

September 2026

Bradley House Life

Garden Path Elder Living | 65 Harris Ave, Brattleboro VT | 802-254-5524



King for a Day

On August 25th 2026, Walter Schwarz turned 100 years old! Our porch was filled to the max with other residents, friends and family, who came together to celebrate this remarkable man. With a crown upon his head, Walt was honored by his younger daughter (who recited a meaningful tribute to her dad). He enjoyed his favorite dessert, strawberry shortcake (homemade by Ray Vigurs). It truly was a day to remember.



Welcome Autumn!

Autumn greetings to all of our friends and families of Garden Path Elder Living. Summer at The Bradley House went by in a flash! We were fortunate enough to take many trips to The Marlboro Music Festival's open rehearsals in July and August. We stayed cool by sitting in the shade of our porch and enjoying ice cream treats of all kinds. Thanks to a generous donation by Girls on the Run, we had the Kona Ice truck pull up porch side, and had cool and refreshing flavored ice to go along with our island themed party.



(From L-R Bradley House Residents: Mary P., Alma, Mary Z. and Joyce)

Harvest time is upon us and we will be having an outing to Green Mountain Orchards to go apple picking later this month. As the days get shorter and the weather gets cooler we'll be starting up our baking club again to put those delicious apples to good use!

Bradley House Guinea Pigs

Bradley House now has two new residents: Gizmo (aka Augustus) and J. McClandish. Both are esteemed Guinea Pigs of the white and brownish variety.

Gizmo is an Abyssinian pig, which means his fur grows in swirls, while McClandish is a calico American short-hair pig.

Gizmo arrived first and became a fast favorite with us. He performed all the traditional GP activities with exceptional interest and ability, such as eating, sleeping and hiding. Since he was a sole pig, he had the run of his unusually large house. But one can trek through just so many tunnels, eat just so many apple halves and survive just so many attacks from imaginary chicken hawks before boredom sets in.

Gizmo needed a pal. And to his immense delight, a pal arrived in late August, one McClandish Guinea Pig. Ever since, the two have been inseparable.

Gizmo, of course, is the head pig. He gets first dibs on everything. He also has all the responsibilities. He must report to national headquarters once a month on the state of GP affairs at Bradley House. He must submit balanced budgets. He must calculate the necessary amount of cuteness required to keep humans providing food and water, special treats and toys. It is a busy life.

Despite the name, guinea pigs aren't pigs at all, and they're not from Guinea. They originated in the Andes region of South America (mostly modern-day Peru), where they were domesticated thousands of years ago.

- Written by Carol,
a Bradley House
resident

Gizmo and Phyllis



McClandish and Mary Z.



Welcome Kacie!

The newest employee to join our team is Executive Assistant, Kacie. Kacie is interested in all genres of music. She enjoys reading mysteries and thrillers, and spending time in nature. She is particularly fond of being by the ocean, even when it's cold outside. Kacie remarked that she is really excited to join the community here at Bradley House. She said, "It feels like a very special place and I'm very happy to be a part of it." We are equally happy to have Kacie as a part of our team!

A Resident Perspective

Before I came to Bradley House, I was asked, "Why do you want to go to VERMONT?" "The answer seemed simple enough at the time..... my youngest son lives in Vermont and it would be nice to be near his family. I visited Bradley House. At ninety, it seemed quite exciting and adventurous and the perfect place for me. The staff and residents made me feel very welcome. I found so many wonderful things happening here to keep me happy and involved. What could be better than to have my room all cleaned while I have enjoyed a morning of music, art or BINGO? Chair exercise, in the morning, keep my rusty joints moving and more comfortable. Volunteers from "the outside world" come in to entertain and challenge our old, but still inquisitive minds. Our meals have fresh, seasonal vegetables and fruits. I find them delicious, nutritious and well prepared. It means so much to all of us to have our families and pets come in to visit. We get to meet, know and enjoy our neighbors' families. This spring, we had ten additions to the house. 8 baby chicks and 2 Guinea pigs! So much fun to watch and cuddle with. Soon our hens will lay eggs. That will be a day to celebrate! Bradley House is more than a house..... it's a home and I'm so happy and glad to be here.

-Written by a Bradley House resident

A Visit to Horseplay

In late August, Ross Smart and new staff member, Kacie, took a van full of residents to visit Horseplay in Putney, VT to play with... the horses! The Horseplay staff brought out three full size horses and two miniature horses for us to pat, curry comb, and feed. Some of the horses are retired from the race track, police force or the farm. One of the horses has retired from all three! The horses are chosen for their gentle nature. The visits to Horseplay are enjoyable for our residents as well as the horses! We will have another visit to Horseplay in October.



(Bradley House residents: Pat P. and Ethel)

More Autumn Activities to come...

We are looking forward to continuing our collaboration with the Brooks Public Library and the River Gallery Art School. The three of us are thrilled to provide a wonderful “Art and Exploration” program to our Bradley House residents as well as the senior citizens in the Brattleboro community. We will have a four-week session at the Brooks Library from mid-October to mid-November.

We will also welcome back, teaching artist, Erin Maile O’Keefe. Erin will lead us in a week-long program of performing arts, culminating in a final performance on Friday, October 30th.

As always, we are ever so grateful to all of our wonderful volunteers, family, and friends of the Bradley House.

If you have an interest, talent, or idea to share, the Activities Department welcomes your input and seeks to recruit volunteers from among our family circles. If you have an arts and crafts idea, a baking idea, or would like to lead a talk sharing your travel photos, please contact tami@gardenpathelderliving.org and we can add it to the schedule. Our aim is to continually enrich, share and enjoy our lives here. New ideas are always welcome!

From all of us here at The Bradley House, we wish you a happy and healthy Autumn!

Bradley House Chickens



The Coop DeVille

