2026 NKV HOLIDAY MEAL

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 10TH
11:00 OR 1:00
****LIMIT OF 2 GUESTS PER APARTMENT****

2026 MAGGIES HOLIDAY MEAL

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 17TH
11:30
****LIMIT OF 2 GUESTS PER RESIDENT****

2026 Holiday Meal

We're excited to invite our residents and their guests to our 2026 Holiday Meal on Thursday, December 10th, with seating times at 11:00 or 1:00.

RSVP cards have been delivered to your front porches.
Please return to the front desk by November 18th.

Maggie's Place will host its own Holiday Lunch on Thursday, December 18, at 11:30 and RSVP's can be called in to the Concierge at 515.232.1000.

We are excited to celebrate together!



Knowledge @ Northridge

Tuesday
November 10th
2:30 - Main Building Chapel

Dr. Jonathan Sturm

Morrill Professor of Music History, Iowa State University
Concertmaster, Des Moines Symphony

ALL are welcome
3300 George W. Carver Ave.

Jonathan's performances have taken him to Cuba, Russia, Germany, South Africa, and numerous US cities.

KAYLA'S KORNER

As we enter the holiday season, we are reminded of the importance of family, friendship, and the joy found in spending time with those who mean the most to us. From all of us at Northridge Village, we wish our residents, families, and team members a holiday season filled with love, laughter, peace, and special memories. Thank you for being part of our Northridge Village family. May your holidays be merry and bright, and may the new year bring happiness, health, and joy to all!



The Villager

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF NORTHRIDGE VILLAGE

November 2026

New Residents

- Bill & Judy Howard - Commons

New Employees

- Olivia Hanig - Housekeeper
- Taylor Decker - CNA
- Penny Jennings - Culinary Aide
- Madison Ollia - CNA
- Yaretzy Maldonado Silva - Care Partner
- Lakiya Jones - Life Services Coordinator
- Emma Schmitt - Care Partner
- Tarah Bhave - Care Partner
- Abilene Schmidtke - CNA

Employee Anniversaries

- Mel Haman - 5 years
- Kim Podhajsky - 2 years
- Ethan Litterer - 1 year

Birthdays

- Gary Mahood - 2nd
- Harlan Mueller - 3rd
- Dar Erickson - 4th
- Beth Strickler - 4th
- Mary Kay Johnson - 7th
- Carolyn Brockman - 8th
- Ruth Ann Robinson - 9th
- Betty Jenkins - 10th
- Donna Lorenzen - 12th
- Joyce Huisman - 18th
- Don Taylor - 18th
- Vern Greimann - 27th

THANK YOU FOR SERVING OUR COUNTRY & PROTECTING OUR Freedom

October Highlights



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

“IF YOU COULD REVAMP THE TRADITIONAL THANKSGIVING MENU, WHAT WOULD YOU SERVE?”

Ruth Ann: “I would probably stick to the same. But if I had to change it would be roast lamb or roast beef. Those are family favorites. I don’t think many people would say they prefer roast lamb though.”

Carl: “Take away turkey and dressing and have oyster stew, homemade bread and green bean casserole! But I really wouldn’t change it, I like it all!“

Eileen: “Duck instead of turkey!”

Romaine: “Some kind of chicken. For sweet things I’d have Milky Way candy bars!”

Danyell (Hair stylist): “Steak and baked potatoes! There’s nothing wrong with a big‘ol juicy steak for Thanksgiving!”

Madison (Culinary): “Beef pot roast instead of turkey! Take away apple pie and add key lime pie!”

Norma: “Add more vegetables that are overcooked. I like the turkey and mashed potatoes!”

Sierra (AL Director): “I’d rather have ham. Our family tradition is my aunt making mandarin orange jello salad – we must have it! Yum!”

Arlo : “Ham is better! Keep the corn and sweet potatoes!”
Zach (staff): “Not a turkey fan! I’d have ham! Turkey is always dry no matter how you cook it!”

Glenn: “I wouldn’t change a thing! Have to have roast turkey!”

Jim D.: “I don’t eat mashed potatoes, but I would add squash.”

Sharon: “Beef stew and cherry pie!”

Bree (culinary): “I don’t like green bean casserole! Prefer having ham instead of turkey!”

Sylva: “I’d make roast beef instead of turkey. We’d have sweet potato casserole with pecans and green rice (broccoli, rice and cheese whiz). No pumpkin pie but instead pecan or chocolate cream pie!”

Arden: “Keep the turkey and not change anything!”
Rollie: “Gotta have turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy and pumpkin pie!”

David: “I’m a traditional guy!!” Sylva, his wife: “He eats what’s on the table!”

Shirley Shaw: “I don’t like turkey; chicken and for sure sweet potatoes!”

Dick & Darlene's Love Story: 75 Years of Faith, Family, and Forever



Dick and Darlene’s love story began simply through church youth groups as teenagers in neighboring towns. By Darlene's sophomore year and Dick's junior year, their connection grew through shared church activities, movie dates in Fort Dodge, and trips to the Iowa State Fair.

After two years of dating, Dick proposed shortly after Darlene graduated high school. He bought her a diamond ring—which her mother wouldn't let her wear until graduation day—along with a cedar chest that remains in the family today. Darlene often joked that she "got two presents out of him that way."

Their practical wedding featured Darlene in an altered version of her sister-in-law's dress and a cozy reception in the church basement. Instead of a lavish honeymoon, they took a short trip to Fort Dodge and Omaha before returning to work. Soon after, they settled in Ames, built their first home with their own hands, and raised their two sons, Dan and David.

"Coming to Ames was the best thing for us and our family," they said. "We loved it from day one."

Both dedicated their careers to education in Ames and at Iowa State University. In retirement, they enjoyed traveling, including an eleven-country European trip with their lifelong double-dating friends.

Through seventy-five years of marriage, they faced disagreements over raising their sons and managing finances, but they lived by a steadfast rule: never go to bed angry.

"We would disagree, but we would never let it go," they said. "We always settled it before bed."

"Don't go to bed mad, because it never gets better by morning."

Dick laughingly admits, "I gave in."

"We never let it get too serious."

"I don't think we ever thought about separating. We always stuck together."

"We both enjoy doing things to help each other."

Looking back on a lifetime filled with children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, Darlene credits their joy for their longevity.

"Absolutely," she said. "I never dreamed I would live to my 90s."

Their seventy-five years together stand as a testament to faith, family, hard work, and the simple commitment of choosing each other every single day. ❤️

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 Exercise AM: Church Service 2:30 Afternoon Noodle ball Daylight Saving Time Ends	2 10:30 Exercise AM/PM Manicures 3:00 Coloring Club 6:30 Movie Night	3 10:30 Noodle ball 1:30 Afternoon Free Time 3:00-4:00 Small Prize Bingo	4 **Happy Birthday Darlene Erickson!** 10:30 Exercise **3:00 Craft with Allyson!** 6:45 Evening Devotions	5 10:30 Chair Yoga 1:30 Art Hour! 3:00-4:00 Bingo	6 10:30 Exercise **3:00 Afternoon Games and Puzzles**	7 10:30 Exercise/Noodleball 3:00 Coloring Club 6:00 Watch: The Lawrence Welk Show (Available on Youtube)
8 10:30 Exercise AM: Church Service 2:30 Afternoon Noodle ball Diwali (Hindi)	9 10:30 Exercise AM/PM Manicures 3:00 Coloring Club 6:30 Movie Night	10 10:30 Noodle ball 1:30 Afternoon Free Time **3:00 Music with JDS Trio**	11 10:30 Exercise **1:30 Veterans Day Program- ILD (Main Building)** **3:00 Craft with Kim!** 6:45 Evening Devotions Veterans Day Remembrance Day (Canada)	12 **Happy Birthday Donna Lorenzen!** 10:30 Chair Yoga 1:30 Art Hour! 3:00-4:00 Bingo	13 **Hearing Unlimited 8-9:30** **10:30 Pet Therapy with Michelle** **3:00 Thanksgiving Activity**	14 10:30 Exercise/Noodleball 3:00 Coloring Club 6:00 Watch: The Lawrence Welk Show (Available on Youtube)
15 10:30 Exercise AM: Church Service 2:30 Afternoon Noodle ball	16 10:30 Exercise AM/PM Manicures 3:00 Coloring Club 6:30 Movie Night	17 10:30 Noodle ball 1:30 Afternoon Free Time 3:00-4:00 Small Prize Bingo	18 10:30 Exercise **3:00 Craft with Allyson!** 6:45 Evening Devotions	19 10:30 Chair Yoga **2:30 Neil Hewitt- ILD (Main Building)** 3:00-4:00 Bingo	20 10:30 Exercise **3:00 Afternoon Happy Hour**	21 10:30 Exercise/Noodleball 3:00 Coloring Club 6:00 Watch: The Lawrence Welk Show (Available on Youtube)
22 10:30 Exercise AM: Church Service 2:30 Afternoon Noodle ball	23 10:30 Exercise **1:00 Music with Tom Hofer** 3:00 Coloring Club 6:30 Movie Night	24 10:30 Noodle ball AM/PM Manicures 3:00-4:00 Small Prize Bingo	25 10:30 Exercise **3:00 Craft with Kim!** 6:45 Evening Devotions	26 **Happy Thanksgiving** 10:30 Chair Yoga 1:30 Art Hour! 3:00-4:00 Bingo Thanksgiving Day (U.S.)	27 **10:30 Pet Therapy with Michelle** **3:00 Games and Puzzles**	28 10:30 Exercise/Noodleball 3:00 Coloring Club 6:00 Watch: The Lawrence Welk Show (Available on Youtube)
29 10:30 Exercise AM: Church Service 2:30 Afternoon Noodle ball	30 10:30 Exercise AM/PM Manicures 3:00 Coloring Club 6:30 Movie Night					