

Artistic fountain springs to new life

After four dry, silent years, Danish Village's "Nordic Swan and the Ugly Duckling" fountain is once again delighting residents. The fountain was created by internationally renowned sculptor Marshall M. Fredericks, whose other famous works include "The Spirit of Detroit" and the larger-than-life "Christ on the Cross" in Indian River, Mich.

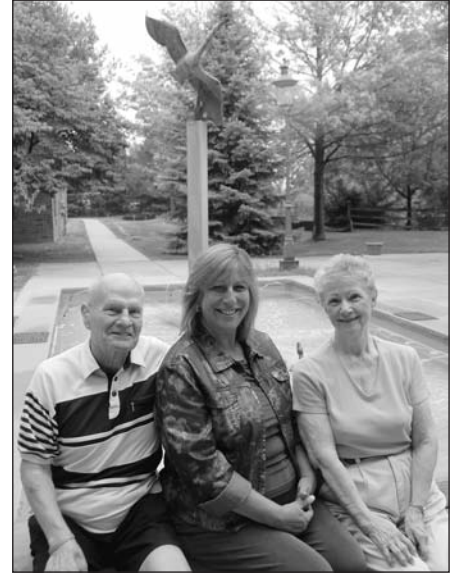
The fountain was installed at the Danish Old Peoples' Home when it opened in 1962 and was moved to the new Danish Village when the old building was demolished. It had been sidelined in recent years due to maintenance issues. "That didn't strike me as the right thing to do with a

work of art," said tenant and art lover Lewis Bartula, 74.

In June, as part of the Danish Village restoration project, the soothing sounds of Fredericks' artistic creation returned to the courtyard.

Fredericks' design interprets the popular Hans Christian Andersen story "The Ugly Duckling." From 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, the bronze 38-inch swan sprays a gentle stream of water onto her 10-inch baby in the pool below.

"We really like to sit outside and enjoy the fountain on nice warm days," said 17-year resident Myrna Corriveau, with a big smile.



Danish Village Manager Linda Young (center) enjoys the renovated courtyard fountain with tenants Lewis Bartula and Myrna Corriveau.



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HIS HAND

Danish Village renovations make a splash

BY LISA DONOVAN
Advancement Specialist

From a restored outdoor fountain to new hand-held showers, renovations at Danish Village are making a splash with residents.

The senior residence was built in 1980 to replace the wood frame structure known as the Danish Old Peoples' Home. Danish Village was the first subsidized housing project undertaken by Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, which co-sponsored it with the Danish Brotherhood. Most of the start-up costs came from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, which also subsidizes rents for its low-income residents.

After almost three decades, the building was due for more than just a fresh coat of paint.

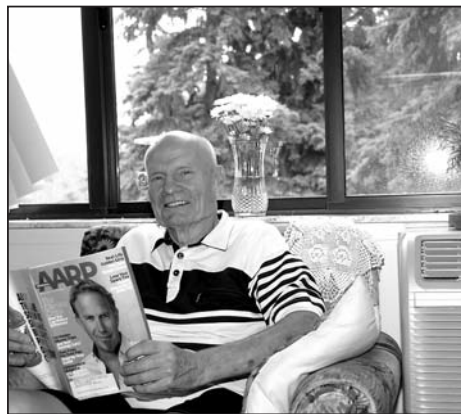
The \$4 million project is financed by a loan and Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) equity.

Since construction began in February, all 150 apartments have been updated with new kitchens, bathroom light fixtures, carpeting, windows and air conditioners. The residents are very happy with the improvements.

"What's my favorite part? Just about everything!" said Myrna Corriveau, 80, who has lived at Danish Village for almost 17 years. Lewis Bartula, 74, head of the tenants' council, said he

loves his new picture window overlooking the woods.

Management took steps to minimize disruption to residents. First, three apartments were renovated to serve as models: a handicapped, a standard and an end unit. "We wanted everyone to see what their apartments would look like when the work was done," said Linda Young, who joined Danish Village as manager in December. Next they created two guest suites where residents could stay while workers updated their apartments.



Danish Village resident Lewis Bartula enjoys his picture window that gives him a view of the woods.

With the apartment work complete, attention has turned to the building's common areas. The relocated front entrance now offers a view of the "Nordic Swan and the Ugly Duckling" fountain, created by internationally renowned sculptor Marshall Fredericks (see story on Page 4). The library is

being moved to where the entrance used to be, making it more open and accessible. Other interior areas have been refreshed with new paint, windows, carpeting and tile.

A new first-floor kitchen features two convection ovens surrounded by light wood cabinets and granite-look counters where tenants can gather for coffee and cake.

Coming soon are new cabs for the elevators and a makeover for the beauty salon. Carports will be available for the first time.

Young expects the library to be the most popular gathering place. As a branch of the Rochester Hills Library, the room has a computer and gets deliveries of new books and DVDs every week. Lutheran Social Services will provide two more computers, comfortable couches and chairs. "It's going to be stellar," said Young.

Bartula is excited about the changes. He edits the monthly *Danish Village Star* newsletter but often has to wait for the solitary computer to become available.

Young has worked with the Danish Village Residents Association to smooth out any rough patches. Tenants discuss their concerns at monthly meetings. "It's been an easy transition for me," said Young. "I listen to the residents and talk to Louie and we work things out."



Marie Weers chats with Tom Brookens, former Detroit Tigers third baseman and manager of the West Michigan Whitecaps.

Play ball!

Ken Heinrich, maintenance worker at The Lodge at MapleCreek, knows resident Marie Weers is a big Detroit Tigers fan. He discusses Tiger games with her and brings gifts of Tigers memorabilia to Marie and her roommate. On July 19 Ken took Marie, 83, and her family to a West Michigan Whitecaps game, paying for the tickets himself. As a special surprise, he arranged for Marie to throw out the first ball. "Ken has a huge heart and goes out of his way to make this a home for our residents," said Lodge Administrator Dana Vance.

Golf outing raises nearly \$4,000

The second annual Uniting Families golf outing brought 50 golfers and friends to Fox Creek Golf Course in Livonia July 14.



Vickie Thompson-Sandy, director of Services for Children and Families in Lansing, and John DeVivo, director of Services for Children and Families in Jackson, Ann Arbor, Flint and Saginaw, enjoyed the golf outing.

The event raised nearly \$4,000 for Lutheran Social Services' foster care program. Funds will be used to recruit and train foster parents and for programs for birth parents seeking reunification with their children. Ken Grifka, who fostered and then adopted three teenagers through Lutheran Social Services and Lutheran Adoption Service, planned and coordinated the event.

Dogs have their day

For the third year, Lakeview Lutheran Manor in Cadillac has sponsored Bark in the Park, a late-afternoon romp for dogs and their owners.



Dachshunds Teddy and Penny enjoy Bark in the Park.

The July 26 event included contests for Doggie/Owner Look-Alikes, Amazing Tricks and Best Costume. Dogs could also demonstrate their talents on an obstacle course and in Doggie IQ and Good Doggie tests. Local businesses and nonprofit organizations provided treats for human and canine participants. The event brought more than 100 people – and about 50 dogs – to the grounds of Lakeview Lutheran Manor, a 153-bed nursing and rehabilitation center.

Grand Ravine marks 25 years

Grand Ravine, an affordable housing complex for senior adults in Allegan, celebrated its 25th anniversary June 24.



Grand Ravine

President and CEO Mark Stutrud spoke at a celebratory program. The 32 Grand Ravine apartments were recently refurbished with new kitchens, doors and more.

Cooking for a cause



Have some fun and help your favorite Lutheran Social Services program at the same time by hosting a Two Sisters Gourmet party at your home! Here's how it works. You invite a group of your friends to a party at your home and "charge" them a reasonable amount, say \$25 or \$35. Two Sisters Gourmet will present a gourmet cooking class and prepare a meal for your guests. They provide all the materials, plus they will bring a number of gourmet food and cooking items for sale. A Lutheran Social Services representative will give a brief overview about the organization. If you want to learn more, contact Anna Romund in Development, (313) 823-7700 or aromu@lssm.org.

Refugees arrive in Michigan

Lutheran Social Services has begun welcoming refugees from Iraq and Burma to Detroit and Battle Creek. Most of the Detroit refugees will be Chaldeans, Catholics from Iraq who have fled due to threats of religious persecution. They are among more than 2 million Iraqis who have left their homeland and are afraid to return.

The Bush administration had hoped to resettle 7,000 Iraqi refugees in the U.S. before the end of this fiscal year, September 30. The actual number will probably be closer to 2,000. Many will be sent to the Detroit area, which has

large Iraqi and Chaldean communities.

The refugees resettling in Battle Creek will be from Burma (Myanmar).

Churches and other large groups may be interested in being refugee sponsors. These groups do everything necessary to support a refugee family during their resettlement. For individuals or groups who want to help but aren't able to handle the full responsibility of sponsorship, many other volunteer projects are available, from collecting furniture and other materials to mentoring.

Donations of new or gently used furniture and household goods can help the refugees get settled (see box below for details). Used cars are also needed, as are leads on affordable rental housing and jobs. Volunteers with trucks or vans are needed to pick up and deliver furniture and supplies.

For information about donating or volunteering, contact Jewan Poulis in Detroit at jpoul@lssm.org or (248) 423-2790 or Kathryn Geller in Battle Creek at kgell@lssm.org or (269) 964-9235.

Help a refugee family

Refugee Services needs donations of furniture and household goods, especially the following items:

- Pots and pans, baking dishes, teakettles and teapots
- Plates, bowls, cups, glasses, silverware
- Full and queen mattresses with frame
- Full and queen sheets, blankets and comforters
- Dressers
- Sofas
- Kitchen tables and chairs
- Baby items: cribs, highchairs, car seats (infant and toddler)



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His Hand tells the story of Lutheran Social Services of Michigan and its impact on the lives of those we serve. These stories of success are possible because of your generosity and caring. Because of your interest in LSSM, we share these stories with you.

