

# Culpepper Place

Senior Living



## Community Connection

November 2011

Culpepper Place at Chesterfield Village • 2410 W. Chesterfield Blvd. • Springfield, MO 65807 • 417-886-4000

Eula Smith's life is like the quilts she sews ~ intricately beautiful, ultimately appreciated by those lucky enough to have one, and capable of warming the soul. When speaking with Eula, one thing stands out. She has a passion for people. It is not achievements in life, politics, or on-goings in the world, but rather the people who make impressions upon her life that she enjoys talking about.



When I first walk into Eula's apartment, she says, "Quick! Come in quickly!" At first, I think she is just really excited to talk to me, but then I see her kitty, Jojo, make a break for the door in a failed escape attempt. Eula laughs heartily and we begin to discuss him and his cuteness and silliness. She tells me that he is named Jojo after her grandson, Joe. *(continued)*

**She'll warm your soul.**

# Violinist

**Eula  
rehearses  
for the  
Symphony  
with her  
instructor.**



“The kitty needed to be named after a person I love,” Eula says to me, “so I chose Joe because he is a wonderful grandson and a magnificent person.” I ask more questions as the kitty plays with my hair and jumps up on the back of my chair. It soon becomes evident that Eula loves talking about the people in her life who she treasures most.

Throughout our conversation, the topics invariably revert to being about those who influenced her most, who she gave her heart to, and whose company she cherishes. Her stories paint pictures of her children, family times, and her own childhood. She tells me about her

five children who she raised at home, while her former late-husband, Walter Allen Riley, worked on the road as a truck driver. Smiling, she says, “We were just a normal family with dogs and cats and kids. We had a great time with the kids. I can’t imagine life without them!”

As she keeps talking about her children, a wonderful secret emerges ~ Eula played the violin! She even played in the Kansas City Symphony with her daughter who played the violin and her son who played the piccolo and flute. Mr. Riley wouldn’t admit he liked to listen to them practice, but he portrayed his pride when he attended the concerts.

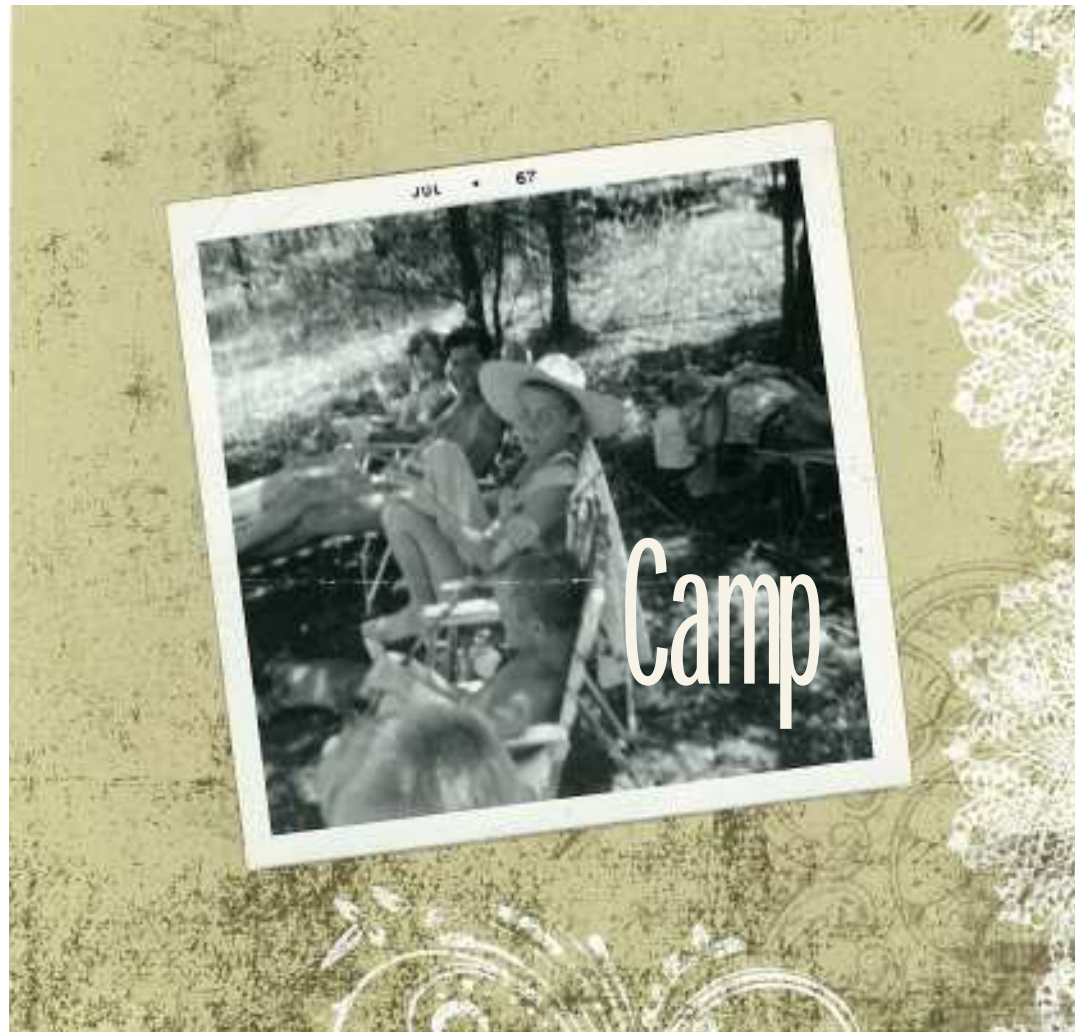
Eula talks of playing the violin in middle school, which leads to stories of her siblings and the strongest, most hard-working woman she's ever known ~ her mother. Part of Eula's passion for sewing came from her mother who earned the nickname, "Gertie the Riveter," after sewing many heavy-duty tents for the war. Gertie used her passion for sewing for the good of others just as Eula has come to do today. Seeing what has made Eula into such a wonderful person is both exciting and heartwarming, but there is one key piece to the puzzle, or quilt, that has yet to be discussed.

On her walls are a few pictures she chooses to display of those nearest and dearest to her heart.

Two are of her and her late husband, Lawrence W. Smith. When I asked about the man in those pictures, I could all but see the fire light in Eula's soul. It was then I knew I had found the part of her story she had wanted to tell me about most. Eula loved everything about Lawrence, and she paints for me the image of a wonderful, loving, God-fearing man.

I ask Eula which memory is her all-time favorite, and she readily replies, "Everything that has to do with Lawrence. He was such a good man . . . he would even go shopping with me!" We shared a laugh at that, but, in all seriousness, I could tell that she truly cherished every moment of their time together. Though she recalls countless stories, the star of each one was always Lawrence and how well he treated everyone, especially her. His influence upon her life is astounding.

The couple shared a special love, and, during their life together, Lawrence imparted to Eula one of her most treasured possessions ~ her "Cadillac of a sewing machine." She uses that *(continued)*



# Trick-or-Treat



**Jo Marsh  
is an  
artist!**



**Troy Marler  
is captured by the  
beautiful Filipino pirate!**



**Little Red Riding Hood (Betty  
Pool) gives treats to the kids.**



**Heather Roberts  
(left) and her  
voice students  
from the  
Conservatory  
of the Ozarks  
entertain us.**

machine to give something beautiful to others, just as Lawrence did when he gave his life to her. I believe their love story lives on in the quilts she crafts.

Toward the end of our chat, Eula shows me yet another revealing piece of the fabric of her life. She has decided to start giving her quilts to orphaned children. Eula truly has a heart of gold, and, through her quilts, she shares it with every person she touches. Each quilt is beautifully handcrafted, and you can see the amount of time and talent she puts into her work. She treasures each of them as she treasures the memories of each person who has touched her life.

**- Mandy Housewright, MSU Student**

Mary Kay Rice



**In December, you're sure to enjoy special music by performing artists Nancee Tanner, Jerry Casarotto and Lou LeBrun, to name a few. Watch your activities calendars for these upcoming holiday events!**

**A great horned owl, chinchilla, hedgehog and blue-tongued skink hail from the Dickerson Park Zoo.**



**Welcome**

Residents  
Barbara Gurley  
Rose Klein  
Staff  
Joanne Curio

Janet Mayberry



1

**In Fond Memory**



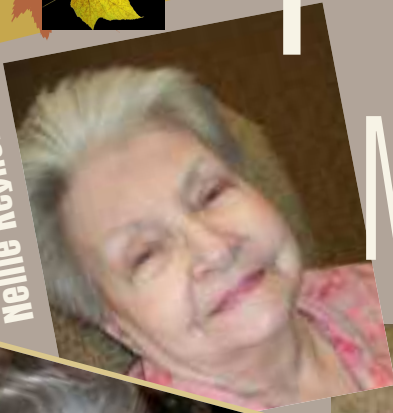
Isabelle Davis



Carol Leone

# November Birthdays!

Nellie Reynolds



1

Rusty Phillips



2



14

Carolyn Sue Shank



24

Connie Helgeson



Crista Curbow



4



16

Roy Call



Melody Record

27



Bonita Withers



13

Jo Hensley



19



Marjorie Barr

29



**Community Director  
Amy Phillips**

# Tis the Season

**Belinda Wren  
Director of Wellness**



I have many wonderful childhood memories of Thanksgiving Day festivities. Preparations for our special feast would start the previous night. My mom always let me help her in the kitchen, baking all the yummy desserts! By late evening our house would be filled with the flavorful aroma of pumpkin pie, oatmeal cookies, and cheesecake. Ymmmmm . . . .

Also at this time, my big brother, Chris, would be coming home for a few days of vacation. Chris left for college when I was only in the first grade, so I was always very excited to see him!

My dad, in charge of cooking the turkey, was forever searching for new and inventive ways to change his procedure. Over the years, we have enjoyed your traditional over-roasted turkey, smoked turkey, deep fried turkey, and, most interestingly, the Turducken!!!

The sounds of the football games on TV and my three brothers cheering their favorite teams to victory could be heard throughout our house! The six of us would then gather 'round our table and enjoy each other and our food. I am so thankful for my wonderful family.

It's that time of year again! Along with all the holidays and festive season celebrations comes the risk of annual flu epidemics. From October through May, thousands of people become infected with influenza ~ more commonly known as the flu. Infection rates are highest with young children, the elderly population, and those affected with chronic health issues. Symptoms include fever, chills, coughs, sore throats, muscle aches, fatigue and headaches. By taking everyday preventive actions, everyone can help stop the spread of germs. Remember to:

- wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- avoid touching your nose and mouth.
- avoid contact with children who have recently become ill with flu symptoms.
- keep your immune system healthy by getting enough rest and regular exercise, eating plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, and drinking at least eight glasses of water a day.
- cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.

Flu season doesn't have to get you down. Enjoy the blessings of good health.

# Halloween

brings  
sweet treats  
& outlandish  
getups!

# Night



Show me your funny face!