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The Informer

April 23, 2021

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The Buckley Courtyard...It's Beautiful!

The gorgeous icon of The Mayflower Community (Grinnell IA) —the Buckley Courtyard—is ready for the April rains. Sitting in the middle of Mayflower's 30-acre campus on the west side of the Buckley building and patio, the mixed foliage, two-pond garden is approaching its 20th year. Each year, it matures a bit more extravagantly.

Pre-season pruning, cleaning, mulching, and planting is complete. The two ponds connected by a continuously running stream through the Courtyard, have received their spring cleaning. That difficult work was completed by Mayflower's gardens and grounds supervisor and ISU-certified Master Gardner, Ben Pearce, and staff, Les Hall and Nick Mommer. As a result, the 20+ large Koi fish are now swimming in clean water that is lightly shaded blue to retard algae growth.



Annually, local and regional groups make the trek to Mayflower to observe the Courtyard when it is in bloom. If you'd like to come take a look, help yourself. The close parking is on Park Street in front of the Buckley building or in the Beebe Circle, off Mayflower Lane between Park and Broad at 1st Avenue.

Until this pandemic is completely under control, we ask that you mask and socially distance. Even though 99.5% of Mayflower residents are fully vaccinated, we continue to work at abating all risks.

Enjoy Spring!

-Bob Mann, Sales & Marketing Director

**Bob Smith's Final Ride by Horse-
Drawn Carriage**



Bob Smith passed away on April 9th while a resident of Mayflower's Health Center. A patriarch of the Smith Funeral Home family and long-time Grinnell resident, Bob had lived in Beebe Assisted Living as well as our Health Center. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a private Mass of Resurrection was held on Friday

morning, April 16th at St. Mary Catholic Church in Grinnell.

To honor one of Bob's last wishes, a horse-drawn carriage led his funeral procession to Hazelwood cemetery on the south side of Grinnell. According to Bob's son John, Bob finished his journey the way it all started with Smith Funeral Home.

The Mayflower Community was honored to be able to say a final "Good-bye" to Bob as the procession passed between the Beebe and Buckley buildings and the Health Center on Park Street.

-Bob Mann, Sales & Marketing Director



UnLOCKIN the Power of Philanthropy Unique Mayflower Donors

What is your unique giving story? Here are many ways Mayflower supporters have given during their lifetime or as part of their estate plan.

- Lifetime gifts to Mayflower, ordered from most to least common:
- Cash. Currency, checks, or account-to-account transfers.
 - IRA Transfers. For individuals age 70 1/2 or older and made directly from an IRA account to Mayflower, these transfers are federal tax-free. They are technically known as "qualified charitable distributions."
 - Life Income Gifts. These are typically, "charitable gift annuities," which pay you (or someone you name) lifetime income in return for your contribution that can be "funded" with any of the assets listed herein.
 - Appreciated Securities. This would include stocks, bonds, or mutual funds transferred directly to Mayflower that have been owned by the donor for at least one year and have increased in value.
 - Personal Property. This would be an asset you no longer want or need and for which Mayflower has a need. Recent examples include a pickup truck, utility vehicles, and artwork.
 - Real Estate. This could include city lots and acreages.

Estate plan provisions for Mayflower, also in order from most to least common:

- Last Will and Testament provisions. Leave a specific asset, a specific amount, or a percentage of the remainder of your estate after other provisions (family, etc.) have been made.
- Revocable Living Trust provisions. Similar to last will and testament provisions but made part of the trust that controls your assets.
- IRA or Other "Account" Beneficiary provisions. A percentage of an IRA, 401(k), or other "qualified plan" is most common, but bank accounts and investment accounts are possible, too.
- Life Insurance Beneficiary provisions. A percentage of the policy's death benefit.
- Mayflower "Home Equity." A gift of all or a portion of the refund equity of a Mayflower patio home or Watertower Square apartment or from the refundable entrance fee of a traditional campus apartment.

- Mayflower Promissory Notes. Some note holders have pledged the balance of their notes to Mayflower if they pass away during the term of the note.
- Charitable Remainder Trusts. A powerful tool for both charitable and estate planning purposes.

From these techniques, each Mayflower supporter has crafted their unique plan. Most of the plans are flexible should the donor's circumstances change. I welcome a conversation to explore a plan with you, one that will fit your unique personal and family circumstances.

Doug Lockin (515.210.6603 or dlockin@mayflowerhomes.com)



Tiny Gardens Built at Mayflower

Recently, residents in the Health Center and Beebe Assisted Living at Grinnell's The Mayflower Community, constructed miniature gardens. Some say that these will become the habitat for good fairies.

Pictured at left with her tiny garden, is resident Kaitie Hoisington.

Zoom Exercise Classes—It's Not Too Late

Mayflower's Strength and Balance Training exercise classes via Zoom are going strong into their third week and continuing to add new class members each week. The classes currently take place on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Level 1 class starts at 11:00 AM for those who like to exercise while seated with some standing exercises. Level 2 class starts at 9:00 AM for those who like to exercise while standing with some floor exercises.



For those who are unable to attend virtually the LIVE exercise classes, a recorded video of the class is sent out following class for members to do on their own time.

We also offer optional fitness assessments that measure your upper body and lower body strength using the arm curl and chair stand tests, lower body flexibility using the sit and reach test, and cardiovascular endurance using the two-minute step test. These assessments are performed via Zoom and in-person and reassessed every 12 weeks to track progress. If you would like more information on how to join the class or participate in a fitness assessment, please contact me. The more the merrier!

-Katie McGriff, Community Life and Wellness Coordinator
(kcmcgriff@mayflowerhomes.com)



Enhanced Dining is on the Way at Mayflower

Mayflower Foodservice is excited to announce that several new menu items will be introduced, starting on Sunday April 25th. Look for new entrées like Parmesan Crusted Trout, Chicken Margarita Pasta, and Beef Medallions to name a few. New side dishes will include Ratatouille,

Mustard Glazed Cauliflower, and Mexican Street Corn. Over 22 different items will be introduced in the seven-week menu.

The Bistro/Grill menu is also being spruced up at the same time. We will be adding new items and are bringing back old favorites, like the Turkey and Swiss with Pecans on Raisin Bread. Residents who eat on a regular basis continue to tell us what a bargain it is to dine at Mayflower. Throughout our history, we have striven to provide the best possible quality at reasonable, affordable prices.

The global food chain continues to experience turbulent times. Weather changes, along with the pandemic, have created shifts in supply and demand, creating an overall supply cost increase. As a result, we will see a slight pricing adjustment in some items on the menu.

-Scott Gruhn, Foodservices Director



Treasure Chest

There is an informational sheet about the "April Fooleries" next to the Treasure Chest to help you locate each one. It was fun creating this display and hopefully you were able to locate some of them. The answers will remain until the end of April.

There will also be an "Owls" exhibit by Sue Drake.

-Karen Packard

Mayflower Residents Online Directory Status

In February 2021, the team of residents working on the online directory's development conducted an online survey of Mayflower residents and staff to find out how many have used the directory and which features they have used. The survey also asked about their reasons for using the directory, or not, and suggestions for improvements or new features. A total of 76 residents and 11 staff members responded to the survey.

Here is a summary of what the team learned from those who responded:

- 45 % only use the paper directory
- 9 % do not use either the paper or the online directory
- 30 % occasionally use the online directory
- 16 % always use the online directory
- Staff who responded were a little more likely than residents to use the online directory

What do those who use the online directory like about it?

- It is easy to use
- It has all the contact information in one place
- It is easy to search for a resident if you only know a first name
- It is more likely to be up to date
- Many liked to read the biographies that are listed with some resident profiles

What do those who do not use the online directory see as a problem for them?

- For them, paper copies of the directory are quicker to find and easier to use
- Finding the online directory on their computer is difficult

What else was important to the team analyzing the results?

- About half who use the online directory did not know that staff information is included as well as links to other resources
- Those using the online directory would like to have more residents and staff submit bios

As new residents come into the community with more experience in using computers, and as current residents and staff become more familiar with the many features of the online directory, the use of the online directory is likely to increase. The survey results show that a substantial number of Mayflower residents like to use the online directory, and, although it still could be improved in a number of ways, the survey results confirm that it already serves as an important resource for the community.

The Online Directory Development Team members are Kent McClelland, Chair; Selva Lehman; Katherine McClelland; Karen Phillips; and Bill Pollak.

-Kent McClelland, Resident Volunteer



Visitors Are Once Again Welcome in Mayflower's Health Center and Beebe Assisted Living

Good news! With guidance from public health agencies, regulators, and the Mayflower administration, family and friends are now allowed to visit Health Center and Beebe Assisted Living residents.

Visitors will be screened upon arrival, be asked to use hand sanitizer and wear a face mask, and be escorted to and from the resident's room (or to outside location). The maximum visit duration is 45 minutes. There is a limit of two visitors at any one time. For residents who live in a semi-private room, visits will be scheduled in a separate private room. Mayflower allows for compassionate visits which must be approved and fall under a different visit category.

Pictured above left is Joan Brand-Landkamer (left) and daughter Susan Landkamer Rivera. For visit appointments at the Health Center, call 641-236-6151 x210. For visits to Beebe Assisted Living, call 641-236-6151 x213. Schedule your visit today. We look forward to seeing you!

-Leslie Jaworski, Community Life Director

A U.S. COVID Vaccination Update

According to **Becker's Hospital Review**, as of 6 a.m. EDT April 20, a total of 86,223,506 Americans had been fully vaccinated, or 26 percent of the country's population, according to the CDC's data.

Below, are the numbers for Iowa:

Number of people fully vaccinated: 910,781

Population: 3,163,561

Percentage of population fully vaccinated: 28.87%

Maine currently has the highest percentage of its population fully vaccinated against COVID-19, at 33.6%, according to the CDC's COVID-19 vaccine distribution and administration data tracker.

Experts estimate that herd immunity would require around 80-90% of the population to have COVID-19 immunity, either through prior infection or vaccination. That's why experts are encouraging the public to get the COVID-19 vaccine and why we are continuing to see an influx of those receiving vaccines.

New Books for the Mayflower Library

The Library Committee would like to thank our residents for their many contributions of the recent books from the last couple of years, particularly Large Print Books! They are much appreciated!

A Minute to Midnight

The Wright Sister

My Dear Hamilton

The Last Palace

Catch and Kill

Being Moral

The Stranger Diaries

The Short Stories Ernest Hemingway

The Book of Longings (LP)

The Splendid and the Vile

Such a Fun Age (LP)

Ickabog

The Consequences of Fear

Call the Midwife

The Wright Brothers

David Baldacci

Patty Dann

S. Dray and L. Kamoie

Norman Eisen

Rowan Farrow

Atul Gawande

Elly Griffiths

Ernest Hemingway

Sue Monk Kidd

Erik Larson

Kiley Reid

J.K. Rowling

Jacqueline Winspear

Jennifer Worth

David McCullough

Two Mysteries by Favorite Authors (Two Reviews in One!)

Last month the Mayflower Library added *The Survivors*, the new mystery by Jane Harper, author of *The Dry*. Set in Tasmania, the book evokes the atmosphere of a small coastal town during the off-season. A young woman artist is found drowned in suspicious circumstances, reviving old family hurts and community tensions from the drowning of three young people in a freak storm years before. As in Harper's other books, the characters and their relationships are even more important than the plot.

This is not a fast paced book, but I was drawn in and really cared about the main characters, especially a young couple returning home for a visit with their new baby and the young father's parents dealing with the confusion of dementia.

This month, *The Stranger Diaries* by Elly Griffiths goes our New Books shelf. Elly Griffiths has a wonderful series of mysteries that can be found in Drake Library about a young university professor, Ruth Galloway, who helps the local police as a forensic archeologist. When I came across an unrelated new mystery by Griffiths, I decided to give it a try. *The Stranger Diaries* focuses on a high school English teacher and single mom, Clare, who is working on a biography of a Gothic ghost-story writer whose old English mansion is home to Clare's school in Sussex. The plot is complex, but put simply, elements of the writer's most famous ghost story begin to show up in the murders of several people connected to the school. I sympathized with Clare and with the gay Sikh female detective Harbinder Kaur, who comes in to solve the mystery, but I most enjoyed Clare's sassy and observant teenage daughter.

The Ruth Galloway mystery series by Elly Griffiths has a new addition coming out in June, but much of the fun of that series is in the character development from book to book, and I would suggest starting with book one, *The Crossing Places*.

-Katherine McClelland

Please submit poems to Bob Mann to use in future editions!

MY UMBRELLA

by Pasha Buck

An umbrella is a useful thing;
It adds a certain grace
To an old man's shabby walk;
And dignity as well, especially
To those lunch-hour strollers who,
Lost without their usual look of purpose,
Are given now an air of "leisurely intent."

An umbrella points the way
On a blustery prairie day,
When words spoken to the wind
Are whistled back: nonsense refrain.

And carried rightly, lightly,
It protects the owner's space
From brushing coats of arms,
Loosely belonging to an ancient race.

But chiefly, an umbrella may
Give notice on a cloudy day
For the rain to keep away!

Movie: *And So It Goes*

The next movie will be in Kiesel Theatre on May 1st at 2pm. Nobody likes real estate agent Oren Little and he prefers it that way. He's deliberately mean to anyone who crosses his path and wants nothing more than to sell on final house and retire. Oren's life turns upside down when his estranged son drops off a granddaughter who he didn't know existed.

Informer Submission Deadlines

- Submission deadline: April 30th for publication May 7th
- Submission deadline: May 14th for publication May 21st
- Submission deadline: May 24th for publication June 4th.



[Submit here.](#)

Residents' Birthdays

Gene Herman & Kathy Szary on April 25th
Roberta Atwell on April 26th
Chao Huang, Rudi Munitz & M.J. Zimmerman on April 27th
Loren Kolpin on April 29th
Janet Ferguson & Stan Greenwald on May 1st
Dot Anderson & Sig Barber on May 5th

Gayle Strickler, Jr. on May 7th
Wilma Graden & Fred Johnson on May 8th
Sandy Moffett on May 9th

In Memoriam

Bob Smith
September 26th, 1926- April 9th, 2021

Diana L. Long
May 5th, 1949- April 21st, 2021

Find more of *The Informer* online [here!](#)



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**Mayflower
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