

Norseland News

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF NORSELAND NURSING HOME



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 for updated photos, videos,
 and announcements.

Employee Highlights: WORK ANNIVERSARIES:

- Hannah Carpenter, CNA - 4 yrs
- Maya Dunnum, CNA - 1 yr
- Angela Hadley, Nurse Scheduler 4 years
- Heather Hanson, CNA 13 years
- Tonya Henke, CNA 4 years
- Kris Holen, Housekeeping 35 years
- Becky Leer, Dietary Aide 6 years
- Makayla Myhre, CNA 2 years

NEW EMPLOYEES:

- Amy Bravo, CNA In Training
- Serenity Bravo-Robertson, CNA In Training
- Sydney Burckhardt - CNA
- Tessa Sanders - CNA
- Jennifer Fennigkoh - CNA in Training
- Lucy Tirado - CNA in Training

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR

As of April 1st Norseland will welcome a new Medical Director, Dr. Joann Fouts, who will be taking over for Dr. William Calkins. We want to extend a huge thank you to Dr. Calkins for his many years of dedicated service to our residents (and staff) at Norseland.

Dr. Calkin's commitment to fostering a culture of empathy and excellence has left an indelible mark not only on Norseland but on our community as a whole. We want to thank him for his unwavering support, exceptional care, and his tireless advocacy for our residents. He will always be a part of our family, and we wish him all the best in what comes next.

With that being said, we are looking forward to this next chapter working alongside Dr. Fouts. She has been providing excellent care to our resident's at Norseland for many years and we are thrilled she has accepted the Medical Director role. We look forward to her leadership as we continue to provide exceptional care in a nurturing environment where every individual feels valued and cared for.

-Angie Viau, NHA
 Administrator

ANNOUNCEMENT: WE'RE HIRING

We are hiring! Be sure to check out our website for available positions:

- **Director of Nursing**
- CNAs (Night & PMs)
- Nurse (LPN or RN: Days & Nights)
- Nurse Tech (Days & PMs)

Apply today at:

www.bsjcorp.com/employment/

-Angie Viau, NHA
 Administrator

Special Events



Magician with Kindergarten

We will be welcoming the Westby Kindergarteners for a magic show with the Magic of Isaiah on **April 3rd** at **2:00 PM**. This program was made possible by donations made in memory of Helen Hanson. Thank you to the donors that donated in her memory!

Stoughton Norwegian Dancers

The Norseland Recreation Department will be bringing a group of residents to watch the Stoughton High School Norwegian Dancers. This program is offered by the History Alive Project and will be held at the old Westby High School gymnasium on **April 13th**. Doors open at **12:30PM**. We look forward to an afternoon of fun. Please sign up with Rec. Therapy in advance if your loved one is interested as there is limited availability.



Guided Painting In Memory of Eileen Widner

We will be hosting a guided painting program by local artist Barb Larsen featuring this spring gnome design. This program will be held In Memory of Eileen Widner on **April 17th @ 9:30am**. Advance sign up with Recreation Therapy Dept required for participation. Thank you to the donors that made this program possible: Doug & Karen Swenson, Dale Widner, and Beverly Stephen. Thank you for your generosity!



Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd. We will be serving Earth Day Dirtcups (pudding, oreo crumbs, and gummy worms) and creating an Earth Day craft to hang on resident doors. Hopefully the weather is nice so we can spend some time on our patio and enjoy the outdoors!



Community Engagement

Norseland Auxiliary



The Norseland Auxiliary will be celebrating their 50th anniversary April 17th from 2:00 - 4:00 PM with cake, ice cream, and live music from Jay Hoffman. Historically speaking, Norseland Nursing Home opened its doors in Feb. of 1975. Two months later, the Norseland Auxiliary was formed. Residents and their families are welcomed to join the celebration. We hope to see you there!

Norseland Volunteer Banquet



April 27 to May 4 is celebrated as National Volunteer Week. We will be hosting a volunteer appreciation banquet at Borgens Cafe. Thank you to all of our volunteers that continue to serve Norseland Nursing Home. We appreciate your dedication. Thank you to Borgens Cafe for accomodating us. We look forward to an an afternoon of celebrating!

Westby Lions



The Westby Lions will be hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt at Norseland Nursing Home on Saturday, **April 19th @ 10:00am**. Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt, win special prizes, and snap a picture with the Easter bunny! We look forward to welcoming the community to for a festive afternoon! Thank you Westby Lions for including Norseland Nursing Home in your community engagement efforts!

Special Thanks to our Donors

Sharon & David Kammel



Thank you to Sharon & David Kammel for your generous donation to our therapy chicken fund. Our therapy chicken project was started in memory of former resident Lucille Theige (Sharon's mother). Oh how she would have loved to interact and watch the chickens grow! We look forward to warmer days and spending Wednesday mornings on the patio for dedicated chicken therapy visits! Thank you Sharon & David for continuing to support Norseland Recreation Dept!

Westby VFW & Westby Legion



On Thursday, March 13th, members of the Westby Legion and Westby VFW proudly presented Norseland Nursing Home with a flagpole. The consideration of the donation was initiated during a visit to the facility when it was noted that Norseland lacked an indoor flagpole. After discussions and a shared desire to honor the veterans residing at Norseland, the groups decided to make this donation. The flagpole will proudly be displayed at Norseland for years to come, serving as a symbol of respect for those who have served in our nation's military. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the Westby Legion and Westby VFW for their kindness and generosity.

Quilts by Coulee Quilters



Thank you to the Coulee Quilters for their generous donation of another set of bed quilts. The Coulee Quilters continue to provide bed size quilts so that upon admission, each resident receives a quilt. What a special way to welcome new residents and help to make our facility feel "more at home." Thank you to the Coulee Quilters for sharing their time, talent, and materials with us!

In Memory Of...

"Those who touch our lives stay in our hearts forever."

Paul Conrad



May 7, 1955 - March 5, 2025

Paul Conrad, 93, of Westby, WI, passed away peacefully on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at Norseland Nursing Home in Westby.

Paul married Joan Weibel on May 7, 1955, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cashton, WI. Together, they raised five children on the home farm between Westby and Cashton, where Paul milked cattle and raised corn, hay and tobacco. Paul and Joan purchased the farm without a down payment, but rather, with the proceeds from their first tobacco crop.

As if farming wasn't enough work, Paul, at age 32, enrolled in auctioneer school in Mason City, Iowa, which led to a long and successful career with his business, Conrad Auction Service – this after being told he'd never make it as an auctioneer. He went on to prove them wrong, which started by selling cattle at auction barns and then moving to farm and household auctions. For many years, he donated his services for the Westby Lions Club fundraiser auction.

He eventually opened Conrad Realty in Viroqua, WI, and sold many properties in the area, and his auctioneering career spanned nearly 40 years. He probably set a record for auctioneering when he called 31 auctions in 30 days!

Paul and Joan were avid card players, participating in area euchre tournaments at local taverns and American Legion halls. Oftentimes, they would win – thanks to Paul's gift of somehow turning poor hands into a point. They loved playing cards and passed that love down to their children and grandchildren.

After retirement, Paul enjoyed his daily routine of meeting the other retired farmers and businessmen at Central Express for coffee and an hour or two of talking about the "news" and solving the world's problems. In the afternoons, Paul and Joan loved driving the rolling hills of Vernon County, assessing their neighbors' crops, visiting with Amish friends, and watching the big, red sun dip below the horizons.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Cashton.

The Rev. Matthew Bowe officiated. Burial with full military honors followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Online condolences may be offered at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

Marie Strangstalien



June 21, 1928 - March 12, 2025

Marie Mabel Strangstalien, 96, went to her eternal rest on Wednesday morning, March 12, 2025. She was born on June 21, 1928, to Emil and Hattie (Radtke) Maurer in La Crosse, WI. She was baptized and confirmed at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in La Crosse. Marie was a 1946 graduate of Central High School.

One of Marie's first jobs out of high school was at Gundersen Clinic, where she worked for 10 years as a receptionist. She then worked for Yahr-Lang Pharmaceuticals in La Crosse for over 30 years. She was a member of Vang Lutheran Church, the Purple Heart Auxiliary and the Coon Valley American Legion Auxiliary.

On December 23, 1955, Marie and Robert "Bobby" Strangstalien were joined in marriage at First Evangelical Church. They were married for 46 years until his death in May of 2002. At one time, the couple owned and operated a grocery store and later a laundromat in Coon Valley.

Marie and Bobby loved nature's beauty and surrounded themselves with it whenever they could. They spent many weekends in Hatfield where Bobby had built them a cabin. Following retirement, the couple wintered in Palmetto, FL where Bobby had built them a beautiful home near a lake. They enjoyed time there with fellow snowbirds, Verlyn and LuEtta Strangstalien, and welcomed frequent visits from family and friends seeking refuge from the cold Wisconsin winters.

Marie was an animal lover, especially her dogs Zoey, who became her comfort after Bobby's passing, and more recently her faithful companion Cricket, who has thankfully been adopted by Deb Hage. Special thanks to Deb for her loving care.

A heartfelt thanks to Rachel Neidfeldt as well. More than a next-door neighbor—Rachel was a good friend to Marie, a welcome visitor and source of kindness, checking in on her nearly every day.

Marie spent the last two weeks of her life at Norseland Nursing Home in Westby. Thanks to the staff for their loving care in Marie's final days. Thanks also to Gundersen Hospice Program who brought Marie homecare as well as an extra measure of comfort during her time at Norseland.

Marie was preceded in death by her parents, husband and six siblings and their spouses: Ella Maurer, Henry (Lois), Elmer, Robert (Delores), Edward (Helen), and Leo (Donna). She was also preceded in death by brothers- and sisters-in-law: Gordon Strangstalien, Beverly (Donald) Jensen, Verlyn (LuEtta) Strangstalien, Lucille (LaVerne) Ostrem, Dorothy (Glen) Seivertson, Roger Strangstalien, Arlene (John) Townsend, and Floyd Storey.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. Thursday, March 20, 2025 at Vang Lutheran Church, rural Westby. Pastor Alyssa Weaver officiating with burial in the church cemetery. Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until time of service. All are invited for lunch after services. The Seland Funeral Home is assisting the family.