



## Journey Back to OZ

August marks a celebration for fans of *The Wizard of Oz*—the 86th anniversary of the beloved film’s release on August 25, 1939. In addition, the 125th birthday of the classic book, first published in May 1900, was celebrated earlier this year. Whether you first met Dorothy and Toto on the page or the silver screen, their journey down the Yellow Brick Road continues to charm audiences of all ages.

L. Frank Baum’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was a sensation from the start, quickly becoming a staple in American children’s literature. Over the decades, the story has inspired sequels, stage plays, and, most famously, the 1939 MGM film starring Judy Garland as Dorothy. The film dazzled audiences with its Technicolor magic, memorable songs, and a cast of unforgettable characters: Scarecrow, Tin Man, Cowardly Lion, and, of course, Toto (who was played by a female Cairn terrier named Terry).

The book and the movie differ in small ways—Dorothy’s slippers are silver in the book but ruby red in the film, for example—but both deliver the same heartwarming message about friendship, courage, and finding your way home. The story’s appeal has lasted in part because it offers both adventure and comfort. As author Ray Bradbury once said, “Oz is what we would hope and like to be,” a place where villains aren’t so villainous and hope always wins out.

The Wizard himself is a memorable figure, too. When his secret is revealed, he admits, “I’m really a very good man, but I am a very bad wizard,” reminding us all that sometimes, good intentions matter more than magical powers.

So, this August, why not revisit Oz? Dust off the book, queue up the movie, or share the story with a grandchild or other young friend. After all, as Dorothy reminds us, “There’s no place like home”—and for many, Oz will always feel a little like home, too.

## \$3,500 RESIDENT REFERRAL BONUS

**Have you shared your love for Waltonwood lately? When you refer someone to a Waltonwood community, they'll thank you for it - and then we'll thank you for it too! Ask for details!**



FRIENDS & FAMILY  
REFERRAL PROGRAM

# CARRIAGE PARK CONNECT

AUGUST 2025



## UPCOMING EVENTS

August...When Summer gathers up her robes of glory, and like a dream of beauty, glides away.” ~ Sarah Helen Whitman  
It’s starting to show signs that a change of season is on its way. The cooler air is a welcome relief for sure. This month we have many exciting events to keep the fun going. We start out on August 1<sup>st</sup> with a Jazz concert put on by the Paul Keller Band. This is a special event donated by an anonymous donor. This is a professional group of three artists and should not be missed. Next, GET READY TO BOUNCE! This year our kids camp returns to Carriage Park with Bounce Houses, Bounce Games, and even a science project to make your own bounce ball. See you all August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00pm in the main parking lot. On August 5<sup>th</sup> we will be having our first Virtual Advance Directive Seminar with lots of good information for all families. Frank Sinatra pays us a visit on August 7<sup>th</sup> to sing us some of his favorite songs. Come sing along with this crooner. Joe Ringer (Tina’s son) is back to entertain us on the 18<sup>th</sup>, along with our regular entertainers, Bobby, on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and Gail on the 26<sup>th</sup>.  
We are out to hear more music in Belleville on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and to see Ghost Town Marshalls, a country rock band. On the 29<sup>th</sup> we will head to Music in the Park in Plymouth to see Magic Bus, a 60’s band. Don’t forget to wear your peace signs and bell bottoms.



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## COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

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Life Enrichment Manager AL

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Ashley Hall  
Marketing Manager

Kenneth McCormack  
Marketing Manager



# ASSOCIATE OF THE MONTH

## Karisha Dorris SIC

Congratulations to our associate of the month, Karisha, affectionately known as K. Ms. Dorris has been a welcomed part of the Waltonwood Carriage Park Community, with a recent promotion to our afternoon Supervisor in Charge. In her off-time Karisha enjoys hosting game nights, loves the beach, is an aspiring nurse, and all-around foodie. Karisha is passionate about resident care, making sure to put her heart into every interaction. We appreciate all that she does for the residents, and we are excited to have her as a part of the team!



## FOREVER FIT / WELLNESS Chris Grabowski, MS

### A Strong Foundation

A focal point of the Waltonwood Forever Fit Program is the use of resistance training to significantly improve the quality of life for our residents. A key component in establishing long-term health and independence lies in our ability to maintain muscle strength as we age. Research indicates a direct relationship between aging and the loss of muscle, decrease in bone density and diminished level of physical function. In fact, the average person over the age of fifty can experience a 15%-20% loss in muscle strength per decade in the absence of regular exercise. Whether exercise machines, dumbbells, bands or body weight, resistance training has been shown to dramatically improve overall health and well-being while delaying muscular atrophy, increasing bone density and improving balance and coordination. Start slow, build gradually, and stick with it. Improvements take time, but it's those improvements that make time much more prosperous.



# Detroit Opera

YOU ARE INVITED

THE DETROIT OPERA IS COMING TO WALTONWOOD  
AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup> 2:00 PM AL DINING ROOM

### Executive Directors Corner

Happy August! Hope you are managing well in this Michigan Summer! I wanted to introduce myself to the wonderful Carriage Park community. My name is Ellen Byrne and I am the regional Director of Operations for Waltonwood MI. I currently oversee 4 communities including Carraige Park, University in Rochester Hills, Royal Oak and Lakeside in Sterling Heights. I have over 20 years' experience in senior living and couldn't imagine doing anything else. Currently I am sitting in for the Executive Director position so you will see making some rounds, visiting during meals and occasionally playing tunes on the piano. Speaking of Executive Directors, I am excited to announce that our new ED, Tabitha Sheriff, will be starting on August 11<sup>th</sup>. We will set up a few meet and greets so you can all get to know each other. More to come on Tabitha soon. If you need to talk to me, please let the concierge know and I will reach out to you. See you around the community!! 😊