

MARICIA HAMMONTREE - ESTATES II - 3053

Marcia Hammontree moved into Estates II this past September, encouraged to choose this place by her daughter-in-law, Laurie VanderLaan, who works in HR at Holland Home. Marcia's hometown is Sheridan, MI, a small community north of Ionia, but she has lived and worked in many places, including Long Beach, CA, Beckley, WVA, and Roanoke, VA. She has a degree in Secretarial Science from MSU, and she worked as an accountant for architects. As she says, "I enjoyed being the organizer for creative people." A widow since 2002, Marcia has one son, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Marcia has been active in sports throughout her life, and at one time she was part of an award-winning bowling team. She has also traveled extensively, including a safari in Tanzania, a trip to Australia, several European visits, and eleven cruises, including a river cruise to Budapest to explore her Hungarian ancestry. She is proud to have visited all fifty states and has camped in most of them. Our adventuresome neighbor also loves to play cards and do puzzles, and if there's an opportunity, she'd enjoy playing bridge—in fact, she loves to play most any game.

Probably because of her accounting background, says Marcia, "I always seem to end up as the treasurer of whatever organization I'm involved with," which means she is presently treasurer of Park Church Women at her church, Park Church. She enjoys volunteering and has logged over 3,500 hours volunteering in the gift shop at Meijer Gardens. This busy lady says she would also like to find a place to volunteer here at Raybrook but is still deciding what might be the best fit for her.

If you have already met Marcia, you know that she has a delightful sense of humor and is a great storyteller. And her travels and life experiences make her a great conversationalist. You'll really enjoy getting to know our new neighbor, Marcia Hammontree.

RAYBROOK PURLS

In early December, the Raybrook Purls completed their annual delivery of handmade hats, scarves, and mittens to various local organizations. This year, the group donated an impressive total of 764 creations. Deliveries were made to the William C. Abney Academy, Sojourners House, and Santa Claus Girls. During the delivery, volunteers at Santa Claus Girls were busy preparing for their distribution day. They had already filled 8,700 gift bags and anticipated giving out a total of 10,000 bags on December 13. The Purls' items were quickly sorted by children's ages and prepared for wrapping. Cindy, a wrapper, demonstrated using forms to estimate head sizes. She emphasized the need for headbands to be stretchy to fit over little heads. The Raybrook Purls meet every Monday at 1 PM in the Ell lounge. All are welcome!



RAYBROOK LIFE

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

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"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence."
—Helen Keller



2026 VIBRANT LIVING INTERN - WINTER SEMESTER

Hello! My name is Emily Hartwig, and I am currently a senior at Grand Valley State University studying Exercise Science and then pursuing my field in Occupational Therapy! I feel very passionate about the idea of helping people improve their quality of life and to be as independent as possible. I'm originally from the east side of Michigan. There, I used to do competitive dance from ages 3 to 18. Now, I've moved to the west side of Michigan, and I find my love for fitness by exercising at the gym, workout classes, hiking, biking, and being outdoors. I pride myself on being a very friendly, positive person, and I cannot wait to get started and meet everyone! Emily will be working with Maddie in the BWC starting January 12th. Please stop in and say "hello"!



ESTATES & HOMES NEW HOUSEKEEPING ADDITION!

Please help us welcome our new housekeeper Mesia House to the Estates & Homes Family. Mesia will be focusing on the guest apartments, the main community areas in Estate III and the stairwells. You may have already seen her around as she joined us a few months ago. Mesia has 10 plus years of experience in housekeeping and CNA work. She is a mom of 4 beautiful children and their family dog Nova. She loves being a mom and nurturing her children. On her down time, she enjoys doing interior home decor and catering. Cooking is Mesia's love language. Please introduce yourself when you see her around and give her a warm welcome.



CELEBRATING JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Estates I

01 Henry DeMoor
02 Connie Aupperlee
08 James Hoffman
20 Hazel Christians
20 Linda Fridsma
21 Elaine Penning
26 Wayne Frazee
29 Cobie Clossen

Estates I

30 Beverly Brouwers
31 Willene DeGroot
Estates II
03 Frank Doezena
04 Lois Hoeksema
21 Elaine Penning
26 Wayne Frazee
29 Cobie Clossen

Estates II

11 June Huissen
11 Carol VanBruggen
13 Henry Schierbeek
15 Don VanderHorn
16 Ruth VanderHorn
16 Jack Gibson
26 Cloe Ann Danford
26 Carol Christians

Estates II

30 Coni Huisman
31 Elaine Keeley
Estates III
08 Lora Boogaard
10 Marilyn Slenk
14 Nancy Davis
15 Donna Byker

Estates III

16 James Davis
29 Mary Gates - VanGoor
Homes
12 Ren Korf

BUITEN WELLNESS CENTER

"TOTAL BODY STRENGTH"

January 7, 21, and 28 at 1:15 in the Buiten Wellness Center

Start the new year off strong with a brand-new fitness class! Total Body Strength is a full body standing fitness class designed to build muscle strength and power. Designed to challenge you, this class will consist of movements that will translate to everyday activities and help you feel more confident moving through everyday life.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

We are seeking a pianist to play for Hymn Sings in the Assisted Living and Nursing Care Centers. This is a flexible position, and we will work with your schedule. It does not require a large amount of time and brings joy to so many!

For more information, stop in at the Volunteer Services office or contact Lisa @ 616.235.5033 or lisa.roskiewicz@hollandhome.org.

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!

HEALTH CENTER

A GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

A grief support group will be offered by Courtney Berns, LLMSW. Courtney is a bereavement counselor with Faith Hospice. She provides grief support to clients and the community, helping people learn healthy coping strategies. Her goal is to create a safe, supportive space where individuals can explore their emotions and gain insight into their grieving process. The group will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month from January through April at 1pm in the ESI Club Room. Please call Jennifer Koets 616 235 2084 if you have any questions.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE - SAVE THE DATE

The next Service of Remembrance is scheduled for Thursday, February 26 at 6PM in Raybrook Chapel. We will remember all of the Raybrook residents who died between July-December of 2025. *Names of those who will be remembered will be posted in the Raybrook Life as well as on the bulletin boards in February.*

FROM THE OFFICE

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.

GARAGE PARKING SPACES REMINDER

If you have a garage parking space, please remember when parking to make sure you leave enough space between your car and your neighbor's cars. Parking too close to one another can cause accidental bumps to both cars, it can also make it very difficult for your neighbor to be able to open their door properly and access their vehicle.

If you have a handicap spouse that has equipment like a walker, wheelchair or motorized scooter, please pick your spouse up at the main entrance or at the building door entrance in the garage, where there is more space for you to help them in and out of your vehicle. If you would like to be placed on the handicap parking spot wait list, please see Danni.

Thank you for your understanding, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Estates & Homes Office at 616-235-5006.

USPS MAIL / MAILBOXES

We know it can be bothersome and frustrating when you are receiving mail that doesn't belong to you. If you receive mail in your mailbox that is not yours, please place it in the corporate mailbox in either Estates I or Estates II. This will then be distributed to the correct place. Please **do not** write on the envelope, even if you know where the mail needs to be forwarded to. The office will take care of it. Also, you can place mail in the corporate mailboxes that need to go to other locations within Holland Home. The list of locations is written on the mailbox. If sending mail to Estates III or the Homes, these will need to be mailed with a stamp through the post office.

If you leave on vacation for more than a few days and you come back to no mail, it is most likely that your mailbox was too full. At that point the mailman places all of your mail in a bin, in the back of the mail room. You can access this during office hours Mon - Fri 8am -4pm. Please call the Estates & Homes Office with any questions.