

# Community Connection

DECEMBER 2024

## In This Issue:

Prairie Point Airplane Takes Off  
(continued) & A Walk In The Park | 2

Welcome Chaplain Brian & A Day  
For The Vets | 3

Master Site Presentation Follow-Up  
& Community Grants | 4

Sustain-Ability | 5

Rock Steady Boxing & WeCare  
Connect | 6

What Are Attic Angel Residents  
Doing About Climate Change? | 7

Garden Gab | 8

Heads Up & Reminders | 9

Community Happenings | 10



Whistle Blower/  
Corporate Compliance

It is everyone's responsibility to report compliance issues. Issues may be reported to any member of the Management Team or anonymously by calling our 24-hour hotline:

(608) 662-8880

For more information, see section 5 of the Employee Handbook.

## Prairie Point Airplane Takes Off

Story By: Lois Baseler, AAPP Resident

Photos By: Carla Nagle & Betty Keeney, AAPP Residents

Did you happen to see the airplane on Meadow Rose Lane on October 26th? Maybe you saw it being loaded onto a 28-foot truck to be driven away? Were you aware of the plane being built in someone's Prairie Point garage?

Gordon (Gordy) Putney has been building an aircraft in his garage for some time, and he recently asked his friend Jim Senft for help with the plane's computer programming. Jim has an IT background and is also the STEM Director at Westosha Central High School near Paddock Lake, Wisconsin. STEM is a learning approach that integrates the four areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. While Jim was consulting with Gordy, he had the idea to help Gordy finish the aircraft by allowing his students to work on the final completion. Gordy agreed, and now the plane lives at the Burlington Airport near the high school.

This isn't Gordy's first homebuilt plane. The first was a BD-5: an all-aluminum, single-seater aircraft that he didn't quite complete before the kit supplier went bankrupt. The second was a 4-seat Canard Pusher. It's called a Canard (French for "duck") because it looks like a duck with longer wings and a nose that sticks out. The plane's original design made it cumbersome to board, so Engineer Gordy designed and installed an air-stair door, with the hinge at the bottom and steps that come down, much like larger commercial planes. He sold the finished plane to a retired Navy test pilot in Maryland.

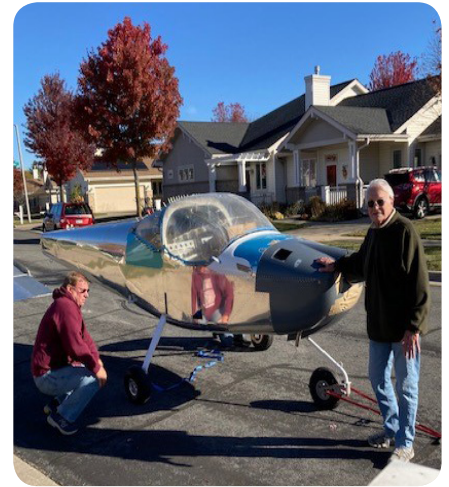
The airplane pictures shown here show Gordy's third homebuilt plane. It's an aluminum two-seat RV12 model that Gordy started before he moved here and has been working on in his Prairie Point garage ever since.



continued on page 2

The wings are removable, which makes it possible to keep them at home and transport them to and from the airport.

Gordy began his love of aviation as a youngster, when he and a neighbor boy built and flew wire-controlled model planes. His formal education began with a BS in Mechanical Engineering, beginning at UW-Milwaukee and finishing his last two years at UW-Madison. Having engineering labs and a ROTC program with a course in aviation, UW-Madison fit right in with his passion for Aeronautics. An added benefit was that he graduated as a 2nd Lt. in the U.S. Army with a pilot's license! After one year of flight school in Texas and Alabama, the Army stationed him near Munich, Germany, for two years, where he flew cargo helicopters.



Later, Gordy earned an MS in Engineering and then an MBA. His career took him to Koerper Engineering in Brookfield, Harnischfeger in Milwaukee, and finally Snap-On-Tools in Kenosha. When he retired in 2003, he became more active in EAA, the Experimental Aircraft Association in Oshkosh. For nine years, he gave helicopter rides to EAA visitors, a job for which he says he was overpaid. "Overpaid," explains Gordy, "because riders often expressed their excitement and joy with a smile, a hug, and even a kiss or two." Gordy is happy his latest project will serve as a teaching tool for STEM students. "It's a win-win," he says, because they'll work on the aircraft's final completion – the computer programming, the last finishes, testing, and marketing. They'll also broker the final sale. And Gordy is proud to help the next generation of budding research engineers.

## A Walk In The Park

By: Kelly Cheramy, Outreach Coordinator

A stark, windowless hallway is not exactly a walk in the park, but interested staff, residents, and Angels are using a magic wand, er, magic paintbrush, to make it that way. The walls form the "back office" corridor of the lower level, between the community room on the north end of the building to the elevators that serve the assisted living areas on the south. While staff use this area the most, residents and Angels often stroll through en route to and from Attic Angel events.

Thanks to a resident donor, this is the real-life story of a wall made of cinder blocks, a fairy godmother, and the beautiful ball gown, so to speak, of the mural that's dressing it up. Work to transform the walls into a stylized series of nature scenes began in late October and continues every Monday from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. It is led by two staffers: Kendra Hinzmann (Marketing Department), who is an accomplished muralist herself, and Kaitie Sauer (Life Enrichment-Studio Coordinator), whose usual artworks are painted on traditional canvas. In addition, a number of residents and Angels have participated in the painting. The mural is expected to be complete in the New Year, certainly before the calendar strikes 2.1.25.



# Welcome Chaplain Brian

“I grew up in eastern KY near the Virginia border, so you will hear that in my voice; it is a little thicker when I go visit family and come back. I currently live on the west side of Madison with my wife Carisa, two boys, Chase and Jackson (JD), and our dogs, Storm and Cooper. Out of college, I worked as a Youth & Children’s Minister, and since moving to Wisconsin, I have been employed as a hospice chaplain, most recently as a Spiritual & Grief Counselor for Agrace the last 7.5 years. I’m a huge sports fan, especially basketball. I collect sports cards/memorabilia, and love to write. I wrote a children’s book as a legacy project for my kids titled “Imagination.” I play a mean game of Scrabble if anyone is up for a challenge and love the card game “Rook.” I also dabble in cake decorating, making birthday cakes for my boys each year. I’m grateful to be a part of this wonderful community and I look forward to building relationships and spending time with all of you. My office is located in Gorham Glen near the therapy room, and you can reach me at 608-662-8865 or email [brian.baker@atticangel.org](mailto:brian.baker@atticangel.org). If you’d like to talk, please stop by, email, or call to set up a time to visit.”



# A Day for the Vets: Attic Angel Veteran’s Day Ceremony

By: Mike Thurston Wilder, Haven Activity Coordinator

On Tuesday, November 11th, over 70 Attic Angel residents, families, and staff packed into the Community Room for a singular purpose: To honor and celebrate the men and women who served in our nation’s military. At the front of the room sat five gentlemen who all had two things in common; 1) they are all Attic Angel residents, and 2) they all served in various branches of the military. Robert Dott, Don Wright, Don Klimpel, Jim Stanton, and George Hess each took turns sharing stories about their time in the service.

These stories ranged from humorous tales like Don Wright becoming the venomous reptile expert after one of his peers was bitten in the face by a snake to the heartbreaking story George Hess shared on what it was like to leave his 16-month-old child and family behind for his deployment. Our mouths dropped as Don Klimpel shared that he had served for over 40 years! Jim Stanton left me speechless as he spoke about the time he was preparing to ship out to the Japan just to have several walls of the ship collapse before departing. Robert Dott even brought along a drawing made by a German prisoner of war that was sold to him for a couple of cigarettes back in 1945. The audience was hanging on every word, eager to soak up every drop of stories these incredible men had to offer. I’m left with a feeling of awe and tremendous gratitude for the immense bravery and sacrifice these men have all made in the name of making our world a safer and more just place. Gentlemen, we salute you!



# Master Site Presentation Follow-Up

By: Michelle Godfrey, President/CEO



Thank you to all who attended the various Master Site Presentation sessions with me. I am working with our architect to put together some visuals we can place at AAP for you to look at and also a narrative that will be a compliment to the pictures. Once we have those, we will share them with you and have an offering for you to continue to share feedback and ask questions. We do not have a scripted timeline or phasing as of yet but as we continue the process, we will hold additional informational sessions and updates.

## Community Grants: Raising Hope

Did you shop at the Attic Sale, Classic Clothing Sale, or the Holiday's Galore & More Sale? Have you donated items to these events? Did you or someone you know participate in the Attic Angel Golf Outing? These are all Attic Angel Signature Events, and funds raised at these events go toward the Attic Angel Community Grants program. Last year, United Way of Dane County received a grant from Attic Angel for its Reducing School Mobility Program. Consistent with the annual focus on "collaborative efforts helping families with school-age children address housing insecurity," this program has a dual goal of helping families achieve stable housing while also ensuring that their children are able to remain in their school(s) of origin. In support of its funding request, United Way shared the following story of Esmeralda M.:

Esmeralda lives in Fitchburg with her husband and four children, ranging in age from 6 to 16. Her ten-year-old daughter, Sofia, has autism. Esmeralda said her husband needs to drive Sofia to school every day, making him consistently late for work. He eventually lost his job, and the family fell behind on rent, received a five-day eviction notice, and a letter for a court date two weeks later. The situation was shocking to Esmeralda and her husband as they had never been late with their rent before, and it was the first time they had experienced this level of financial stress.

The family was referred to the Reducing School Mobility Program through the social worker at their younger children's elementary school. They were connected to a bilingual case manager who could communicate with them in Spanish, their primary language. Their case manager arranged for the Reducing School Mobility Program to pay the family's rent and get the eviction dismissed. Esmeralda's husband has since found a new job, and the family remains stable in their housing. Without help from the Reducing School Mobility Program, Esmeralda said her family would likely be homeless today and would need to rely on family members nearby for a place to stay.

Preventing the family from having an eviction on their record was also a great benefit. As evictions become more common in Dane County's highly competitive rental market, landlords have greater freedom to select their tenants. Consequently, landlords are more inclined to favor applicants with a history of eviction or recent homelessness over those who do. By preventing evictions, we can disrupt this cycle. This is just one of many moving accounts of lives touched by Attic Angel's community grants. When you support the signature events, you're not just raising funds—you're raising hopes. Thank you.



# Sustain-Ability: Gift Wrapping

By: Janelle Taylor, AAC Housing Manager

The holiday season is upon us! As you prepare to shower your loved ones with time, food, and gifts, be mindful to spread cheer and not waste. The holidays mark a period of extravagance and sometimes even excess when it comes to dining, decorating, gifting, and receiving. The environmental costs of this excess are shocking.

According to a study completed by the Stockholm Environmental Institute in 2007, titled *The Carbon Cost of Christmas*, “Our total consumption and spending on food, travel, lighting, and gifts over three days of festivities could result in as much as 1400 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions (CO<sub>2</sub>) per person - equivalent to the weight of 1,000 Christmas puddings! This is 5.5% of our total annual carbon footprint.” I can only imagine what the numbers might reflect 17 years later, but it would be safe to conclude they have only increased. So, where can we make an easy change with a positive outcome? Let’s unwrap the impact of gift wrapping.



Here is the naughty list of facts about gift wrap.

- The production of one pound of wrapping paper generates 3.5 pounds of carbon emissions while using up 1.3 pounds of fossil fuel.
- Americans use 4.6 million pounds of wrapping paper annually, mainly during the holiday season.
  - Approximately 2.3 million pounds of wrapping paper, or half the amount used, winds up in landfills.
- Many kinds of wrapping paper are not 100% paper and cannot be recycled.
  - Shiny, colorful, metallic, and glittery wrapping papers are lined or manufactured with plastic.
- Traditional Scotch Tape is not recyclable, and if it is present on recyclable gift wrap, the paper will still end up in the landfill.

This year, I challenge us to try sustainable alternatives to traditional gift wrapping. When looking for eco-friendly gift-wrapping alternatives, you can consider options like decorating brown paper rolls or bags with drawings or stamps, presenting small gifts in reusable glass jars, or using fabric as a reusable wrapping material that can be used again and again. All of these are sure to impress.

To encourage our community to try a new approach to gift wrapping this year, we will host a Sustainable Gift Wrapping activity in the Studio at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please get yourself on the environment’s nice list this year, and remember that even if you and your loved ones keep gift-giving to a minimum, the combined environmental impact of gift wrapping and supplies can add up in a decidedly un-merry way.

# Rock Steady Boxing Comes To Attic Angel

By: Nicole Faust, Wellness Director



Rock Steady Boxing, a unique exercise program, based on training used by boxing pros, and adapted to people with Parkinson's disease, will now be available to Attic Angel Community. The program involves regular exercises, such as stretching, strength training, balancing, and lots of non-contact boxing, led by experienced trainers/coaches. Rock Steady Boxing serves both men and women of all ages and levels of ability.



The Rock Steady Boxing Method was developed in Indianapolis over the course of seven years. In 2012, the Training was launched to share the Rock Steady Boxing Method with other people who are fighting back against Parkinson's. Today, there are over 770 Rock Steady Boxing affiliate programs around the world, initiated by certified Rock Steady Boxing "Coaches." All coaches completed the requirements of Rock Steady Boxing and have been officially certified.

The Wellness department (Nicole, Kelly, and Trevor) has successfully completed the Rock Steady Boxing Certification Training, and are certified to offer Rock Steady Boxing training classes to individuals with Parkinson's disease who are part of Attic Angel Community. Classes start January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. More details to come!!!

## WeCare Connect

By: Attic Angel Human Resources Team

We are excited to share insights into our organizational health and culture trends each month. From happiness and engagement to appreciation and more, our culture data will keep you informed and connected to the heart of our organization! Peer data shows us how we match up with our competitors, providing valuable insights into our performance and positioning in the industry.

Metric Shared: Appreciation

Displays a score indicating whether your employees feel appreciated for their work.



# What Are Attic Angel Community Residents Doing About Climate Change?

By: Joan McCarthy, Prairie Point Resident

Most Attic Angel Community residents who still drive have gasoline-powered cars. Some of the residents drive electric cars or hybrids. I wondered what research tells us about investing in a new car that is hybrid or electric. “After all, there is a cost to building a new car, so why don’t I just keep the one I already have?”

Here’s a quote from the United States Environmental Protection Agency:

“Emissions from the construction and disposal of any type of vehicle are only about 15% of the emissions.” The US Energy Information Administration says that “CO2 emissions from motor gasoline consumption accounted for 22% of all CO2 emissions in the US.”

That is about half of the amount needed to cut CO2 (greenhouse gas) emissions to reach the 2030 international goals.

Here is what John and Margo Hanson (Prairie Point residents) said about their cars.

“Margo and I have been driving all-electric cars for seven years. Prior to that, we drove plug-in hybrid cars for about 4 years. We feel a responsibility to reduce our personal greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible. Since our rooftop solar panels produce enough electricity to meet our household requirements and enough to charge both cars, we have zero greenhouse gas emissions from our cars. Any Prairie Point resident who has rooftop solar can do the same. We would love to see more electric cars in Prairie Point.”

What if you don’t drive or you don’t want to purchase a new car? WHY NOT take the bus? It’s ELECTRIC! Gary and Suzannah Sisler (Prairie Point Residents) used the Bus Rapid Transit from the West Terminal. Here’s what they have to say about their ride.

“The new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system provides an easy and convenient way for Prairie Point residents to attend Overture performances, art fairs, Concerts on the Square, and other events in downtown Madison and beyond. The West terminal is conveniently located nearby on Junction Road where there is ample parking, and the cost to ride for seniors is only one dollar. We used the BRT to have lunch downtown and to attend a Saturday afternoon performance at the Overture Center. It was so much better than parking downtown (especially on days of Badger Games and Farmer’s Market).”

Purchasing an electric vehicle or riding the bus are only two of the ways you can do something about your carbon emissions. What are your goals for reducing carbon emissions? We want to hear about it! Please email a quote to [joanmariemccarthy@gmail.com](mailto:joanmariemccarthy@gmail.com).



# Garden Gab

By: Grace Huddleston, Lead Horticulturist, Attic Angel Grounds Team

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Snow is right around the corner this time of year! Do you have what you need to be safe this winter season? Winter storms can bring a variety of risks, including ice, deep snow drifts, limited visibility, and even power outages. During our Snow Safety Seminar, we learned about these seven tips from FEMA so that you can be #winterready.



- **Take extra precautions to avoid falls** - stay inside when weather is bad, wear non-skid footwear, utilize railings and mobility aids - even if you do not normally need them. Remember to take your time, and dry your shoes after being out in the snow.
- **Know the signs of Hypothermia** - Look out for yourself and others! Early signs include: cold hands and feet, puffy or swollen face, pale skin, shivering, slow or slurred speech, and feeling sleepy, angry, or confused.
- **Medical Conditions can put you at increased risk** - Diabetes, thyroid issues, Parkinson's disease, arthritis, and memory issues can be affected by the cold winter temperatures. Certain medications affect body heat. Ask your doctor what you can do to stay safe in the winter months if you or someone you love is affected by these.
- **Power Outage Safety** - Generators can cause carbon monoxide poisoning if not used correctly by homeowners. Stay informed by watching or listening to the local weather stations, preserve heat by closing blinds and unused rooms, stay warm with extra layers of clothing, eat regular meals, and avoid caffeine and alcohol.
- **Create a Winter Emergency Plan** - Assess your individual needs and create an emergency kit where you can easily access it. Sign up for Winter Weather alerts. Engage your support network for safe winter transportation. Check-in on friends or ask others to check in on you. Make sure at least one other person knows about your emergency plan.
- **Stay Warm Indoors** - Cool temperatures can lead to hypothermia in adults! Keep your thermostat above 68 degrees. Anything less than 66 can cause hypothermia in older adults without proper clothing. Make use of draft stoppers, blankets, hot drinks, and warm meals. Stay active and move around to stay warm and cozy all winter long.
- **Energy and Food Assistance** - For your friends who might still live outside a community or other staff and community members, remind them that there are programs to help with winter heat and food such as Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), and Food Assistance. Dial 2-1-1 to learn about your local resources or visit 211.org.

Previously Attic Angel has offered salt shaker cups to residents for their own personal use. We will continue this program again this year. Use the self-serve salt bins to refill yours or visit Reception after December 4th to pick up your own salt cup!



# Heads Up & Reminders

To stay up to date on community events, residents may check activity calendars, Uniguest, or contact to their Life Enrichment Coordinator. Staff may check their email or Paycor.

## Wellness Update

There will be no Wellness Classes or one-on-ones on **Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)** or **Wednesday, December 25th (Christmas Day)**.  
Have a Merry Christmas!

## Continuing Education

### **Dec. 2nd: Traveling in Vietnam/Cambodia**

Gary Theisen, Professor, University of Iowa, Virginia, Director of Research and Planning, Academy for Educational Development, Washington D.C., Photographer, Prairie Point resident

### **Dec. 9th: Angel Choir**

### **Dec. 16th: No Public Program**

Angel Choir will perform for Attic Angel residents in Gorham Glen, Bryant Ridge, and The Haven

### **Dec. 23rd & 30th: No Program - Winter Break**

## A Real-Life Attic Angel Library Mystery

The Attic Angel Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee is working to solve a mystery and needs your help. About 30 books from the AAP Library DEI collection are missing. All the books have a pink dot on the bottom of the spine. Detectives have searched high and low and have checked with Library Angels, reception staff, and committee members. Another detective looked to see if the books had been checked out, but alas, they have not. Detectives also searched the library to see if the books had been shelved elsewhere but had no luck. Committee members are feeling very sad because many of these books were donated by members to share with AAP residents. We need your help! Have you seen any of these books? If you find any, please contact Sue Robinson (susanrobinson299@gmail.com) or Meredith Degen (mdegen@tds.net) or tell reception staff.  
Thank you.

## Employee Appreciation Events

### **December 4th:**

Holiday Cookie Decorating

### **December 10th:**

Hot Cocoa Bar

### **December 19th:**

Holiday Pajama Day

### **December 23rd:**

Festive Outfit Day (wear your holiday swag!)

Check your email and posted flyers for details!

Staff: Want to help plan employee appreciation events? Join the committee! They meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 2:30pm in the Quiet Room.

## Coat Drive

WellRive (formerly Moving Forward) is holding a coat drive **until December 31st**. If you have old winter coats, gloves, hats, etc. bring them down to AAP reception and drop them off in the silver box outside the Library!

All items dropped off will be given to the River Food Pantry and the Salvation Army.

## Giving Tree

There is still time to purchase a gift from the giving tree! A registry has been set up at Target and purchases can be sent to Reach Dane, 2096 Red Arrow Trail, Fitchburg, WI 53711. Stop by the reception desk to scan the QR code to access the registry online. All gifts benefit children enrolled in Dane County Head Start & Early Head Start programs.  
Thank you for your generosity!

# Attic Angel Community Happenings



Staff wore some scary good costumes for our Halloween costume contest! People were able to vote for their favorite on our Facebook page, and our winner was Leisa in her (homemade!) bat costume.



A big thanks to everyone who helped make the Holidays Galore & More Sale a success! The array of clothing, jewelry, decorations, food, and more made it a great shopping extravaganza!

## Community Connection

Community Connection is a monthly newsletter for Attic Angel Community residents, family/friends, and staff. Published at the start of each month, it is posted on the resident portals and distributed by email to staff. Submissions are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following month's publication.

Submit notices, news, and interesting stories electronically to [NewsletterSubmissions@atticangel.org](mailto:NewsletterSubmissions@atticangel.org)

**Publisher:** Attic Angel Community  
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