

Great River Homes, Inc.

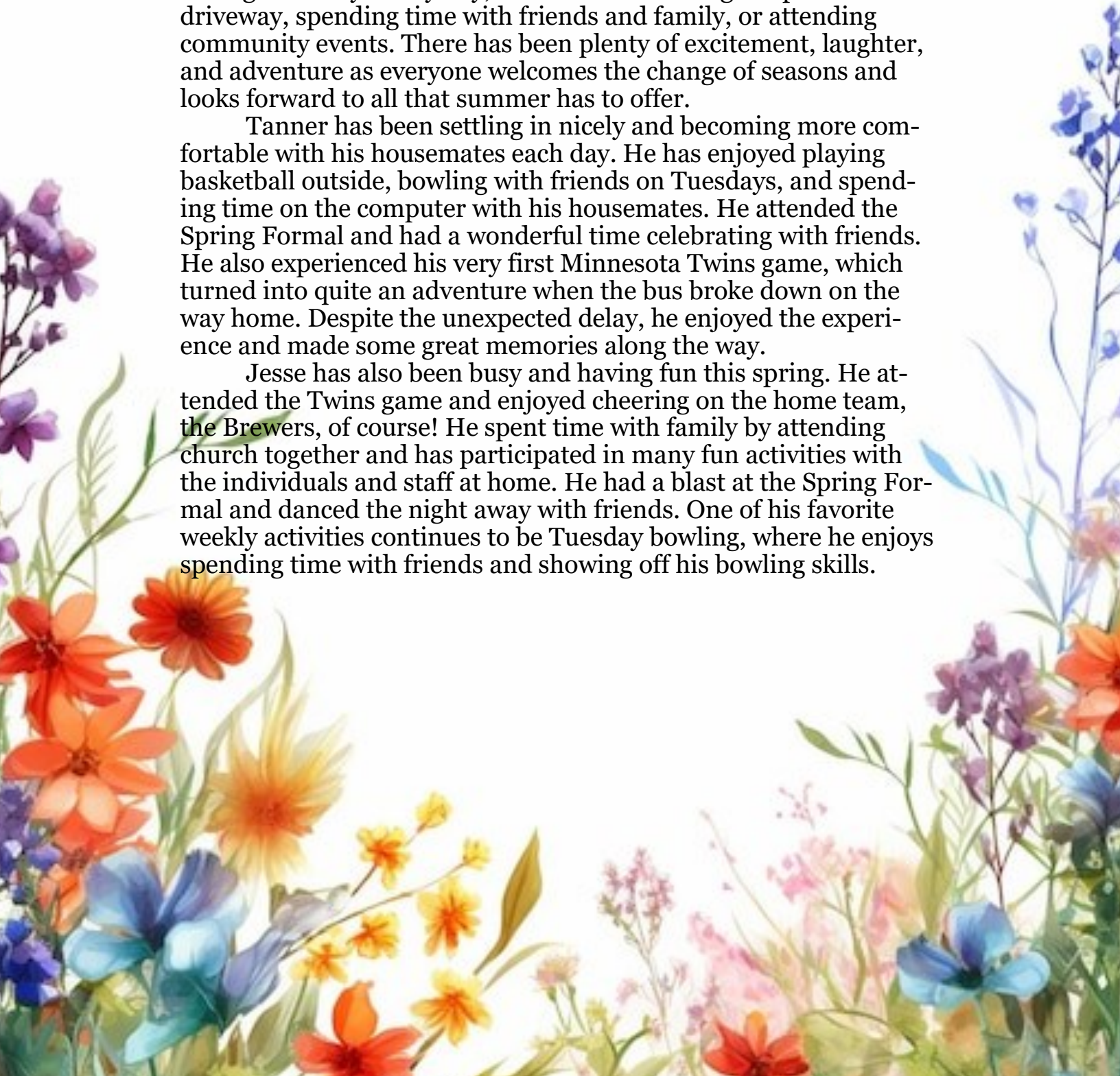
14th Street

May Newsletter

As the days grow longer and the temperatures continue to rise, the folks here at 14th Street have been eager to get outside and enjoy the beautiful spring weather. They all have been taking advantage of every sunny day, whether it's shooting hoops in the driveway, spending time with friends and family, or attending community events. There has been plenty of excitement, laughter, and adventure as everyone welcomes the change of seasons and looks forward to all that summer has to offer.

Tanner has been settling in nicely and becoming more comfortable with his housemates each day. He has enjoyed playing basketball outside, bowling with friends on Tuesdays, and spending time on the computer with his housemates. He attended the Spring Formal and had a wonderful time celebrating with friends. He also experienced his very first Minnesota Twins game, which turned into quite an adventure when the bus broke down on the way home. Despite the unexpected delay, he enjoyed the experience and made some great memories along the way.

Jesse has also been busy and having fun this spring. He attended the Twins game and enjoyed cheering on the home team, the Brewers, of course! He spent time with family by attending church together and has participated in many fun activities with the individuals and staff at home. He had a blast at the Spring Formal and danced the night away with friends. One of his favorite weekly activities continues to be Tuesday bowling, where he enjoys spending time with friends and showing off his bowling skills.

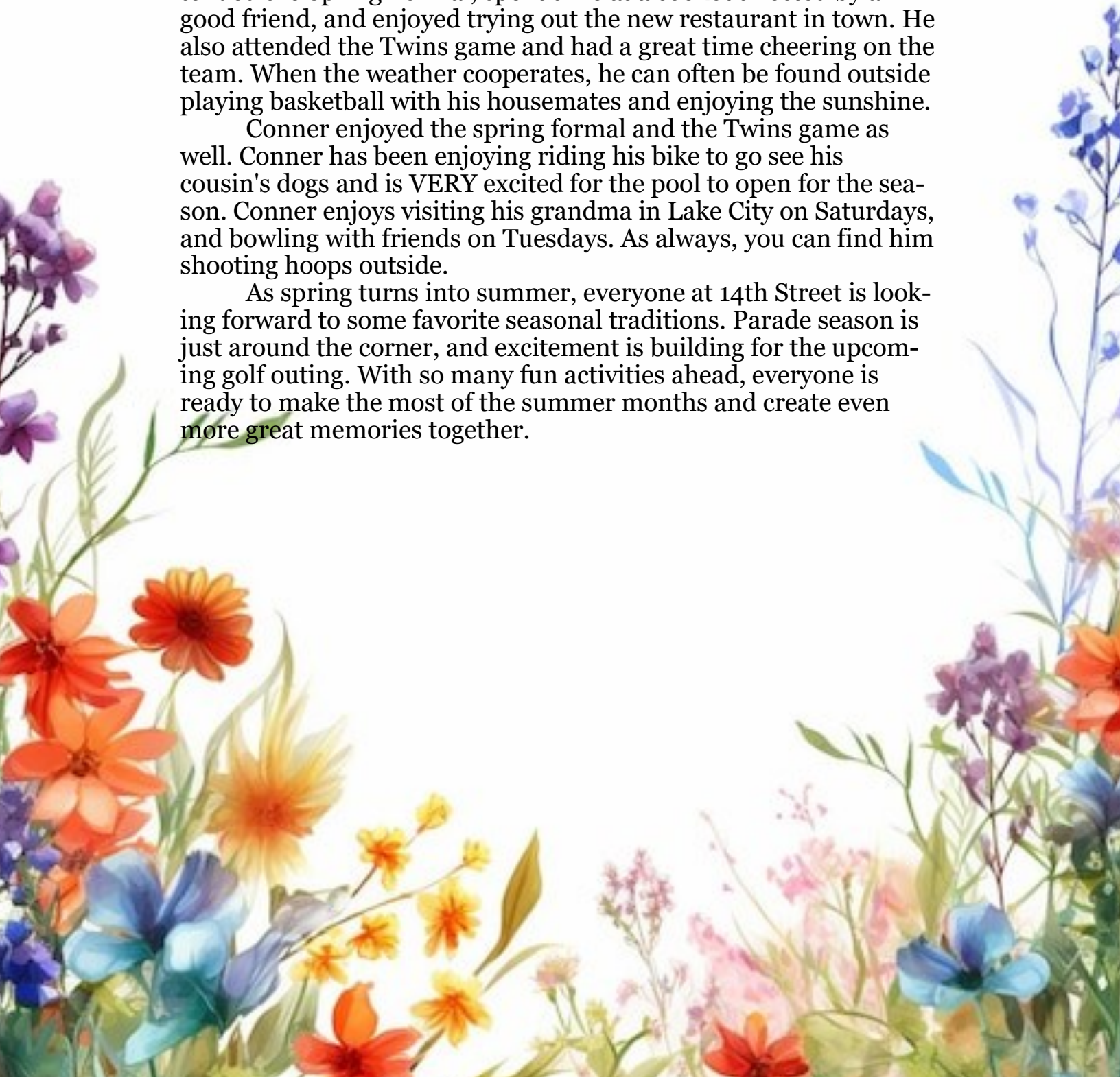


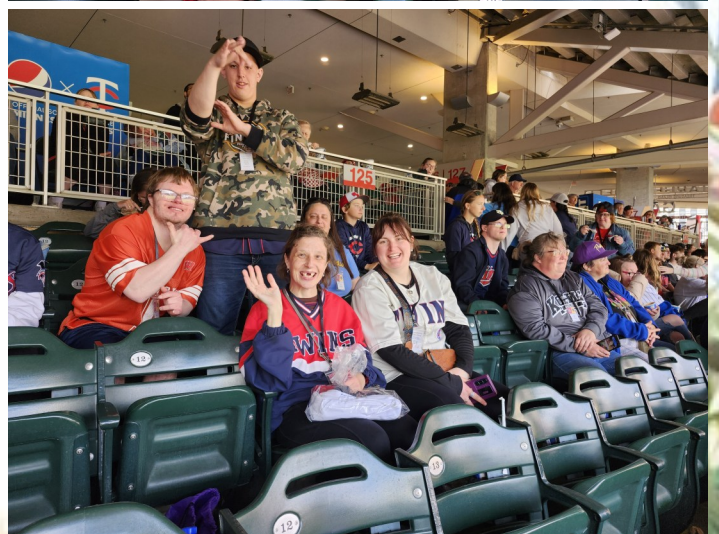
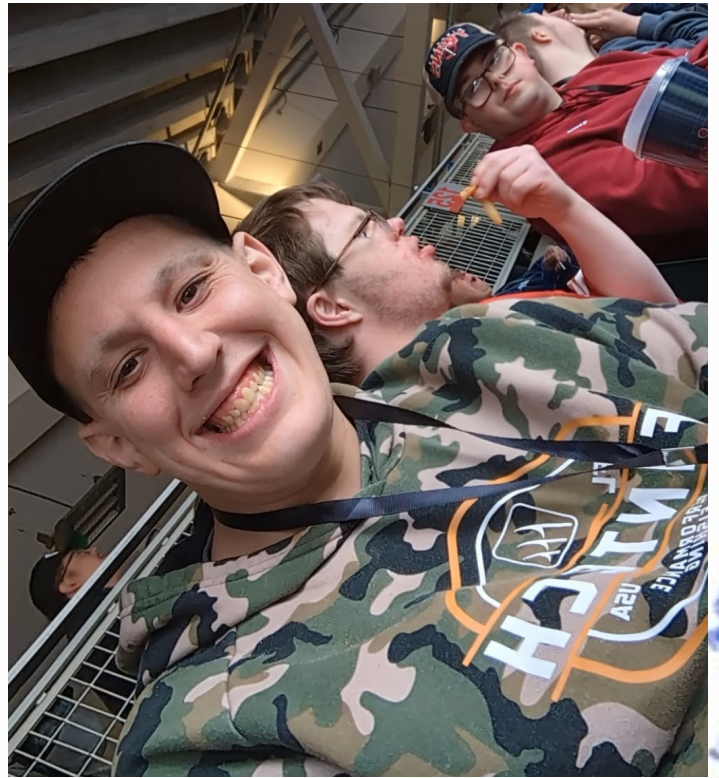
Ben has been spending many weekends with family, where he enjoys helping babysit his nieces and taking care of the family dogs. He has also been lending a helping hand by assisting with grocery shopping and putting groceries away. When he's at home, he enjoys staying cool indoors and keeping everyone on their toes with his impressive (and sometimes questionable!) skills while playing Trouble. His competitive spirit always brings plenty of laughs to game time.

Diego has had a busy and enjoyable spring season. He attended the Spring Formal, spent time at a cookout hosted by a good friend, and enjoyed trying out the new restaurant in town. He also attended the Twins game and had a great time cheering on the team. When the weather cooperates, he can often be found outside playing basketball with his housemates and enjoying the sunshine.

Conner enjoyed the spring formal and the Twins game as well. Conner has been enjoying riding his bike to go see his cousin's dogs and is VERY excited for the pool to open for the season. Conner enjoys visiting his grandma in Lake City on Saturdays, and bowling with friends on Tuesdays. As always, you can find him shooting hoops outside.

As spring turns into summer, everyone at 14th Street is looking forward to some favorite seasonal traditions. Parade season is just around the corner, and excitement is building for the upcoming golf outing. With so many fun activities ahead, everyone is ready to make the most of the summer months and create even more great memories together.









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 Jesse, Tanner, Ben, Diego, and Conner 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