

CARL & CONI HUISMAN - ESTATES II - 4033

If you haven’t met them already, we are pleased to introduce you to our Estates II neighbors, Carl and Coni Huisman, who moved here a year ago. Coni was born to the Jongsma family, the fifth of seven children, and grew up in the small town of Oak Harbor, located on Whidbey Island in Puget Sound, about 100 miles north of Seattle, Washington. Coni’s entire family is musical, so, not surprisingly, music, both vocal and instrumental, has always been an important part of her life. Her mother taught her to play the organ when she was just six years old. At age nine she began playing weekly in a mission Sunday school, and at fourteen began playing the organ at church. After graduating from Calvin College with BA and MA degrees in education, Coni taught upper elementary grades for over thirty years in both public and Christian schools. While singing in Acapella Choir at Calvin, she met fellow student Carl Huisman.



Carl, who was the second of eight children, grew up in Ada, Michigan. After graduating from Grand Rapids Christian, he earned his BA degrees in Art Education and Biology from Calvin College, followed by an MFA from Michigan State University. Carl taught art at Calvin College (later University) for thirty-eight years and was chairman of the Art Department for the last six of those years. He is an accomplished artist in ceramics and sculpture, and later in his career he focused on creating such liturgical elements as crosses, baptismal fonts, and communion sets for worship.

Carl and Coni married in 1961 and have been blessed with three children—Rana, Michael, and Jonathan—six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Both Carl and Coni are interested in geology and earth science and have enjoyed rock hunting together for over sixty years. Alas, they had to leave many cherished rocks behind when they moved to Holland Home! Coni also loves to read, particularly non-fiction, and knit, and she does miss her flower gardens. Carl loves vegetable gardening and enjoys mushrooming and fishing. And just ask him how he likes sports, especially any Calvin sports! And one more interesting fact: for many years he raised Black Angus cattle and French Alpine goats on their twelve-plus acres north of Ada. Alas, Carl also had to leave his cows and goats behind when they moved to Holland Home! Carl and Coni were founding members of Church of the Servant in the early 1970s and still love attending there. They are grateful for God’s presence in all aspects of their life. Please welcome these talented and friendly neighbors!

DAVID & JAN STEK - 2043 LITTLE HERON CT

by Dawn Gebbens

Dave Stek was born in Raymond, MN, son of Pastor John Stek, who later taught at Calvin Seminary. Jan (Kwasteniet) was born in Chicago (she assures me her name is Dutch!) and continues to use the name Kwasteniet-Stek. Jan attended Chicago Christian High, and both Dave and Jan attended Calvin College, where he studied engineering and she studied sociology. They started dating after Calvin. Dave was a structural engineer for the Daverman company, while Jan was a youth worker at Wedgwood Christian Services and later a librarian at GR Christian High. They have three children and two grandchildren, all living in this area.



Dave and Jan have taken many trips to Europe, Greece, Italy, and to Indonesia when their daughter and her husband lived there. When it comes to special interests, you’ll enjoy knowing that Dave played soccer for Calvin and after that for city teams. Jan likes to read, bake, do puzzles, and she takes three classes at the KROC Center on Division Ave. They have been active in church life at First Church, and Jan has worked for a food bank. Dave has had Parkinson’s disease for nineteen years, and shortly after they moved to Raybrook they found that he needed to move to the Cook Unit. Jan usually spends afternoons with him there. We are thankful they are a part of our Raybrook community. Welcome, Dave and Jan!

LORA BOOGAARD - ESTATES III 2260 - 201

by Paula VanderHoven

Lora “Veltman” Boogaard was born in Redlands, California, but her family soon moved to Detroit, and shortly afterward came to the Grand Rapids area. Lora has spent the rest of her life here in Western MI.



Lora attended Grandville Christian Elementary and Calvin Christian High School in Wyoming and graduated from Calvin College (now University) with a music major and a degree in teaching. She taught art at Dutton Christian School for ten years. She also taught music privately at her home for many years, and she has been a longtime pianist and harpist, playing at churches and accompanying choirs. She now attends Brookside Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids and sings in the choir there.

Lora worked as a landscaper for the Pines Golf Course in Wyoming, Michigan, and recently retired from serving as a cook at the Senior Neighbors Walker Center. She still interacts with seniors as a companion there. While a member of Hillside Christian Reformed Church, Lora was a Bible study leader at the Kent County Jail.

She has three daughters - all of whom are golf pros and all of whom live nearby - and seven grandchildren. As Lora lives with a long-term illness, she and her family decided this was a good time for her to move to Raybrook. She continues to enjoy art and music and playing cards and games with friends, and she has joined the Raybrook women’s choir. We are happy to welcome Lora and look forward to enjoying her skills and companionship.

RAYBROOK LIFE

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

INSIDE THE ISSUE



DECEMBER 2025

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Fitness/ Volunteer Services/ Life Enrichment/ Office	Office (cont)	Resident Life Stories	NONE



THE ANNUAL SOUP & BAKE SALE!
The annual soup and bake sale is scheduled for Friday December 5, 2pm-4pm in the Estates II Community Room.

KEEPING THE PROMISE DINNER
“What A Glorious Night”
Where: The DeVos Place, Downtown GR
When: Monday, December 15
Time: Reception @ 6pm / Dinner and Program @ 7pm
Bus pick up time & location: 5:15pm EI & EII Lobby’s
(you must have signed up in advance to ride the bus, seating is limited)
Contact Marcia Timmerman with any questions: 616-235-5118

4TH ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF
WINNER DANNI ORTIZ!
Danni’s Sweet Chili Ingredients

- Ground Beef
- Tomato Sauce
- Yellow Onion (diced)
- Garlic Cloves (peeled, whole)
- Bell peppers (orange, red, yellow) diced
- Pinto Beans
- Black Beans
- Chili Beans
- Cumin
- Chili powder
- Brown Sugar
- Onion Powder
- paprika
- Sea Salt
- Black Pepper

RAYBROOK PURLS MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH "HEALTHY HANDS" EVENT *by Donna Caldon*

On October 27, the Raybrook Purls celebrated Make a Difference Day by generously providing a wonderful array of finger foods for the R.E.A.L. program: "Everything You Wanted to Know About Healthy Hands." The Purls initiated this topic after one of their own members began experiencing hand pain following marathon knitting sessions. Recognizing this common issue, they decided to open the program to all residents. Jaci Martin, the Life Enrichment Event Coordinator, suggested integrating it into the R.E.A.L. program series, allowing her to coordinate a professional speaker and formalize the event schedule. This fun and educational program is just one example of what the Raybrook Purl’s accomplish all year long. Join us in making a difference in the lives of many. The Purls welcome new members to their meetings *every Monday at 1 PM in the Ell lounge.*

CELEBRATING DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

<u>Estates I</u>	<u>Estates II</u>	<u>Estates II</u>	<u>Homes</u>
09 Bob Streeter	05 Curt Roelofs	31 Dot Schierbeek	05 David Stek
11 Marilyn Cook	07 Shirley Vanderson	31 Lynne DenBesten	18 Hilda DeVries
12 Bill VanDoorne	09 Bev Eckhoff		18 Bob DeVries
15 Evie Dykstra	18 Carol Holquist	<u>Estates III</u>	22 Holly VanderPlaats
16 Sandy VanderStelt	21 Joanne VanderMey	None	
18 Arlene Warners	27 Doris Van Houten		
26 John Knight	30 Ed Start		

BUITEN WELLNESS CENTER

"REINDEER GAMES"

December 18 at 1:15pm in the Buiten Wellness Center

Join Maddie and Zack for some tree-mendous holiday fun at Reindeer Games! Get in the holiday spirit with a series of fun games and challenges designed for anyone. This event will be in place of the First Step class. It's going to be snow much fun!

NO GRAND RAPIDS BALLET

Throughout the month of **December**, there will be no Grand Rapids Ballet class on Mondays. Class will resume January 5.

HOLIDAY FITNESS SCHEDULE

There will be no fitness classes **December 25 or 26**.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

THANK YOU!

At Holland Home, volunteers embody the heart of our mission: Serving with love and compassion, committing to excellence, and following Christ’s teaching and example in all we do. Each of you is a radiant light—unique, irreplaceable, and deeply cherished. Thank you for your unwavering commitment and heartfelt compassion in serving the Holland Home Community. Your Christlike care is a daily blessing and a powerful reflection of God’s love. As we enter this season of joy and reflection, we give thanks for each of you. May your December be filled with peace, warmth, and the blessings of the season. -Volunteer Services

*“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.”
-1 Thessalonians 1:2*

LIFE ENRICHMENT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JANUARY SERIES!

January 19 - January 31 at 12:30pm in the Friendship Room

The January Series is a 10-day award winning lecture that takes place each year at Calvin University and is livestreamed here at Holland Home. The series aims to cultivate deep thought and conversations about important issues of the day, to inspire cultural renewal and make us better global citizens in God’s world. We Look forward to seeing you!

FROM THE OFFICE

LOST & FOUND

The end of the year is fast approaching and there are many items still unclaimed in the lost & found in Est I & Est II. Please stop by the mail rooms in each building if you are missing an item. Any unclaimed items at the end of the year will be tossed to make way for new lost items. *Please call Danni in the Estates & Homes at 616-235-5006 with any questions.*

FROM THE OFFICE (CONTINUED...)

HELP US KEEP THE ESTATES LITTER FREE!

There have been multiple occasions where small pieces of trash, candy wrappers, ect. have been found on the floors in the hallways, the lobby, and the elevators. Please help us to keep your home clean and tidy by throwing any trash or wrappers in the trash cans. Thank you!

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY - HOLLAND HOME TRANSPORTATION

In case of inclement weather, the driver assesses driving conditions and has the authority to cancel a planned outing. Every effort is made to cancel the outing at least one hour prior to the scheduled departure time. If there is a winter weather advisory or warning in effect for the Holland Home area, all outings will be cancelled. **If Grand Rapids Public Schools close due to weather, all outings will be cancelled for the day.** For weekend events, if travel advisories are issued or church services are cancelled, all outings will be cancelled for that day.

HOLIDAY SEASON SCAM REMINDER

We are in the midst of the holiday season! While there are increased opportunities for good food, cheer, and company, there are also increased opportunities for scams and theft. Please keep the following in mind to protect your assets and your piece of mind:

Car Theft - In years past, like many community homes in Grand Rapids, Raybrook experienced a few acts of attempted theft from cars that were unlocked or displaying valuables visibly - please be mindful to lock your vehicle, with valuable items out of sight, especially if you park outside or in public parking areas.

Online Scams - With increased online sales and shipping at this time, scammers are ever active and creative to exploit this increase. Always be wary of any email, text, or phone contact that asks for funds in a time sensitive manner, makes an offer too good to be true, or asks for sensitive personal information (especially your social security number, or bank/credit card numbers). If you have any doubt about the validity of contact you've received, ask a friend, family, or staff member before taking action. Take it slow in your response, ask to call back or check the sender's email address, anything asking for instant action is suspect.

Stay safe, be merry, and please feel free to call Nate in the Estates & Homes Office at 616-235-5079 with any questions you may have.

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TRAVELING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER?

If you plan to be away from Raybrook for an extended period of time this winter, please turn in this form to Danni Ortiz in the Estates and Homes office. This will be used for billing purposes and building maintenance matters while you are gone. Thank you!

NAME: _____ BLD/APT _____

WINTER ADDRESS: _____

DEPARTURE DATE: _____ RETURN DATE: _____

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER: _____