

# Across the Greenfield

Volume 49, Issue 3

March 2026

## St. Patrick's Day Bracelets



### Where Creativity and Community Shine

Life at Greenfield is always buzzing with creativity, laughter, and connection. From hands-on crafts to exciting outings and everything in between, there's always something to look forward to. This photo

captures a joyful moment at Crafter's Cove, where the ladies are all smiles while creating their St. Patrick's Day charm bracelets. Beads, laughter, and a splash of green filled the room as creativity took center stage.

It's moments like these that highlight the heart of Greenfield—bringing people together to share experiences, spark joy, and make every day a little more colorful.



**Betty**



**Pat P. & 3rd Graders**



**Ken**



**Edwin & Danny & 3rd Graders**



**Nancy & Julie  
with Balto**



**Mary Ellen & 3rd Graders**



**Nobbie, Joyce & 3rd Graders**

## Across Lynn's Desk

There's something powerful about looking back to understand where we come from—and recently, I had the chance to do just that through a DNA ancestry test. Like many of you, I've heard bits and pieces of family stories over the years, but seeing it all come together in one place was both fascinating and, honestly, a little surprising.

My results showed a strong mix of British and Irish roots, along with German ancestry—something that likely sounds familiar to many of you who have shared your own family histories over coffee or at events. These are the same roots that brought so many families to this part of the country generations ago, settling in small towns, building communities, and

creating the traditions we still enjoy today.

What surprised me most was discovering a meaningful connection to Central Italy. It's a reminder that even when we think we know our story, there are often chapters waiting to be uncovered—stories of immigration, resilience, and new beginnings that may have been tucked quietly into our family trees.

As I reflected on this, I couldn't help but think about all of you. Each of our residents carries a lifetime of history—of where you've been, who came before you, and the journeys that led you here. Whether your roots trace back to Ireland, Germany, Italy, or somewhere else entirely,

those stories are part of what make this community so rich.

It's easy to think of history as something in books, but the truth is, history is sitting all around us every day—in the conversations we share, the memories you pass down, and the lives you've built.

If you've ever explored your own ancestry—or even if you just remember a story your parents or grandparents used to tell—I'd love to hear it. Because when we share those pieces of our past, we help keep them alive for the generations that follow.

*Lynn Olds, Administrator*

## A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Pastoral Partners

At Greenfield, we are deeply grateful for the spiritual care and meaningful connections provided by our dedicated pastoral partners. Our sincere thanks to Pastor Derek Boggs, Pastor Colleen Lawrence, Pastor Michael Hickok, and Father Bosse and friends at

St. Louis Catholic Church for their continued presence and compassion. Each of you brings comfort, and peace to our residents, enriching lives through worship, conversation, and fellowship.

We also extend a special

thank you to Meg for sharing her musical talents on the piano, adding warmth and beauty to each service. Together, each person helps nurture the heart and spirit of Greenfield, and we are truly grateful for all that you do.

## Understanding Dementia

Last month, we covered some basics on dementia, and I would like to do a little series on the topic because, as our population ages and people are more aware of changes to look for in memory, more people are getting diagnosed. In adults 65+, according to Harvard Health, around 20% have mild cognitive impairment (noticeable memory problems but not dementia). According to the Alzheimer's Association, about 11% (1 in 9) have Alzheimer's disease specifically. Often, we get asked the question in our dementia caregiver support group, how do we get a diagnosis, so I thought I would address that today.

Getting an accurate diagnosis is important for treatment, planning, and support. The first place to

start is always with your primary doctor, who can give a physical and neurological exam and may request cognitive testing, or ask that we do it at Greenfield before one's appointment. The doctor will likely want to do blood and urine tests and may schedule a brain scan, as many conditions can cause memory problems but are reversible and treatable. That is why it is important to see your doctor if you experience memory decline - don't just assume it is dementia.

Common signs you might look for to know when you or a loved one should ask your doctor about memory problems, include memory loss impacting your daily life, difficulty problem-solving, trouble with

communication, confusion about time or place, difficulty completing familiar tasks, and changes in mood, behavior, or judgment.

Getting a diagnosis matters because it helps to identify treatable conditions, allows earlier access to treatments and medications, helps families plan for care and support, and can also help you connect with community resources and support, like our caregiver support group at the library on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. If you or a loved one notices ongoing changes in memory, thinking, or behavior, speaking with a healthcare provider is an important first step.

*Kate Webster, SSD*

## Spring into Wellness at Greenfield

As the days grow longer and the weather warms, spring offers a chance to refresh routines and reconnect with the world around us. At Greenfield, this season is all about embracing the outdoors and enjoying

simple joys—from patio visits and garden walks to fresh air socials. Dressing in layers helps with Illinois' unpredictable weather, and small habits like staying active, hydrating, and watching your step can

make the season even brighter. Spring also invites us to connect with others and savor shared moments in the sunshine, reminding us to welcome the season with renewed energy and bright spirits.

## Greenfield Greeters: Purpose and Community

At Greenfield, we believe that purpose doesn't retire—and our Greenfield Greeters program is a perfect example of that in action. In collaboration with the Princeton Chamber of Commerce, this unique program invites adults age 55 and older to stay active, engaged, and connected by volunteering within the community.

Greenfield Greeters visit local businesses to welcome guests, offer friendly conversation, and help create awareness of the value and presence of the aging population. It's more than just a greeting—it's about building connections, sharing smiles, and

reminding the community that experience, wisdom, and kindness never go out of style.

This program provides a meaningful opportunity for individuals to rediscover purpose through volunteerism while representing Greenfield in a positive and impactful way. Participants often find joy in being part of something bigger, forming new relationships, and contributing to the vibrancy of the community.

The best part? You don't have to live at Greenfield to participate. The Greenfield Greeters program is open to the community, and we

welcome anyone age 55 and older who is interested in getting involved.

We encourage this program for us to grow and thrive—because the more voices, smiles, and stories we share, the stronger our community becomes.

To learn more or join the Greenfield Greeters, please contact:

Chris Thompson, Activity Director/Volunteer Coordinator

815-872-2261

[activities@greenfieldhome.org](mailto:activities@greenfieldhome.org)

Come be a part of something meaningful—you belong here.

*Chris Thompson*  
*Activity Director*

## A Touch of Irish Cheer at Greenfield

Greenfield's St. Patrick's Day celebration was a lively blend of creativity, games, and delicious treats. At the party, residents tapped into their playful side by crafting clever limericks, rolling strikes in potato bowling, and testing their luck with a Lucky Charms game. Sweet endings came in the form of

homemade ice cream topped with rich chocolate mint sauce, all served in crisp edible waffle cups.

Meanwhile, creativity continued at Crafter's Cove, where festive St. Paddy's Day charm bracelets took shape bead by bead. The Cooking Club added a savory twist with a delicious

Irish Grilled Cheese demo, bringing warm flavors and smiles to all who attended. The day felt touched with green magic—full of laughter, friendship, and Irish charm—leaving everyone a little happier and already excited for next year. It truly captured the spirit of community joy.

## Your Voice Matters: Absentee Voting at Greenfield

At Greenfield, we believe that every voice matters—and that includes the right to vote. Even while living in a retirement community, residents can continue to participate in elections through absentee voting, ensuring their voices are heard on issues that matter most to them.

We work closely with the

County Clerk's office to make the voting process as smooth and accessible as possible.

Election judges visit Greenfield to assist residents with absentee ballots, answer questions, and provide guidance every step of the way. This support helps ensure that voting remains private, secure, and easy to complete.

Voting is more than a civic duty—it's a way to stay engaged, express your opinions, and be part of the future of your community.

We encourage all eligible residents to take advantage of this opportunity. If you have questions or need assistance, our staff is here to help guide you through the process.

## H.W. Immke: A Life That Shaped Bureau County

Stepping into the Bureau County History Center feels a bit like opening a time capsule, and the exhibit on H.W. Immke is no exception. His life unfolds piece by piece—rooted in local history yet echoing broader stories of ambition, resilience, and community spirit. It's the

kind of exhibit that quietly reminds us how much one individual can shape the character of a place.

Thoughtfully curated, it invites you to imagine the world as Immke experienced it and appreciate the threads that connect past to present

in Bureau County.

A heartfelt thank you to Jessica, Curator, and to Erica and Lex for the care and passion they bring to preserving and sharing these stories. Their work turns history into something you can truly feel.

## Staying Safe with a Little Help from Friends

Greenfield recently welcomed Chief Tom Krammerer for an informative visit focused on scam prevention. Residents learned practical tips on how to recognize suspicious calls, emails, and requests, gaining confidence in protecting themselves from

common schemes. The visit also featured Officer Kruse, who introduced Balto, the police department's newest four-legged team member. Calm, friendly, and attentive, Balto quickly won hearts while demonstrating the important role therapy dogs play in community wellness

and support. Together, the presentation blended safety education with a touch of warmth, leaving everyone both informed and uplifted by the connection between community and local law enforcement.



**Residents & 3rd Graders Playing Balloon Volleyball**



**Christy & 3rd Graders**



**Marian & 3rd graders**



**Balto & Residents**



**Bonnie & 3rd Graders**

## A Message from Our Director of Nursing

At the heart of every doctor's visit is a shared goal: keeping our residents healthy, comfortable, and well cared for. When residents and families come prepared, it helps create a stronger partnership with the care team.

This month, I'd like to take a moment to connect with residents and their families to share an update from our nursing department. It is truly an honor to serve in this role and to work alongside such a dedicated team caring for your loved ones.

This month, we are focusing on: Preparing for Dr. Visits

Regular doctor visits are an important part of staying healthy, especially in long-term care settings. Being prepared can help ensure that concerns are addressed, questions are answered, and care plans are as effective as

possible. Here are some simple steps to help residents and families make the most of every appointment.

Some things to prepare ahead of time that can help the appointment process are having a med list and insurance cards ready, an allergy list and any necessary medical forms. Luckily the nursing staff at Greenfield have these ready to go for your loved ones. Be ready to share any new symptoms i.e. pain, sleeping pattern changes, appetite or mood. These may be small changes but can help the Dr. significantly. It is helpful for family or residents to make a list of questions ahead of time. We have all had that moment where we leave the office and then remember all the things we were going to ask! Lastly, the most important part is to be open and honest with your provider about

medications, new symptoms or any concerns even if they feel minor or maybe even a little embarrassing. It is important to us to have a collaborative team that is here to serve our residents. Our nurses and resident aides are a small piece of the puzzle. Residents and family members help bring it all together when they are helping advocate for themselves at Dr. appts.

Our top priorities remain safety, communication, and person-centered care. We are continuously learning, improving, and adapting to best meet the needs of our residents. As always, I welcome your feedback, questions, and suggestions. Open communication helps us provide the best possible care.

Thank you for letting us be part of your care each day,

*Baylea Weston, DCN*

Greenfield Retirement Home  
508 Park Ave. E.  
Princeton, IL 61356

Phone: 815-872-2261  
Fax: 815-875-1758



*Greenfield's mission is to provide a caring environment that maximizes the life enjoyment, integrity and independence of each resident.*

[www.greenfieldhome.org](http://www.greenfieldhome.org)

Greenfield is a not-for-profit provider