

Liberty Express

Central Nebraska Veterans' Home, 4510 E. 56th St., Kearney, NE 68847 (308) 865-6000

To honor all who stand up and speak out for freedom & liberty!



Summer of 2020—Fun Times Amidst The Challenges! -Nancy Klimek, Activity Manager

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We have been working hard to find ways to make *sure summer feels "normal"* for our members to the extent that we can, in spite of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have focused on providing lots of opportunities for Members to participate in *outdoor summer activities* on our beautiful campus.

August weather gave us sunny, hot days with very little rain, which is normal for Nebraska. A fun tradition many members recall from summers of camping, included sitting around a *campfire, singing songs, and roasting marshmallows.*



Through generous donations from a variety of groups, we were able to purchase the ingredients to make *S'mores* and partake of this sticky, delicious treat! Activity Specialist, Stephanie Christensen, shared her musical talent by *performing live music* at one of the outdoor activities, which everyone enjoyed.

It is so much fun to hear *members reminisce* about "the good old days" when they vacationed around the country, often camping in a tent, and gathering around a campfire.



Another favorite activity that members have enjoyed all summer is *fishing* at our very own lake. We have a variety of fishing piers to choose from, and lots of great fish to catch. From blue gill, to large-mouth bass, to catfish, to rainbow trout, our members spend many hours matching their skill against these fish.

Once again, we get to reminisce about the fishing trips and boating activities that our members have enjoyed over the years. We also just purchased several *remote control speed boats* with donated money, which the members will undoubtedly have fun racing around the lake (watch for photos in next month's newsletter!).



Activity staff have also been assisting the Dietary department by partnering on certain meals that feature burgers and brats, and doing the grilling. Summer always elicits the *joy of eating deliciously grilled food*, and a Pandemic has not stopped this American tradition!

Photos on pages 4-7 showcase other summer favorites—*Kool Aid & classic cars!* We hope that these activities during the *Summer of 2020* will provide good memories, in spite of the many challenges we've faced from the Pandemic!



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New Experiences in Challenging Times

Throughout this issue you will see more of the moments our dedicated Activities staff have put together to make these times more enjoyable. We were pleased to have a special appearance by a familiar character to the halls of Central Nebraska Veterans' Home. We had a memorable trip down Route 66 with a few classic cars to admire! Today, as this is being written, our staff are grilling burgers and brats for all of our members, because summer isn't complete without it!

I'm pleased to share something new our members are trying. Earlier this year, the facility applied for and was selected as the recipient of a complimentary one year subscription to a **virtual reality system** that includes a headset, tablet and variety of Virtual Reality experiences. It has been getting rave reviews by members that have tried it so far.

Before it was offered to members, one of our staff, who is prone to motion sickness, tried it and never experienced any discomfort, but rather had a positive response. The headset allows someone to experience a wide variety of simulations such as swimming with sharks, sky diving, ballooning, interacting with animals and more. Joy seems to be the overwhelming response!

It is taking a tremendous amount of teamwork and cooperation as we all do our best to follow infection control guidelines amidst the pandemic. The extra precautions of wearing masks and social distancing may present challenges, but they are going a long way helping prevent the spread of COVID-19. Thank you for your contributions to assist us in keeping it at bay!



Trying out a virtual reality headset.

JUST A REMINDER

The Central Nebraska Veterans' Home's Annual Car & Bike Show is taking a break this year. But the fun doesn't stop for our members.

Activities made sure that fun was still in the air with their very own "Car Show" themed activity held for members around our lake and in Freedom Hall. Be sure to check out photos in this issue from this fun event.





Member of the Month: Glen Decker



Glen Decker was selected as the Member of the Month by the CNVH Member Council. He moved into the Veterans' Home with his wife, Loretta (who passed away last month), a little over 5 years ago.

Glen was born in Waukegan, Illinois, but lived most of his life in Nebraska (21 years) and Alabama (19 years). He graduated from grade school, but went back to attend four years of high school in Aurora from age 58-62 to obtain his high school diploma. He has 6 daughters, 2 sons (and one deceased son), and 13 grandchildren.

Glen was in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict and served on the U.S.S. Franklin D. Roosevelt, from which they were in the Suez Canal and off the coast of Libya, defending it from the Russians. He worked in the insurance business for 31 years when he left the Armed Forces.

Glen was a member of the Third City Christian Church in Grand Island and attends worship services with Chaplain Michael at CNVH. He often volunteered as an usher at church, and was a member of the American Legion. Glen's favorite activities are fishing and working in the CNVH woodshop on a variety of projects. His favorite car is a 1956 Chevy, he loves Chinese food, and enjoys many movies, listing "Sniper" as one of his favorites. His best memories revolve around his wife of 19 years, Loretta Ann.

Glen reports that he likes living at the Veterans' Home because he can fish, work in the woodshop, and because "everyone here sees that you are well taken care of".



In Memoriam

Loyal Muhlbach

Duayne Robley



Kool Aid Man Brings Smiles & Fun



Kool Aid Man gets his temp taken at the check point and then goes to Finance to let staff know he plans to give away lots of prize coupons at the Neighborhood bingos sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary.



Kool Aid Man decides the flowers by the lake are thirsty and pours them a drink.



Kool Aid Man gets a little exercise in Rehab, makes sure there are some Kool Aid beverages available for sale in the Fox Hole, visits members in Crafts, and gives smiles and hugs to all he meets.



Kool Aid Day Beverages & Bingo!



Beverage bars featuring a variety of delicious flavors of Kool Aid were served in each Neighborhood during the activity.



Members were cheered on by the Kool Aid Man as they played bingo, where special colorful prizes and monetary coupons sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary were distributed to the many winners.



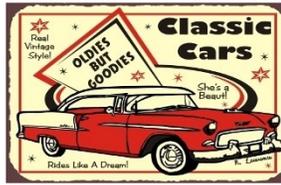
As he travelled the hallways, he brought smiles and hugs to all he encountered along the way.



A big “thumbs up” to all who made Kool Aid Man’s visit to CNVH so much fun (and also to those heroic staff who donned the costume and endured the heat and discomfort of walking all over campus!).



Classic Car Display!



Thanks to the following volunteers that provided vehicles for our display:

- 1929 Model A Ford
Gary Sims
- 1950 Pontiac Catalina Hardtop
Al Young
- 1955 Chevy Bel Air
Brad Kernick
- 1959 GMC Pickup
Kim Deyo
- 1968 Buick
Jeff Knapp
- 1971 Chevelle
Sam Hansen



Indoor Exhibits Featuring Cars & Highways



In addition to the classic cars that were on display outdoors, there were interesting exhibits in Freedom Hall featuring NASCAR, Route 66, Lincoln Highway, Burma Shave signs, and various other car memorabilia provided by members, staff and volunteers. Members enjoyed viewing these items and reminiscing about their many adventures in their own favorite vehicles from days gone by. Thanks to all for making this a special day!

CNVH Member Council Honors:

Glen Decker

Member of the Month

CNVH Member Council Honors:

Rachelle Brandt

Employee of the Month



Mail To:



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