



Kearney Cruise Night Parade

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Director

August 2026

The 39th annual Kearney Cruise Night Parade was a great success this year! On Wednesday July 15th the classic cars cruised around Central Nebraska Veterans' Home putting on a fantastic display of cars and trucks, the parade was right at an hour long.

The members were able to enjoy the parade right outside of their neighborhoods. The parade went around the circular drive and drove up in each neighborhood's driveway so that members had a prime viewing spot. Members enjoyed waving at the cars, telling them to burn out, rev their engines, and honk their horns. Seeing these classic cars led to a lot of members reminiscing about the various cars that they have driven in their lifetime. There were many family members that came out to join us for the parade with their loved ones as well. This is an annual event, and the members look forward to it each year when it comes time for Cruise Night!

This year the facility also participated in the Cruise Night Parade that took place downtown On The Bricks and we were guests of honor with this being the 250th Year Celebration of Independence Day. We were honored to be part of the celebration, and were placed directly behind the Color Guard in the parade.



Message From the Administrator



*By Dorin C. Vaipan,
CNVH Administrator*

Technically, July is the first month of the State of Nebraska's new fiscal year. In other words, "Happy New Year" from our Business Office Manager – Lance McKenney! He loves to say that at the beginning of each fiscal year.

At the beginning of July, we had a series of celebratory events, celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Independence Day, that were scheduled to take place daily from June 24th to July 4th! Happy Independence Day to us all and many thanks to the veterans that provided us with 250 years of Freedom!

In July I attended the quarterly Veterans Homes' Team (VHT) meetings along with the other Administrators of the State Veterans' Homes (SVH) from Nebraska and with select teammates of the Central Office. These meetings, along with the State Veterans Homes' Board meeting (VHB), took place at the Western Nebraska Veterans' Home in Scottsbluff, Nebraska on July 20th through the 23rd. Even though, at that time, Scottsbluff was the hottest town in Nebraska (102 F), the meetings went very well.

The Board meeting was focused on approving the new applications of Nebraska veterans and non-veterans, who were applying for admission to one of the four SVHs, as well as reviewing the quarterly operational reports of each of the four SVHs. The VHT meetings focused on updating select policies and procedures that will support the care and safety of our members, on addressing plans for improvements such as a new Nursing Call Light System at CNVH, concrete repairs or replacement, planning to replace the existing Electronic Medical Record system, as well as other plans aiming to successfully support the operations of the SVHs in the years to come.

During the last week of July, I attended the National Association of State Veterans Homes' summer conference. On that occasion, I met several vendors offering new equipment or new technologies for the care of nursing home residents. Examples of such technologies or equipment are the voice-activated call light, oxygen wound care technology, lift universal slings, etc. We are currently working with these vendors to trial some of their equipment.



If you have questions, feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Dorin C. Vaipan, CNVH Administrator

Member Council: Member of the Month – LOYD MATTHIES

This month we are celebrating Loyd Matthies as our Member Council's Member of the Month. Loyd has been living in the home since June of this year.

He was born in Norton, Kansas and then raised in Long Island, Kansas which is only about a ten-minute drive. Loyd has three children, one boy and two girls. One of his children ended up as a state champion wrestler in high school. Besides Kansas, Loyd also lived in Colorado and Nebraska.

In his down time Loyd enjoys football, basketball, baseball, bingo, and fishing. Loyd was also involved with the American Legion, Knights of Columbus, and his Catholic church.

Loyd worked for a gas company for 30 years becoming a 30-30-30 man. He spent 30 years in school, then 30 years working, and finally 30 years retired. Loyd has said he enjoys the home because it is nice, clean, and has good people.

Congratulations Loyd on being our Member of the Month!



Member Council: Employee of the Month BRANDY RUDY in FOOD SERVICES

Brandy Rudy, a Cook at CNVH, started his career on Halloween in 2022. He has been a treat to work with and may have a few tricks up his sleeve!

Brandy brings a wealth of knowledge in cooking and all aspects of Food Services. Brandy is the first to notice a problem and is also sure to bring it to the attention of others. He is a role model to the younger staff and is valued by them. We are very fortunate to have Brandy on our team as he provides good quality products and he enjoys serving the members here at CNVH. Brandy's daughter and granddaughter are his top priority and in his free time he is an avid fisherman. Thanks for all you do Brandy!

Merrymakers Concert Presented by Dreamweaver Foundation

This month Merrymakers presented performer Mary Link here at CNVH. Mary used to spend much of her time singing and performing comedy in the duo group *The Links* but her performing partner has retired. Mary continues to perform and enjoys going on the road and performing across Nebraska.

Mary was singing up a storm and telling jokes in between. She played her guitar while she sang the songs she had prepared for us. She often had the audience singing along to the music.

Mary grew up going dancing with her parents every Saturday. Her parents enjoyed dancing so much, that if their favorite song came on the radio they would stop and dance - even if it was in the middle of the grocery store! This got her love of music going at a very young age.

Mary did a great job getting the audience involved in the show and made it an experience to remember. This concert is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.



In Memoriam

Michael Lewis

Duane Phillips

Robert Ruby



Buffalo County Fair

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Director

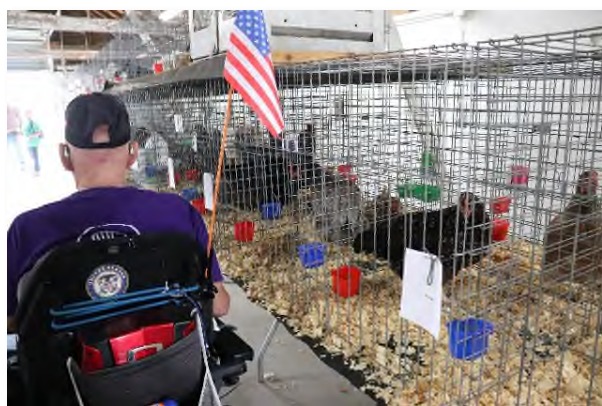


At the end of July, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home members that entered art pieces into the open class at the Buffalo County Fair had the opportunity to go and see their pieces displayed. They also got to find out what ribbon they earned for their art submissions.

The story on these entries started several months prior to Fair, when members started to think about what they'd like to do for their submission. They have to be sure to allow adequate time for their pieces to be done in time for display, so a lot of hard work goes into all the timing and details for each piece.

The Crafts department was pleased to share that 23 members entered pieces in the Buffalo County Fair this year, with a total of 25 pieces submitted (two members entered two categories). Sixteen of those members earned a 1st place ribbon and nine members earned 2nd place ribbons this year. They did a fantastic job!

While they were visiting the Fair, members checked out some of the other fun things, like the 4-H animals and the quilt room. The members enjoyed their time making their creations and going to the fair.



Bingo With Girl Scout Reagan

By Jessica Modlin, Activities Director

The members enjoyed an afternoon playing bingo with local Girl Scout Reagan. The activity included Reagan passing out boxes of Girl Scout cookies to the members. Reagan has been bringing donated girl scout cookies to the members for the past six years. When she first started her donations, it was during the time of Covid, and she was not able to come into the facility. Last year we invited her to come out and play bingo with us and invited her back this year as well. She was our bingo caller this year and she enjoyed helping out. Every year she writes a letter to the members about why she does this and about her scouting activities. This year she donated cookies to the Grand Island CLC and then here at the Veterans' Home. Thank you to Reagan for all of the hard work, and for the delicious cookies!



District 10 ALA Bingo and Ice Cream Social

The members enjoyed a Sunday afternoon with the District 10 American Legion Auxiliary. The members gathered in Freedom Hall and started with playing bingo, after playing some bingo, the game was paused while volunteers and staff passed out the delicious ice cream sundaes. What better way to enjoy a hot Sunday afternoon but with a cold treat like an Ice Cream Sundae. Once the members were done enjoying their ice cream sundaes, they returned to playing bingo. Bingo ended with a blackout winner. The members enjoyed visiting with all the volunteers as well that came out from District 10 for this activity. This activity was sponsored by the District 10 ALA.

Outdoor Fun – “Car” Wash

By Stephanie Christensen, Activity Specialist

Despite the record heat of July, members and staff were determined to have a sensational day working at the car wash! Yes, that's right, Central Nebraska Veterans' Home hosted a “car” wash by keeping residents' wheelchairs wheelie squeaky clean. This fun outdoor event allowed everyone to have some fun in the shade. Alpha 2's patio brought fine tunes, lots of laughter, bubbles, a Patriotic Sprinkler, grass skirts, flamingo headwear, and more. Even the Captain of the ship made an appearance!



From Memory to Classic Car Creation

By Brandon Pierce, Activity Specialist

In honor of America's 250th Independence Day Celebration month for Kearney's Cruise Night, the Foxtrot members at Central Nebraska Veterans' Home participated in a Classic Car Art Contest. They were provided with the parameters for the contest and pictures to design. The contest drew attention from not only the members, but their family and the staff as well.

Ten entries were submitted. The staff and members of Foxtrot were allowed to vote on the winners. The contest was designed to inspire creativity in our members and allow us all a glimpse into what their style of classic car or truck would look like. Winners of the Foxtrot Classic Car Art Contest were chosen and judged based on four criteria: artistry, creativity, uniqueness, and execution of concept. The winning pictures truly defined the classic car enthusiast with classic lines, timeless chrome, and a build that proved some legends never stop turning heads.

Bob freehanded his car in great American style, ultimately winning Top Artist.

Patricia brought out the beauty of a burgundy red car winning Top Artist.

Joy revealed a classic truck is gal's top choice too, winning the Amazing Artist.

Betty demonstrated great skill and showed purple is a classic's new color, earning her Top Artist and the Contest Champion.

Ivan kept the group puzzled with his classic car puzzle winning the Creative Artist.



Photo (left to right): Bob, Patricia, Joy, Betty, and Ivan. What a fun event - look at all those smiles! Thank you to all those that participated, sharing your creativity and making this a fun event for everyone!

Check us out on the web!

<https://veterans.nebraska.gov/cnvh>

Special Point of Interest Next Month:

- Kool-Aid Bingo and Kool Stand
- Merrymakers/Dreamweaver Concert – Mark Irvin

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Administrator: Dorin C. Vaipan

Editor: Ralph Healey



GOVERNOR
JIM PILLEN

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS DIRECTOR
JOHN HILGERT

CENTRAL NEBRASKA VETERANS' HOME ADMINISTRATOR
DORIN C. VAIPAN

Central Nebraska Veterans' Home

4510 E. 56th Street
Kearney, NE 68847
Phone: 308-865-6000