

Fairmount *Perspective*

Dedicated to Faith, Family & Community

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Life with Purpose, Passion, and Possibilities

For Crest View Apartment residents Charles and Fern Bauman, retirement does not mean putting their feet up and twiddling their thumbs. Rather, they have happily exchanged home maintenance, snow shoveling, and grass mowing for activities they deeply enjoy. Despite very different interests, Charles and Fern have both found Fairmount a great place to pursue favorite pastimes and discover new ones.



In addition to their wide variety of individual pursuits, Fern and Charles spend quality time together playing their favorite game, Super Scrabble.

Enjoying a Lifelong Hobby

Fern is passionate about nature, especially birdwatching. She can identify birds by sight or by song, and is part of the American Birding Association's alert system that notifies members of rare bird sightings and locations. Her interest was piqued more than 30 years ago by a group that took weekly birdwatching trips together. "I lived for those outings," Fern recalls. Over the years, Fern compiled a "life list" of more than 548 different kinds of birds that includes when and where she saw each bird.

Since moving to Fairmount three years ago, Fern enjoys birding almost every day. "Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is nearby, but even on a short trip to the grocery store I can stop at a park or lake to see what I can find," she says with a big smile. "I see or hear different birds along Fairmount's extensive walking trails or while I'm pulling weeds in the flower bed I care for. So far, I have seen 99 differ-

ent birds just at Fairmount! This year I've watched a pair of bald eagles soaring on the currents over the valley from our 4th floor windows."

As Fern works in her flower beds, other residents stop by to solicit her help in identifying birds they have seen or heard. Best of all, she has discovered other avid birders living at Fairmount, so, her usually solo birding hobby

has proven to be a social activity too.

Continuing a Life of Outreach

Charles and Fern met at Eastern Mennonite College (now Eastern Mennonite University) where Charles studied psychology and history, and Fern majored in sociology. Shortly after graduation, they married and moved to Salunga, PA, where Charles served as Overseas Director with Eastern Mennonite Missions.

Three years later, they took a short assignment in Sudan with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) where, as Field Director, Charles organized relief efforts, and Fern taught English in a girl's school. Upon their return to the United States they settled in Lancaster and started their family. Charles served as Administrator for Friendship Community for 23 years before moving to a new position with PhilHaven, where he spent 15 years as a liaison for the Plain Community.

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Fairmount *Perspective* is published quarterly for the residents, staff, volunteers and friends of Fairmount, a Christian retirement community governed by a Board from the Weaverland Conference of the Old Order Mennonite Church.

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www.FairmountHomes.org

A Haven of Support and Community

The President's Perspective

In a world often filled with unsettling news, the wisdom Mister Rogers learned from his mother continues to be wise counsel: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

At Fairmount, this advice is a way of life. Fairmount is far more than just a place to retire; it's a vibrant community where residents truly enjoy helping each other. They are constantly cultivating an atmosphere of mutual encouragement, compassion, and assistance.

Almost daily I see examples of our residents, regardless of their age, selflessly helping others. Whether it's organizing meaningful outings, offering a helping hand with daily tasks, or simply sharing a friendly conversation, our community thrives on the belief that everyone has something valuable to contribute.

Residents also serve the broader community far beyond Fairmount. Volunteer initiatives, charity drives, and community outreach programs are just a few ways in which the residents make a positive impact.

As Jesus said in Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Our residents embody this principle, joyfully helping others not as a duty but as a profound expression of love and humanity.

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

The teachings of Jesus, reflected in the kindly advice of Mister Rogers, are lived out every day at Fairmount. A sense of belonging and purpose makes our community more than just another place to retire—it's a beacon of light in a sometimes-dark world. I hope you see our beacon shining brightly on the hill! ➤



Jerry D. Lile
Jerry D. Lile
President/CEO



Construction Update

Renovations continue on track in Health Care at Wheat Ridge, with new flooring, paint, and walls to form separate neighborhoods creating a beautiful space for residents. The Wheat Ridge entryway and reception area also received a facelift in the past few weeks, with a more open and accessible area, and beautiful granite countertops. Be sure to come by and take a closer look! ➤



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Life with Purpose, Passions, and Possibilities, *(continued)*

As a resident, Charles has found numerous avenues to pursue his passions for reading, history, and psychology on the Fairmount campus and beyond. He continues to work two days a week for a nearby medical center as a liaison between their psychiatrist and the Plain Community, and for several hours every week he sorts books as a volunteer for Mennonite Life (formerly Mennonite Historical Society). Charles also organizes their rare book auctions three times a year and serves as a tour guide.

Benefiting Other Residents

Fairmount residents also profit from Charles' gifts. He serves on the Residential Living Activity Committee, helping to come up with a variety of engaging events for residents to enjoy. One of his favorite contributions to the committee is organizing trips to sites of historical interest, such as tours of Belleville, Amish Country, and Berks County.

Charles and Fern are just two of our residents who live fulfilling lives in retirement. Another example is the small group of woodworkers who spend a lot of creative energy in Fairmount's woodshop. Cottage resident Joe Waldner and Crest View apartment resident Charlie Martin are seasoned woodworkers who have spent years making everything from furniture to geometric wall hangings. Their finished products are sold at Fairmount's annual Benefit Auction, become gifts for families and friends, or contribute to special projects for Fairmount.

Wheat Ridge apartment resident Gordon Landis arrived at Fairmount more recently and was thrilled to have a woodshop where he could continue a favorite hobby. Wheat Ridge apartment resident Fred Nolt later joined Gordon at the woodshop, learning new skills—he had previously worked with metal rather than wood. Together they craft items, one of the most popular being a frog pull toy, which are



Pictured above (from left) are four Fairmount residents who enjoy working in Fairmount's woodshop: Charlie Martin, Gordon Landis, Joe Waldner, and Fred Nolt.

sold in the Farm Crest Gift Shop, the proceeds going to the Fairmount Sharing Fund.

Other continuing passions indulged at Fairmount include quilting—quilters continue their needlework in cottages and apartments, happy that many are large enough to accommodate quilting frames. They also enjoy quilting days and sewing circles where stitches are accompanied by good fellowship and camaraderie.

Then there are the two residents who connected at Fairmount over their shared interest in ham radio. They meet weekly to see who around the world they can talk with and to just get better acquainted with each other.

Future *Perspective* issues will highlight other Fairmount residents who have taken advantage of their freedom from the time demands of homeownership to more fully engage their hobbies, explore new ones, share interests with other residents, and contribute their skills in a variety of ways benefitting others. Each adds to the rich texture of life in our vibrant community. ➔

Staff Honored for 460 Years of Service

On December 8, 2023, Fairmount team members gathered once again for a delicious array of food choices at our annual Team Member Christmas Fellowship Meal. Thirty-five team members

achieved a five-year increment of employment totaling an amazing total of 460 years of service. Congratulations to all honorees! Thank you for your dedication to our mission. ➔



Fairmount

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Items of Interest

Central PA Blood Drive

On Thursday, February 8, the Central PA Blood Bank will hold a blood drive in the Farm Crest Community Room from 11:30am-6:30pm. Donors may call the blood bank for an appointment at 800.771.0059.

Ham & Cheese Fundraiser

Our annual ham-and-cheese sandwich fundraiser, held jointly with the Weaverland Conference Youth for Truth, is coming up soon. Sandwiches may be ordered until April 12 at the Wheat Ridge or Crest View front desk, or by calling 717.354.1800. The pick-up date will be April 27. Proceeds will be used for the benefit of residents in financial need through the Sharing Fund.

Annual Quilting Days



**Saturday, February 17;
Tuesday, February 20; & Wednesday, February 21**

**8:00am to 4:00pm
(Lunch served daily)**

**Farm Crest Community Room
1100 Farm Crest Dr.
Ephrata, PA 17522**

Save the date and come quilt for the September Benefit Auction.

