

KARL & CONNIE VANDYKE - 2042 MALLARD

by Dawn Gebben

Both Karl and Connie were born in Grand Rapids and went to Seymour Christian, then Karl to South Christian High and Connie to GR Christian. Both went to University of Michigan, Karl in chemistry and she in linguistics, where they met on a blind date in their senior year. Karl was drafted into the army and served in Vietnam for 2 years. He then worked for Amway in research and development. Connie spent a year in Mexico during college and later served as assistant to the editor of the BANNER, also was active with “Volunteers in Service.” The Van Dykes have 4 children – 2 boys, 2 girls plus grandkids - who live from PA to MI to MN to Hong Kong – making for interesting travel options. For their 50th anniversary, they and all the kids rented a villa at Lake Como in Italy – and this April all gathered here at Raybrook for 80th birthdays celebrations. Karl likes to write and heads the Calvin CALL writing group. Connie is volunteering in the Manor library and is supporting Organicycle which composts food/cardboard waste. Call her if you’d like to do more with your waste. Welcome to this active couple.



MARIAN DEVRIES - EST I - 1013

by Caroline Hoeks

Marian (Kunz) DeVries joined us in Estates I several months ago. She is a Grand Raids native and a graduate of Grand Rapids Christian High. Though she had always planned to go to college, plans changed when her fiancé was discharged after serving in the Navy for two years. Marian decided instead to find a job and then she and Jim were married. Marian has worked for an interesting variety of organizations. She began working in an office setting and then expanded her bookkeeping skills at Dick Gootjes Accounting. Marian and Jim had a son and then a daughter, which kept Marian busy at home for a while. When the children were in school, she worked as bookkeeper office manager for the Christian Counseling Center for 13 years and then became support staff for Paraklesis Ministry for 12 years. She has been very active at Shawnee Park CRC, helping prepare many meals for congregational dinners, being involved in the GEMS program and is still active in arrangements for post - funeral lunches. Marian’s husband Jim, died in 2022 after 61 years of marriage. She has three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Though she no longer does as much cooking which she loved, she enjoys reading. We are delighted to welcome Marian to the Estates I family.



BOB MEYERING- EST II - 2023

by Bev Eckhoff

Bob was born in Mercy Hospital in Cadillac, Michigan in 1946, and grew up on a dairy farm southwest of McBain, Michigan. He attended McBain Public School until his senior year when he transferred to Northern Michigan Christian High School, where he graduated from in 1964. After high school he attended Calvin (College) University. He met his wife Darlene his senior year at Calvin. They married in 1968 the same year he graduated. He then spent one year at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena CA. After that he returned to Grand rapids to complete a degree at Calvin Theological Seminary. Bob taught high school bible classes for three years and also directed the dramatic productions at Illiana Christian High School in Lansing, IL. Following Illiana they moved to Cleveland, OH where he spent three years as the pastor of West Park CRC. He then accepted a position in the Education Department of the denomination as an editor and writer for the Bible Way Church School Curriculum. His wife had a few part time jobs but mostly spent her time raising their 3 children, Jeremy, Jason and Rachel who later gave them 3 grandsons and 2 granddaughters. In 1993 Bob took a job at Calvin College with a new adult degree completion program called the Calvin Accelerated Program. He also worked with organizing summer school, working with the Graduate Education Program, and then moving into the Registrar’s Office as Transcript Evaluator and Advisor for transfer students. Once their children were in school fulltime, Darlene went to work at Calvin in the Music Department, Alumni Office, and then as Executive Assistant to President Gaylen Byker They both retired in 2013. Bob took up the hobby of weaving and using looms to produce rag rugs, towels, and other practical items, while Darlene enjoyed knitting seaters, blankets, etc. They put their names on the wait list for Raybrook in 2018. Darlene passed away in 2021. In the spring of 2024 Bob was invited to look at an apartment that had come available in Estate II. He decided it would be enjoyable, provide more social opportunities, offer medical assistance that may be needed in the future and provide comfort and safety. Bob moved in on November 20 and is very happy to be here.



RAYBROOK LIFE

A Monthly Newsletter for Raybrook Estates & Homes
A Vibrant Way of Living

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Resident Stories

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None

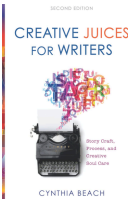
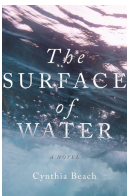
"The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today."
- H. Jackson Brown Jr.



AFTERNOON WITH AN AUTHOR

June 26, 2025 at 2pm in the Estates II Dining Room

Cynthia Beach was a longtime professor of English and Creative Writing and author of writing book, Creative Juices for Writers and novel, The Surface of Water. She has an MA in journalism from Wheaton College and an MFA in fiction writing from the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts. Cynthia co-founded and co-directs the faith-based writing workshop, Scriptoria, with Newbery-winner Gary Schmidt. Starting this fall she'll serve as an artist in residence in Dundee, Scotland.



RAYBROOK CAMPUS CARE WEEK

Raybrook Campus Care Week (May 12, 13, 14) was a huge success! Thank you to all of the staff who helped to make this special for our Raybrook Community, and to all of the residents who came out, participated, and had a blast!



CELEBRATING JUNE BIRTHDAYS!

Estates I

08 Lowell Mulder
21 Connie Mulder

Estates II

01 Dave VanderHaagen
02 Pat Hazenberg
05 Mike Oostendorp

Estates II

06 Jackie Bultema
08 Lee Stukkie
14 Carol VandenBerge
15 Anamarie Joosse
15 Nelleke VanderHeide
15 Tom Visser

Estates II

17 Neal Baum
24 Warren Boer
26 Carolyn Zwiers
28 Stan Blom
29 Chuck VanderSloot

Estates III

07 Carol Euker
21 Sylvia Stoudt
23 Rick Pezoldt

Homes

04 Janet Sheeres
06 Gerritt Sheeres

Homes

07 Geof Gaiser
15 Fred VanderPloeg
16 Verla Zuiderveen
20 Dawn Gebben
20 Hazel Timmer
23 Marvin Huizinga

BUITEN WELLNESS CENTER

SUMMER FITNESS SCHEDULE

Starting June 2

For the duration that the pool is undergoing maintenance, there will be alternate fitness classes offered during pool class times. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday we will have a Walking Group that will meet in the Buiten Wellness Center at 10:15, with a 30-minute walk outside or inside, weather depending. On Tuesday and Thursday there will be Zumba offered at 11:00.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

ENJOY A MEAL WITH FRIENDS.....

Be a blessing by reading devotions once or twice a month in Assisted living and then stay to enjoy a meal with the residents. We have openings at 11:45 am for lunch mealtimes. *Contact Volunteer Services at 616-235-5717, if interested.*

FROM THE OFFICE

FEEDING OUR LOCAL WILDLIFE

by: Nate Munn, Director of Estates & Homes

Spring has sprung, bringing back the plants and animals we've all missed! While we all like to enjoy these sights around us, including feeding and watching the birds, we also need to be cognizant of our critter control. Birdseed can bring in beautiful birds, and it can also bring in squirrels, possums, raccoons, and skunks. When these animals have become plentiful to the point of being pests, animal control must be outsourced by HH to more expensive vendors; removal in this manner is not a sustainable solution. Please, do your part to be mindful of your neighbors and our pest control budget by only employing elevated bird feeders without excess feed. Please do not leave out scraps of food, outdoor cat food, or ground level suet cakes or nuts. These attract an excess number of skunks (which have no natural predators) and other critters. Thank you for your help in respecting your neighbors and controlling our local critter population.

POOL CLOSURE

Our 2025 pool closure will happen during **the first week in June** and will be longer this year (**6 weeks**). Grout has been eroding off during routine vacuuming of the pool, and we'll need to undergo a full removal and replacement of the grout, as well as replace some mechanical parts including the water pump. During this 6-week closure, residents may use the pool at Breton (including a grant of fob access to Breton temporarily). *Please call Amy Perin (616) 643- 2720, the AA at the Breton Ridge to gain fob access.* Maddie will be offering alternative fitness classes during the usual pool class times.

From The Office continued...

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES IN JUNE

- **June 4 & 5** - EST II Underground Garage Power Washing
- **June 30- July 3** - Window Washing

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

JUNES TECH TIP

From Fun Quiz to Scam Activity

Online quizzes, especially on social media, can seem fun and harmless; who doesn't want to know what color tulip they are?! BUT they often collect more personal information than one realizes. Scammers make these quizzes fun and entertaining to help you drop your guard. Depending on the source, many seemingly harmless online quizzes are designed to harvest your data - asking questions like birthday, city you were born in, favorite color, high school mascot, mother's maiden name etc. These types of questions are often commonly used security questions, and scammers can use the responses to attempt to access accounts in your name. The best way to reduce your risk is to steer clear of quizzes on social media or quizzes that are not hosted on a trusted secure site (major news outlet and/or reputable entertainment platforms.) The internet can be fun and filled with interesting information, not everything needs to be serious. It is important to stay aware and pause to think about where your information might be going! *If you have questions about cyber safety, or need support please reach out to Jessie Riley, Resident Technology Manager at jessie.riley@hollandhome.org or 616-235-2794*



RAYBROOK PURLS HOST EVENT WITH SPEAKER FROM SOJOURNER'S HOME

By Donna Caldon

On Monday, April 28, the Purls hosted a festive gathering featuring guest speaker Jen Timmer from Sojourner's Home, part of the YWCA Domestic Crisis Center. Jen expressed heartfelt thanks for the Purls' continued support and shared touching stories about the impact of our handmade donations. Since our first contribution in September 2021—200 hats, mittens, and scarves—we've continued donating each fall. These items mean a great deal to residents, many of whom arrive with little more than the clothes they're wearing. Sojourner's Home offers temporary shelter to women and children escaping domestic violence. The facility provides private bedrooms, allowing mothers to stay with their children. Currently, it serves 45 residents. Most families stay about 30 days while social workers help them secure permanent housing. Keeping children's lives stable is a priority; moms can choose whether to keep their child in the same school or transfer to a new one for safety. Pets are often used as tools of control by abusers. If a woman arrives with a pet in danger, a network of foster homes provides safe care. **We need your help!** *The Purls meet Mondays at 1 PM in the Ell Lounge. Join us to create, connect, and bring warmth to those in need.*