

Norseland News

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF NORSELAND NURSING HOME



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Employee Highlights

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Beverly Leland, CNA - 47 years

Kaylin Knock - 3 years

Mary Chroninger, CNA - 1 year

Macayla Anderson, Dietary Aid - 3 years

NEW EMPLOYEES:

Barrett Brown: Van Driver

Announcements

Happy New Year! As we step into January, I want to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful start to the year. A new year brings a sense of fresh beginnings, and here at Norseland, we are excited about continuing the important work of caring for your loved ones each day.

Winter in Wisconsin keeps us on our toes, but our team is focused on keeping residents safe, comfortable, and engaged. While the cold weather may limit outdoor activities, we're making the most of cozy indoor time with meaningful activities, social connections, and plenty of opportunities for residents to stay active and involved.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to our staff, who continue to show up with compassion, teamwork, and dedication—especially during the winter months. Their commitment truly makes Norseland feel like home.

We look forward to a great year ahead and are grateful to share it with you and your loved ones

-Angie Viau, Administrator

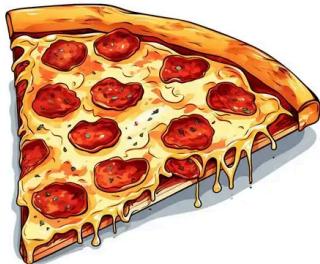
WE ARE HIRING

Available Positions:

- CNAs (PMs) - **\$2,500 sign on bonus**
- Nurse (LPN or RN: PMs) - **LPN \$10,000 sign on bonus | RN \$20,000 sign on bonus**
- Van Driver - on call position
- Temporary Cook Position (every other weekend)
 - Potential to go "on-call" if interested
- Part Time Dietary Aide
- Nursing Support Assistant

Apply today at: bsjcorp.com/employment/

Special Events



New Year's Eve Social

We will be hosting a New Year's Eve social with a pizza party from Nordic Lanes. We will also be playing New Year's Eve Bingo. Join us in the Dining Room at **2:00PM on Wednesday, Dec 31st** for an afternoon of fun and ringing in the new year. We look forward to celebrating together!



Grilled Cheese & Chicken Dumpling

Our Recreation Department will be serving grilled cheese fresh off the griddle and chicken and dumpling soup on **January 8th** for the lunch meal. Interested residents should sign up with Recreation Therapy in advance by Tuesday, January 6th. This offering is reserved for residents only.



Order In - Nordic Lanes

Residents will have the opportunity to order in from Nordic Lanes on **January 22 at 12:00pm**. Advanced sign up is required as there is limited availability. Please see Recreation Therapy department to sign up!



Recreation Therapy Intern

We are excited to welcome our new Recreation Therapy Intern, Allison. Allison will be interning within our Recreation Department from January-May 2026 while completing her degree through UW-La Crosse. We are excited to add a new friendly face to our program offerings. Please stop by the Recreation Office to say hi!

Community Engagement

Norseland Auxiliary



The Norseland Auxiliary continues support Norseland Nursing Home by means of volunteerism and fundraising. We thank **Phyllis Eklov** and **Janet Johnson** who served as co-presidents for the past two years. We will be welcoming new co-presidents: **Lou Ann Jelinek** and **Laurel Shea** for the 2026 year. **Irene Olson** and **Barb Wolfe** will remain in their roles as Secretary and Treasurer. We thank our Norseland Auxiliary officers and members for their dedicated efforts in serving Norseland residents and their families. Norseland Auxiliary is always welcoming new members. Please visit with Ange DeWinter in Recreation Department on how you can join the Norseland Auxiliary!



Winter Bingo

We will be welcoming the Westby 3rd graders to play Winter Bingo on **January 20th at 2:00pm**. This program is offered as a part of our ongoing partnership with Westby Elementary school. We look forward to an afternoon of playing bingo and sharing smiles with our special friends!

A Supportive Community

We would like to take a moment to thank the local organizations, businesses, and community members who made the holiday season extra special:

- **Grace & Truth Chapel, English Lutheran Church, Redemption Chapel** for spreading Christmas cheer by singing Christmas carols
- **Westby Elementary School District** for having the 1st graders deliver homemade Christmas crafts and sing Christmas carols
- **Norseland Auxiliary** for assisting in decorating facility, providing lefse for Christmas meal, and providing each resident with the gift of haircut for Christmas
- **Holiday Helpers** (led by Angi Dobbs and Melissa Kast), **Westby United Methodist Church** (led by Lois Gerling) , **Cheryl's Norse Styles** (by Cheryl Urbanek) , and **Peace, Spread the Warmth** (led by Jackie Getter) for their generous gifts and care packages provided to each resident
- **Westby Legion** (Harold Olson) and **Viroqua VFW** (Eric Sherry) for visiting with residents and providing gifts for resident veterans
- **Something For Seniors** (Oakwood Realty LLC) for organizing a local supplies drive shared amongst local nursing home facilities
- **Chrisanthemum Adult Day Services** for arranging Christmas centerpieces for each dining room table
- **Santa** for sharing his time and talent to pose for pictures and deliver gifts at Christmas party
- **Bland Clinic** for sponsoring gourmet cupcakes from Cupcake Lane as a special treat at our Christmas Party
- **Elizabeth Carpenter Photography** for donating your time and talent to capture portraits with Santa

Special Thanks to our Donors



Skogdalen ALCW

Thank you to Skogdalen ALCW for your generous monetary gift to our Recreation Therapy Department. Donations to our Recreation Therapy Department allow us to continue offering unique and engaging programs for both residents and their families to enjoy. We appreciate your generosity!

Ruth and David Amundson



Thank you to Ruth and David Amundson for their generous donation to our Recreation Therapy Department. David and Ruth have been long term supporters of Norseland Nursing Home. Serving as Board Members on the History Alive Project, David and Ruth continue to foster community engagement and inclusion for our residents through the local historical organization. We look forward to utilizing your donated funds to make National Nursing Home Week extra special! More details to come!

Leona and Harlan Friske



Thank you to Leona and Harlan Friske for their generous donation to our Recreation Department to sponsor live music for residents and their families to enjoy. With their generous monetary gift, we will be welcoming new entertainer, Jack Norton of Winona to entertain us on **Monday, Feb. 16th at 10:00am**. Thank you for sharing your generosity with the residents of Norseland!

In Memory Of....

Delaine Jefson



Oct. 3, 1937 - Dec. 8, 2025

Delaine B. Jefson of Westby passed away Monday, December 8, 2025. She was born in La Crosse to Nordahl and Mabel Nelson. She attended Westby Schools and graduated from Westby High School. She married Donald Jefson at Our Savior's Lutheran Church of which they were lifetime members. Delaine worked for the Westby Utility and then became City Clerk Treasurer of the City of Westby before retirement.

Delaine worked for the Westby Utility and then became City Clerk Treasurer of the City of Westby before retirement. She is survived by three sons: David (Cindy) of Black River Falls, Daniel (Jodine) of Westby and Daron (Tammy) of Viroqua; one sister Inez Narvestad of Greenwood; six grandchildren: Amber (Matt) Newquist of Apple Valley, MN, Aaron Jefson of La Crosse, Amanda (Keith) Weaver of Viroqua, Ashley (Gaje) Young of Westby, Abigail (Trevor) Keenan of Westby, Vanessa (Dustin) Piper of Sparta; two step grandchildren, Stephanie (Joe) Vikemyr of Viroqua and Shana Adams of Wilton, WI; 13 great grandchildren; and special nieces and nephews.

Delaine was preceded in death by her husband, Donald; parents, Nordahl and Mabel; two sisters, Lenore Stenslien and Valborg Melby; one brother, Odell Nelson; brothers-in-law: Tennes Narvestad, Pearly Stenslien, and Norman Melby; sister-in-law Gwen Nelson, mother and father-in-law Julian and Helen Jefson; brother and sister-in-law Howard and Donna "nee Jefson" Bergh.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Monday, December 15, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church with Pastor Amanda Schultz officiating. A visitation will be held from 10:00 AM until time of service. Burial will take place in the Coon Prairie Cemetery following the service. In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred.

Reuben Ellefson



Jan. 17, 1936 - Dec. 6, 2025

Reuben Oscar Ellefson passed away on the evening of December 6, 2025, in the company of family at Norseland Nursing Home in Westby, Wisconsin, the city he called home for nearly 60 years.

Reuben was born on January 17, 1936, in Harmony Township, Vernon County, WI, to Elias and Hannah (Hanson) Ellefson.

Reuben served as a U.S. Navy firefighter for two years as a young man, which allowed him to travel to places like Greece, Spain, France, and more, after which he married the love of his life, Eileen Claire Boland, on March 22, 1958, in Chicago. They raised four children together: Daniel Oscar, Barbara Maria, Peder Michael, and Thomas Eric.

A great lover of music, Reuben collected instruments, including a banjo and accordion, though he never learned to play them. Reuben was also an early adopter of technology, and his kids talked about being one of the first houses on the block to have the earliest video game, Pong, as well as one of the first computers in the neighborhood.

Reuben led a very active life and valued hard work and education. He worked for many years at Cooler Company in La Crosse and later at Vernon Electric in Westby, attending classes at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He served on Our Savior's Council and was an original board member and part of the planning committee for Norseland Nursing Home. Reuben was also a member of the Westby Fire Department, the Westby Chapter of the Sons of Norway, and the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, in addition to being an active member of the Bethesda Lutheran Church.

Reuben was very active in the Snowflake Ski Club, helping to coach many jumpers, including his sons. He served as the Jr. Ski Club Treasurer and engraved the original nameplates for the hill, in addition to volunteering countless hours prepping the ski hills, transporting jumpers to tournaments, and operating the food stand. Determined to show his children as much of the world as possible, Reuben took his family on camping trips around the U.S., including a memorable trip to Glacier National Park. Later, Reuben traveled with his children and grandchildren to Norway, including Skjåk, where his father was born.

Reuben and Eileen had a large community of loving friends and family, including their "dock neighbors" at the La Crosse Municipal Boat Harbor, where they kept their houseboat, the Solsidvegen, in between camping trips on the Mississippi River, creating many wonderful memories and teaching their grandchildren to fish. To many, Reuben was known as the Lefse King and refused to share his secrets with anyone outside of the family. He was also known as Pinky, Dad, Grandpa, the big kid who played hide-and-seek, and a friend who will be dearly missed.

The family would like to offer heartfelt thanks to his care team and the staff at Norseland nursing home for the love and compassion you showed him during his time there. We are so very grateful.