

Home Times Monthly

*A newsletter for Pond Home residents with
all the news that's fit to print*

May 2026 volume 161

To My Dear Residents:

Hello to you in the very merry month of May! May 1st always reminds me of childhood when I liked to make a “May Basket” for my mother. I am guessing she told me of the tradition at some point, or maybe, I read about it when reading “Jack and Jill” by Louisa May Alcott. I took it to heart and recall at least on a few occasions going out early in the morning to plant wildflowers in a basket.

By this time of year, we would have violets and forget-me-nots blooming all over the place. That, and a fern or a little moss made a beautiful gift in my 9-year-old opinion! It was always greeted with great joy and surprise by my mom. Looking back, I am guessing it was a messy thing to bring into the house.

This got me wondering about the history of May Day, and I thought I would share a little of my research with you now.

May Day baskets are a 19th and 20th-century tradition, particularly in the U.S. and Europe, involving leaving small baskets of spring flowers, treats, or sweets on neighbors' doorsteps anonymously on May 1st. The custom, which peaked in popularity before fading in the late 20th century, involved hanging the basket, knocking, and running away to avoid being caught by the recipient.

Origins and History of May Baskets:

- **Ancient Roots:** The tradition stems from ancient Celtic Pagan spring festivals, such as Beltane, which celebrated the return of spring and fertility.
- **European Tradition:** It was customary to fill baskets with flowers, greenery, and small gifts to leave on neighbors' doorsteps to spread joy.
- **American Popularity:** In the U.S., the tradition was popular through the 19th and 20th centuries.

Even if we are not sharing May Day Baskets anymore, we can still spread joy when we greet our neighbors. With the flowers blooming throughout the grounds, it sure seems like Mother Nature is spreading joy too!

Thanks for reading!



Becky Annis, Administrator





PATCHES' PURRSPECTIVE

Spring has sprung!

How do I know this? The sunbeam on the living room rug has changed, shifting from a weak, lukewarm patch into a golden rectangle of pure, drowsy bliss. That area and the many sunbeams on the three-season porch are my favorite hangouts during this season.

The world outside my windows is a flurry of activity once again. The birds—those annoying, fluttering teasers—have returned, chirping at a volume I find frankly rude. I enjoy smelling the newness of the world this time of year. Spring is not just warmer; it is richer. It smells like damp dirt, flower petals, and the return of the little creatures that live in the tall grass. I love to watch it all happening and bask in the glory of the sunshine.

Find your spot in the sun too!

And that is my purrrrspective.....

Your furry friend



COMMENT/GRAITITUDE BOARD

Big THANK YOU to our volunteer Susan for her dedication. She just celebrated her 11th year volunteering here at Pond Home.

Paul is always pleasant, kind and helpful.

Thank you to Kristina for your dedication to our residents and co-workers staying late when needed.

Appreciation shown to housekeeping for cleanliness of building and their rooms and the level of detail such as vacuuming under chairs and beds.

WORDS OF WISDOM

- ❖ “May is a month of renewal, hope, and new beginnings, offering inspiration to embrace growth, gratitude, and the beauty of life.”
- ❖ “May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope.”
- ❖ “Then you have to remember to be thankful; but in May one simply can’t help being thankful that they are alive, if for nothing else.”
- ❖ May is a time to embrace new beginnings, cultivate gratitude, and pursue personal growth. Whether through setting goals, appreciating nature, or finding joy in everyday moments, these words of wisdom encourage a mindful and inspired approach to the month. By reflecting on these quotes, you can carry the spirit of May into your daily life, fostering positivity, hope, and motivation.



May Birthday's

Carolyn Vitale	6th
Patricia Hainsworth	10th
Faiz Loulache	20th
Dee George	26th
Patricia Moore	30 th

RON'S KITCHEN CORNER

Next menu meeting will be in September - Date to be determined.

5/10 - Baked Ham for Mother's Day and individual fresh berry cheesecakes for dessert.

Construction starts Monday, May 11th (after Mother's Day), be patient with your servers, we will have more steps to make! 😊

Kitchen Renovation Plan

Pond Home is embarking on a full kitchen renovation. Work on this will begin May 11th. We have prepared a temporary kitchen so that we can continue to cook and provide meals three times a day, seven days a week.

- The cooking kitchen will move from Pond Home to the Community Center at Pond Meadow.
- The service area of the kitchen will move from the kitchen to the employee break room.
- The break room will be moved to the Craft Room. This took effect on April 23rd.
- Crafts will take place as normally scheduled but will be held in the living room.
- It is a domino effect of activity, as you can see!
- The work is expected to take place during May, June, and July.

Why are we doing this? The kitchen was last fully renovated in 2000. While we have repaired or replaced much of the equipment, we need to replace floors, walls, ceilings, and lighting, so it is necessary to shut the kitchen down for this significant improvement.

We promise to share the before and after with all of you.

While we are utilizing the temporary kitchen, beginning May 11th, we will not be able to provide grilled sandwiches of any kind. We can provide toasted, but not grilled sandwiches. We will be able to provide fried eggs, but omelets will not be available during this time.

We thank you in advance for your support and patience as we make this necessary improvement to our working environment and the space your food is prepared.

REMINDER FROM THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Just a friendly reminder from Maintenance, if you have a need for work to be performed or notice something that needs to be fixed, please put in a work order. You can do this by speaking to anyone in the front office.

The Kitchen project will soon begin. Please be careful when walking outside, and take notice of the signs near the construction to avoid dangerous situations.

MESSAGE FROM NURSING:

This month's specialty doctor visits are as follows:

- Tuesday, May 5th - Dentist
- Wednesday, May 6th - Audiology
- Thursday, May 28th - Optometry

If you would like to be included on the schedule, please let nursing know.



Beautiful Spring Brunch in honor of our AMAZING volunteers!

Activity Highlights from April

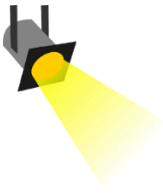


Mocktail Mondays are always a success



Knitting Group

So far our residents have used their time and talents to donate over 100 lap blankets to our brave Veterans to help comfort them during recovery!



Activity Highlights for May

- ~ **Weekly shopping** - Stop & Shop and Target Wednesday's at **10am**
- ~ **Mystery rides Thursdays leaving at 1:30pm**
- ~ **Lending Library** - Monday's at **10am**
- ~ **CUDDLES with CODY** - **Tuesdays at 1pm**
- ~ **Wednesdays Music with Paul & Friends 2pm LR**
- ~ **Thursdays 11am LR - Veteran's Knitting Project**
- ~ **Thursday Nights - Popcorn & a Movie 6pm LR**
- ~ **Exercise/Morning Stretch daily at 9:15**

Monday Matinee - 1:15pm, LR

5/4: "Rain Man"
5/18: "Beaches"
5/25: "Forrest Gump"

Saturday Matinee - 1pm, LR

5/2: "Seabiscuit"
5/9: "Sarah's Oil"
5/16: "Mr. Church"
5/23: "Castaway"
5/30: "Little Women"

5/1: Eddie Dillion performs
5/2: Steven King entertains
5/5: Cinco De Mayo Mocktail Margaritas & Churros
5/7: Pastor Ken with Worship
5/8: Doug Robinson performs
5/11: Sing-along with Roberta
5/13: Spa Day
5/15: Michael Leidig plays piano
5/18: Catholic Mass
5/18: Arnold Arboretum Trip
5/22: Kathy Earabino entertains
5/31: Alex performs



HAIRDRESSER THURSDAY & FRIDAY