

Community Connection

MAY 2026

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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.

My Life Story

By: Don Wright, AAP Resident

My story began in Greenwich, Connecticut on January 28th, 1928. I was named Donald Perry Wright, Jr., born to my father of the same name and my mother, Helen Gardner Wright. I'm sorry to say that he left our family when I was twelve years old, making me the man-of-the-house. This obviously made it difficult for my mother, me, and my two younger brothers. My mother found it necessary to work. Even with her work schedule she made time for me and my brothers Russell, 18 months younger, and William (Bill), four years younger than myself.

The Boy Scouts became a very important part of my life. I voraciously earned merit badges and progressed through the ranks to Eagle Scout at the age of 19. I became a Scout leader and have continued in this role my entire life. I am still registered as a Scout leader and merit badge counselor.

Scouting was just one of my interests as a young boy. I was a distance runner in Track and Field and Cross-County teams during high school and college. Many years later, when I served in the US Army, stationed in France, I finished in third place in all US Army competitions, just missing the opportunity to compete in the Army World Championship.

I began collecting insects (mostly butterflies) from the time I was 10 years old. The curator of the museum in Greenwich was very active in finding and displaying insects and butterflies from South America. He would make trips every couple of years to find and bring back displays for the museum. We became close friends!

I developed many interesting hobbies. One of them was to build and learn to play a string musical instrument called a "Dulcimer." I still enjoy playing this instrument for my friends at Attic Angel when asked to do so. Another hobby I picked up was operating my ham (or amateur) radio. I use Morse Code to communicate with people all over the world. See the map with pushpins on my wall with the thousands of locations I have contacted over the years. I have been an operator since the early 1970s.

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My childhood was not all about playing. I was a good student. I learned from books, experiences, and by collecting many things, including stamps. I am rather well-known and respected for my philatelic writing and journaling. A philatelist is a person who studies, collects, and organizes postage stamps and related postal materials. I specialize in insects, with an emphasis on butterflies. Over 40 years ago I wrote and published a 653-page book on this subject, and I have periodically updated it ever since.

After graduating from Greenwich High School in 1945, I received my bachelor's degree in Entomology, the study of insects that explores their biology, behavior, classification, ecology, and interactions with humans, other organisms, and the environment. It has applications in agriculture, medicine, forensics, and conservation.

Following college, I served in the US Army for three years during the Korean War. When I arrived back home in Connecticut in 1953, I became employed by the pesticide company I had previously worked for part-time during college, American Cyanamid. I was responsible for an insectary rearing 12 insect species with the assistance of six technicians. I continued to work for American Cyanamid for my entire career. I worked there for a total of 42 years, helping them research and develop thousands of chemicals and acquire 256 U.S. patents. I am very proud of my accomplishments.

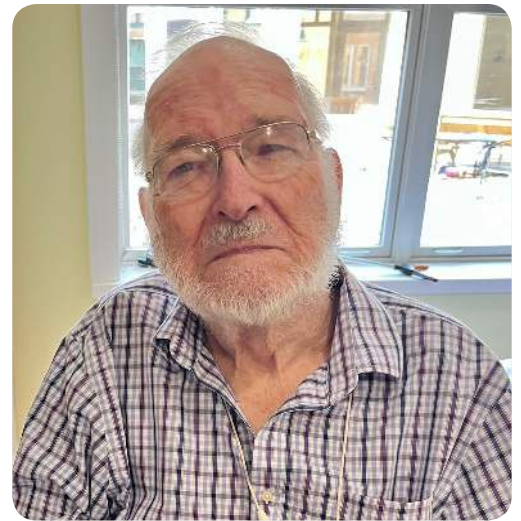
While ridesharing to work, I met Ellen Kniffin, a commercial artist who had worked in New York City for 8 years. She decided that working closer to home was preferable to commuting to NYC, and that is how we met as we ride-shared together. We became man and wife in 1957. Ellen was a talented artist and created many paintings, drawings and other art projects for our home and family. We enjoyed many activities together including gardening, travel, boating, skiing, hiking, beach time, and participation in our Presbyterian Church. Ellen and I purchased a home in New Jersey. We raised our family there together, starting with Steven, born in 1957, followed by Robert (Bob) born in 1959 and finally Andy born in 1961.

During the years of their childhood, we had many wonderful adventures together. We spent time in upstate New York and Martha's Vineyard each summer, traveled often and participated in their sports, school, and Boy Scouting activities. We backpacked on the Appalachian Trail (New Hampshire to Virginia) 100 miles per year with their Boy Scout troop under my leadership.

We first moved to Madison eight years ago and moved to Attic Angel retirement community in 2021. We enjoyed doing many things together in our retirement. Ellen passed away three years ago shortly after being hospitalized for pneumonia.

As I think back on my life, I am proud of many things. I am most proud of my kids. Much of their success was after they went off to college. I think my wife and I gave them the foundation for success, and they did the rest of it on their own. I am also proud of my Boy Scout leadership. You have to be proud of 82 years of activity in any field of service. I am proud of my writing. My Journal articles go to over 9,000 people. My book also goes to thousands of people. These are the things that keep me busy and out of trouble.

I am so pleased that my family visits me often. I treasure my lifetime of learning and enjoying a wide variety of interests. I am blessed to be part of a loving family.



Don: The youngest 98-year-old you will ever meet!

The Attic Angel Store Is Now Open Year Round!

By: Human Resources Team

We're excited to announce that the Online Attic Angel Store will now be open for ordering every month beginning May 1st! This opportunity allows everyone in our community to take part in celebrating what makes Attic Angel so special. Whether you're providing care and service, generously giving your time as a volunteer, or calling Attic Angel home, each of you plays an essential role in shaping our community. By making the store accessible to all, we hope to strengthen connections across our campuses, foster a sense of unity, and highlight the shared values that bring us together.

The store will be open from the 1st through the 15th of each month, then will temporarily close while orders are processed. We'll also be updating items seasonally and welcome your feedback on what you'd like to see in the future. Feedback can be sent to Renee Krueger, Total Rewards Specialist, at renee.krueger@atticangel.org. To visit the store, review items available, and place an order, please visit: <https://atticangel2026.itemorder.com/>



Our online store just got better!

ATTIC ANGEL STORE

Show your Attic Angel Pride!
Our gear is a way to represent who we are as a team. Whether you're at work or out in the community, Attic Angel swag shows your connection and pride in what we do together.

NEW Ordering Window
Starting May 1st, the store will be open EVERY MONTH from the 1st to the 15th. You will have the option to have the items sent directly to your home (\$) or free shipping to Attic Angel.

Wide Assortment
We have a wide assortment of apparel to choose from. We plan to refresh items based on the season to give you the best options!

ATTIC ANGEL
atticangel2026.itemorder.com



THE DASH (Original) by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the tombstone
From the beginning to the end.

He noted first came the date of the birth
And spoke the following date with tears.
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between the years.

For that dash represents all the time
That they spent life on Earth.
And now only those who loved them
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not how much we own,
The cars, the house, the cash.
What matters is how we live and love,
And how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard.
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more,
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect
And more often wear a smile,
remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy is being read
With your life's actions to rehash,
would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?



Top Place to Work Celebration

By: Jackie Aguilar, Director of People & Culture

We recently shared the exciting news that Attic Angel was named a Top Place to Work and received the Meaningfulness Award, and we're proud to share that we've been recognized again. Attic Angel has now been named a 2026 Senior Care's Best Place to Work by Activated Insights. This recognition is based on confidential, third-party survey feedback from employees and reflects the real experiences of our team.

What makes this especially meaningful is that it's based on real feedback from employees. It comes from one of the largest third-party surveys in senior care, and organizations have to meet certain standards and participation levels to be recognized.



This recognition reinforces what we strive for every day, a workplace where people feel valued, supported, and part of something meaningful. Thank you for the care, compassion, and commitment you bring to Attic Angel. It is what makes this community such a special place to work.

Mark your calendars for our celebration on Tuesday, May 12th from 11-3pm in the Garden Room!

Almonds: A Superfood in Your Senior Diet

By: Rebecca Beran, Director of Dining Services, New Horizon Foods

Almonds are often hailed as a “superfood,” and for good reason. Packed with essential nutrients, these crunchy nuts can be a valuable addition to a senior’s diet, offering a range of health benefits to support overall well-being.

The Benefits of Almonds

- **Heart Health:** The healthy fats in almonds can help lower bad cholesterol levels and promote food heart health.
- **Bone & Muscle Strength:** Almonds provide magnesium and calcium, nutrients that contribute to strong bones and help reduce the risk of fractures. They also contain plant-based protein to support muscle maintenance.
- **Brain & Nerve Health:** Vitamin E, abundant in almonds, acts as an antioxidant that supports brain health and helps protect cells from damage.
- **Digestive Health:** Almonds contain fiber, which supports healthy digestion.
- **Energy & Satisfaction:** Because almonds contain a combination of protein, healthy fats, and fiber, they help keep you feeling full and energized between meals.

Almond Breakfast Parfait

Ingredients:

¼ cup Greek yogurt
¼ cup granola
2 Tbsp almonds, chopped
Fresh berries

Instructions:

1. Layer the Greek yogurt with granola and almonds – as many and as much as you'd like.
2. Top with fresh berries.
3. Enjoy a satisfying and nutritious start to your day!



SustainAbility: Sustainability Committee Report

By: Sue Robinson, Sustainability Committee Member

In April's Sustainability Committee article, you learned about preparation of less common items that can go in our recycle bins at AAP and Prairie Point. This article will touch on some items that can be recycled but will require taking the items to a special drop-off site. In Madison, these sites are located at 402 S. Point Rd. (not far from Attic Angel!), 1504 Quann-Olin Pkwy. and 4602 Sycamore Ave. In Middleton, the site is located at 4340 Parmenter St. Days and hours are limited in some locations and seasons, so call or check websites to get that information. Sometimes you must show identification to prove residency.



Madison: In addition to yard waste and brush, the Madison drop-off sites accept batteries (e.g. alkaline, rechargeable, hearing aid, electronic button type), electronics (e.g. TVs, computers, phones, electric cords), small appliances (e.g. microwaves, vacuum cleaners, coffee makers), scrap metal (e.g. ironing boards, pots and pans, coat hangers, bed frames, step stools, hand tools), Styrofoam (block packaging type – not squishy, clean food containers, no pellets), and wood (e.g. chairs, stools, bed frames, headboards).

Middleton: On their website, Middleton lists the following as being accepted at the drop-off site. Batteries (e.g. alkaline, rechargeable, hearing aid, electronic button type), durable medical equipment in good condition (e.g. canes, walkers, wheelchairs but no bathrooming items), electronics (e.g. TVs, computers, microwaves, small appliances, phones, electric cords), scrap metal (e.g. ironing boards, pots and pans, coat hangers, bed frames, step stools, hand tools), Styrofoam (block packaging type – not squishy, clean food containers, no pellets), wood (e.g. chairs, stools, bed frames, headboards), and hard plastics (e.g. crates, lawn chairs, buckets).

A reminder for Prairie Point residents that you can drop off batteries, plastic bags, and prescription pill bottles (labels removed) in the labeled containers on the back patio at the model home at 424 Meadow Rose Ln. AAP residents and staff can drop off batteries in containers in utility rooms (Segoe Heights) or at CNA stations (Bryant Ridge) or at the reception desk. Staff can bring in batteries for drop-off at reception too.

Online Safety

By: Alex Reckard, Parasol Alliance

In today's world, online safety is more important than ever. I recommend being cautious with emails or text messages that sound urgent, especially if you weren't expecting a message from that sender. If an email or text message comes from a sender containing random numbers or characters, it is likely spam and can be deleted. You can also check whether the sender's domain (website) comes from the official source by viewing the message details. Remember, USPS, FedEx, or Amazon would never text you about mail or a package. Avoid clicking on any links if you are unsure, and contact your IT team or the official company's support to confirm the message is legitimate.



Heads Up & Reminders

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

Prairie Point Ladies Luncheon

Tuesday, May 19th, 2026

11:30 AM - Terrace Restaurant at
Attic Angel Place

Cost: \$20 - includes lunch, beverage &
dessert

Hosted By: Karen Perzentka &
Cindy Zellers

For food choice and to RSVP, reach out to
Karen Perzentka (608-833-4006)
by May 13th

Drug Take Back Day

The Dane County Sheriff's Office assisted us with a Drug Take Back event on April 23rd. All meds were placed into evidence at their Public Safety Building to later be destroyed. **Deputy Hayley wanted to relay to us that the weight of the meds, per their scale, amounted to: 24.8 lbs**

Great work safely disposing of medications!

Continuing Education

May 4th: "What It Takes to Be a Canine Officer"

Deputy Cody Woods,
and his companion, Rizzo

May 11th: "Government Efficiency is Not an Oxymoron"

Kenneth Mayer, Emeritus Professor Political
Science, UW Madison

**May 18th: "Natural Path Sanctuary:
Natural Burial"**

Dustin Duve, Director, Natural Path
Sanctuary

May 25th: No Program - Memorial Day

Save the Date!

Attic Sale

Keva Sports Center,
8312 Forsythia St, Middleton

Friday, May 29th:

8am-11am: early bird sale
(entrance ticket required)

11am-4pm: Free admission

Saturday, May 30th:

8am-11:30am: Free admission AND
50% off most items

11:30am: Sales floor closes &
bag sale line up begins

12pm-1pm: \$10 bag sale
(anything you can fit in the bag is \$10 total!)

Junction Ridge Farmer's Market

Attic Angel is proud to partner with the Junction Ridge Farmer's Market, helping bring fresh, locally sourced food and community connection to the neighborhood. **Beginning May 15th and running through September 25th, the market will be open Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Junction Ridge Park (8502 Elderberry Rd, Madison).**

Shoppers can enjoy a variety of offerings including fresh produce, meat, eggs, honey, maple syrup, flowers, and much more. We are excited to support this opportunity to make local foods more accessible while creating a welcoming space for neighbors to gather and connect.

Attic Angel Community Happenings



On April 9th, our Wellness Team put on a Pump It For Parkinson's event to raise awareness for Parkinson's Disease! Staff, residents, Angels, and guests could exercise on a NuStep machine for 10 minutes in order to reach our collective goal of 200,000 steps.

We exceeded our goal and had over 330,000 steps!

Attic Angel Community Happenings



Our Employee Service Awards honor staff members for their years of dedication to Attic Angel.

We had a tremendous group honored this year, ranging from 3 years of service all the way to 30!

April 19th-25th was National Volunteer Week!

As part of the celebration, our outstanding Angel volunteers enjoyed a gathering in our Community Room for refreshments and conversation.



Attic Angel Community Happenings



The Attic Angel reception team put on an NCAA "March Madness" Bracket Challenge for members of Attic Angel Community!

Our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners were (left to right):
Megan S., Lenore J., and Renee K.

Our very own Janelle Taylor, AAPP Housing & Sustainability Manager, recently attended Sustain Dane's Accelerate Sustainability Workshop along with resident Jon McCarthy.

Janelle was a featured speaker and gave a presentation on our Trim the Trash initiative, details of which have been highlighted in past Sustainability Committee articles.



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**

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