

ELFINDALE

RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

Elfindales

Volume 8 | Number 2 | 2017

“Dignity
in Life”

*Excellence in Living
Creekside at Elfindale*

Quality Life

A note from our founder...

I have good news to share! The state of Missouri has approved our request to build a new assisted living facility. We still have to gain approvals for specific parts of the project, but I am optimistic that process will go smoothly.

Thank you so much to the many people who wrote letters of support and signed a petition that helped convince the state that there was a need for assisted-living as part of what we offer on the Elfindale campus, I am forever grateful.

The new building will be located on the vacant lot we own directly south of Creekside, on the corner of Fort and Elfindale. If everything goes as planned, we hope to have the building open by the end of 2019.

Again, thank you all for your support and I wish you nothing but the best in this new year!

*Sincerely,
Jack Vetter*

Quality Care

Cherry Blossom Festival

Excellent
Teams

The “seeds in our minds” were planted last April; however the trees were planted this winter. Actually, two trees were planted at the new Senior Center in Marshfield, which were donated by Community Members from Creekside. Why would Creekside donate trees to Marshfield? The answer has to do with the seed “planted in the minds” of our members after attending the Cherry Blossom Festival in the spring of 2017.

A group attended the Festival for the first time in order to hear Mary Eisenhower, (Dwight’s granddaughter) host a panel of WWII Veterans. The second event of the day was to be a presentation by Richard Nixon’s brother. He was unable to attend so we were delighted when Mary spoke in his place and told stories of her life with her grandfather and grandmother. This was the 16th year for the Cherry Blossom Festival which hosts many

former President’s descendants as well as old time television celebrities. Military heroes and special service members are often guests along with famous Missouri authors and philanthropists.



The annual three day spring gathering to celebrates American History/Culture.

After our day in Marshfield we invited the Director of the event, Nicholas Inman, to visit Creekside and fill us in on the founding of the festival and the highlights from the prior years. We formed a special bond with Nicholas and the hard work he has put into the event over the years. He has become a regular speaker and friend to our Campus.

The Festival as well as Nicholas, are nationally recognized. He has formed lasting bonds with many Presidential families. He is very close to the Carter, Eisenhower and Bush families.

Now, let’s go back to the seeds and the trees. The Community Members are so excited to go to the festival in April of this year that they

Outstanding
Facilities

Quality
Reputation

Stewardship

want to not only attend events, but to also help volunteer. One large part of the Festival is to have the town of Marshfield in full bloom during the event. There are 3 varieties of flowering Cherry trees planted all through the town. With the varieties blooming in different stages, it guarantees the same effect as the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C. Creekside plans on donating 2 trees each year to the area around the Senior Center. Our first two donated trees were planted in the front of the Center where there had been no landscaping done at all. The future of the site includes a walking trail behind the building. Creekside Community Members' current "seed of thought" is to help fill the trail with Cherry Blossom trees as our hearts are committed to planting two trees at the site annually. Each year as we attend the Festival we will drive by and watch our trees grow!

The upcoming Festival will be held April 26th, 27th and 28th. Nicholas will be coming to the Clubhouse on March 1st to give us a preview of this year's special guests and events.



THE TWELVE DAYS OF CREEKSIDE CHRISTMAS...

performed by the Creekside Team

On the first day of Christmas Creekside gave to you.... a turkey in the window...PECK, PECK

On the second day of Christmas Creekside gave to you....two buses headed to Branson



On the third day of Creekside Christmas Stephanie gave to you... 3 perms and a haircut.

On the fourth day of Christmas at Creekside Bethany tells bad jokes! Haha, groan....

On the fifth day of Christmas Creekside gave to you, FIVE GOLDEN GEESE...honk honk

On the sixth day of Christmas Kevin danced down the aisle in Branson

On the seventh day of Christmas Arlow chauffeurs you around Springfield

On the eighth day of Creekside Christmas 8 people toured with Jackie.....I know you'll love it here!

On the 9th Day of Christmas Grandma baked nine pies...Yum Yum!

On the 10th day of Christmas the Phoenix ladies visit you..... ding, dong, how are you feeling?

On the eleventh day of Christmas Virgil fills ELEVEN Maintenance Work Orders....Curtis bring the ladder

On the twelfth day of Christmas Life Enrichment gives to you...12 day of Bingo, 12 month a Year.

And.....on the last day of each month, Debbie, delivers your statement! Now isn't every penny worth it every day of the year?



1992 Bronze Medalist Visits Creekside

The 2018 Winter Olympics are in full swing and the Community Members are enjoying watching all the events, with skating being their favorite. Creekside decided to kick off the games with an Olympic themed party in the dining room at the Lodge. The guest of honor was a former Bronze Medalist in Volleyball who happens to live in Springfield, Lori Endicott. Even though Volleyball is a summer event at the Olympics, it made no difference in the size of the crowd or the anticipation of the Community Members.



Lori thrilled the crowd dressed in an official Olympic jacket, and wearing her Bronze Medal. The Medal from the 1992 Barcelona Games was passed around the room. Everyone had a chance to hold it and hear the story her Barcelona experience. Lori graciously spoke to the crowd enlightening them with behind

the scenes trivia that only she would know. The most interesting story was about a problem with air-flow in the arena when they were playing Olympic matches. The airflow would affect the flight of the volleyball as it was hit to the opposite team. This greatly impacted the USA's match against Cuba. Russia was scheduled for the next match and "refused" to play until the ventilation system was turned off so that they would not have to fight the draft. The Olympic officials complied. Lori said, "If only that had occurred before we played!"

Little did Lori know that there was a special person hidden in the crowd that shared some very precious memories with her. Her kindergarten teacher, Rosalee Roy, who lives here at Creekside and was anxiously waiting for her to arrive. The reunion was a precious moment for the two of them as well as Rosalee's friends who were in on the secret. You never know how special a moment is until it becomes a memory!



“I like the Ozarks. I’m the Greek Hillbilly now.”

*M*anoli Savvenas visited Creekside and shared his story of how he went from growing up on the small island of Rhodes, Greece yet ended up calling Springfield, Missouri home.

Manoli was the son of a farmer and one of seven children who grew up in one-room house with no electricity or running water. His mother could not read but she saw the value of hard work. She insisted that he learn “a trade” by the young age of eleven. Manoli chose making jewelry which was a very difficult accomplishment with limited tools and supplies. He grew up during the Post-War era and times were hard for everyone in Europe. He did not see it as misfortune, it was just how it was and he enjoyed kicking a soccer ball made from rags with his friends by the Aegean. As he grew older he loved to box and wrestles much to the displeasure of his mother!

He moved to Australia at the age of 18 to seek more exposure to training in Greek/Roman style wrestling. He saw American tourists during his stay in Australia and decided that ALL Americans must be rich. Their fancy cameras and fine clothes enhanced his desire to make it to the United States to live the American dream. After four attempts to get a visa, he finally made it to America in his early twenties.

Reality struck as he navigated the streets of New York City and realized that NOT all Americans were rich. He turned to his training in Wrestling and became a professional WWE Wrestler and traveled all over the United States for many years with the team. He was able to make a living at something he loved to do...the beginning of his American Dream. (He became a US



Citizen.) He wrestled in Madison Square Gardens on several occasions as well as the Shrine Mosque in Springfield. His best friend was Andre the Giant who stood 7 feet 4 inches tall. By the way, Manoli was known as the “Flying Greek” and stood a whopping five foot-one. His size was one of the unique things about him that made him so popular with the fans. He was the first wrestler to use the ropes of wrestling ring to leap off of onto his opponent.

After his wrestling career was over, he used the wisdom of his mother from his childhood to finish continue his American dream. Her words echoed in his mind. Learn a trade and

it will make you successful in life. His life had come full circle as Manoli used his skills as a jeweler and worked as a jeweler repair man at several jewelry stores here in Springfield. He had fallen in love with the Ozark Hills as he traveled America to wrestle. He always knew that someday he would settle down in this area. In 1979, Manoli Savvenas opened his own jewelry store, “Manoli’s” in Brentwood Shopping Center. At 77 years old he is there not only repairing and selling jewelry, but also creating custom pieces. One of our own Community Members, Aggie Blazevich in “V” sought his help in designing a very special family treasure. He took stones from ?????????????????????? and makes a beautiful necklace that is now a unique family heirloom. Now he makes other people’s dreams come true with his talent!



Elvis Was In the Building

*R*inging in the New Year is a huge event for some people and not a big deal for others. This year at Creekside the New Year’s Eve Event was a HUGE success to everyone! The reason for the overwhelming success was not champagne, noise makers, or the stroke of midnight. The pinnacle of the party was..... ELVIS!

Radney Pennington, a 17 year old Elvis impersonator first came to Creekside on Valentine’s Day in 2017. He swooned and crooned his way into the hearts of the Community Members. After it was announced that he was scheduled to return to be the entertainment for the New Year’s Eve party, the word spread all over Campus. Attendance at the event was a capacity crowd! Elvis did not disappoint. He performed



requests, told jokes, danced and even handed out stuffed bears to some of the ladies as he sang, My Teddy Bear! This young man’s career and fan base continues to grow locally as well as across the country as he wins National Elvis Contests and entertains at corporate events.



When he is not traveling he performs on a regular basis at Cakes –N-Creams 50’s Diner and at Jackie B. Goode’s Uptown Café, both which are just a short drive away in Branson. So, load up the car and enjoy more of his music because unfortunately Elvis has left OUR building!

Ozarks Live Host Joy Robertson Speaks at Creekside

Creekside values the relationships made with families of Community Members. This week, Joy Robertson, the daughter of a former beloved Community Member, Whitey Robertson, came and presented to our community. Joy has been on Springfield televisions since 1997, anchoring the nightly news for 15 years, then



with the Food Channel and the popular TV show Ozarks Live. Joy talked about how she got into journalism; the people she has met in the business; and the stories she has covered. She spoke of the highs (covering part of the Clinton/Gore election) and lows (seeing the aftermath of the Joplin tornado) with a personal passion that made her relatable to our community members. At the end of her presentation, Joy took time to answer questions from the Community Members. One of the women in the audience said “Joy has been in my living room for years. It’s so nice to see she’s just a normal person.” We loved having Joy’s father here, and consider her one of the Creekside family.

Art Class

It has been found that arts, crafts, and other creative projects may help prevent feelings of depression in senior citizens. Furthermore, art helps with hand-eye coordination, cognitive abilities, and concentration.



Twice a month, Tracy Bruton, a former high school art teacher, comes in and teaches an art class. She believes anyone of any skill can create art. The class has done everything from watercolors and printmaking to making ornaments for Christmas. These classes are open to all community members on campus—so please, join in on the fun!

Confusion, Laughter, and Fellowship Go Hand in Hand

Do you have any idea what these three things are about; Man Bites Dog, Dazed and Confused, or Over and Under? They are all fun games that are introduced to Community Members when they show up at an event at the Clubhouse with DJ. There is a group of about 20 brave souls who come to events with DJ that are without explanation until you arrive. You never know what you are getting into but you can always count on lots of laughter, casual competition and prizes. Next time you see “Game with DJ” on the calendar come and enjoy the adventure because everyone is welcome!



“Beat the Blues” Away

According to experts, exercise in ones later years can help maintain the ability to live independently and reduces the risk of falling. In can also reduce the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, colon cancer, and diabetes. At Creekside, we have exercise classes available Monday through Friday. In February of this year, we started a new exercise class over at the Lodge. “Beat the Blues with Kristy” combines rhythm, balance, and upper arm strength for a great overall workout. The community members love this class and now know a great way to “Beat the Blues” away!



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. For those of you who would like you can now find the newsletter, activities calendar and a link to “IN THE LOOP” on our website www.elfindalretirement.com

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- Cottage Relations Coordinator.....Stewart Bach
- Public Relations Coordinator Denice Gage
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