

NORM & JEWELL HOEKMAN - ESTATES III - 2260-202

by Paula VanderHoven

Norm and Jewell Hoekman moved to Estates III at Raybrook from Cutlerville, MI, in September of 2025.

Norm was born in Colton, SD and throughout his life he had a business as a landscaper, brickyard manager, and in MI was a production manager for cleaning products used in the food processing industry.

Jewell was born in Cutlerville, MI, and graduated from South Christian High and Calvin College. Following her graduation, she taught high school English and German in Edgerton, MN, and Lansing, IL.

Norm & Jewell married in 1971 in Cutlerville and subsequently lived in Bozeman, MT. They moved to Cutlerville in 1989.

A week after moving to Raybrook, a series of medical issues brought Jewell to a rehab program, including PT and OT, in Assisted Living here. Her interests include knitting, reading, and Sudoku.

Norm is a "fix-it" man, and before they moved to Raybrook he enjoyed gardening. He also appreciates meeting with other men at the Raybrook morning coffee time.

Norm & Jewell have two daughters and seven grandchildren.



DENNIS & JENNI HOEKSTRA - ESTATES I - 3009

by Caroline Hoeks

Jeni (Plooy) Hoekstra was born in Artesia, CA, to Dutch immigrant parents, the oldest of five children. The family soon moved to Ripon. After graduating from high school, Jeni did office work for four years, experience which served her well in the coming years. (Jeni types 100 words per minute!) She then decided she wanted to be a teacher and enrolled at Calvin. One of her major classes was Latin.

Dennis grew up on a farm in Corsica, SD. He dropped out of high school in the ninth grade to run the farm for a time. He joined the Air Force and was stationed in Denver where he taught electronics for the Air Force and learned to love skiing. After his tour of duty he enrolled at Calvin on probation because he didn't have a high school diploma. By his senior year he taught Latin for Calvin, which is where he met Jeni, in third year Latin class. His majors at Calvin were education and pre-seminary. Jeni taught Latin at Grand Rapids Christian High for four years immediately after graduation from Calvin in 1957, while Dennis finished Calvin College and Seminary education in 1961.

The Hoekstras then moved to New York City where Dennis earned an education degree at Columbia Teachers College and Union Seminary and Jeni earned a master's degree. They both worked part-time at the Manhattan CRC, where they were involved in race relations, which became a lifelong passion. They then moved back to Grand Rapids where Dennis taught in the Education Department at Calvin. Dennis earned another degree, this time in social work. He served as President of Trinity Christian College in Chicago for six years, and he headed the Barnabas Foundation for 14 years causing it to thrive. Jeni taught computers, typing, and office management in the Chicago public high schools. In retirement they became involved in opportunities in Africa. They are both deeply committed to Christian stewardship, urban and rural poverty alleviation, and race relations, and they like new challenges. Jeni taught computer workshops for 20 years, first in Kenya and then all over Nigeria and South Africa. Because of that, all high schools in Kenya now have computers. They have made many trips to Africa delivering used computers. For 30 years they have started many poverty alleviation and church leadership projects in Kenya and many other poverty level countries in both Africa and beyond. The Hoekstras had a daughter who is a medical doctor and a son who is President of Dordt College in Iowa. They have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Dennis has written a memoir of all their experiences through the years, *Heartily Willing and Ready*, which is available in the Estates I Library. We are delighted to welcome Dennis and Jeni to Raybrook. They will be an interesting addition to our family.



RAYBROOK LIFE



April 2026 Newsletter for Raybrook Estates & Homes
A Vibrant Way of Living

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



SUMMER IN WINTER WEEK



March's Summer in Winter week was a blast! Thank you to all of the residents who joined in on all of the fun, food, and dress up! Also, a special "thank you" to all of the staff that helped to make this and other special events like this happen!



ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY - APRIL 22

By Nate Munn, Director of Estates and Homes

Being a high-quality administrative assistant is not just about excellent customer service, impeccable organization, and proactive problem solving; it's about forming meaningful connections with residents and families served. These connections tend to come naturally, as our AAs are often the first, the last, and the most frequent purveyors of service to our Estates and Homes residents. They distribute free smiles and treat requests both large and small with significance and vigor. Whether it's scheduling appointments/reservations, prioritizing health and wellness, or assisting with questions about technology and services, our administrative assistants serve with excellence and compassion, embodying Holland Home's mission day in and day out. Please join me in expressing gratitude to and for our AAs (below) on April 22, 2026!



Danni Ortiz
Estates &
Homes Office



Renee Scheele
Estates &
Homes Office



Sam Simon
Estates &
Homes
Health Center

CELEBRATING APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

Estates I

19 Wendy Huizinga
20 Phil Quist
28 Carol Meppelink

Estates II

01 Jim Hoek
07 Beth Hutchings
09 Amy Ritsema

Estates II

13 Sid Greidanus
16 Ethel Baum
17 Don VandenBerge
17 Mary Cremer
17 Tom Waalkes
18 Carol Dalebout
19 John VanderPloeg
19 Roger Boerema

Estates II

23 Marcia Hammontree
26 John Natelborg
29 Barb Boersma
30 Pat Guikema
30 Bob Christians
Estates III
04 Al Mulder
23 Lorry Tigchelaar

Estates III

23 Ann Loker
29 Elizabeth Griffin

Homes

02 Jan Kwasteniet-Stek
03 Mary Brasser
03 Karen Schuitema
30 Wendy Blankespoor

FROM THE OFFICE

ESTATES & HOMES GARDEN

It's time to start planning for your garden plot! The price for the year is \$15 for a full plot and \$10 for a half plot. Those who had a plot in the previous years and want the same plot, can have it assigned to you. For those who did not have a plot last year and are interested, please contact [Danni Ortiz in the Estates & Homes Office at 616-235-5006 or danniele.ortiz@hollandhome.org](mailto:danniele.ortiz@hollandhome.org). Available spots are first come, first served. Money must be turned in **no later than April 15**. An informational meeting will be held in late April for all gardeners.



BUITEN WELLNESS CENTER

PUMP IT FOR PARKINSON'S - APRIL 9

Pump it for Parkinson's is a day-long step-a-thon during Parkinson's Awareness Month. We are PUMPED for another fantastic year as we raise awareness on the benefits of exercise for the 10 million people living worldwide with Parkinson's Disease. Originally hosted in senior living communities, the program has now spread to senior centers, corporate wellness, and various gym settings.



Join in as we strive toward our goal of 50,000,000 steps! Just come over to the Buiten Wellness Center and record your number of steps while using the NuStep to have your steps added to the nationwide total.

HH ADVANCEMENT TEAM

RESIDENT GOLF LEAGUE

Join the fun and tee off with the Holland Home Resident Golf League starting **Tuesday, May 5, at The Pines Golf Course, 5050 Byron Center Ave, Wyoming, MI 49519**. Open to women and men, the league plays a nine-hole, four-person scramble.



Cost per person: \$25 (includes cart). Please arrive by 8:20 a.m. for 8:45 a.m. tee off. Golf every Tuesday from May 5 – September 29. Contact [Tony Louwse \(Estates I\) \(616\) 323-3340](tel:6163233340) or [Keith Meyering \(Holland Home Staff\) \(616\) 235-5460](tel:6162355460) for information.

RUSS' BENEFIT WEEK RESULTS

BIG THANKS to everyone who supported Holland Home's Resident Assistance Fund during our Russ' Benefit Week which raised **\$1,958.49!**

HEALTH CENTER

NATIONAL CLEAN OUT YOUR MEDICINE CABINET DAY- APRIL 17

National Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet Day is observed annually on the **third Friday in April** to promote the safe disposal of expired or unused medications, reducing risks of accidental poisoning and addiction. It encourages auditing medicine cabinets for expired, damaged, or unneeded pills. The purpose is to prevent the misuse of medication, accidental ingestion, and environmental contamination.



- What to Remove: Expired, unmarked, or discontinued prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs.
- Safe Disposal Methods: Use local take-back programs at pharmacies (e.g., CVS, Walgreens) or police stations. If throwing away, mix pills with an unappealing substance like cat litter or coffee grounds in a sealed container before placing them in the trash.



YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS...

TULIP TIME 2026

Mark your calendars for this year's visit to Tulip Time, visiting Window on the Waterfront, Tulip Lane, lunch, and of course wrapping it up with Captain Sundaes! **ONE DAY, Tuesday, April 28!** More details to come.

SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to celebrate the retirement of **David Tiesenga, Chief Strategy Officer** for Trillium Living and Holland Home!



An open house in honor of David's 40 years of service will be held on **Wednesday, May 6, from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Breton Ridge**.

Transportation sign-ups will be available by mid-April, or you may drive yourself.

ANNUAL RESIDENT PLANTING PARTY

Ludema's Greenhouse
Tuesday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Watch for more details to come!!
Questions: contact Marcia at 616-235-5118



HH Bus transportation will be available for those unable to drive

ATTENTION GOLFERS!

Does playing 18 holes once a week sound good to you? **Plymouth Heights Senior League** seeks to add to its membership.



Call Chuck Hampton at 616-340-3926 for more information.

JOIN THE RAYBROOK PURLS!

The Purls recently celebrated a successful year of charity with a party full of food, gifts, prizes, and awards. Now, we're looking for new members to help us reach even more children in 2026! Whether you're a master knitter, beginner, crocheter, or have other talents to share, there's a place for you here. Can't knit? You can still help in our mission of providing warmth to children in need. Come meet new friends and explore how you can help. Don't spend your Mondays alone, fill lonely hours — come make a difference!



Mondays 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Ell Lounge.

UPCOMING BOOK CLUB DISCUSSIONS



April 27
"When the English Fall" by David Williams
Discussion Leader: Barb Hampton



Book Club is held in the Gathering Place at 7 p.m. Please contact Pat Guikema at hpguikema@gmail.com or 616-455-5308 with questions.