

Community Connection

JUNE 2025

In This Issue:

Best Wishes for New Retirees
(continued) | 2-3

Therapy At Home & Garden
Gab | 4

SustainAbility Committee
Report | 5

AAPP Board Highlights & Front
Desk Focus | 6

Heads Up & Reminders | 7

Community Happenings | 8-11



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.

Best Wishes for New Retirees

47 years! Joanne Streich * Last Day: June 25



The year was 1978, and the place was Segoe Road – Attic Angel's former address. Joanne Streich was fresh out of Madison Area Technical College and her first job was to be a cook for Attic Angel. Her supervisor thought it was important for Joanne to learn all aspects of the dining operation before starting to cook, and down the road her boss suggested more education in dietary management. It was this continual encouragement for growth that spurred Joanne to spread her wings and become Dining Services Manager.

"I love doing such a variety of things," she says, recounting tasks of cake decorating, cooking, ordering food and supplies, and supervising the daily operations. "I really enjoy catering and planning for special functions, like the Tudor Dinner during the holidays."

A professional highlight is the award she won from the Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. It honored her quick and thorough leadership to re-create a cooking space when Attic Angel's kitchen was suddenly out of commission for a couple of months after heavy storm damage.

In retirement, Joanne will return to her childhood home in Montello to live in the farmhouse that's been in her family for more than 100 years. "I'm definitely gonna miss the residents, along with my coworkers," she says. "Because I was here so long, coming to work was like coming home every day."

13 Years – Brenda Grabandt * Last Day: July 30

Being a Resident Services Unit Clerk for senior living is like a walk in the park, according to Brenda Grabandt, who held a similar position with a local hospital for 23 years before coming to Attic Angel. She much prefers the more natural rhythm of life in senior living over the frantic pace of an ICU.



continued on page 2 1

“I get to know and see a lot of residents, families, and staff,” she says of her work in Attic Angel’s Bryant Ridge, where her office is on the third floor, and Gorham Glen, where she had been stationed previously. Brenda helps residents by arranging rides to medical visits and making appointments with healthcare providers who hold office hours at Attic Angel. In addition, she processes orders, files lab sheets and other paperwork, and helps at the reception desk of Attic Angel Place. “I will truly miss the residents and many coworkers/friends that I have had the pleasure of working with and making special bonds with.”

Retirement at the Grabandt household will happen in stages. Brenda gets a year off to herself, and she plans to spend more time with her sons and their families, including five grandchildren. Then when her husband retires, the two hope to add on adventures to explore places like the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, and New Zealand.

12 Years – **Tim Johnson** * Last Day: TBD in July



For Tim Johnson, retirement means trading one kind of note for another. His role as staff accountant and, previously, billing manager, had him juggling dollar signs, but those will soon be replaced by music notes – specifically, the angelic sounds of the harp.

“Music will play a significant role in my retirement,” he says. “In addition to practicing more on the harp, I plan to volunteer some of my time to play in retirement community settings,” such as Attic Angel and St. Mary’s Care Center, where his mother lives. “I inherited her piano, which has been in our family for 55 years. As a kid, I learned to read music, so I also plan to resume playing the piano.”

Admittedly, tickling the ivories gives a happier sound than his tapping on a computer keyboard for Finance Department work, which Tim has been doing from home since 2020. The Covid pandemic shifted the way much business was conducted, merging home offices with the workplace. When he first started with Attic Angel, his office was in the main hallway near the art studio, perhaps yielding more ideas for his retirement.

“My wife and I are looking forward to more day trips to enjoy art exhibits, museums, and state parks,” he says, adding that they also plan to nurture their all-encompassing front- and backyard gardens. Overall, his vision of retirement is reflected in his picture: relaxing among the simple riches of his life.

10 Years – **Kelly Cheramy** * Last Day: July 4

Kelly Cheramy’s fingerprints will forever be on Attic Angel, thanks to her creative and often playful work on branding, marketing, and historical storytelling. Her ad campaigns and messaging unfolded in printed brochures, the Attic Angel website, magazine articles, TV commercials, events, and more.

Among her favorite accomplishments are the 130th anniversary commemorative storybook (*The One and Only Attic Angel: A Madison Original Since 1889*) and a citywide birthday party that transformed the campus into a lively playground for all ages. Another great pleasure was orchestrating a resident fair called Glory Days, where participants shared knowledge and talents in a visual, interactive, and personal way that underscored the vibrancy of Attic Angel residents. Since 2021, as more properties came under Attic Angel Management Services, Kelly has also enjoyed being an open-house ambassador for Oakmont Senior Community in Verona and Olympic Village at Sun Prairie.



In retirement, which Kelly sees as a commencement (see how she made a mortarboard and stole out of her business cards!), she plans to keep playing and exploring, staying fit both physically and mentally. She will

continued from page 2

teach swim lessons, be a substitute teacher for Christian schools, and log travel around the U.S., Caribbean, and Europe. But Kelly's immediate, driving priority is this: "I want to spend as much playtime as possible with my grandchildren and husband while I'm still young." Kelly gives a special shout-out to wonderful Attic Angel residents, some of whom have become dear friends, "for showing me how retirement is properly done."

9 Years – Susan Gill-Kloppenborg * Last Day: June 5



Attic Angel provided a beautiful second career for Susan Gill-Kloppenborg, who had come from 27 years of 24/7 corporate sales and marketing. Her daughter, who had worked at Attic Angel while eyeing a degree in nursing, suggested the path to Susan. Together, the mother-daughter duo earned their certifications as nursing assistants. "I ended up doing clinicals at Attic Angel, and I knew from my daughter's experience that this is where I wanted to work." Her experience as an RSA-Certified for Bryant Ridge did not disappoint.

"It's honestly difficult to pick a favorite memory because I have so many," says Susan, who waxes eloquent about learning from her "very talented, compassionate, and dedicated coworkers" and about the privilege of getting to

know and care for so many wonderful residents. "Such special memories will always hold close in my heart. I can't think of a more rewarding way than this to complete my career journey."

On Susan's first day of retirement, she and her husband will make their way to their cottage up north and enjoy the weekend planning a summer of lake fun, future travel, and lots of time with their children and spouses, grandchildren, other family, and many friends. Amid the excitement for the future, however, she says she will miss seeing her Attic Angel family every week. "I wish everyone all the very best!"

5 Years – John Kaiser * Last Day: June 27

As Chief Financial Officer (CFO), John Kaiser trained his eyes on the numbers, whether for budgeting, improving accounting processes, or long-range planning. Previously, he managed financials for a hospital and was interested to work in a different part of the health care industry.

"My favorite part is trying to steer the organization to remain on budget and to see how close my projections compare to reality," he explains. "The annual audit is a kind of validation for what we do and I take pride in continuing Attic Angel's history of very clean audits."

In addition to overseeing the financials for Attic Angel Association, Place, and Prairie Point, John has also been involved with each of the senior living properties served by a fourth corporation: Attic Angel Management Services. It's a big umbrella that includes not just numbers for today, but planning and projections for the future.

John's career experience in senior living has proved helpful for his own retirement planning, he admits. His first day will likely include a bike ride, a stop for breakfast, and later a game of pickle ball. "My wife and I both like to travel and bike and we're planning a ride in Ireland next summer and hopefully many other interesting places." In the meantime, he will be a substitute bus driver for St. Coletta in Jefferson, serving people with special needs, and is looking for other community-involvement opportunities.



Therapy At Home

By: Anna Zins, Director of Rehab, Attic Angel Therapy Department

Hello Residents!

Did you know the Attic Angel Therapy Department can provide physical, occupational, and speech therapy services to you in your home?

If you and your doctor decide you need physical, occupational, or speech therapy services and you either cannot or do not want to come to the therapy clinic on the main campus, the therapists and their supplies can come to you.

We will work with you in your home environment to get you stronger, regain or maintain your independence, improve your balance and mobility, or work on your thinking, memory, and speech. Whether you need therapy after being in the hospital, experiencing a fall, illness, injury, decline due to the aging process, or need a tune-up, therapy can assist you in your home or the clinic with a doctor's order.

Our goal is to help you be able to stay in your home as long as possible and want you to be as independent and as safe as possible.

If you have any questions, would like more information, or would like us stop by and say hello, please feel free to reach out!

We can't wait to meet you!

The Therapy Department is located in Gorham Glen. Greenfield Rehab can be reached at 608-662-8868, and their fax number is 888-705-5824.



Greenfield Rehab Team (L to R): Erin Bruehlman (SLP), Carly Lynch (COTA), Jerome Sindberg (PT), Anna Zins (OTR/L, CNS)

Garden Gab

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

April showers bring May flowers, but what the heck is there to look forward to in June?

June is one of the best months of the year to plant new plants. June is also the month in which we celebrate the solstice – June 20th at 10:42 PM to be exact – the official astronomical beginning of summer! Warm-season crops such as corn, squash, cucumbers, and melons will be planted by farmers and gardeners all around. Trees and perennials also do especially well when planted in June. Prairie Point will see many new garden additions this month, while Attic Angel Place will begin planting annual flowers at the main entrance, the courtyards, the cutting garden, and the kitchen gardens. Celebrate the coming of summer by saying hello to all the new flowers and try out our new outdoor spaces! Did you know – there's even a gas fire pit and grill which you or your family can reserve. We look forward to seeing you outside.

SustainAbility Committee Report

By: Sue Robinson, Angel Volunteer

As you learned from last month's Sustainability Committee article, sustainability encompasses numerous environmentally responsible practices, one of which is recycling. Last month's article hinted at improving our recycling opportunities here in the Attic Angel community. But first, we would like to explain some of the initiatives the Attic Angel community is already undertaking for specialized recycling actions in which you can participate.

Attic Angel collects all types of batteries for recycling – not just AA, AAA, C, and D but hearing aid and electronics batteries as well. Prairie Point residents can drop these off in the labeled box next to the gray garbage container inside the gate at the model home at 423 Meadow Rose Lane. Attic Angel Place residents can bring batteries to the reception desk and staff will put them in a recycling container in the office. Orange plastic prescription pill bottles with lids also are collected in Prairie Point at the model home. Place these in the large gray garbage container inside the gate by the garage. Do you have papers that need to be shredded? Attic Angel Place has a large, locked bin in the library in which you can drop papers that Access Shredding Service will collect for shredding, and the shredded material will then be recycled. Please help our Attic Angel community by participating in these recycling opportunities!

Thanks to all who participated in the UW School of Pharmacy's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day at Attic Angel in April. The police department shared that they collected 28.6 pounds of medication!



Box for batteries at
Prairie Point



Bin for prescription pill
bottles at Prairie Point



Access Shredding bin in
the AAP Library

If you have an idea for a sustainability practice or project, please contact one of the committee members listed here: Janelle.Taylor@atticangel.org or Sue Robinson susan-robinson299@gmail.com.

AAPP Board Highlights

By: Kathleen Roseboom, Executive Assistant

At the first meeting of the 2025-26 AAPP Board, new board directors Deb Dieter '01, Krissy Mayer '17, and Sarah Rose '76 were welcomed, and retiring board directors Diane Hornung '06, Delwyn Keane '15, and Craig Hungerford were thanked for their years of service. Hungerford has agreed to be an advisor to the board as needed. The slate of officers was approved with Kristen Peterson '14 as AAPP Board Chair, Carol Gillen '18 as Vice Chair, Mary Lou Rashke '90 as Secretary, and Bob Zellers as Treasurer.

President/CEO Michelle Godfrey provided an overview of AAPP and the senior living industry in general. Campus Executive Director Kim Blum provided an update on dining services. Attic Angel Community Housing Manager Janelle Taylor reviewed the Housing Manager report and shared that, due to traffic complaints filed with the City of Madison in 2024, the low-mow area along Pleasant View Road will be mowed by a combination of City Streets Division staff and Attic Angel staff to maintain proper sightlines.

Finally, board directors volunteered for committee assignments. Peterson will continue as the board representative on the AAPP Operations committee. Zellers agreed to be the representative on the AAPP Contingency & Replacement Reserve committee. Returning board director Sue Robinson '20 will continue on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee, and Gillen will represent AAPP on the Association's Policy Committee.

The next AAPP Board meeting is scheduled for August 7.

Front Desk Focus: Sundries

By: Attic Angel Reception Team

Sundries are various household items that one would find at your local drug store. This may include toothpaste, detergent, or toilet paper. What if we told you these items are available for purchase right here at Attic Angel? Our very own front reception desk has some of these items available to you! You could save yourself, your friends, or your family from needing to take a quick run to the store.

If you are looking for something specific and are unsure if the desk has it, you can ask any of the receptionists and they will provide a breakdown of available items, along with their prices. If an item is not available at reception, depending on which level of care you reside in, there are opportunities for shopping each Tuesday, or our Angel volunteers can take you to your desired destination.

The AAP reception desk is open 7am-9pm Monday through Friday, and from 8:30am-4:30pm on weekends. Reception can be reached at 608-662-8842 or simply dial "0" on an Attic Angel landline phone.

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.

2025 Signature Events

Golf Open:

August 25th

If interested, reach out to
golf@atticangel.org or call 608-662-8900

Fashion Finds Sale:

September 26th & 27th

Holidays Galore & More Sale:

November 14th & 15th

Continuing Education

Programming will resume in **September 2025**. Enjoy your summer!

Prairie Point Ice Cream Social

WHEN:

Sunday, June 22nd from 1:30-3:00pm

WHERE:

Garden Room at Attic Angel Place

Come join your fellow Prairie Pointers for a bowl of vanilla ice cream with yummy toppings....chocolate, caramel, and strawberries!

Prairie Point Ladies Luncheon

When: June 10, 2025

Time: 11:30am

Where: Attic Angel Place Garden Room

Note: This is the second Tuesday of the month

Choose One:

1. California Chicken Sandwich: Chicken breast, bacon, avocado, w/chipotle aioli spread on a bun; served with chips
2. Pulled Pork on a bun served with Coleslaw
3. Soup and Salad Bar

Includes beverage and a dessert

Cost: \$20.00 (this will be charged to your monthly account)

Please wear your Prairie Point nametag

Call Karen Perzentka at (608) 833-4006 with your choice of meal by June 3rd.

Upcoming Musical Performance

We would like to warmly invite you to an upcoming performance on **June 9th at 3:30 PM in the Community Room**. It will be a violin and piano performance brought to us by the Monroe Street Arts Center featuring music by Handel, Beethoven, and Brahms, and will last approximately 45–50 minutes.

This performance is free and open to the public! After the concert, there will be a brief reception with cookies. No RSVP is required, but we hope to see you there!

Community Events

June 12th-18th

CNA Week

Stay tuned for flyers and information about fun events planned all week!

June 20th

Community Room: 10am-3pm

Entertainment, Ice Cream, Face Painting, Crafts, Trivia, and More

Share Your Moments With Us!

We're always looking for special moments to share from around the Attic Angel community — whether it's a laugh with friends, a creative project, photos from a recent activity, or any other glimpse of your daily life. Send your photos or ideas to **SocialMediaProject@AtticAngel.org** for a chance to be featured on our social media pages!

Attic Angel Community Happenings



Happiness was blooming in our Studio when residents were able to work alongside our Lead Horticulturist, Grace, to work on seed starting! This was a great way for residents to try their hand at making their own garden.



AAP Resident Mary



Angel Volunteer Barb



AAP Resident Lenore

Nurses Week would not have been complete without celebrating some of our very own right here at Attic Angel! Thank you to residents, staff, and Angels who have given so much to the nursing field.

Attic Angel Community Happenings



We put the FUN in Mah Jongg Fun Day!

Thank you to all who attended to help raise money to enrich the lives of Attic Angel residents. You are all winners in our eyes!

There are many beautiful places around Attic Angel to enjoy on a warm summer day. Check them out with friends or family!



Attic Angel Community Happenings



It's a celebration!
Thanks to all who helped us celebrate Attic Angel being a Top Work Place. We could not have done it without you!



Attic Angel Community Happenings

No better way to kick off Summer at Attic Angel than Brat Fest!



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 15th of each month for the following month's publication. Submit notices, news, and interesting stories electronically to

**NewsletterSubmissions@
atticangel.org**

Publisher: Attic Angel
Community
8301 Old Sauk Road, Middleton
WI 53562 • 608.662.8842
www.AtticAngel.org

