

# the ACORN

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## The ACORN Staff



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**Contributor**



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**Note: The Acorn Staff is comprised entirely of residents who volunteer hours and resources to this publication.**

## **from the desk of the editor...**

**Seasons come and go and, with each passing year, they seem to fly by more swiftly. Here at Trinity Oaks, we are blessed with more memories - and, mostly, we treasure them. Some, though, are bitter sweet and others are heartbreaking. Life does go on...**

**In this issue we believe there are articles you won't want to miss: the one featuring the Collins family (Eneli) and the other on Ann Pressly come to mind. Don Duggan continues his contribution to Acorn with another Employee Spotlight piece. We are pleased to welcome Char Molrine back to the Acorn. She and her husband, Ron were the founders ten years ago and, while Ron has passed on, she continues to give so much of her time and energy to Trinity Oaks and the surrounding community. We should also note that Char is responsible for the Shop on the Corner concept as we now know it.**

**We mention Bill Johnson a lot but it's not just because he "runs the show" here. Bill is the very essence of Trinity Oaks - he's what makes this place so special. We have not met a resident who doesn't have a story about something Bill has done to make their lives easier, better, more fun! He's also managed to gather the cream of the crop around him when it comes to**

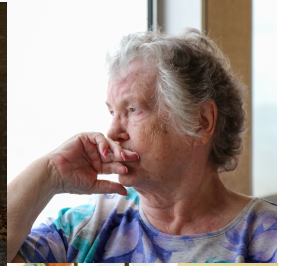


**staff. You can't teach this stuff - it has to come from within.**

**While we're handing out kudos, thanks to Jim Ryser, a Cottages resident, who has agreed to be the photographer for Acorn going forward. He has camera and computer expertise and, in addition, has offered to work with Georgina Ryon on updating our printing concept. Georgina is also now responsible for layout and design. Our Acorn team is at its best in not only doing the job at hand but in coming up with new ideas. Each issue brings a different slant and features new challenges. We thought it was time to pay tribute...**

**In the meantime, our folks have returned from yet another 3-day trip to Charleston while those in Assisted Living and Health & Rehab are looking forward to their next semi annual excursion to Kure Beach. Have a wonderful summer everyone!**

**Kate Noujaim**



## SPRING 2017 NOTES

**The Ladies March Mystery Trip** was an overwhelming success - and surprise! Lisa Cobb and Bill Johnson took us on a circuitous route that left everyone stunned as to how we arrived at Lake Norman. The Cottage at Lake Norman was a perfect venue for a leisurely afternoon of shopping, socializing, laughing and lunching on a variety of delicious chicken dishes, warm brie brioche and key lime pie. It was an undeniable treat!

A lot has been written about the **Not So Newlywed Game** so we'll not belabor the fact that it has become an annual event looked forward to - let's just say the one held this year in February will be hard to beat!

On April 18th, a **Banquet for all campus volunteers** was held in the SER. It was catered by Dining Services and feedback indicated the buffet lunch was well received. Volunteers are crucial to the success of Trinity Oaks and it's nice to see them honored with this annual event.

In March, the **Men's Mystery Trip** again delighted the guys who chose to attend. This time they went to the Charlotte Motor Speedway and also took in Morrison's Auto Museum featuring cars from the early 1900's. Included was lunch at the Speedway Club and a view of the track from the grandstands. Stay tuned for their next adventure!

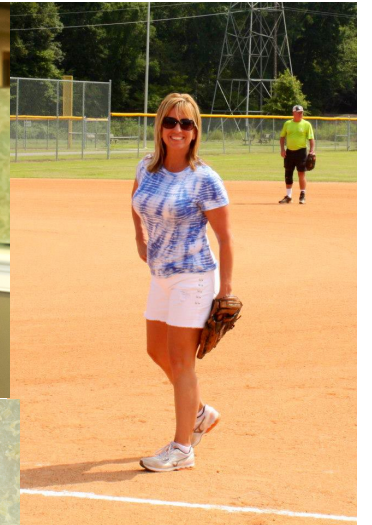
When one of the participants in the monthly Writing Class began reading his bio, and he began by stating he was born in 1915! You could hear a soft murmur throughout the room. Instructor Sue Shinn, then said "whoa, back up Frank — that would make you 102 years old!!" **Frank Gudger**, a new resident, confirmed that he, indeed, will be 102 on his next birthday... Looking good Frank!

Speaking of our centenarians, let's not forget **Ralph Waggoner** (101), **Doris Miller** (100) and **Lillian James** (100 and a recent Trinity Oaks resident.) Also, Lonnie Holmes and Evelyn Barnett are 100+ and living "on the hill". We toast them all!!!

**Shop on the Corner** wishes to thank **Grady Rogers** for his generous donations throughout the year. The Shop continues to exceed all expectations in generating record sales.

"Welcome back Deana!". These words were heard over and over again in mid April when **Deana Burris** returned to her office after recovering from serious foot surgery.

If there is anyone out there who would like to participate/contribute to our fall issue, to be printed in September, we welcome your input. **Acorn** is widely read and enjoyed by most, if not all, residents.



# TRIBUTE TO ANN

by Carolyn Myers

Ann Pressly has accepted a new challenge after serving four years as Marketing Director at Trinity Oaks. Ann says, "The best part of my job has been working with the residents."

In May 2013, Ann changed directions from her job as a physical therapist to selling Trinity Oaks as a friendly place for senior citizens to live. Accepting new challenges seems to be a way of life for Ann. While raising three small children, she earned a physical therapy degree at Stanley Community college and then worked as a PT and in sales and business development until coming to Trinity Oaks. Ann's new challenge will be to recruit residents for Trinity Landing in Wilmington, NC.

Residents at Trinity Oaks shared these comments regarding Ann's role in their move to Trinity Oaks:

"Meeting and working with Ann Pressly turned a "lean" to a "full tilt" towards Trinity Oaks. Her unique ability to work with "lookers" and help them (and us) to become "takers" is what sets her apart from all the others we met."

Tom and Connie Hurlocker

"Ann gave good information to help me move and showed me what a friendly place Trinity Oaks is."

Joyce Wilson

"Ann is vivacious, inviting, resident friendly."

Ramerle Hill

"Ann was a big, big help as we went through the process to move to this great community."

Mary and Jess Key

"Ann is a born salesperson! She lovingly encompasses all and makes us feel special. She will always be special to us."

Ellen and Jim Yeatts

Below are comments from her colleagues:

"I have enjoyed working with her for four years. We made a good team because we complimented each other. I wish her well."

Linda Agner, Marketing Assistant

"Ann is so full of energy. Her exuberance for life is infectious and will be greatly missed. She has an amazing work ethic and is as dedicated as anyone I have ever worked with."

Maggie Blizzard,  
Resident Services Director

**“Her passion to see this community thrive and residents to enjoy their life to the fullest potential brings joy to her heart.”**

**Deana Burris,  
Campus Dir. Life Enrichment**

**“Ann was not a conventional choice for the role of director of sales and marketing and many thought management had lost their minds. We needed someone who could think outside the box and was not afraid to take chances and Ann did exactly that for us. Ann also breathed new life into the fabric of Trinity Oaks by creating social opportunities and marketing efforts that included residents. She created the perfect formula for sales. She will be missed but not forgotten because we will continue to do things Ann’s way.”**

**Bill Johnson,  
Campus Executive Director**

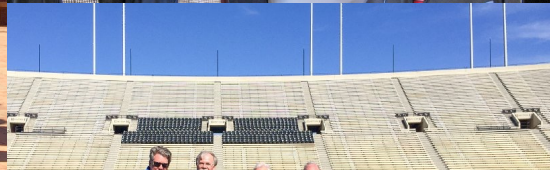
**“It has been a blessing having Ann on our team. She has brought a lot of enthusiasm, energy and determination in filling up our community with new residents. She has been a devoted teammate who supports our mission, cares for others and truly wants the best for Trinity Oaks. From racing cars to dragon boats, Ann has done a magnificent job promoting our wonderful community. Wishing her Godspeed in her new journey in life.”**

**Mike Walsh,  
Executive Dir. Retirement Services**

**As Ann pursues her new opportunity at Trinity Landing, the residents and staff of Trinity Oaks thank her and send good wishes and blessings for her future.**







# ENELI COLLINS

by Char Molrine

All the residents at Trinity Oaks have moved here from somewhere else. Whether it be across town, across the state or across the country, we are all immigrants to the Trinity Oaks campus.

We all have a tiny understanding of how it must be for Eneli (pronounced Neeli) and her husband, Stephen. She is on the wait staff in the dining room and Stephen has a position in light manufacturing at Infiltrator. Everything is different: living arrangements, food, schooling, jobs and being in a culture where your race is not dominant. They have been through a civil war in their home country of Liberia, which forced them as teenagers to move with their families to neighboring African nations. Eneli moved to Ghana and Stephen to the Ivory Coast. They met in Monrovia, the capital, when they returned with their families after the war was over. Stephen finished the university in Liberia and was a banker. Eneli had not yet begun her education to be a nurse. They put their name into a lottery for an American green card and, amazingly, won!

After moving here, they were, again, very fortunate to be selected for a new



home under the Habitat for Humanity program. There was a lot of work and perseverance to get there - but they are very determined people. Both Eneli and Stephen are so grateful for the help the Trinity Oaks staff gave them in fulfilling the 400 hours they were required to put into the home. Their two daughters, Stephanie, who is 8 years old, and Steneli, age 2, are enjoying their new home and a park close by. They are hoping their brother, Stephen, who is 12 years old and in Liberia, will be able to join them this summer.

When I spoke with the Collins', I asked them what the hardest adjustment was for them. They immediately answered

that integration is very painful, a new society that is different and the fact that they must begin their education again. Stephen hopes to continue in economics and to combine that with health care. Eneli is looking forward to fulfilling her dream of becoming a nurse.

On the positive side, they enthusiastically spoke of their appreciation of Bill Johnson and Patricia Andrews and the staff for making their adjustment easier, the new Habitat-built home and of St. Luke's Episcopal Church members who helped Habitat with house building. Stephen sings in the choir and the girls are involved in the Sunday School program.

Our prayer is that the U.S. continues to welcome Eneli and her family to our shores graciously and enthusiastically. We are so grateful to



Eneli Collins and her family on the porch of their new home.

have the Collins family here and hope they continue to experience success and happiness.



### One Hundred Years...

Very few of us will accomplish the feat of living 100 years and beyond. Some of us say we wouldn't want to... unless, of course, we could look and be like Doris Miller. At her 100th birthday party last month, Doris proved once again that she's the most elegant, most admired, and best sport of all.

# A TALE OF THE CEILING FAN

by Don Duggan

There it is, a fully evolved engineering marvel. Up, out of the way and ready at the flip of a toggle switch to circulate the air at the speed you choose. However, at 3 a.m., flat on my back in bed and in a brain fog brought on by opioid pain m e d s , i t s o m e h o w seems to be



more than just a fan. Since sleep is just not going to happen, a game of “what if” is already under way.

So, what if the 5 blade fan could take on a life of its own? The five blades at their precise 72 degrees from each other might become something else.

What if one of the blades becomes a head and the other 4 are arms and legs. Suddenly we have a long legged turtle with a light fixture in its belly. There it floats, spread-eagled and motionless in midair.

But wait! One of the arms now wants to be the head. This is my fantasy, so if I want to be an equal opportunity turtle fancier, who is to stop me? Everybody, er, fan blade, gets a turn at being the turtles head, and the other 4 know what to do. The turtle(s) can now swim off in 5 different directions and every blade is happy.

editor’s note: the above was a a result of Don’s recent knee replacement surgery and subsequent mandatory hospital stay. He is now home and will be using the ceiling fan sparingly this summer.



## ----- A SCENE FROM THE PAST

Future residents Mary Messinger and Sam Allen are seen participating in the ground-breaking ceremony for an area of the Cottage community in October 1997.

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT ☆ ☆ ☆

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. . .Windy Heilig



When you walk in the entry to The Lodge between 7 and 3:30 Monday through Friday, the attractive lady behind the big smile is Windy Heilig, Concierge. You may, as I did, do a double take on spelling Windy with an i. All through school she spelled it Wendy, but dealing with Government records, it has to be the exact name you were given. So, it is i, or better, i it is. Windy grew up in Rowan County, and now lives in Rockwell with her daughter, who is 24 and engaged. She has two younger brothers, and her Mother lives in Gold Hill.

She attended East Rowan High School, and finished at Rowan Cabarrus Community College, where she was certified both as a nursing assistant and notary. She earned a degree in word processing at Salisbury Business College. She attended Salisbury Beauty Academy, and owned and operated a beauty shop from her home before coming to Trinity Oaks.

Windy has been with Trinity Oaks 17 years, starting part time and leading to a full time job. Her duties as Concierge include greeting visitors, answering the phone and directing calls. She also collects and records all incoming rent checks and cash from the Shop on the Corner. She opens and distributes incoming mail; for example invoices are forwarded to accounting, and she updates the resident phone directory monthly.

Windy attends St. Paul's Lutheran Church. She enjoys her two Yorkies, and working in the yard when time and allergies permit. She works out at Planet Fitness, and makes craft items such as wreaths and jewelry. She likes music, dancing and the beach.

Don Duggan



# *We Remember...*

*Marie Pidrak Szymurski*

*January 28, 2017*

*Howard A. Grabow*

*February 22, 2017*

*Hugh E. Childers*

*February 22, 2017*

*Dr. Nelson Large*

*February 27, 2017*

*Dr. Leo A. Lucas*

*March 22, 2017*

*Nancy Goodman Bowden*

*April 10, 2017*

*There is no night without a dawning, No winter without a  
spring...  
(Helen Steiner Rice)*



**The new fountain at The Front Entrance of  
Trinity Oaks Health and Rehab.**