

MAY/JUNE 2023

Meet Your Neighbor

Meet Ken Wenner. Ken and his late wife, Norma, moved from the Powell area to Willow Brook in 2019.

Ken was born and raised in Carey, Ohio. His father, Forrest, was a farmer. His mother, Mabel, was a farm wife/homemaker. He has two brothers: Gene and Wendell, and a sister, Rose.

After graduating from Carey High School, he farmed and attended college. He holds a Bachelor and Masters from The Ohio State University and a PhD from Michigan State. He was a soil scientist, natural resource and computer analyst. Ken is a Army veteran, serving from 1953-1955.



Ken has two children: Kevin, who lives in Lewis Center, and Cheryl, who lives in Dayton. He has four grandchildren: Jeremy, Benjamin, Jacob, and Katherine, and three great-grandchildren: Hanna, Emme and Abigail.

He has traveled throughout the United States, Bahamas and Canada. Ken and Norma made five trips to Alaska in their motorhome. He enjoys woodworking, making furniture, canoeing and fishing.

A fun fact about Ken is that he was one of the earliest analysts to send natural resource data via a computer.

The neighbors you meet in retirement will become your friends for life.



News and Happenings

Warmer weather will bring **uninvited solicitors**. If you experience or see someone soliciting in The Village, please call the front desk at 740-369-0048 immediately. This gives our maintenance team the best opportunity to remove the person/group from the premises. If at any time you experience a solicitor at your door, please remind them of our no soliciting policy and ask them to leave the premises.

Willow Brook has a Facebook page! “Like” our page, and you’ll be able to see all the latest news about Willow Brook. You’ll find photos and information about events, activities, job openings and tidbits about residents and staff. Stay in the know! Questions about Facebook? See Cathy Courtice or Christina Dresdow in Community Relations, 740-201-5789. You can find our page at: **Facebook.com/WillowBrookChristianCommunities**.

If you use the patio umbrellas, please make sure you put them down before you leave. Umbrellas left up can be destroyed in high winds.

The threat of **severe thunderstorms and/or tornado season** is upon us. Please know the difference between a watch and a warning. A **watch** means weather conditions are favorable for the formation of a severe thunderstorm or tornado. A **warning** means severe weather is approaching or a tornado has been sighted or detected on radar in the area and to take safe shelter immediately. If you do not have one already, an investment in a weather radio is a good idea. Emergency flashlights, batteries, and a crank radio/flashlight are available for purchase in the Gathering Place.

Phone number changes: When you change your home or cell phone numbers, please be sure to notify the front office right away. These numbers are tied into your home’s nurse call system so they must be correct to give you the best emergency protection possible.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please notify the front office when you (or spouse) are hospitalized. This will allow us to be aware in case you should need a health care bed here AND those living alone may be eligible for a monthly fee discount during days away. Call Marie McCreary, Independent Living Director, at 740-368-4545 or extension 1109 for more information.



Meet a Staff Member

Meet Jake Vilchinsky. Jake has been a server in the Courtyard Restaurant since May, 2021. He was encouraged to apply by friends that already worked here.

Jake lives in Delaware with his parents. His father, John, is a floor maintenance tech at Anheuser-Busch. His mother, Karla, works as a baker. He has a sister, Emily.

He is a graduate of Hayes High School and is currently attending The Ohio State University where he is studying zoology (major) and history (minor).

Jake and his family have traveled to Topsail, North Carolina and Dallas, Texas. He enjoys skating, snowboarding, geography and watching sports.



Thank You

“What a wonderful birthday! Thank you for your lovely cards, calls, hugs, flowers and the opportunity to share a fun dinner with several of my long-time Willow Brook friends. It truly was a special day for me.” -Pat Coe

“Sincere thanks and gratitude to the staff and residents who sent Tom cards expressed concerns and caring conversations with Tom during his recent illness.” -The family of Tom Gardner

“Thank you everyone for the birthday cards. Its is wonderful living in a friendly and helpful community. I say “thanks” and Layla says “Woof”! -Jody Lanning

“Thank you to my friends that sent birthday cards. It is very much appreciated to be remembered by a caring group of residents living at Willow Brook. With the added touch of Covid symptoms this year, the thoughts expressed were very much welcomed.” -Phil Rees



Submitted by
Chaplain Adam

“Turn, Turn, Turn”

In elementary school we were forced to have assigned seats in our classrooms, and I hated it. Undoubtedly, it helped our teachers keep track of us and keep us in line. “I can’t wait until I can sit wherever I want to!” I used to say to myself. My kids made the same complains, “Why can’t we just sit where we want to?”

The cool thing about high school and college was that we got to sit wherever we wanted. I remember the pure adulation I felt at not being forced to sit in assigned seats by some fascist teacher! If you are anything like me, you know where this is going. After being freed from the bondage of assigned seats, just about every single one of us proceeded to *sit in the same seat every day!* As much as we hated the idea of being told what to do, we hated the idea of change even more.

Transitions are hard, aren’t they? I like to think of myself as someone who can roll with the punches, go with the flow, adapt on the fly, and sit in whatever seat I want to sit in, but the reality is change is really hard. I like my routines. It gives me stability, and when change comes, there are few things that are more difficult.

Transitions are an integral part of life at Willow Brook. Our residents are always transitioning: from their home of decades, to higher levels of care, to being a widow or widower, and – especially – to the idea of getting older. My son graduated in May, my daughter will be getting her driver’s license in a matter of weeks, my parents are getting older, my belly is getting bigger because I can’t stop eating candy . . . life is one change after another.

The book of Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament is written from the perspective of an older person looking back at their life, considering all the things they have wasted their time on. At the time they seemed like a big deal, but then as they transitioned to new stages of life, it seemed rather meaningless. At one point he writes, “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.” Well, seasons do change (including seasons of life), and that means we all have to get used to it. And for many of us . . . that’s really hard.

As you face the changes and transitions in your life, know that you are not alone in your feelings of disorientation and confusion and frustration. It. Is. Hard. But God has designed it this way. Variety is the spice of life, and there are nuggets along the path that make each day beautiful in its own right – though we can’t often see how in the moment. If you are struggling with your transitions, don’t hesitate to reach out to someone – maybe even your chaplain, to share your burden. Transitions are difficult, but you do not have to go through them alone.



From Your CEO



Transitions are a part of life, and some are harder than others. I can personally vouch for the truth of this old adage. As you may know, my family and I are in the middle of a major transition, moving our lives from Texas to Ohio. Many of you have empathized with me, as you have gone through a similar transition yourselves. I've appreciated your encouragement.

Let's face it, change is never easy. The newness can be exciting at first, then turns to nervousness, uncertainty, and fear as it progresses. Still, we face transitions in life from an early age, and learn to grow and adapt as we face them.

The changing of the seasons reminds me about transitions in life. It's been refreshing to feel the springtime of Ohio after arriving in the dead of winter. I was shoveling snow the second week I was here! As we get older and look back on the seasons of life, we learn that we will survive the initial nervousness, uncertainty, fear (and snow!), to feel the joy and comfort of the new season we step into.

Yes, change is tough, and no matter what transition or season of life we are in, God has a way (a perfect way), of walking the journey with us, weaving His purpose into our lives.

Hello, spring, and hello, my new friends and family at Willow Brook. Let's go for a walk!

Willow
Brook





From Your Executive Director



Each year Willow Brook presents a Gift of Love Award to a volunteer from each of our three campuses in recognition of their service to Willow Brook residents. This award will be presented at our June 22 reception. This is your chance to nominate an individual who has actively given their generous time to benefit those that live at Willow Brook.

As always, we continue to remodel our homes to build value and remain competitive in the retirement market. Check out the new kitchen redesign in the Twins!

*Warm wishes,
Nicole*

