



Marilyn Barbara Kasten, 85, passed peacefully on July 12, 2025, after a lengthy but courageous battle with dementia. She was born in Sheboygan, WI to Francis and Etta Guenther on May 9, 1940. After marrying Verland Kasten in 1968, she dedicated her time to the job she loved the most - being a housewife and mother. When they were newly married, Verland was a farmer in Howards Grove and worked another job, but because of her meticulous organizational skills, they decided to pursue a new career path together and build something incredible. They sold the farm, built a house next door on the land parcel they kept, and planted some apple trees. It was the beginning of Dwarf Acres, which grew into a truck farm and orchard business. In the early years, there were pickle picking contracts, which the kids helped with. In the later years, the grandkids got involved until the business was sold and they relocated to Neenah, WI.

Marilyn will be missed dearly by us all at Bell Tower Residence.

John was born May 7, 1939, in Harrison, Wisconsin, the son of Cornelius and Mary (Dirkx) Swan. He graduated from Tomahawk High School with the class of 1957. John married Elizabeth 'Bettie' Houck on May 28, 1960, at St. Augustine Catholic Church, Harrison, WI. Together they bought a farm in the Town of Corning. Shortly after, John sent his small herd to his father's farm in Harrison because he was called to active duty in the Army National Guard where he served state side in Washington state during the Berlin Crisis and into the Cuban Missile Crisis. Upon returning home, John continued dairy farming and raised 6 children with Bettie. While farming, he attended classes at NRC and worked at various other jobs including Knispel & Latzig Implement, logging, and as a tax assessor for the Town of Corning. After almost 30 years farming, John drove semi-truck for County Concrete for several years until his retirement.

John will be missed by many here at Bell Tower Residence.



## Bell Tower Residence NEWSLETTER

 [www.belltowerresidence.org](http://www.belltowerresidence.org)

 715-536-5575

 [info@belltowerresidence.com](mailto:info@belltowerresidence.com)  
or Find us on Facebook



Set on 12 beautifully landscaped acres with over 68,000 square feet of living and common spaces, Bell Tower is a friendly assisted living community where residents feel at home and live life well with purpose and dignity. We offer private apartments, religious services, activities, outings, delicious home-cooked meals and our caring and compassionate staff are always nearby to help.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please reach out to our Admissions Coordinator, Mikaela Meier at [mmeier@carriagehealthcare.com](mailto:mmeier@carriagehealthcare.com)

A Newsletter for Residents and Friends,  
about *Life* at Bell Tower

- August 2025 -

## Bell Tower Residence

### Celebrating August

1st- International  
Beer Day

2nd- Ice Cream  
Sandwich Day

3rd- International  
Friendship Day

4th- Well Hello Dolly  
Day

5th- Pamper Yourself  
Day

7th- Purple Heart  
Anniversary

9th- Bowling Day

13th- Little League  
World Series Day

17th- Vacation  
Memories Day

18th- Antiques Day

20th- NFL Birthday

21st- National Senior  
Citizens Day

23rd- Singing in the  
Rain Day

24th- Peach Pie Day

26th- National Dog  
Day

30th- Beach Day

31st- Eat Outside Day

### Celebrate Life's Little Joys

As summer slowly winds down and August brings its golden afternoons, we're reminded to take pause and appreciate *life's little joys*. They are all around us; often quiet, often simple, but always meaningful.

It might be the warmth of the morning sun on your face, the sound of birds singing outside your window, or the laughter shared during a card game with friends. Perhaps it's the first sip of your morning coffee, the bright colors of flowers blooming in the garden, or a friendly chat with a neighbor in the hallway. These moments; as small as they may seem are the ones that fill our hearts.

Staying active and engaged, especially during these final months of summer, is one of the best ways to enjoy these little joys. Whether it's joining a craft group, going on a short walk, sitting outside with a book, or simply trying something new, you're giving yourself the gift of presence and purpose. Moving your body and staying socially connected helps your spirit feel lighter and your days feel fuller.

Life isn't always easy, and we all have our difficult days. However, even during tough times there is something to be grateful for. Each sunrise is a fresh start, and each day holds a chance to find a spark of happiness, even in the smallest things.

So as August continues, let's lean into the beauty of *now*. Let's celebrate the ordinary magic of our daily lives, cherish each other's company, and hold onto the simple pleasures that make each day special.

You are not alone, and you are not forgotten. You are a vital part of this community, and you matter. Here's to a month filled with peace, purpose, and plenty of little joys.

-Allison Blaubach

## Bell Tower Wish List:

- Roku for each neighborhood
- Sponsor a Zumba Class
- Sponsor a Birthday Cake
- Natural Color Nail Polish
- Sponsor Live Music
- Purchased Bingo Prizes
- Sensory Games
- Artificial Flowers
- Resident Social Hour Supplies
- Purchase Chocolate for Bingo
- Craft Kits



## Elementary School Supplies Drive 2025

Bell Tower Residence is hosting a Drive for school supplies for all of our local elementary schools in the Merrill area! Our community supports us in so many different ways, so it is important to us that we share our support any way that we can! If you are interested in donating towards this cause, there will be a school bus tote located in our main lobby. Bell Tower is accepting donations until August 27th, 2025. We thank you all in advance for your love and support towards this cause!

## National Wellness Month

August is National Wellness Month, a perfect time to focus on the small daily choices that support our well-being—mind, body, and spirit. At Bell Tower Residence, we believe that wellness isn't just about fitness or nutrition—it's about creating a balanced and joyful life at every stage. What does this mean for us? It can be as simple as staying hydrated on a warm day, joining a chair aerobics class, or spending time with friends at a social gathering. Even laughter, music, and a peaceful afternoon walk contribute to our overall health. This month, we encourage all residents and staff to take a moment to try something that supports their wellness. Try a new activity or hobby, join a group exercise class, make a new friend or reconnect with someone, but most importantly, take time to rest and reflect.

## Bell Tower Fall Activity Planning

We want to hear from you! Your ideas and interests are what make our activity calendars special and meaningful. Whether it's a hobby you love, a new skill you want to try, or a favorite game or outing, please share your suggestions with us. Residents and family members alike are invited to share ideas for future activities so we can create fun, engaging experiences that everyone enjoys. Feel free to stop by the front desk or email our Director of Life Enrichment at [ablaubach@carriagehealthcare.com](mailto:ablaubach@carriagehealthcare.com) with your ideas. We are excited to hear your thoughts!

## This Month in History!

In the early 1960s, a rural schoolhouse was relocated to the Lincoln County Fairgrounds in Merrill, Wisconsin. This move was part of an effort to preserve and showcase the county's educational history. The schoolhouse was situated near the Third Street entrance of the fairgrounds, alongside other historic structures such as the Schultz Building and the Stock Pavilion. These buildings collectively highlight the recreational and agricultural heritage of Lincoln County.

## Staff Birthdays

2nd– Rebecca S  
4th– Brielle D  
11th– Anna W  
13th– Sandra R

## Staff Anniversaries

2 years– Macy W  
2 years– Kai W  
5 years– Roxane E  
8 years– George M

## Resident Birthdays

1st- Julie B  
8th– Bernard S  
10th– Sidney B  
12th– Mary Ann B  
14th– Joyce K  
25th– Irma S  
28th– Brad B  
30th– Barb W

## Resident Anniversaries

1 year– Gary E  
1 year– Barb H  
1 year– Audrey R  
1 year– Donna S  
2 years– Annette K  
4 years– Ruth K  
5 years– Julie B



## Welcome to Bell Tower



Carol Osness

2W Neighborhood



Dorothy Anderson

2E Neighborhood



Anna Wright

CNA



Mersades Holmes

PCW

**We are so glad you are here! Welcome to our Bell Tower Family!**

## Staff Spotlight

Congratulations to Jourdyn Lemke on being selected to be Bell Towers Employee of the Month for August. This was well deserved, and we are glad to have you a part of our team!



## Family Testimonial:

“ We are grateful. Grateful for BTR. Knowing our mom is safe, knowing our moms needs are well taken care of with respect, dignity and compassion. Every day the staff of BTR comes to work, yes it's their job but it goes beyond that because they truly care about each and every resident. They make sure that not only are their needs met and well taken care of, but they also find the time to talk with them, to really get to know them. This is home, this is family. This is why we are grateful for BTR. We wish everyone could be as blessed as our mom and all the residents here.” -Julie Rajek

[Belltowerresidence.org](http://Belltowerresidence.org) Call today to schedule a tour with our  
**(715)-536-5575** Admissions Coordinator