 55 and older in central Springfield. Over 300 seniors choose to enrich their lives and call Elfindale home. We are proud to be situated on 62 beautiful wooded acres with wildlife and walking trails to give our residents a 'country-like' relaxed lifestyle.

Built on a reputation of quality, Creekside at Elfindale offers independent living choices with our cottages and lodge apartments. Our homes are well designed, our grounds are well maintained, our food is the best and our activities are second to none.

The Manor at Elfindale is located on the western edge of our campus providing 24/7 skilled nursing care. Well known for its high caliber of care, The Manor's all private rooms allow for Medicare rehabilitation, long term care and secure memory support for those in need.



Creekside at Elfindale Main Dining Room

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CAMPUS TOUR PLEASE CONTACT:

- Creekside at Elfindale, Independent Living – Reta Cagle at 417-831-3828
- The Manor at Elfindale, Skilled Nursing Care – Jackie Presley at 417-831-2273
- www.elfindaleretirement.com