

Great River Homes, Inc.

613 Circle Drive

May Newsletter

May was filled with excitement, laughter, and memorable adventures for the ladies of 613. From dancing the night away at the Spring Formal to enjoying outdoor activities, sporting events, and celebrating important milestones, the month was packed with opportunities to make lasting memories together.

The month began with the much-anticipated Spring Formal. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful evening filled with music, dancing, and time spent with family and friends. Paige danced to nearly every song until her legs could no longer keep up with her enthusiasm. Katy especially enjoyed dancing to "Dancing Queen" by ABBA, a favorite from her beloved movie *Mamma Mia!*, alongside her mom, dad, sister Greta, and friends. Although dancing was not KayRine's favorite activity, she still had a great time enjoying the festivities. Jenny joined in the fun by dancing to several slow songs and sharing special dances with her parents, who attended the event as well.

Later in the month, the ladies embarked on an adventure with the staff to update the photos displayed on their wall. The previous photos had been taken back in 2017, making this photoshoot a special occasion. Despite a few persistent gnats attempting to photobomb the session, everyone had a wonderful time. The new photos turned out beautifully, and the ladies are very proud of their updated photo wall.

Mid-May brought another exciting outing as KayRine and Jenny joined friends and many others from Great River Homes, Inc. on a bus trip to watch the Minnesota Twins take on the Milwaukee Brewers. While the game itself was enjoyable, it seems the bus ride may have provided even more excitement and entertainment than the action on the field.

As warmer weather arrived, so did fierce competition on the pickleball court. Paige has become a true pickleball superstar, taking on staff and challengers alike. To date, she remains undefeated, proving that anyone brave enough to challenge her should be prepared for some serious competition. The Olympics may want to keep an eye on this rising athlete!

Although Special Olympics swimming wrapped up in May, all of the ladies continued working toward their health goals through the Fresh Start Program. A special congratulations goes to Jenny, who graduated from Fresh Start and successfully moved into the maintenance program. Her hard work and dedication have paid off, and she continues to be a great example of commitment and perseverance. While staff encourages healthy snack choices, everyone agrees that sometimes a little chocolate is just what a person needs.

Paige and KayRine also enjoyed a scenic picnic at Memorial Park in Red Wing. With a staff member who enjoys photography, the outing quickly became a fun photo session as well. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed both the beautiful scenery and the wonderful pictures that captured their day together.

May also brought a significant change to the household as KayRine moved to her new home on 8th Street. While everyone will miss having her as a housemate, they are excited for her new adventure and look forward to continuing their friendship through regular visits and activities together.

The month concluded with celebrations for one of Great River Home's own. Many houses gathered in Pepin for a special breakfast honoring Abby's high school graduation. Congratulations, Abby! We are excited to see what the future holds for you. On the same day, Paige joined River Drive in attending the W-K Graduation Ceremony, helping celebrate another important milestone within the community.

As May comes to a close, the ladies of 613 look back on a month filled with friendship, accomplishments, laughter, and new experiences. From special events and outdoor adventures to personal achievements and meaningful celebrations, May was truly a memorable month. Everyone is looking forward to all the fun and opportunities that summer 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 Paige, Katy, KayRine, and Jenny 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.

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