

Great River Homes, Inc.

8th Street

May Newsletter

As spring transitioned into summer, the ladies at 8th Street enjoyed a month full of exciting adventures, celebrations, and special milestones. From traveling to new places and attending community events to celebrating birthdays and welcoming changes, there was plenty to keep everyone busy and smiling.

One of the biggest highlights of the month was Jenny's trip to Holland, Michigan, where she traveled with her mom to attend the famous Tulip Festival. The five-day adventure included a long bus ride, beautiful displays of colorful tulips, and many opportunities to make lasting memories. Jenny returned home with lots of stories to share about her travels and all the fun she had along the way.

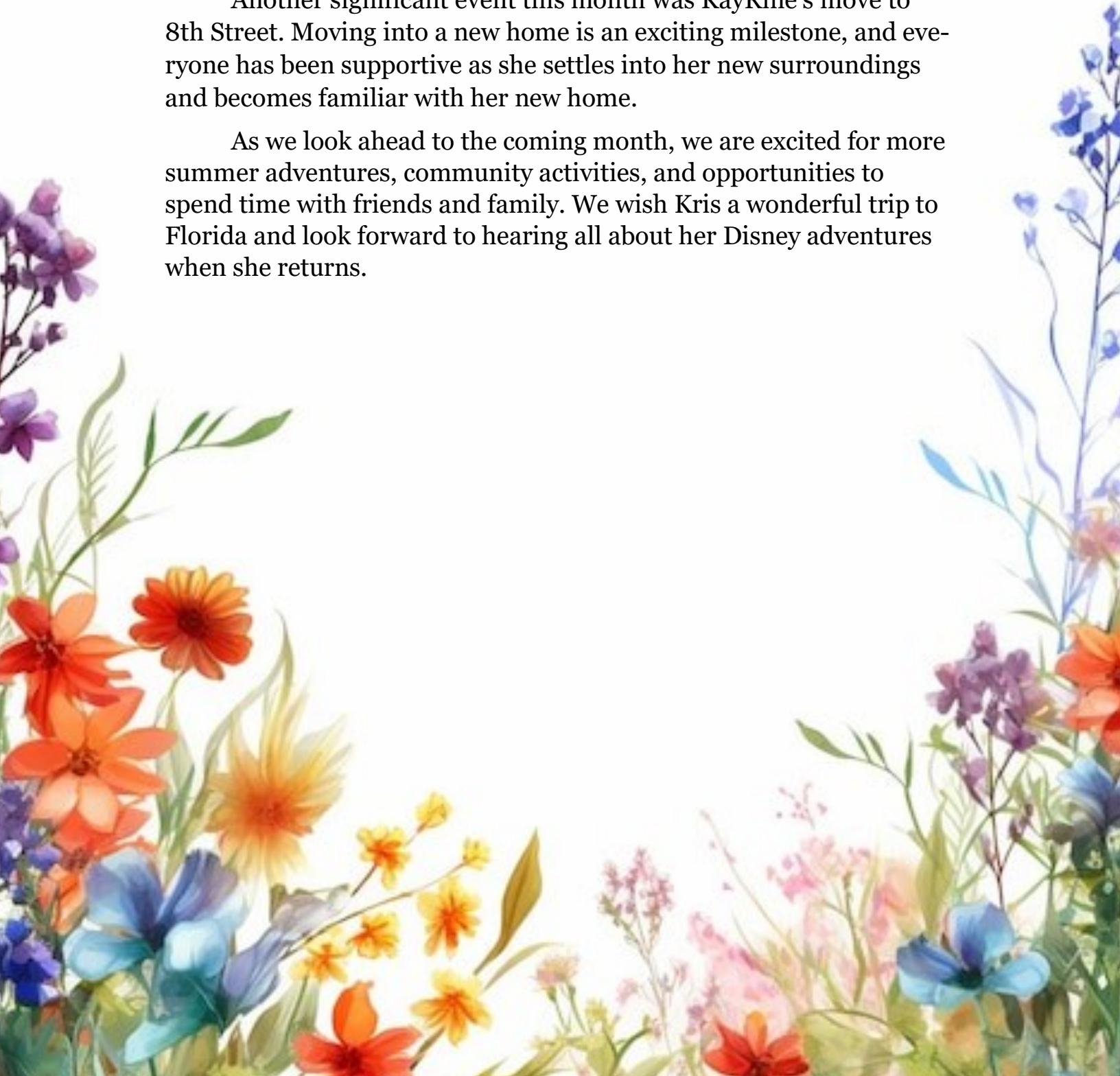
Sports fans had a great time when Kris, Jenny, and Lindsay attended a Minnesota Twins game together. The ladies enjoyed cheering on the Twins, spending time together, and experiencing the excitement of a professional baseball game. Bowling also continued to be a favorite activity, with everyone looking forward to Tuesday night bowling each week.

The ladies were excited to participate in several special social events throughout the month. Everyone enjoyed getting dressed up for the Spring Dance hosted by Community Education in Red Wing. There was also a great deal of excitement surrounding preparations for the Great River Homes Spring Formal. Finding the perfect dress became an adventure of its own, with some ladies shopping through generous clothing donations at the Central Office while others found dresses through community connections. The anticipation and excitement made the event even more special.

Kris had an especially busy month as she prepared for her first trip to Disney World in Florida. She spent time planning, packing, and counting down the days until her departure. She is looking forward to spending much of June in Florida with her sister and creating unforgettable memories during her extended stay. Before she left, all of the ladies gathered at Rancho Loco to celebrate Kris's birthday. The evening was filled with laughter, good food, and well-wishes as everyone helped make her birthday celebration special.

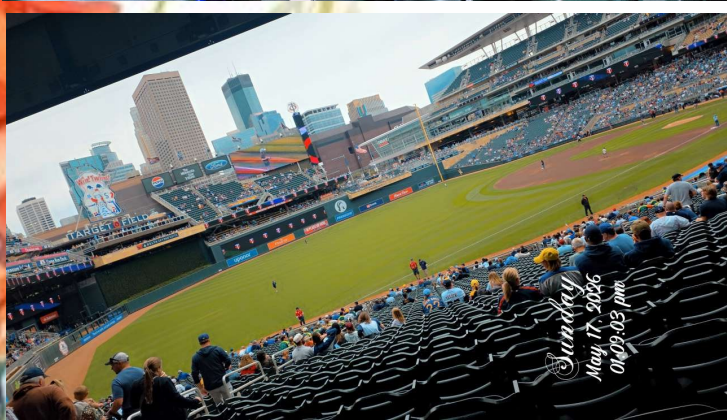
Another significant event this month was KayRine's move to 8th Street. Moving into a new home is an exciting milestone, and everyone has been supportive as she settles into her new surroundings and becomes familiar with her new home.

As we look ahead to the coming month, we are excited for more summer adventures, community activities, and opportunities to spend time with friends and family. We wish Kris a wonderful trip to Florida and look forward to hearing all about her Disney adventures when she returns.













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 Kris, Jenny, Lindsay, and KayRine 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
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