



ECHOES

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COMMUNITY PARK – AN OFFICIAL WILDLIFE HABITAT

For all the serenity and pockets of peace that make up the 10-acre Community Park on the campus of Walnut Hills Retirement Community, one is never truly alone there. Hidden among the wildflowers, walking paths, rocks, meditation areas, creeks, and trees are the homes of abundant wildlife.

Independent Living residents Paul and Barbara Ankrim can recite a long list of critters living in the park. Their dedication to the park and all of its living things led to a recent successful effort to achieve designation of the site as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. The Ankrim's approached Walnut Hills' management about seeking the certification after learning about it from a daughter-in-law who is a naturalist.

As a Certified Wildlife Habitat — a project of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) — the park had to meet four criteria. There has to be food, water, cover, and places to raise young. The NWF says "Every habitat is a step toward replenishing resources for wildlife locally and along migratory corridors."

Among the many species mentioned by the Ankrim's are squirrels, groundhogs, rabbits, raccoons, turkeys, all kinds of birds, butterflies, turtles, the occasional snake, and even a baby goat, who mysteriously appeared and stayed for three weeks until an employee adopted the kid and relocated it to his farm.

"We're hoping to enhance the shelter available for wildlife by using things like rocky habitats for ground dwellers, using twigs, branches, and other natural materials for bunny houses, and preserving hollow tree stumps for housing," said the Ankrim's.

The park has been the couple's mission for more than a decade. In the beginning, the park was simply a wooded area with a mud path access. In 2006, the Ankrim's and about 20 other Walnut Hills residents devoted themselves to picking up debris, tidying up the area with a tractor and brush hog, planting grass seed, and making a few open areas for use.

The area now includes a spacious pavilion and fire pit for picnics, walking paths, peaceful areas with seating for meditation or reading, an assortment of feeders, and a secluded pet cemetery for the furry companions of residents. Occasionally, a resident will organize a bird identification walk or a wildflower trek.

The park, which is also open to the public, received its new Certified Wildlife Habitat designation in June 2017 and now sports an official sign, showing that it is part of the nationwide movement to address declining wildlife habitats.



▲ Meadows residents Paul and Barbara Ankrim are dedicated to making the Community Park a place of solitude for both people and animals.

Search for War Hero Leads French Visitor to Walnut Hills



▲ Thierry Ferey of France was determined to meet Jim Mason and five other remaining members of the 501 C Company (101st Airborne Division) to thank them for landing on the beach at Normandy and liberating his family from the Nazis during World War II. That touching meeting took place in September at the Walnut Hills Nursing Home, where Mason lived (he passed away just 10 days after this meeting). Ferey, whose mother was 12 years old at the time of the Normandy invasion, used an old photo of the 501 to track down the six men. He presented Mason with a “Screaming Eagles” ball cap during his visit.

Long-time Employees Celebrated For Commitment to Walnut Hills



▲ Fellow team members, residents, and family and friends celebrated with Louise Hershberger and Betty Miller as they retired following many years of service to Walnut Hills. Hershberger retired in May after almost 46 years at Walnut Hills, most recently as Activity Director at the Nursing Home. Miller retired at the beginning of August after 25 years at Walnut Hills, most recently as Coordinator of Admissions for Assisted and Independent Living.

From the Executive Director...

JEREMY KAUFFMAN

People are the lifeblood of a good business or organization.

It's tempting for health care organizations to focus on new buildings and other “bells and whistles” to try to show a commitment to the people they serve. New medical buildings, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities have been built in the surrounding communities. Many organizations are looking for the “shiny, new car” look.

Here at Walnut Hills, we added the Transitional Care Unit (TCU) and other amenities to better serve our customers. We are looking at other ways of improving and upgrading the facilities on campus, because we know some are showing their age.

But while we, and others, do this important work, there needs to be a continued emphasis on service, and that can only be done by *people*. Individuals provide a personal touch that a new or updated building never can. People can meet a physical, emotional or spiritual need, and people make a customer feel important and valued.

I am biased, but I think the people at Walnut Hills are a “cut above” the rest. There are no better examples of this than Louise Hershberger and Betty Miller. Both team members retired in recent months after years of dedication (Betty, 25, and Louise, 45+) to the individuals living on campus. Each had her own way of going about her job, but the consistent thread between them was a caring nature. Louise and Betty built relationships, demonstrated compassion, and put the residents’ needs above their own. Thanks to both of them for their good work and the example they demonstrated for others.

A shiny, new car is nothing without an engine (and other key components). Betty and Louise would tell you they were just part of the team, which is true. The 190 Walnut Hills team members make up the engine. They make us go. We wouldn't have good surveys, high satisfaction scores, and receive many compliments from our stakeholders, if we didn't have a strong, reliable engine. This engine is what sets Walnut Hills apart from the rest.



STAFF



Kari Beechy

STNA

NH Laundry & Housekeeping

Coordinator

10 years at Walnut Hills

Birthplace... Millersburg

Current Residence... Millersburg

Family... husband, Eric; daughter, Cora; son, Brodie; and dog, Sully

Hobbies... reading, traveling, watching movies, and going to concerts

Highlight of my life... “Meeting my husband. This was the start to all the wonderful highlights in my life.”

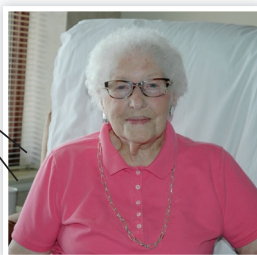
Life Motto... “Let your smile change the world. Don’t let the world change your smile.”

My Dream is... “to be able to travel the world and to one day write a book.”

What I like most about Walnut Hills... “What’s not to like? I work with wonderful people, and I value all the relationships that I have made. Not to mention the Cherry Crunch 😊.”



RESIDENT



Luci Tipton

Assisted Living

Age: 94

Living at Walnut Hills... since January 2016

Family... late husband, David (married 66 years); several nieces and nephews

Born... Killbuck Township

Previous residence... Lake Buckhorn/Millersburg

Former Occupation... secretary, office management, retired from Village of Millersburg as Income Tax Administrator after 10 years of service

Hobbies... reading, word puzzles, and keeping in touch with friends and family; and music programs, exercise, and Bingo at Walnut Hills

Highlight of my life... “Marrying my husband and a five-week trip we took with our pick-up truck and camper to Alaska in 1969.”

Life Motto/Verse... “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

What I like most about Walnut Hills... “The people here are very nice. The nursing assistants are well trained, and they are always willing to help. The care here is very good.”

Welcome

★ short-term rehab/skilled individuals are not included

The Commons

Richard & Margaret Troyer, Woodburn, IN

Dan Frost, Mechanicsburg, PA

Raymond & Ila Troyer, Beach City

Nursing Home

Mary D. Miller, Millersburg

Joe Yoder, Millersburg

Pauline Miller, Sugarcreek

Dottie Miller, Sugarcreek

Evelyn Schlabach, RH & Sugarcreek

Maxine Eiler, Baltic

Agnes Reed, RH & Killbuck

Lola Miller, RH & Walnut Creek

Phyllis Miller, RH & Berlin

Retirement Home

Clara Hershberger, Millersburg

Amanda Schlabach, Hartville

Russell & Dorothy Vose, Galion

Rosetta Reynolds, Commons & Akron

Dan Yoder, Commons & Sugarcreek

Mary Gingerich, Mt. Eaton

Mary Grace Miller, Sugarcreek

Commons Resident Ministers to Brazilian Tribal People

Carole Swain knew as a young child that she wanted to be a missionary.

The Walnut Hills resident says she felt God call her to the mission field when she was 16 years old. Her interest in Bible translation intensified when she was introduced in college to the process of putting an unwritten language into writing.

That college experience led Swain to the Yanomami people of Brazil and a goal of translating the New Testament into their Ninam language.

“When I started, no one there could read or write, so I made all the decisions about spelling,” said Swain. “It is a very detailed process.”

Swain says the project requires input from many people, including a consultant in Florida and other missionaries and translators. Two Brazilian women are translating some of the books, with their corporate goal being to have the entire New Testament translated by 2020.

“The only way to effectively translate is to have God give us wisdom,” she said. “We’re not smart enough to do it. This is God’s project.”

Since she moved to The Commons in 2009, Swain has

completed rough drafts of the gospels Matthew and John, and this year, she plans to continue work on those books with the language assistants.

Swain travels to Brazil at least once a year, with her next trip scheduled for October.



◀ Carole Swain recently demonstrated how the Yanomami women carry things to Carrie Yoder and other residents of the Retirement Home.

To keep the project moving, she corresponds with other translators via email between trips to South America.

Swain points out that her home at The Commons on the Walnut Hills campus is a far cry from the house on stilts that she lived at in the Brazilian jungle.

“I like it here at Walnut Hills,” she said. “I have the freedom to go away when I need to, and I have peace of mind that everything will be taken care of while I am gone.”

NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK

Life on the Farm

Residents and staff enjoyed special menus, decorations, entertainment, and activities during this year’s celebration of National Nursing Home Week, which centered around a farm theme.

Some of the highlights of the week included washing clothes with an old wringer washer, a staff clothes hanging contest, planting an unusual garden, a staff cookie baking contest, a gathering eggs contest, Fly Swattin’ game, and staff pedal tractor races.

The dietary staff also planned meals to coordinate with the week’s theme. Specials on the menu included pan fried chicken, rhubarb pie, ham and scalloped potatoes, dandelion gravy, meatloaf, creamed potatoes, graham cracker pudding, liver and onions, and home fries.



▲ A treat of homemade bread, homemade butter, and homemade strawberry jam.



▲ Emma Yoder took a turn at washing clothes the old-fashioned way.



▲ The staff pedal tractor races were a big hit.



▲ The team of Tim Miller, Tony Klepatzki, and Matt Wengerd won the staff clothes hanging contest.

HAPPENINGS ON CAMPUS



▲ Dozens of volunteers give their time and talents to bless our residents, team, and campus. We honored them at our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch.



▲ Piatigorsky Foundation artists Evan Drachman and Doris Stevenson performed an outstanding classical music concert on campus.



▲ RH resident Elsie Byler had a great time visiting with members of the Thunder Valley Warriors Motorcycle Club.



▲ David Schonauer enjoyed a cup of tea at a Tea Party at the RH.



▲ The Wilderness Center shared several "Animals of Ohio" with RH residents. Elsie Blier got an up close look at a turtle.



▲ Residents and families were treated to all kinds of delicious food at the Summer Picnics.



▲ Virginia Geib and other NH residents had a lot of fun completing a scavenger hunt.



▲ A youth group from the First Baptist Church in Meridian, Mississippi, made Walnut Hills a stop on their trip through Amish Country.



▲ The Sweet Corn Social was a big hit with RH residents, including George Knight.

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OUTSTANDING DISPLAY OF ARTWORK PROVES “CREATIVITY IS TIMELESS”

About 300 people visited the 7th annual art show held on August 26th at the Walnut Hills Retirement Home.

The lobbies were filled with 95 beautiful pieces. The artwork – ranging from quilts and paintings to wood carvings and photographs – was submitted by 54 different Holmes County area artists, all over the age of 55.

Bill Jennings of Walnut Creek received the Best of Show Award and the People’s Choice Award, which was voted on by visitors to the exhibit, for his intarsia woodworking entry titled “The Last Supper.”

The top four pieces of artwork in each of the seven categories were awarded ribbons. The award winners were announced at a reception for the artists and their families held on the evening of August 25th.

Several of the top entries from this year’s exhibit will be featured in a 2018 “Creativity is Timeless” wall calendar being produced

by Walnut Hills and Greencroft Communities. Family and friends can pick up a copy of the calendar in December at the Nursing Home or Retirement Home business offices.



▲ Bill Jennings of Walnut Creek took home both the Best of Show Award and the People’s Choice Award from the 2017 “Creativity is Timeless” event.

Campus Living Options

*INDEPENDENT LIVING

- **The Commons** – One- and Two-Bedroom Homes, Garages
- 780; 1,020; and 1,120 sq. ft. floor plans
- Purchase-Occupancy option now available
- **The Meadows** – Two-Bedrooms, Den, Screened Porch
- 8 floor plans from 1,120 to 1,515 sq. ft., plus basements
- Reserve your site for future construction.

*CATERED LIVING

- Efficiency and One- and Two-Bedroom Apartments

*ASSISTED LIVING

- Private Rooms and Suites
- Memory Support Household

**REHABILITATION/TRANSITIONAL CARE

- 20 private rooms for inpatient rehabilitation at our new Transitional Care Unit
- Outpatient therapies available in 2,800 sq. ft. therapy gym

**LONG-TERM SKILLED NURSING CARE

- Shared and Private Rooms

*Assisted Living, CATERED Living, and Independent Living — Call Teresa Yoder, ext. 1351

**Rehabilitation/Long-Term Nursing Care — Call Merle Miller, ext. 1310

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