

Great River Homes, Inc.
12th Street
May Newsletter

May was filled with exciting activities, social gatherings, and opportunities for everyone to enjoy time with friends, family, and the community. From special events and outings to everyday accomplishments, the ladies stayed active and engaged throughout the month.

Suzanne had a wonderful month participating in a variety of activities. She enjoyed cooking and baking, helping make breakfast, lunch, and snacks. She spent quality time with her boyfriend on a walk and attended a Frozen-themed party where she participated in a coloring contest. She joined housemates for a walk in Winona, attended the GRH Spring Formal, and celebrated at a staff graduation party. Other highlights included bowling, playing bingo, and cheering on staff members at the NCAA Regional softball games while enjoying Culver's for lunch.

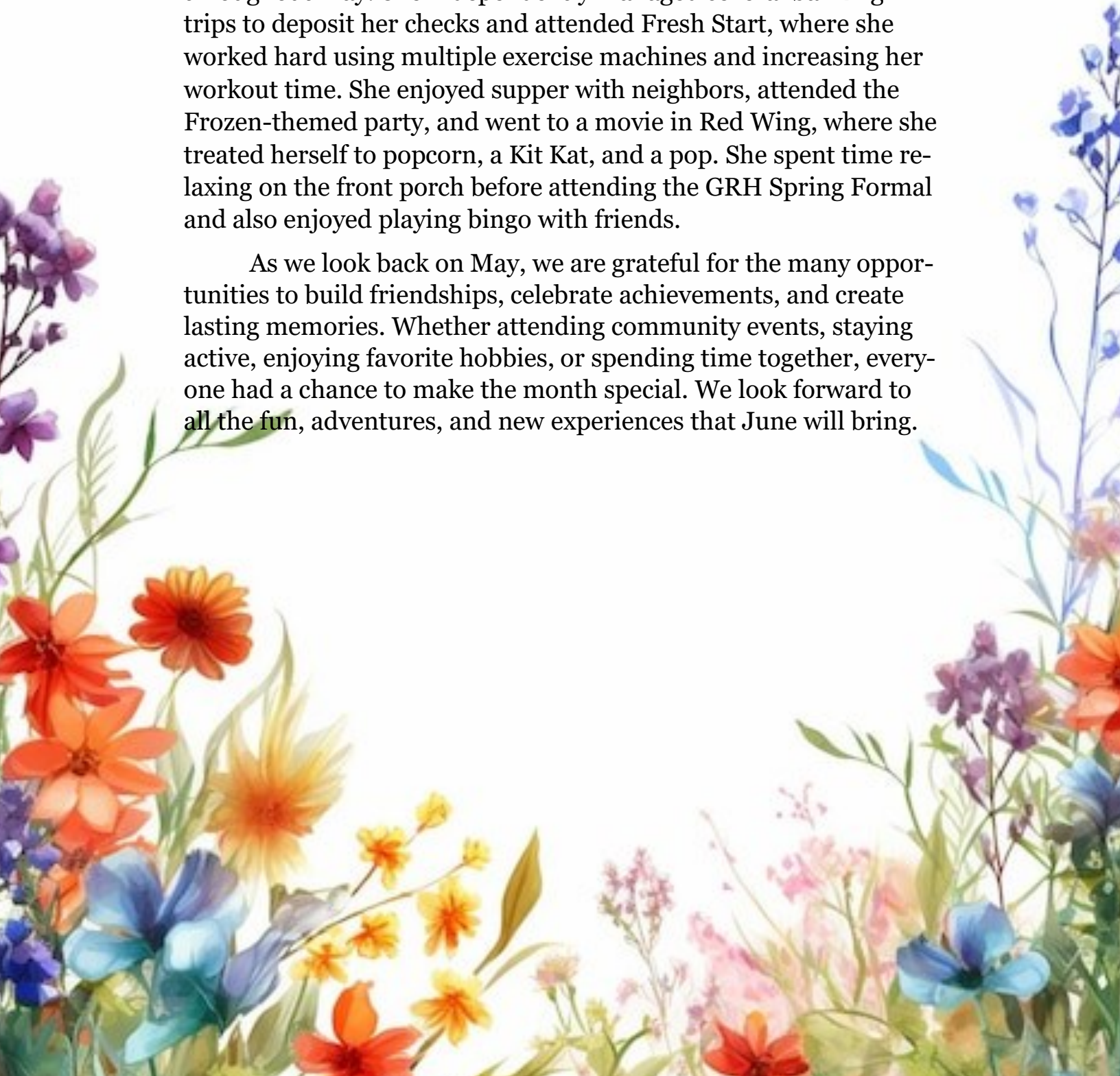
Jo also had an active and fun-filled month. She enjoyed several social events, including bingo with friends, the community block party featuring a petting zoo and live music, and the GRH Spring Formal. She attended Fresh Start, a WK band concert, and invited a friend over for board games. She participated in the Frozen-themed party and coloring contest, watched staff compete at the NCAA Regional softball games, and attended the staff graduation party. She also stayed busy with grocery shopping, household shopping trips, a walk on the Winona trails, bowling, and enjoying meals from Culver's and Pizza Ranch.



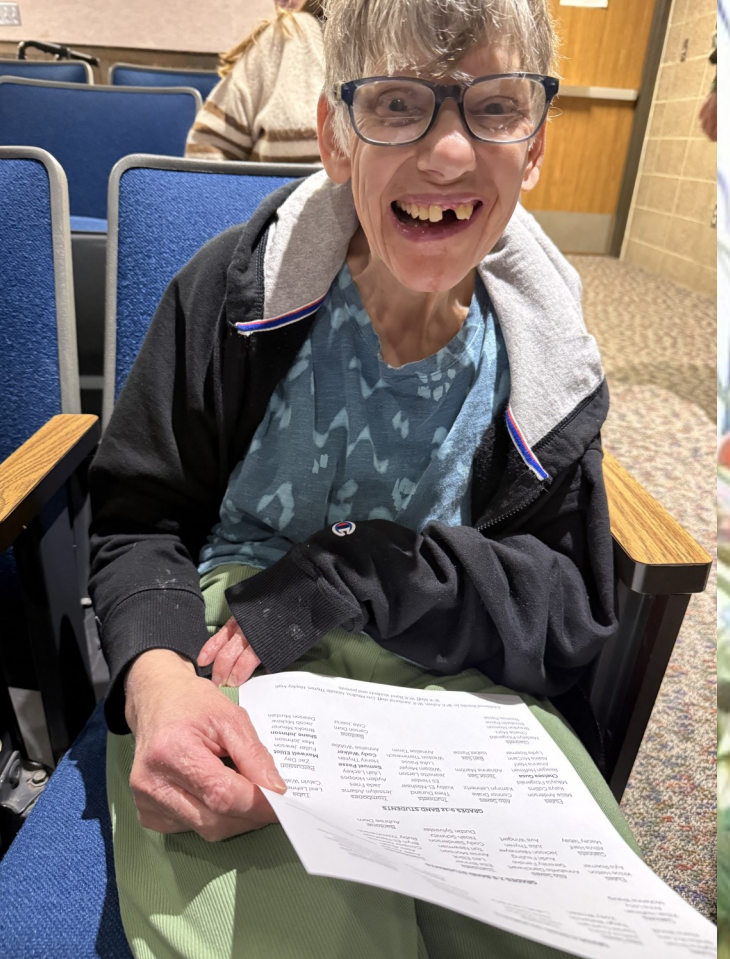
Mary helped make the month especially memorable by planning and hosting the Frozen-themed party. The event featured balloons, music, snowflake decorations, and a coloring contest that everyone enjoyed. She also participated in bingo, attended the GRH Spring Formal, and joined others in watching staff members play softball at the NCAA Regionals while enjoying lunch from Culver's.

Vicki had many accomplishments and enjoyable outings throughout May. She independently managed several banking trips to deposit her checks and attended Fresh Start, where she worked hard using multiple exercise machines and increasing her workout time. She enjoyed supper with neighbors, attended the Frozen-themed party, and went to a movie in Red Wing, where she treated herself to popcorn, a Kit Kat, and a pop. She spent time relaxing on the front porch before attending the GRH Spring Formal and also enjoyed playing bingo with friends.

As we look back on May, we are grateful for the many opportunities to build friendships, celebrate achievements, and create lasting memories. Whether attending community events, staying active, enjoying favorite hobbies, or spending time together, everyone had a chance to make the month special. We look forward to all the fun, adventures, and new experiences that June will bring.











This newsletter segment will hopefully help you learn more about Great River Homes, Inc. Here we will discuss agency processes, things that affect us, and ways you can help.

Commissioned by Louis XIV, Versailles began as a hunting lodge but evolved into a 700-room palace with the Hall of Mirrors and vast gardens. Over 36,000 workers labored on it, making it the political and cultural center of France for centuries. While the 700-room Versailles structure is very impressive, an impressive building does not ensure a good home.

By definition, a house is a building that serves as living quarters. Currently, Great River Homes provides services to individuals in eight different houses. Of the eight current houses, six of the houses were constructed by Great River Homes. Two other residential homes were purchased and remodeled. Key considerations for the housing were accessibility, safety, functionality, comfort, and appearance.

By definition, a home is a social unit formed by living together in a familiar or usual setting. Occasionally, we receive phone calls from community members who mistakenly think Great River Homes is a construction company that builds houses. While quality housing is vital in helping Suzanne, Mary, Jo, and Vicki live their best life, the ultimate mission of Great River Homes is to build homes, not houses.

While houses are built using construction materials, ethics serve as the foundation for a home where individuals feel secure and can live their best lives. Great River Homes belongs to the National Alliance for Direct Service Professionals, and we seek to follow their Code of Ethics. Values referenced in the Code of Ethics include person-centered supports, emotional and physical well-being, integrity, fairness, respect, relationships, and personal autonomy. Compared to a supportive, vibrant home where individuals are encouraged to pursue their dreams, even the most elegant structures, such as Versailles, pale in importance.

Jerry McMillin

Development and Education Manager