

Norseland News

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF NORSELAND NURSING HOME

Norseland
N
Nursing Home

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Employee Highlights

WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Alexis Denofrio, LPN - 1 year
Claire Griffin, CNA - 6 years
Serenity Pahl, Dietary Aid - 3 years
Jocelyn Pedretti, RN - 2 years
Missy Pohlman, DON - 1 year

NEW EMPLOYEES:

Ololade Odetola, RN
Stephen Sailsbery, Van Driver

Announcements

We have begun our hallway painting and refresh project, and we're happy to share that this effort is well underway. The updates have already made a noticeable difference - creating a brighter, more welcoming environment throughout the facility. This project is part of our continued commitment to maintaining a comfortable and home-like atmosphere for our residents.

We are also launching a very special photo project that will celebrate the lives, stories, and individuality of our residents. These images will be thoughtfully displayed throughout the hallways as part of our décor, helping to create a space that truly honors and reflects our community.

If you or your loved one is interested in participating and you have not yet received a consent form via mail, please stop by the front desk to request a copy—we would love to have as many participants as possible.

Additionally, Norseland sustained significant damage during the recent storm, including damage to parts of the building that now require repair. We are currently coordinating these repairs, which are expected to begin soon and may last several months. During this time, there may be some temporary disruptions or changes within the building. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding as we complete this necessary work.

-Angie Viau, Administration

WE ARE HIRING

Available Positions:

- CNAs (PMs)
- Dietary Aid

Apply today at: bsjcorp.com/employment/

Special Events



Magic of Isaiah

We are excited to celebrate National Nursing Home Week with a special Magic Show! This event has been made possible through the generosity of the Sue Jensen Family. We extend our sincere thanks to **Jay and Amanda Jensen** for their thoughtful monetary gift. Join us on **Monday, May 11th at 2:00 PM** for an afternoon of fun, laughter, and community!

National Eagle Center LIVE Eagle Program



We are excited to welcome a live eagle presentation from the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minnesota. Residents will have the opportunity to learn about the history of the eagle population, their natural environment, and the organization's conservation efforts. This special program has been made possible through the generosity of **Ruth and Dave Amundson**. Join us on **May 13th at 10:00 AM** in the Recreation Room for this engaging and educational experience!

Zoozort Animal Presentation



We are excited to welcome Zoozort for a live animal presentation on **Thursday, May 14th at 1:30 PM**. This interactive program will feature a variety of fascinating animals, including a fennec fox, hedgehog, chinchilla, chameleon, skunk, three-banded armadillo, and dwarf hairy armadillo. We are especially pleased to have the Westby 4th graders joining us for this special event. This program has been generously made possible by the Kathleen Spears family.

Westby Elementary School



In celebration of Syttende Mai, Norseland is delighted to join Westby Elementary School for their school-wide parade on **Friday, May 15 at 1:30pm!** We're so excited to sit alongside the students, cheer them on, and be part of such a joyful community tradition. A heartfelt thank you to Westby Elementary School for including us—we truly appreciate the opportunity to share in this special day together!

Community Engagement

Syttende Mai Parade



Norseland Nursing Home is excited to participate in the City of Westby's Syttende Mai Parade on **Sunday, May 17th at 1:30 PM**. Our residents will have the opportunity to ride along in a UTV while staff members walk alongside, sharing candy with parade-goers. We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of this special community celebration and look forward to celebrating together!

Genoa Hatchery



Thank you to the Genoa National Fish Hatchery for including Norseland Nursing Home in your community engagement efforts. We truly appreciate your partnership. We are excited that the hatchery will be delivering rainbow trout for our parking lot fishing event on **Wednesday, May 13th at 2:00 p.m.** Thank you for providing this wonderful opportunity for our residents and staff!

Recreation Therapy Fundraiser



Our Recreation Therapy intern, Allison, hosted a raffle basket fundraiser on Wednesday, April 29th as part of her Farewell Social for completing her internship. Thank you to the following local businesses who donated baskets: **Kwik Trip, Westby United Methodist Church, Nordic Lanes, History Alive Project, Daily Brew, Nordic Creamery, Westby Creamery, Snowflake Ski Club, Westby Area Historical Society, Ruth and Dave Amundson, Viroqua Food Coop.** Thank you for your continued support!

Special Thanks to our Donors

Norseland Auxiliary



A heartfelt thank you to our Norseland Auxiliary for your generous donation to help provide flowers throughout our facility. These beautiful touches make our space feel even more warm and welcoming.

Residents and their families truly enjoy spending time outdoors, surrounded by the flowers, sharing memories and special moments in the garden. Your generosity helps create these meaningful experiences—thank you again!

In Memory of Myrtle Yavske



A heartfelt thank you to **Daniel and Nancy Thompson** for your generous monetary gift to our Recreation Therapy Department, given in memory of Myrtle. Your kindness helps us continue offering unique and engaging programs for our residents and their families to enjoy. We are truly grateful for your generosity and for honoring Myrtle in such a meaningful way.

Norseland Auxiliary



The Norseland Auxiliary continues to play an important role in supporting residents of Norseland Nursing Home and their families through ongoing volunteer efforts. Most recently, the Auxiliary provided a monetary gift to help cover the cost of distributing candy to parade-goers at the City of Westby's Syttende Mai Parade. Their generosity helps strengthen community engagement and fosters meaningful connections throughout the area. Thank you, Norseland Auxiliary, for your continued dedication and support.

In Memory Of....

Lois Harris



April 6, 1928- April 4, 2026

Lois Jean Harris, age 97, of De Soto, passed away peacefully on April 4, 2026, at Norseland Nursing Home. She was born on April 6, 1928, to Archabald and Francis (Ewing) Nelson. Lois was a teacher for 42 years, starting her career at the one room schoolhouse in Manning. She retired in 1992 in Burlington, WI at Burlington-Waller Elementary School. She married James Harris on August 12, 1948. They were married for 72 years until Jim died in 2020. She enjoyed baking, gardening, canning, and spending time with her family and friends. Her favorite TV show was Little House on the Prairie.

Survivors include her children, Greg Harris, Trent (Lisa) Harris, and Shawn Greiner; her grandchildren, Shelbi, Austin, Cassi, Kurt, Courtney, and Aaron; her great-grandchildren, Noah, Rubye, Odin, Layla, Connor, Keegan, Lillian, Savannah, Trevor, Levi, Paisley, Oliver, Lenora, Sophia, and Jameson; many nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Lois was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jim; her grandson, Chad Harris; her daughter-in-law, Linda Harris; and her siblings, Junior, Pauline, and Carolyn.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2026, at New Hope Methodist Church. A luncheon will follow. Lois will be laid to rest at the Readstown Cemetery.

Harlan Friske



Oct 3, 1933 - April 7, 2026

Harlan H. Friske passed away on April 7th, 2026, with his family by his side at Norseland Nursing Home at the age of 92. Harlan was born October 3, 1933, in Mauston, WI, to Henry and Helen (Eberhardt) Friske. He spent his childhood and teenage years on the family farm, working in the fields, the large family garden, and helping with the cows. Harlan graduated from Kendall High School in 1951. After graduation, he joined the Air Force and proudly served his country from 1952 to 1956, spending two years in Osaka, Japan. Following his time in the service, he and a few "Kendall boys" headed to Janesville to work at General Motors and Parker Pen. It was about this time that he met Leona (Myhre), and they were married on June 25, 1960. They made their home in Janesville, raised three daughters, and were married for 65 years.

In 1968, Harlan started working for the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Chemistry & Physics Department. He enjoyed working with the graduate students and a variety of projects. Harlan worked there until his retirement in 1994. After retirement, Harlan and Leona moved to Viroqua to be closer to family.

During their time together, Harlan and Leona enjoyed summer fishing trips to Canada, winter trips to Florida, vacationing throughout the U.S., and spending time with their grandchildren. Some of Harlan's fondest memories were of the entire family vacationing together in Cumberland, WI.

Harlan was a longtime member of the English Lutheran Church, where he served on several committees and volunteered countless hours. He was a man of strong faith and loved his Lord and Savior.

Harlan is survived by his wife, Leona; daughters, Julie (Tom Peterson) Weiser, Jane (Wade) Zernicke, and Jody (Jon) Hill. He adored his grandchildren, Emily (Joey Johnson) Weiser, Erin (Cole) Schnitzler, Kallie Weiser, Luke (Ashley) Zernicke, Jacob (Kate) Zernicke, Caleb Zernicke, Alex Hill, Gracie Hill, Olivia Hill, and great-granddaughter, Alma Schnitzler.

Harlan was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Charlane Gibney; sisters-in-law, Mary Ghelf, Sonya Bohland; and brothers-in-law, Wayne Ghelf, Merlin Bohland, and Ronnie Buckles.

A funeral service will be held on Sunday, April 12, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at the English Lutheran Church in Viroqua. Visitation will take place from 1:00 p.m. until the time of services. Burial with full military honors will follow at the Viroqua Cemetery, with a lunch to follow in the church fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the English Lutheran Church or to the Recreation Department at Norseland Nursing Home.

In Memory Of....

Myrtle Yanske



March 19, 1933 - April 2, 2026

Myrtle "Mert" Yanske passed away peacefully at Norseland Nursing Home on Thursday, April 2, 2026. Myrtle was born on March 19th, 1933, to Hilmer and Laida (Holen) Hooverson. She married Paul Yanske on September 16, 1951, at the Bethel Church in rural Viroqua.

Myrtle was a hard worker and caring family person. Her and Paul opened their home to numerous foster kids and family members.

She worked seasonally at the Viroqua Tobacco warehouse. At home she raised a huge garden, acres of tobacco and many feet of tobacco beds. She was self-employed doing painting, wallpapering and decorating. She loved country music and was an avid dancer at the Country Jams. She enjoyed her garden and flowers in the summer and she loved her gambling trips to the boat. Myrtle was devoted to her family and will always be remembered for her cookies, homemade donuts, her chicken and noodles and lefsa.

Myrtle is survived by her children, Debra (Rick) Haun and Jim (Kay) Yanske of Viroqua; and foster son Stephen (Shelley) Peterson of Colorado Springs; grandchildren: Tracy (Chad) Thelen, Kyle Nelson, Kaila (Jason Devine) Langrehr, Amanda (Blake) DeVries, McKenzie (Dustin) Stoen & Diedre (Drew VanOverbeke) Yanske; 9 great grandchildren with one on the way; and 3 great great grandchildren; and many special nieces, nephews, friends, neighbors, and very special friend, Howard Sheldon.

She was preceded in death by her husband Paul; son Allen; foster daughter Stephanie Peterson; sisters: Helen Bakkom, Mildred Zitzner, Jane Thompson, Stella Sheldon, Matilda Fortun, Selma Froiseth, Harriet Briggson, and ½ sister Hazel Gabrielson; brothers: Clifford, Otis, Raymond, Marvin, Selmer, Kenneth, and ½ brother Clarence. Family extends a special thanks to the staff at Norseland Nursing Home and St Croix Hospice for the wonderful care they gave Myrtle. A Graveside Service will be held on Sunday, April 12th, 2026, at 11:00 AM at the Viroqua Cemetery and will be followed by a Celebration of Myrtle's Life at Gassers Bar and Grill from 12:00 – 3:00 PM. In lieu of plants and flowers, memorials may be given in Myrtle's memory to the Eagles Cancer telethon or the Norseland Activity department. Roth Family Cremation Center and Funeral Services is assisting the family.

Where Love Still Lives

Grief does not arrive all at once
it comes like morning light through
curtains,
soft some days,
and other days too bright to bear.
It lingers in quiet places:
an empty chair,
a favorite song,
the pause before saying a name
out loud.

But grief is not only sorrow—
it is love that has nowhere to go,
love that stays,
that settles deep in the heart
and makes a home there.
In time, it changes shape.
It becomes a story shared,
a smile through tears,
a memory that warms instead of
wounds.

We carry those we've lost
not behind us, but within—
in the kindness we give,
in the laughter that returns,
in the small, brave ways we keep
living.

And though the ache may never
fully fade,
neither does the love.
It walks beside us, quietly,
reminding us
we are never truly alone.