



# THE VILLAGE BUGLE

A NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR THE RESIDENTS OF PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE NORTH

## ROW THE BOAT

There were times in our earlier years when New Year's Eve might have meant a party with confetti, hats, horns and champagne...and midnight merry-making. By the time you read this you will have had the opportunity for this year's New Year's Eve celebrations – if a bit earlier in the evening than before.

Memories of the past year and resolutions to improve our lives are often topics for New Year's Eve and the early days of January. As 2025 unfolds we will have occasions to celebrate PVN's remarkable 45 years and to resolve to make the future even better.

A Dallas pastor recently used the illustration of a boat-rowing crew to talk about using history to help define the future. He said the crew of a racing shell looks behind the boat while propelling the boat forward as smoothly and directly as possible. Perhaps we can use that illustration for a preview of our anniversary celebration and for the years that follow. We want to recognize the current and past glories that have brought us this far. We will pledge to maintain and pass the baton of culture and excellence that we so prize.

Of all the things our founders left

us, maybe the most important is our culture. Sure, we have an unrivaled campus, wonderful programs of exercise, worship, entertainment and learning. Perhaps none of these is as rare as our culture of amazing people in community with each other. Think it over. What do you like best about PVN?

Our founders planned a faith-based continuing care retirement community in a lovely setting. We have that. They also wanted a community where the residents would know each other, like each other, and care for each other. So they designed community activities to get us together.

As we row our PVN boat forward, we confidently look to the future. We residents will do our best to guard our thriving and cherished culture and to pass it along to new makers of our village.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

*David Lodwick*



## Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony



### NAME THE SINGERS OF THESE SONGS OF HOPE

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Catch a Falling Star       | 6. Let It Be                   |
| 2. Bridge Over Troubled Water | 7. Don't Worry, Be Happy       |
| 3. I Can See Clearly Now      | 8. Turn, Turn, Turn            |
| 4. Tammy                      | 9. You Can't Hurry Love        |
| 5. What a Wonderful World     | 10. Somewhere Over the Rainbow |

Answers on page 11

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Gilbert Brown, Village Council  
President

## BLAST FROM THE PAST

Hint:  
Her cheerful wisdom  
still pervades





## OUR GREAT WALKING PATH WILL BE EVEN GREATER SOON!

On June 28, 2023, the PVN Foundation held the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Bob and Ruth Maier Walking Path that starts at the Villas, meanders along Stults Road, proceeds along the west side of the campus and ends at Gazebo Circle near the Gatehouse. In 2024, the PVN Foundation approved a grant for landscaping this entire walking path. The goals of this project are to: improve the views from the trail, create a year-round “green screen” to reduce traffic noise from Stults Road, screen unattractive views of Stults Road from PVN residents’ homes, add more shade to the path, plant attractive year-round shrubs, add flower beds for seasonal color to highlight the entrances of the path, improve irrigation and replace plants that have died.

With the advice and expertise of members of the Landscaping Committee and input from residents of the homes along the walking path, the work for this project started in October 2024 and will be completed by Spring of 2025. Currently, you will see SPSPD installing irrigation for the new plants. Limestone blocks will be placed to level ground as needed. But the best work will be the planting of Nellie R. Stevens hollies, Chinese Pistache trees, Vitex and cedar elm trees, colorful purple Loropetalum shrubs and other shrubs and grasses.

Over the next four to five months parts of the Walking Path may be closed, so please be cautious of the barriers, knowing that these areas will soon be beautified. In the spring, we will plan an inaugural walk to welcome the new trees and shrubs and bless the work of continuing the growth of the new landscaping. Keep watching for our progress!

Pam Altizer, PVN Foundation Board  
Bill Maina, Chair of Landscaping Committee



### FROM THE EDITOR

Continuing our approach to our 45th Anniversary Celebration in May, this month we recall a top film and outstanding sporting event from the years 2000 to 2004 as follows:

Film: *Erin Brokovich* in 2000 is based on one of the biggest class action lawsuits in American history against a multi-billion dollar corporation. The film received five nominations at the 73rd Academy Awards. Julia Roberts was the winning nominee for Best Actress. Other nominations included those for Best Picture, Best Director and Best Supporting Actor.

Sporting Event: The Boston Red Sox’s triumph over the St. Louis Cardinals in the 2004 World Series. In October 2004, the Red Sox swept the 100th Series in four games. That broke the “Curse of the Bambino,” which was claimed to prevent a Series win by Boston for 86 years after the sale of Babe Ruth from Boston to the Yankees in 1918 for \$100,000 to finance the musical *No No Nanette*. Mike Amis, Managing Editor

*As we enter the new year, the Bugle staff and contributors take a cue from David Lodwick’s illustration of the crew on the boat: looking back while propelling the boat forward. We review 2024 with gratitude for our Village Council led by its President Gilbert Brown and our PVN management led by Dustin Allen, our Executive Director. Working together with the continued growth of our Village, our lives do indeed thrive, and the best is yet to come!*



## STAYING “YOUNG AT HEART”

“For as rich as you are, it’s much better by far, to be young at heart.”  
Sung by Frank Sinatra, music by Johnny Richards, lyrics by Carolyn Leigh

Let’s jump right into it. Actually, that’s one way to stay young at heart. Here are a few others to add to it:

- Listen to *The Whistler and His Dog*.
- Take a dog for a walk while whistling.
- Stop judging anyone, even yourself.
- Listen to popular music.
- Go to newly released movies; don’t judge the language.
- If you don’t have a pet, borrow one and spend time with it.
- If you don’t have grandchildren, borrow some and spend time with them.
- Read books on the bestseller list, regardless of the language in them.
- Study the heavens; go out and watch meteor showers when possible.
- Every year go someplace you’ve never been before; it doesn’t have to be far.
- Make a new friend.
- Go to a fitness class you’ve never been to.
- Make s’mores with your friends.
- Sing songs with friends when a song comes into your head.
- Write poetry; it doesn’t have to be like Wordsworth or Shelley.
- Enjoy scary stories.
- Never stop telling or listening to jokes.
- If you’re married, recommit to your spouse.
- If you’re single, look for love in all the right places.
- If you played a musical instrument, take it up again.
- Learn something new each day.
- Take non-credit, non-exam courses in subjects you don’t know about.
- Walk through leaves to hear them rustle.
- If it should perchance snow, go outside to catch a snowflake on your tongue.

Be happy in the New Year!

Judy Morris

## DIRECT FROM DUSTIN

Happy New Year to everyone! What an incredible month of December we had here at PVN. From the Tree Lighting event to the ever-popular Candlelight Dinners to the record-setting Teammate Appreciation fundraising efforts of our amazing PVN residents, we closed 2024 with a bang! And the best is yet to come with an incredible number of opportunities for 2025, starting with the 45th anniversary celebration. As I have communicated at resident meetings for the past several months, we have big plans in store for our residents this year, ranging from adding additional services (Personal Assistance Service and Adult Day Care) to community development projects that will enhance the beauty of PVN. So Happy New Year to all PVN residents as the team is ready for 2025 to be a year we will never forget—Cheers!

*Dustin Allen*  
Executive Director, PVN

The Allens and the Rickmans





## GROW OUR WAY OUT OF NATIONAL DEBT?

We, as citizens of the United States, now pay more interest to service our national debt of \$36 trillion dollars than we pay for our national defense or Medicare programs. And yet there was almost no mention of that in the recent national elections.

We probably are not going to increase taxes enough to pay down the debt, but what if we could grow our way out of a big part of the problem? Artificial intelligence (AI) may be an answer. AI holds the promise of revolutionizing productivity. When I think back to my first job in 1961 at Procter & Gamble, I realize the entire job could have been done by AI. In fact, the entire section of ten people could have been replaced by one person using AI. I suspect this is the norm across business, not the exception.

Broad adoption of AI requires building many data centers at 20 billion dollars per center. And then obtaining the electricity equivalent to what is

required to run a mid-sized city, so this won't be cheap, but the companies doing it, like Microsoft and Google, have the money. And the power might come from relatively safe molten salt nuclear reactors, which the US Government has just begun to license.

The size of our US economy increases about 3% per year. If AI increases the rate of growth just one point to 4%, that results in 3 trillion dollars in Federal tax revenue in a decade. And AI may be worth substantially more than one point in annual GDP growth.

So maybe, just maybe, there is a road open to begin to grow our way out of a big chunk of the national debt problem. We have done such a thing before when we built out the national rail system in the 1800's. Maybe AI will be the "rail system of the 21st Century."

*John Drake*

## EMOLLIENT



Maud Lewis (1903-1970)  
Canadian folk artist  
Nova Scotia

I have taken this train before. Its small track lies in a little circle at the base of the tree adorned with garlands, ornaments and colored lights.

Looking up from the track, I can still see it, the distant treetop with its white-gowned angel. Sitting cross-legged in Christmas pajamas, I happily move my tiny

train around its circle, inhaling the crisp fragrance of the evergreen.

The snow fields lie behind my eyelids. I trudge them in my heavy scarf and bulging coat and mittens, my cheeks cold beneath the emollient mother slathered to protect against chapping.

Our foot tracks are obscured now by discarded gift wraps and red

bows and bright blue ribbons. The train sits waiting at its station. Time has kept it idle, and is now the emollient softening its colors, dulling its details, protecting all the little etceteras of that winter that I have forgotten.

But I have taken this train before.

*Ron Wetherington*  
**5**





Pickleball Tournament



Our Thanksgiving Teammates



Seven Sew 'n Sews



Our Very Own Santa PUPS





## FABULOUS CANDLELIGHT DINNER



Dessert Being Flambéed



Villas and Pond Via Candlelight



Delicious Menu



Enjoying Dinner



Enjoying Cocktails



## THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS

I have seen his tracks hundreds of times just since last Thanksgiving. Some people deny him just because they know lots of the Santas they see have fake beards and pillow stomachs, but thank God, he is as real as the wind that drives the thousands of wind turbines that generate 6% of U.S. energy.

Denying Santa is like denying that friendship, respect, grief, loyalty or love of family are real, simply because we can't see them. To me, Santa is the name we have given to personify all the caring emotions manifested at Christmas.

Also, when we agree to name a non-physical part of our lives, it becomes real, and it was real before we chose to name it. Sometimes, when we try to describe the spiritual parts of life

in physical terms, we carry the physical images too far. For me, it happened at when I was six years old. Earlier, when I was five, I began to see the flaws in the "Night Before Christmas" story. I knew a chimney was too small for a fat Santa to be going up and down in carrying a big bag. And my sister got a new bicycle. What about that? Then there is that obvious flaw; we had no fireplace, thus, no chimney. For some reason the reindeer/sleigh factor didn't bother me, although we never had snow at Christmas. But then at six, I found a bow and arrow in a closet, and Christmas morning, it was under the tree for me. Another worry was Mother had to tell us which presents were for me and which ones were for my older sister. She seemed to get better presents.

After that Christmas I faked continuing to believe in Santa to keep the presents coming. At some point, without discussing it, my family decided it worked, even if it was "play like." I faked believing for many years until I finally learned that most of the really good stuff in life is invisible. The results can't be denied.

Ken Rogers



**Yesterday my husband thought he saw a mouse in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned it thoroughly. Today I am putting that mouse in the bathroom!**

**Chuckle  
with  
Sammie Wester**



# Birthdays

## INDEPENDENT LIVING

Mary Langford	1/01	Albert Black	1/10	Rosemary Lootens	1/15	Betty Muse	1/24
Jackie Paine	1/02	Carol Witcraft	1/11	Lois Jameson	1/18	Joan Hallman	1/24
Jan Kawasaki	1/04	John Hepola	1/11	Joyce Forney	1/20	Carolyn Doughman	1/24
Jack Hubler	1/04	Larry Jobe	1/12	Anita Samples	1/20	Peggy Smith	1/25
Sammie Wester	1/04	Mark Graebner	1/12	Dave Driscoll	1/20	Dale Hamilton	1/26
Diane Walker	1/04	Dan Mitchell	1/13	Chuck Newby	1/21	Pam Altizer	1/26
Smith Sims	1/05	Judy Wilson	1/13	Joann Hohenshelt	1/21	Michael Stern	1/28
Cynthia Hatchett	1/05	Carol Cress	1/13	Jane Wasoff	1/21	Bill Witcraft	1/28
Jack Thies	1/06	Donna Walker	1/13	Robert Haddow	1/22	Bob Mason	1/28
Judith Gustafson	1/07	Shirley Petty	1/13	Fred Halstead	1/22	Jean Browne	1/28
Faye Gould	1/08	Zoe Stafford	1/14	Coila Stevens	1/23	Aurora Paredes	1/29
Inge Meza	1/08	Joann Douglas	1/14	Noel Pittman	1/23	Becky McAulay	1/30
Bill Kashouty	1/09	Debbie Driscoll	1/14	Jude Hammett	1/23	Chrys Forrester	1/30
						Margaret Briggs	1/31

## ASSISTED LIVING

Maxine Cox	1/02	Thomas Guyton	1/09	Carole Bickel	1/21	Helen Garrott	1/29
Roger Waggoner	1/02	Frederick Jr Kraft	1/10	Mary Burnette	1/23	Patricia Prusha	1/29
Taheri Elizabeth	1/02	Betsy Heid	1/12	Martha Richardson	1/25	Julie Higgins	1/29
Marilyn Smotherman	1/05	Gene Munn	1/18	Robert McRae	1/27	Judith Reagan	1/31

## 🐾 LUCKY LOGAN 🐾

Are you one of the many who stroll our beautiful premises? You never know what you might see. The sight of a scarlet sunrise might rouse your spirit. Or seeing a coyote ambling down the path might make your heart race. Tiny cotton-tailed bunnies and various sized hoppy toads can be found on many evenings. Speaking of hoppy toads, at the risk of compromising my reputation as a tough pup, here's my story about a recent encounter with a frog.

The evening was dark, and after our final outing for the day, Mom and I were headed back into the Villas when we came across a frog. Now, unlike my dear friend Delta, I get along just fine with frogs. I

don't chase them or bite them or even lick them! But I did stop to greet this one, and we were about to move on when, unobserved by me, the little guy jumped. Jumped and hit my belly which made me jump sky high! Then it went on its way. When Mom finally stopped laughing, we went home. Anyway, back to my original thoughts.

One day on our walk we saw a little flower growing out of a crack in the sidewalk. Now, how does a flower do that? We couldn't see any soil. Only cement. But from that tiny crack came a lovely little bloom bringing a touch of beauty to the gray ground. Mom and I were reminded that beauty is everywhere, even where we

least expect it. When our hearts are gray and cracked from grief a small bud of hope might bloom. In the crack the light enters and the dew falls and hope grows.

The Presbyterian music book has a song based on a line by T.S. Eliot:

*In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed an apple tree.*

*In cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free.*

*In the cold and snow of winter  
comes a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.*

Lucky Logan



The Wine Rack By Candlelight

## NEW YEAR'S EVE TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

1. In Russia they write down wishes, burn them and add the ashes to champagne which they drink.
2. In Colombia they place three potatoes under their beds – one unpeeled, one half-peeled and one fully peeled.
3. In Denmark they throw dishes at the front doors of neighbors and friends. The more dishes you break, the more good luck you are supposed to get in the following year.
4. In Spain they eat a lot of grapes. The more you consume, the more good luck you get.
5. In Italy they wear red underwear on New Year's Eve. That is supposed to enhance fertility. Presumably there are suggested age restrictions at both ends of the age spectrum, but then again we are talking about Italy.
6. In Ecuador they parade carrying scarecrows created to look like politicians and other public figures and at midnight they burn them.
7. In Germany they pour a small amount of molten lead into cold water in a glass. The resulting shape is supposed to somehow predict your future.
8. In Turkey they sprinkle salt on doorsteps at midnight for good luck.
9. In Scotland they observe "First Footing." A dark haired man crosses your threshold at midnight bringing gifts and good luck.
10. In Chile masses of worshipers meet in cemeteries, not churches, to share festivities with their dead relatives.
11. In Brazil they light candles and throw white flowers into water to honor the Ocean.

Isn't it silly what all these foolish, superstitious foreigners do when they could save time and trouble by simply watching a colorful ball descend the last sixty seconds of the old year to usher in the new year and celebrations?



## BLAST FROM THE PAST

*Mary Langford*



## Seven Deadly Sins

Wealth without work,  
Pleasure without conscience,  
Knowledge without character,  
Commerce without morality,  
Science without humanity,  
Worship without sacrifice and  
Politics without principle.

*Mahatma Ghandi*

## In Memoriam

Elizabeth McDermott	11/17
Jerry Dunaway	11/17
Janice "Jan" Murray	11/27
Sherwood "Woody" Strodel	11/27
Betsy Heid	12/7
Dolly Hoss	12/10
Joe Nall	12/10
Jean Burns	12/12
Paul Boozman	12/16

## ANSWERS

- |                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Perry Como        | 6. The Beatles (Paul McCartney) |
| 2. Simon & Garfunkel | 7. Bobby McFerrin               |
| 3. Johnny Nash       | 8. The Byrds                    |
| 4. Debbie Reynolds   | 9. The Supremes                 |
| 5. Louis Armstrong   | 10. Judy Garland                |

*Corbet Bryant*



Our Candlelight Servers



## THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR....

- \* Prayer is a steering wheel that directs you to the right path along the road of life.
- \* The reason a car's windshield is larger than the rearview mirror is because it's more important to look ahead than look behind. Same with life.
- \* Friendship and trust are like books. They take years to create but minutes to destroy.
- \* Old friends are like gold and new friends are like diamonds. But don't forget the gold when you get a diamond. To hold a diamond, you need a base of gold.
- \* When you pray for others, God always listens. Whenever you're safe and happy in life, it might be because someone else prayed for you and God listened.
- \* Whenever you take your problems to God, it's because you have faith in Him. Whenever God doesn't seem to solve your problems, it may be because He has faith in you.
- \* When surviving the problems of life, remember four important words: This Too Shall Pass.
- \* All things in life are temporary. When things go well, enjoy them while you can because they won't last; when things go badly, don't worry because they too won't last long.
- \* People without a sense of humor are like vehicles without springs – they're jolted disagreeably by every minor bump in life's road.
- \* Believe in a higher power and don't let events get you down. Remember – if you're a person of faith, this is the worst that things will ever get; if you don't have faith, this is the best that things will ever be!

May the new year bring you and yours joy, health, happiness, success, love and hope.

*Author unknown, submitted by Roger Alexander*

