

Voice of the Village

A Newsletter For and By the Residents of Town Center Village



What a better way to celebrate summer than a picnic outdoors on a beautiful warm July day.

FUN PICNIC IN HAPPY VALLEY NATURE PARK

On July 19, twenty-two residents, Shirley Zondervan and her assistants, Asya and Cheyenne, enjoyed a great summer picnic at Happy Valley Nature Park. This outing was planned as a combined Independent Living and Assisted Living excursion. Shirley planned well, including checkered table clothes on picnic tables where we sat and chatted while she and her assistants served chicken, potato salad, and watermelon. We selected our beverages from an assortment from the cooler. During the bus ride and the meal, Shirley entertained us with humorous stories from past excursions.

After lunch, those who chose to walk were led by Asya and Cheyenne on a paved boardwalk into the wetlands portion of the park. We saw a duck and various flowers and berry bushes as we traipsed just above the still water. It was both calming and interesting. Shirley took the bus back through stately neighborhoods on Mount Scott and returned us to TCV in plenty of time for afternoon activities.

Story & Photos by Jerry Thiers, Towers

WALKING EXCURSION - POWELL BUTTE NATURE PARK

On Thursday, July 5, at 8am, the Walking Club hikers were driven to the Powell Butte Nature Park, south of Gresham, for a lovely hike in the cool morning air. Vitality Coordinator/Bus Driver, Shirley Zondervan, assembled us in the Visitors' Center to explain the options of a short hike for one group and a longer trip for the others. We also had the opportunity to study information in the Center, learning that besides the Parks' beautiful natural aspects, it also served a practical purpose by including two covered water supply reservoirs. Each reservoir can contain 50 million gallons of freshwater, operating as follows: When the Bull Run Reservoir, situated in nearby mountains, has excess water, it can be piped into the Powell Butte Reservoirs for storage, before being transferred to local homes and businesses.



When local needs require more than the overall system has in storage, stored groundwater can be pumped from the Powell Butte Reservoirs to make up the deficit.

As we hiked up the asphalt-paved walkway we saw numerous wildflowers and scenic views. The reservoirs are covered by reinforced concrete, and topped by topsoil, supporting a lovely meadow. There were plenty of benches and view spots along the way. At the discretion of each hiker one could go as far as comfortable before turning back. If you did this before crossing the summit it was all downhill going back! A resident experienced an unfortunate falling accident necessitating a brief trip to ER but happily is recuperating well at home.

On our return trip Shirley took us through the lovely Scott Hill neighborhood, getting us back in plenty of time for lunch!

Story & Photo by Jerry Thiers, Towers

We Were Wondering

Several months ago we considered offering a “Letters to the Editor” feature for residents to ask questions or voice opinions. There were no takers. But we recognized that there are questions out there that seem to have a life of their own and keep circulating in the Suggestion Box and in conversations. Like, why is the small bus still not painted, why do the driveway lights remain dark, and where are the flagpoles? Surely there must be dark, murky secrets beneath all the delays. So, being intrepid reporters, we decided to go to the source and find some answers.

We approached Max Gabriel, Generations Project Manager, who agreed to be interviewed. Max is a most gracious, helpful and patient person; he showed no irritation at apparently being approached by many residents regarding these same questions. From Max, we learned that the essential word is “priorities”. Of course, no institution, company, or family can operate efficiently without priorities. Project delays occur here at TCV when priorities are upset; when gates malfunction, elevators stop working, common areas need refurbishing, and Rehab needs remodeling. And that is why the small bus is still plain old vanilla white.

The lights remain dark along the inner roadway because wiring and lampposts are old, and need total replacement, not “fixing”. Twenty-eight lampposts are to be replaced and floodlights are planned for the back driveway. A large project and a large expense and that means delay.

The flagpoles and flags will be up and flying by the end of summer. The saga of the flags and poles is interesting. At one point the flags were actually delivered, but the preparatory work by a second contractor had been delayed, so the flags were sent back, which meant they had to be reordered, with a loss of two months.

So there you have some of it...no mystery, no cover-up. Just those darn priorities that constantly shift and govern all the operations here at TCV. We are grateful to Max for his time and his cooperation. We would just say, when you see him on campus, best not to ask him about the flagpoles.

Lori Lauck, Towers

NEW FACES ON CAMPUS



Bill Johnston, a four-month resident of TCV, moved into the Terrace after a recent stay in Rehab at the Fountains. A friend, Robert Jack, whose mom was a resident, and Bill's son convinced him that this was the place to be. He was born and raised in Southern California. He has one sister in New Jersey and two sons live in the Portland area.

Bill was a co-owner of a ship-repair business located on Swan Island. Golfing was his hobby, but after his wife passed in 2009 he lost interest in the sport. He feels he is still getting settled in and still working on his physical well-being, thanks to the Fountains Rehab. Welcome Bill, we wish you well.



Meet **Adrienne Jerman**, a new resident in the Gables. She is a native Oregonian and graduated from Grant High School.

Her life story includes a part in the movie "Paint your Wagon", in the late 1960's. To find out more, ask her; she would be happy to tell you. She had one son and then decided to hit the books again and obtained her degree in teaching. Her teaching career took her around the world as a Bilingual Spanish Teacher.

Adrienne has been a caregiver for her mother who recently was placed in memory care at Monterey Court, so she found herself moving here to be close to her 92-year-old mom. Adrienne is also a proud grandmother of four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Still getting settled, Adrienne says she loves all that Town Center Village has to offer. Her first participation in the Poker Run paid off at the recent Casino Night when she won \$125.00. I can still hear her squeals of delight. I know we will see more of her involvement in our activities. Glad you are here, Adrienne.



Meet **Dan Ramirez**, a new Towers resident. He is a native Oregonian, born and raised in Burns, Oregon. He has one sister who lives in Spokane, WA. Dan is a life-long confirmed bachelor. He loves music and looks forward to joining our TCV excursions to concerts and other music events.

His earlier career was with the General Electric Corp. Currently, he is a volunteer at OMSI (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry). He loves photography and also video-photography. At one time he lived close-by and was able to use our gym, so when the time came to make a change, he knew he wanted to become part of our community. Welcome, Dan, we are

happy to have you as one of the family.

Stories & Photos by AJ Watland, Terrace

CASINO NIGHT AT TCV

The evening of Friday, June 29th seemed like any other dinner hour. Approaching the Terrace hub in no way seemed like entering the Ilani Casino. As I got closer, I heard bingo numbers being called out loudly. A buzz of laughter and voices could be heard.

A row of tables along the hallway were filled with beer, water and cranberry/Sprite beverages as well as cups of pretzel and trail mix, all being hawked by staff. Residents were seated in the dining room intent on bingo numbers called out by Stephanie and Sandy. Some CherryWood Village guests were in attendance—I spoke with their council president who said they were interested in perhaps conducting a Casino Night event of their own. I wandered into the community room; all seats were taken at the blackjack table but Ron invited some of us to play roulette—“Odd or even, black or red?” I had one win out of a few tries. More games were in play in the parlor. All required little or no skill; mostly just luck. Just find a seat, hand over a token and the dealer explains and handles everything, including passing any winnings—one raffle ticket for merely playing, two for winning. Nothing to it! In about an hour, I had amassed a heap of tickets. As the evening wound to an end, everyone gathered in the dining room for the big drawing.

The \$125 poker run winner was newcomer Adrienne Jerman who had attended all of the programs listed and received a playing card for each. A rolling pin covered with \$25 went to Debbie from the Fountains Beauty Shop, \$50 Play Dough container to Charlene Taylor from Rehab, a \$75 money tree to Judith Hook from the Fountains, \$100 gift box to Phyllis Gagnier, \$100 picture frame to Phil Johnson and the big winner of \$350 (1/2 of the night's proceeds) to Gloria Cooper. Several were big winners but everyone had a good time—I certainly did!

Karen Taira, Terrace

RECYCLING—IT'S ON OUR MINDS

Recycling seems to be on everybody's mind lately. Almost simultaneously, proposals to engage in this endeavor came into the spotlight in July. To wit:

Exhibit A: July 4: Following a practical recycle suggestion in the “Voice of the Village” newsletter for residents to bring their own containers to the dining room for take-outs, an earnest discussion was held at the June Resident Council meeting regarding steps that could be taken to carry the momentum forward. Several ideas were aired including having the Council purchase reusable containers and attractive tote bags for Ambassadors to present to new residents, have some available for free, or sell them as a fundraiser for the Employee Appreciation Fund.

Exhibit B: July 5: A formation of a resident recycle committee, a long-planned project, proceeded when volunteers met with Vitality Director Sam Bailey to discuss a plan of action for the coming months. Coordination with Maintenance on standardizing the recycle site signs that Sam already has was discussed. To discourage the use of Styrofoam containers in the dining room, ideas of how to encourage residents to re-use their own containers were explored. It was agreed that the committee would meet monthly and to seek more residents to join.

Exhibit C: July 11: Culinary Director Douglas Mackaben announced at the June Residents Association meeting that discussions are ongoing for replacing Styrofoam containers. One idea is to purchase washable containers that residents would return to the kitchen after each use to be cleaned and sanitized. No start-up dates have been planned as of yet.

The close occurrence of three such independent events is notable: it seems the time for action is now. With coordination of these groups and cooperation from everyone on campus, we can make progress to help make our little space on this earth a bit greener.

Karen Taira, Terrace

Goodbye Josh



On Thursday, July 5, staff and residents gathered to say goodbye to **Josh Hillard**. For an hour we were able to tell him how much we have enjoyed knowing him, and wish him well on his new endeavor. The kitchen supplied many wonderful goodies for the event. In keeping with his philosophy, the food was all healthy. Josh has filled the lives of residents with care, classes, and good healthy treats for five years. He has led the trivia contests on Saturdays, the Sit and Be Fit classes, exercise classes in the Fountains, and treated many of us with smoothies and other healthy goodies, encouraging us to eat healthy. He has increased our knowledge and enjoyment with the *History In Film* series.

Josh was a student at Portland State when he began working at TCV. He finished his degree and continued to work with us until the time was right to leave for new adventures. This past year, Josh applied to many law schools. He achieved his first choice of school when he was awarded a full scholarship to the law school at the University of Arizona. He said he has enjoyed his time with us, but is eager to begin this new part of his life. He plans to pursue a law degree in public service, following his interest in good government and the political process. Goodbye Josh, we will miss you.

Rosie Thiers, Towers

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to **Inona Ilon**, the Employee of the Month for July, 2018. Inona, better known as Elo, is a housekeeper in the Gables. She had many residents nominate her for her wonderful dedication to her work. A typical comment: "Elo is an absolute, magnificent employee; incredibly efficient and a great character. She is one of the truly extraordinary employees I have met. Always does more than expected and is cheerful." A Town Center Village employee for just a little over a year, Elo has made an impression on both residents and her co-workers.

Elo was born in Chuuk, Micronesia and came to America with her mother and other family members at age four. She graduated from David Douglas High School and found work with the Postal Department for a few years.

She then moved on to a hotel chain and found housekeeping to be much more to her liking. When she applied to TCV, she was delighted to get the position. She loves to make her residents feel like they are her family, and to see their smiles. Her family is important to her, and she especially enjoys their family celebrations. In August, a large family reunion will be held in Astoria. Elo and her brothers are a musical team. They find a beat and Elo writes the lyrics. They make DVDs and send them on to their families here and others in Guam.

I found Elo very delightful and bubbly. Thank you, Elo for being you and for your great work ethic and happy spirit.

AJ Watland, Terrace

SECOND ANNUAL TOWN CENTER VILLAGE VARIETY SHOW

On Thursday July 12, residents and guests were treated to a delightful presentation. The TCV Vitality Department was the host of our 2nd Annual Variety Show, held at the Fountains dining room. Dain was the emcee and Asya was the timekeeper. Every act was given a five minute limit. The following presenters gave us a very entertaining time:

John Salmon did a dramatic reading of "The Creation"; Dan Zdanowicz conversed with his friend, Ol' Man River, and his wife, represented by puppets on his lap; Susie Gallagher sang "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend"; Jerry

Theirs on trumpet, and Johnette Olson on the piano, presented "Toreador" and "Come Back Sorrento".

Hayley Doyle sang "Landslide" accompanied by Stephanie Ribas-Stepp on the guitar; "The Useta Sisters", Gwen Mallonee on piano with Eva Hirtz and Judith Hook did a song and dance; Marvin Jordan gave a dramatic reading of "The Solid O", in two accents, normal and British; Betty Beckwith recited a poem, "God, Who is He?"; Ken Post, gave a lesson on

how to get peanut butter off the roofs of our mouths and the Town Center Drama Club, Karen Taira, Ruth Jenkins, Betty Beckwith, Jim Morrow, Jerry Thiers, Ken Post and Andy Nebergall did a courtroom skit.



Dan Zdanowicz



Susie Gallagher



Hayley and Stephanie



TCV Drama Club

Story & Photos by AJ Watland , Terrace

Dear Prudence



Dear Readers: After many years of delving into my innermost thoughts regarding the meaning of life, I have now crystallized this whole life thing into one concise idea: Life is basically all the stuff you have to do to get from coffee to wine time.

-From Good To Better, Prudence

Dear Prudence,

Even at my advanced age, I still hope for the possibility of romance. Recently a very nice gentleman in the Terrace asked me out to the movies. I did not accept, because his socks never match. That is a game-changer for me. So I stayed home, alone and lonely. Was I foolish? Too proud?

-Picky, Picky

Dear P-P,

You do need to change your attitude, Missy! Say to yourself (and to your gentleman friend), "Of course I can accept you for who you are; you are someone I need to change."

-Perfection Personified, Prudence

Hey Pru,

I'm beginning to wonder how you ever got this job! You are insensitive, arrogant and insulting to many of your very needy readers. I am thinking of canceling my subscription to the Voice of the Village.

-Too Critical For You?

Dear Dunderhead,

Let me get my crayons out to help you better understand. I am not a smart-aleck; I am a skilled professional in pointing out the obvious and I speak fluent sarcasm. How I have reached my heights is, I learn from the mistakes of others who have taken my advice.

-Above All Criticism, Prudence

Dear Prudence,

For years I have had very poor hearing. I finally purchased hearing aids and now my hearing is very much improved. I have not yet told my family—I just sit quietly and listen to their conversations. As a result, I have changed my will three times in the past two months. Am I being immature?

-Big Ears

Dear Biggy,

Sounds like your family might deserve your truly understandably immature reaction. Here is another, even better way to get even with your family: pre-plan your own funeral; pre-hire a ventriloquist and give him your own pre-written script for the viewing of the casket.

-Hope I'm There To See That, Prudence

Dear Prudence,

I notice that people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Should I do the same?

Salvation Sally

Dear Salvation Sal,

The fact that there is a highway to Hell and a staircase to Heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers.

-Better Get a Good Road Map, Prudence

Lori Lauck, Towers

Congratulations Dain and Krystal!



Have you noticed an extra spring in Dain Haller's steps these days? It just may be because of his new marital status. Dain met the cute Krystal Conklin about 18 months ago after her cousin Ingrid, who works in Rehab interceded and facilitated an introduction. Thus began their courtship. On June 30 they got married at Gateway Church in NE Portland and a reception was held at the Vancouver Elks Lodge. Interesting details include the fact that Krystal wore her mother's wedding dress and that Dain wrote his own vows. He also gave a nod to his TCV friends by announcing that if he and Krystal wished to occupy a unit at TCV in their golden years they had better start saving right away! In fact, Dain apparently made such a good impression that after returning from a week off for a honeymoon, his boss, Sam Bailey asked him to emcee the Variety Show.

Krystal has been working in the Fountains dining room for about six months and she and Dain are enjoying their new apartment a short distance away. Agreeing to split their church-going between Krystal's Gateway Church and Dain's New Hope Community Church, the newlyweds are already practicing one of the tenets of a successful marriage—compromise!

Karen Taira, Terrace

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Between the roofers and the crows, the windows in the Worm (the TCV name for the ground floor passage between the Gables and Towers) were so dirty that it was unpleasant to walk through there. Residents and visitors to the two buildings use the Worm several times a day. The passageway is lined with windows, and when the roof was replaced, the dirt from the old roof really made the place grimy. A big thank you to Kim Foster, the Housekeeping Leader, and her crew. They worked for hours cleaning the windows inside and out, and now that the weather is warm and the screens are in place, it is a pleasurable walk.

Rosie Thiers, Towers

Beanbag Baseball on Hiatus

For the first time, ten baseball teams were divided into the Red Division and the Blue Division. Games were scheduled as usual and on July 9 the winners of the Blue Division, the Yankees, and the Beavers of the Red Division vied for the championship. Congratulations to the Beavers who emerged victorious: AJ Watland, Verna Mae Baldwin, Terry Sample, Charlotte Graber, Jim Morrow, Janet Bauer, Jim Aneshansley and Rita Joseph. The season was capped with a traditional barbeque lunch under the portico on July 23. Although Stan Hirota has stepped down as the scorekeeper and sportswriter, the plan is to resume the popular program in some form in the fall.

Karen Taira, Terrace

WELCOME;

Gables Sam Sabo

Terrace Carolyn Bywater, Bob Scheuchenpflug

Fountains Rita Joseph, Beverly Sabo, Carroll Saez, Chere Leahy