

Cleaning Day

by John Brinkerhoff
Delaware Run resident

*How I would like to tidy up my life—
Go back to its farthest rooms
And begin moving along, systematically
Sweeping up carelessly flung words,
wiping away lies and petulant sulks,
Pausing now and then to repair what was broken
In anger.*

*Fortunately I would not encounter
any indelible stains
From ending or defiling another's life,
No, nothing that couldn't be fixed
With thoughtful attention
Or the replacement of something stolen that held
Little value.*

*How nice to erase the hundred dusty guilts
That sting me awake at 4 a.m.
And throw out the rough, crude pictures
that now cause me to avert my eyes.
How pleasant it would be to gaze
into darkness and see nothing
But stars.*

*Unfinished tasks would finally be done
And unfulfilled commitments honored at last.
Each misjudgment would be reconsidered,
Every listless effort left gleaming with zeal.
I would freshen the air with pleasantries,
Scent my path with pure intentions and the essence
Of forgiveness.*

*But, when all is said and done,
And twilight comes to stay,
What would there be to say?
"Oh, what a splendid house. So beautifully kept.
See how orderly it is. So clean, so neat,
Yet so profoundly sad, because it looks as if
No one has lived here at all."*

*John Brinkerhoff
lives at Delaware
Run with his wife
Jan. They met 50
years ago when they
were both writing
greeting card verses
for American Greet-
ings in Cleveland.*



NPR is my tonic. The nonprofit radio network is a fount of light and understanding that lifts me to a vantage with a wondrously new horizon. It's a constant on my drive to work each morning, as sure and comforting as my travel mug of Janet's coffee.

But one day a few weeks back, my cerebrum flat-out hit the saturation point with all the reports of DC wackiness spewing from my car's speakers. I mean, really, this old wayfaring pilgrim can suffer only so many scary, unsettling stories. The Russians, the FBI, CIA, billionaires and oligarchs, late-night tweets, Putin, Breitbart and more. Enough already!

I fed a Bee Gees CD into the slot on my dash. There. That killed all the crazy drama real quick. Ah yes, my Bee Gees. Open the escape hatch for me boys, and lead me off to a simpler time when we all were young and blissfully naïve. The Brothers Gibb – Barry, Robin and Maurice. For 20 minutes, their breathless vibrato harmonies and soaring falsettos carried me back to the days when Janet and I began writing our story. Good times. Welcome memories.

As I lost myself in the old songs – *How Deep Is Your Love*, *First of May*, *How Can You Mend a Broken Heart*, anthems that have earned near-sacred standing in the extensive book of pop music – it occurred to me that two of the brothers had died. Only Barry remains. The consoling sounds of their tightly braided voices are warehoused forever in a great digital vault, as winged insects preserved in amber, but the Australian lads themselves will never again make music.

Shakespeare was right. This world *is* a stage, and we actors make our entrances and exits such that over time, the entire cast is replaced. When you are young, you don't notice the departings so much. Your siblings and friends occupy your days. You engage them in banter and play, and acts of youthful mischief, giving little notice to the old

Shakespeare was Right

by Larry Harris, CEO

**All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts...**

As You Like It, Act II, Scene VII
William Shakespeare
1564-1616

**Live long enough and you become
a stranger in your own play.**

your field grow old, retire, and find their way off stage. A church friend, a classmate, a celebrity, a sports figure – each passing earns an entry in your life's journal. A precious few rip your heart out.

In *The Green Mile*, the 1999 Tom Hanks movie of a 1930s death row, the Hanks prison guard character is magically bestowed an extended life, as is a mouse that inhabits the cellblock with him. (Fiction for sure, but it makes for a good story.) At age 108, he and the mouse are diminished but still going. He laments to an acquaintance that he has entered an era of great loneliness. While there are people around him, they are not *his* people. His Jan is long departed. His fellow guards and neighbors and friends are all gone. Only he remains.

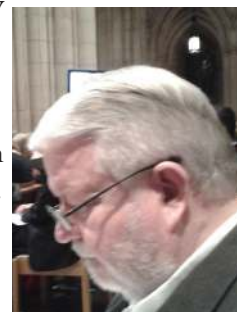
Live long enough and you become a stranger in your own play. The replacement actors bring to center stage their own culture and music and stories. Their jokes are not your jokes. Their heroes are not your heroes. Your play dissolves into their play, and you no longer are assigned a meaningful role.

All the DC theatrics will play out somehow, I guess. I hope. The Bee Gees and Shakespeare will slip ever deeper into the great black hole of spent days. And the time will come when all those replacement actors too will give way to their own stand-ins, and exit the stage themselves. Enjoy your moment in the footlights my friend, for it will not, cannot go on forever, as the Bard has shown us.

folks who disappear into the wings.

But as you gain perspective in life, you become acutely aware of those who take leave. They no longer are the old people on your periphery. They are your contemporaries. Those siblings and friends of your youth are picked off one by one. Professional peers and colleagues from

Larry Harris, CEO
lharris@willow-brook.org





Kitchen crew members at The Village are saying thanks: (left to right) Tiffany Gilletly, Vickie Boley, Ben Kidwell, Dylan Moore, and Justine Lamneck.

Culinary staff members at The Village join their peers on all three campuses in thanking the residents and their families for so generously contributing to the holiday bonus program.

They collectively contributed a whopping \$109,000 to Willow Brook to be used for staff Christmas bonuses. Once divided equally it meant that workers each received \$325 in their Christmas stockings. Their generosity moved more than one grateful recipient to tears.



A Winning Team – Dining room managers Shelly Stewart and Julie Bardelang-Wolf, from Delaware Run and The Village, won the most elegantly decorated table designation at the Delaware Area Chamber of Commerce annual meeting. They have received the honor several times, and we continue to be proud of this winning team's winning streak!



Standing Tall at Standing Rock

Laura Lawrence, Village Housekeeper

Village housekeeper Laura Lawrence is passionate about her causes – civil rights, indigenous rights, and environmental threats. Last October she used her vacation time to travel with her daughter and brother, a documentary filmmaker, to North Dakota to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and others engaged in peaceful protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

“We didn’t go to watch, but to participate,” explains Laura. “We lived in a tent for a week. While there we witnessed about 300 nonviolent protesters in a prayer session attacked with pepper spray. Eighty-three were arrested. These were people doing what they could to advocate for Native rights.”

“The protesters have now been forcibly removed from the site,” says Laura, “and the pipeline approved for completion. My brother, my daughter and I did what we could.”

Indeed, here’s a person who does more than pay lip service to the causes she believes in!

Tribute Gifts

Memorial Contributions

November 19, 2016 – March 27, 2017

Richard C. Atkinson

Carol A. Roden

Bernard O. Baker

Barbara Ulrich

I. Marilynn Baker

Barbara Ulrich

Mary Lou Binch

Corinne D. Esau

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Don & Amy Dettra

Michael & Judith England

Anne Fry

Marvin & Diann Graham

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Earl McWherter

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Robert & Darlene Rankin

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Marion Blaszkowiak

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Bonnie Bogue

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Curtis & Genevieve Burns

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Corinne D. Esau

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Wallace F. "Wally" Life

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Rebecca L. Harris

Jill Yates

Jean Quelette

John & Sheila Quelette

Mary C. Roden

Carol A. Roden

Sky Available Sky

by Susan Hendrickson

Village resident

Look up,
see the sun reflected on the osprey belly
her great white underwing feathers
slivered by light.
Carve words
for this spiral sluicing of space.
Name the updrafts
this monarch bird
hitch-hikes on
taking her upward into the vast
inverted delphinium sphere called sky.

Direction is endless.
Does the great bird think of up and out
beyond the galaxies
to preposterous emptiness
filled with commas of comets,
gas and light
before she plunges into a
direct vertical dive
her eyes inscrutably
fixed on her next meal?

Think not,
just marvel in the trust
endowed in her instincts.
Pray more and more, this trust
will be revisioned by humankind.
Soaring must enter our vocabulary.



Poet Susan Hendrickson
and husband Jack live at
Willow Brook Christian Village.

Patricia A. Roesch

Adena Health System
William & Jean Baskwill
Glenn & Sara Beaber
Lois Dale
Delaware Run Residents'
Association
John & Sue Dickman
Donald & Gladys Dillemath
Marcia A. Egbert & Family
Ruth Ann Hay
Calvin & Dorothy Knight
Jim & Mary Leonard
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Barbara Ulrich

George F. Wellman

Lucretia M. Wellman

Max Wildermuth

Jayne W. MacKay

Edward Winter

Evelyn Winter

Nicki V. Zanetos

Lisa Mack

*Gifts
made to honor
the living*

Phyllis Chucta

Teresa J. Ryan

Jack & Susan Hendrickson

Amy Rossetti

Kay Kilgore

James & Pauline Kossow

Frederick & Susan Vierow

Servers & Kitchen Staff

Bruce Hardie



*The background photo
is presented in memory
of Phyllis Croll, former
resident of Willow Brook
Christian Village and
Delaware Run.*

Second Mile Award 2016



STACEY MAXON
Village



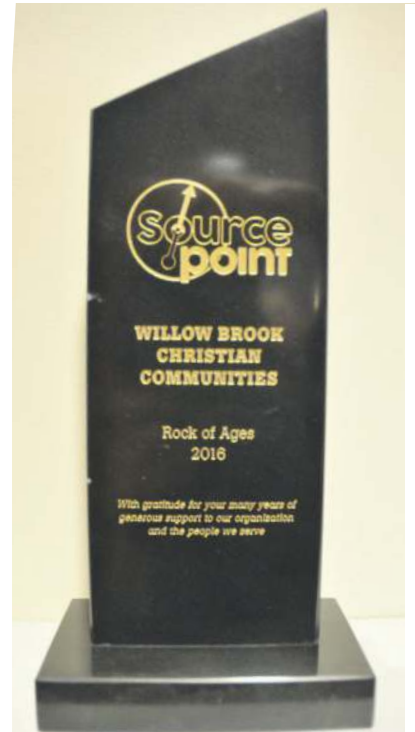
KELLIE KORPIESKI
Home



DARLENE STOVER
Delaware Run

Every year the residents, their families and the staff nominate workers who they believe deserve recognition for going above and beyond expectations in service to the residents of Willow Brook. One winner is selected from each campus and the award is announced with great fanfare at the annual Christmas party.

This year Stacy Maxson, a nurse aide at The Village, was honored for her desire to show the residents that in her eyes they are unique and special. Kellie Korpieski, RN, the director of nursing at The Home was recognized for going the extra mile not only for the residents and families, but for the staff as well. Darlene Stover, an aide and activities staff member in the memory care center at Delaware Run, was recognized for her calm, competent ability to motivate, guide and enrich the lives of even the most challenging of residents.



Willow Brook Honored by SourcePoint

Willow Brook Christian Communities was the recipient of "The Rock of Ages Award" at SourcePoint's recognition luncheon in December.

The award recognizes organizations which have had a long-term association with SourcePoint and who have made a significant contribution to their success.

Together, SourcePoint and Willow Brook have brought adult day services to Delaware and have collaborated on many projects and events. CEO Larry Harris is a recent president of SourcePoint's board of trustees.

SourcePoint is Delaware, Ohio's not-for-profit organization that provides services to enable older adults to remain independent and in their homes.

WILLOW BROOK CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Delaware, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Village

100 Willow Brook Way South
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 369-0048

Willow Brook at Delaware Run

100 Delaware Crossing West
Delaware, Ohio 43015
Phone: (740) 201-5640

*Full-service
Planned Living Communities*

Worthington, Ohio

Willow Brook Christian Home

55 Lazelle Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235
Phone: (614) 885-3300

*Rehabilitation, Skilled nursing,
and assisted living*

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Teri Ryan, Editor
Director of Community Relations

not for profit • Church of Christ
www.willow-brook.org



The “New” Heritage Dining Room

Willow Brook Christian Home has a new, expanded entrance and foyer, its Heritage Dining Room (above) has a new look, and special touches have been added to the hallways of the rehabilitation center. New windows brighten the entry, and wheelchair access has been enhanced.

Next? Another courtyard, with grass, shrubs and flowers will grace a waterfall area. That will make a total of three courtyards. Construction will begin once the earth is ready, i.e., soon.



Home resident Judy Smith goes out the new sliding doors to enjoy some sun with a little help from Denise Murnane.

Expansions and Renovations Completed at The Home . . .



It's Okay to Draw on this Wall

Activities manager Kelly Frentzos looks on as hospice nurse Becca Stevens adds her touch to the graffiti wall.

. . . And Delaware Run is Growing

After many delays due to uncooperative weather, construction is in full swing at Delaware Run.

A new wing will enclose the courtyard between assisted living, memory care and Café 100 once construction is completed.

The \$5.5 million project will add rooms and suites to the assisted living wing, apartments to transitional living, and an expanded outdoor patio to the memory care area.

Construction workers have removed windows and bumped out walls to expand Café 100, leaving a big, temporary wall where once light shone in. To brighten the space, residents and staff were given paints and markers and encouraged to decorate the blank space in their own unique ways.

Large talents and small contributed to our graffiti wall, and we'll kinda miss it when it is gone.



This architect's rendering shows the completed addition at left.

Reflections

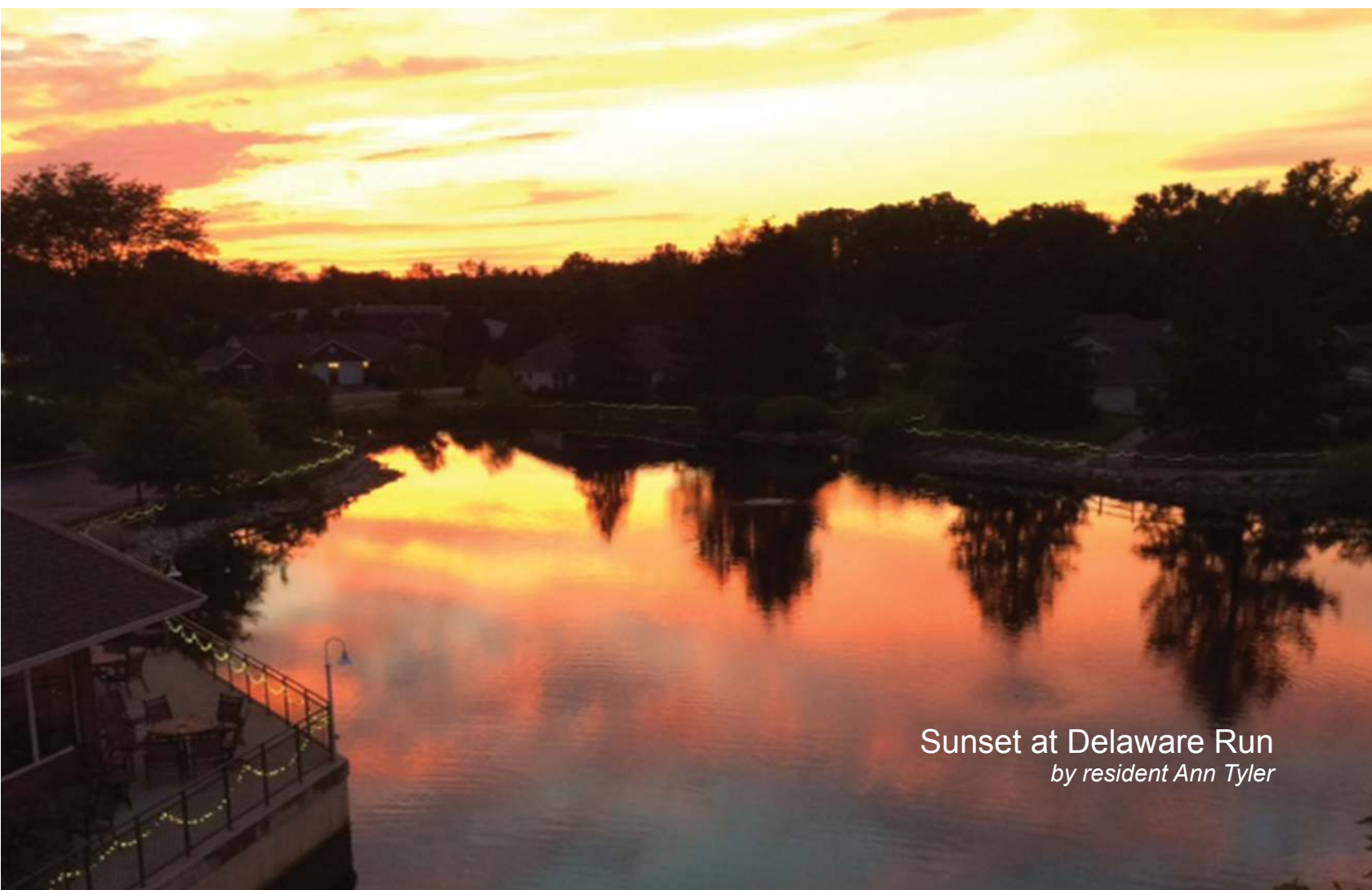
Willow Brook Christian Communities
100 Delaware Crossing West
Delaware, Ohio 43015

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Sunset at Delaware Run
by resident Ann Tyler