ATTIC ANGEL

Community Connection

NOVEMBER 2026

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ATTIC ANGEL
AtticAngel.org

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.

Attic Angel Receives 2026 Top Workplaces Culture Excellence Award for Woman-Led Organizations!

By: Jackie Aguilar, Director of People and Culture





We're excited to share that Attic Angel has received another recognition! Attic Angel has been named a 2026 Top Workplaces Culture Excellence Award winner in the Woman-Led category!

This award recognizes organizations led by women who have fostered strong workplace cultures where employees feel valued, supported, and empowered to succeed.

Like our previous Top Workplaces recognition, this award is based on confidential employee feedback collected through a third-party survey conducted by Energage. It reflects the real experiences and perspectives of our team.

What makes this recognition especially meaningful is that it celebrates both strong leadership and the workplace culture we continue to build together.

Thank you for the care, compassion, and commitment you bring to Attic Angel every day. Your voices, contributions, and dedication continue to make our community a special place to work!

Remembering Our Chaplain, Brian

By: Colleen Keegan, VP of Member Services & Community Education

We loved having Chaplain Brian as part of our Attic Angel family, and we will miss him dearly. Brian passed away peacefully at home on October 15th, leaving us with special memories and so much gratitude for the time we shared.

Brian brought a caring heart and a deep faith to his work. Whether through a conversation, a shared prayer, or simply being there when someone needed him, he helped people feel cared for and connected.

In his obituary, Brian shared that Attic Angel became his dream job because of the people and community here. That feeling was mutual—we were so glad he was ours.

As we remember Brian, we hold his family close in our hearts and carry forward the kindness and love he shared with us. Thank you, Brian, for being part of our lives and making Attic Angel feel even more like home.



~ In Loving Memory ~
Brian Baker
February 28, 1978 - October 15, 2026

We will be holding a Memorial Service for Brian on Tuesday, November 3rd at 3:30pm in the Community Room. All are welcome to join us.

Prairie Point Green Committee Receives State-Wide Award

By: Dennis Dorn, Sustainability Committee Member

Prairie Point's recycling efforts are getting some statewide attention. PP's Green Committee has been recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for its recycling efforts in the category of "senior living." The award is one of five such awards made annually by the DNR. Although the award cites the Green Committee specifically, AAC Sustainability Committee members hope that soon all these practices, and maybe others, will be common to the entire Attic Angel Community.

Many of PP's activities were initiated by Betty Keeney, with help from her husband, Dennis. Betty moved to Prairie Point, already possessing a keen knowledge of recycling issues and practices. While at first a solo effort, Betty's work attracted such interest that in 2023 the Prairie Point Council created a Sustainability (now Green) Committee.

Currently chaired by another recycling advocate, Jon McCarthy, this small committee has produced outstanding results in a brief time. As of 2025, Betty's vision is now shared by a team of six Prairie Point residents, that now conduct the semiannual collections.

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Here's a quick summary of the team's current Recycling Efforts:

- **Filmy Plastic Bags:** These are ubiquitous: coming from groceries, newspapers, cereal bags, storage bags, and even bubble wrap.
- **Pill Bottles:** Here's where communities like AAPP shine, i.e., generate enormous numbers of bottles; our collected bottles go to charitable units for the homeless and canines. Downside — we have to remove the labels.
- **Batteries and Printer Cartridges:** Batteries are among the most corrosive items to hit landfills; ours go to Interstate Batteries for recycling.
- **Egg Cartons:** A new item, but these go to local farmers who reuse them.
- **Table and Garden Waste:** Dane County has collection sites, but Green Box collects table scraps from PP homes; collections return to the community as compost, enriching our soils.
- **"Growing Together" Gardening Group:** Another new initiative, which uses resident volunteers to trim, divide, and replant existing plant stock, keeping community strong and plant costs minimal.
- **Solar Leadership:** Thanks to a 2018 initiative, led by residents "Red" Thompson and Jon MacCarthy involving 42 residential units, which was later aided by a generous donation from residents John and Margo Hansen, all 123 PP units now have solar panels on the roofs; summer monthly electric bills are now often in the $20-30 range.

As the nomination letter concludes: "Through recycling, reuse, composting, gardening, and solar energy, the Prairie Point Green Committee has created a model of resident-led conservation that is both impactful and replicable. The community deserves recognition for its success and for the innovative and important niche they fill in community-based environmental sustainability - and service to seniors."



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

RECYCLING EXCELLENCE AWARD

for

OVERALL PROGRAM

is presented to

ATTIC ANGEL PRAIRIE POINT GREEN COMMITTEE

The Recycling Excellence Awards recognize efforts by programs and organizations for their dedication to providing outstanding recycling and waste minimization services. Thank you for your efforts to improve diversion in Wisconsin, exceeding expectations of the Department of Natural Resources and leading the way for others. We hope you and your staff will take pride in this achievement and continue to strive for recycling excellence.

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Kate Strom Hi

Waste and Materials Management Bureau Director

November 1, 2026

Date

Congratulations to the Prairie Point Green Committee on your hard work and leadership.

Congratulations are shared with the entire Prairie Point community for our collective contributions to a safer and cleaner environment!

Embracing Mental Wellness

By: Barb Schweitzer, Director, Greenfield Rehab

For many individuals, autumn and winter can bring unexpected emotional challenges, such as grief from losing loved ones, financial strain, or the daily realities of coping with physical and cognitive changes. Recognizing specific early signs like persistent sadness, withdrawal from activities, or changes in sleep patterns is essential for protecting your mental health and preventing feelings of despair from deepening. Taking a proactive, wellness-focused approach can help you build resilience, maintain emotional balance, and find joy throughout this time.

Staying active and engaged is one of the most effective ways to boost your mood. Regular physical activity such as walking, gentle stretching, or wellness classes stimulates the brain and naturally elevates your spirits. Connecting with others can bring feelings of belonging and encouragement; gathering with friends, family, or local community groups offers opportunities for laughter, emotional support, and shared experiences. Additionally, pursuing rewarding hobbies and engaging in creative activities can offer a sense of purpose, create a structured routine, and bring daily enjoyment.

Prioritizing mental wellness also involves establishing supportive self care habits. Maintaining a consistent sleep schedule, nourishing your body with balanced meals, and taking quiet moments for reflection can help you feel more grounded and resilient. By combining physical activity, social connection, personal interests, and mindful rest, you can navigate the season with greater clarity, comfort, and vitality. With these gentle, caring practices, you can maintain emotional balance and find joy throughout the changing seasons.

Growing Creativity Through Horticulture Therapy

By: Jessa Tripalin, Lead Horticulturist, Attic Angel Grounds Team



What a wonderful success! Our recent horticulture therapy session brought 11 participants together to create something special using natural treasures collected right here on Attic Angel property.

From the beauty of the leaves and seed heads to the textures and colors of the season, we explored the simple joy of bringing nature indoors and letting creativity take the lead. It was a lovely reminder that our grounds offer more than beautiful views. They provide opportunities to connect, create, share stories, and enjoy the many benefits of nature. The enthusiasm was so encouraging that we're already planning another session in November! Keep an eye out for details. We can't wait to grow together again!

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.

Continuing Education

Coffee: 10am - Garden Room
Program: 10:30am - Community Room

November 2nd:
"150 Years of Construction in Madison"

Jay Thomsen, Vice President at Vogel Brothers Building Company

November 9th:
"The Role of Wolves in the Economy: Wolves, Long Feared and Reviled, May Actually be Lifesavers"

Dominic Parker, The Anderson-Bascom Professor of Applied Economics at UW-Madison

November 16th:
"Still Trying to Get Out of This Place: War, Music, and Memory"

Doug Bradley, Writer, Educator, and Veteran

November 23rd:
No Program - Thanksgiving Break

November 30th:
"Norwegian Immigration and the Restoration Ship"

Dana Kelly, Executive Director of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center (NAGC)

Second Chance Shop

Join us in the Community Room on:
Tuesday, November 17th
9am-5pm
Wednesday, November 18th
9am-12pm
Everything is FREE!

Holidays Galore & More Sale

Deck the halls with décor to celebrate Christmas and other winter holidays, all neatly and artistically displayed. The sale, held each November inside the Attic Angel Association building, also includes home-baked goods, hand-crafted items, and gently used designer holiday-themed clothing and jewelry.

November 13th and 14th, 2026
Attic Angel Association Building
640 Junction Road, Madison

Friday:
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday:
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Caramels & Peanut Brittle for Sale!

Sue Bush's famous caramels and Cindy Zeller's delightful peanut brittle are again for sale to support the Holidays Galore & More Sale! Purchase your treats at the front reception desk. **Order by 11/10 to pick-up on 11/18, or by 12/1 to pick-up on 12/9**.

November is National Gratitude Month!

To celebrate, we are encouraging staff, residents, and Angels to share words of appreciation with each other when you see someone doing something kind, going above and beyond, or making a difference. **We will have "Shining Stars" available at the Attic Angel Place front reception desk, employee breakroom, or Association Office.** Each time you see someone doing good in our community, fill one out and give it to them to brighten their day and let them know they're appreciated!

Attic Angel Community Happenings















Shopping for a cause at our annual Fashion Finds Sale, where all proceeds benefit children and older adults in Dane county.

Attic Angel Community Happenings



Fall is in full swing at Attic Angel!

Our gardening Angels have done a wonderful job transforming our main entrance for the season.



Jessica and Becky from our Marketing Team recently represented Attic Angel at the Health & Resource Fair as part of the Institute on Aging Annual Colloquium at UW Madison.



Veteran's Day is Wednesday, November 11th! We thank all residents, staff, and Angels who have served our country.

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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