

# — SWEET CORN SPRINT —

Another Independence Day Celebration was put in the books on July 3rd. This year's event boasted new games like a money machine, cake walk, soccer darts, inflatable cornhole, snapchat filters and bigger and better inflatables. More than anything else this event is meant to be a huge thank you to the town of Sheldon and the surrounding communities for their tremendous support of the Village throughout the year.

The most exciting new event at this year's Independence Day Celebration was a food eating contest called the Sweet Corn Sprint. The race took place during intermission of the Mud Dogs band in front of the main stage. Competitors raced to finish six ears of corn the fastest. This year's competition maxed out at 12 competitors. Congratulations to the winner of our first ever Sweet Corn Sprint, Michael Vander Wilt. Michael finished his six ears of corn in 3:02:05. We look forward to potentially expanding this competition next year to include and men's and women's flight.



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VILLAGE NORTHWEST UNLIMITED // Fall 2018

# VILLAGE VOICE



## — MOTORCYCLE CLUB —

On a beautiful morning in August, if you stood outside the Wansink Center on VNU's campus, you would have heard the loud screeching of motors and revving of engines as bright and shiny motorcycles took off in a pack. As the group made their way around Village Circle, they managed to attract an interested crowd of onlookers.

A group of consumers chose to participate in the Motorcycle Club curriculum which met weekly through the month of August. During this curriculum, consumers learned about motorcycle safety, the different kinds of motorcycles made and toured various motorcycle dealers. As the class was coming to an end, anticipation grew and it was finally time to take a ride! Village staff brought in their motorcycles that August morning, lined them up for everyone to see and then it was go time! The helmets snapped simultaneously and fists pumped in the air before each consumer was helped onto the back of the bikes to enjoy their rides.

Not only was this curriculum fun and engaging, it was exciting and exhilarating! It's not every day that someone gets to go for a ride on a fancy hog. Our staff have done a wonderful job creating curriculums that give new experiences to the individuals served at the Village and we have no doubt that it will continue.



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## — 20 YEARS —

On August 23rd VNU held a luncheon to celebrate three staff members who celebrated 20 year anniversaries at the Village in 2018. Peggy Johnson, Beckie Loveall and Lisa Vander Pol have spent the past 20 years providing Purpose, Privacy & Dignity to the individuals we serve here at the Village. These three ladies joined a special group of 80 other Village staff who currently still work at the Village and have worked here for over 20 years.



## — IOWA — FOOTBALL

There is nothing better than watching your favorite team play live and coming home with a win, that is exactly what this group of staff and consumers did! They cheered on the Hawkeyes along with the other 67,503 fans in attendance with them that day. The group drove up early on game day, toured the stadium and then did some souvenir shopping. They got to watch the Hawkeyes beat the Northern Illinois Huskies on September 1st.



## — HOUSE 370 —

On July 14th we said goodbye to the long vacant House 370. The Sheldon, Ashton and Hospers Fire Departments helped us burn it down. In only a few hours a house that had held so many memories from previous staff and consumers over 30 years was burned to the ground. The event drew in a crowd of old staff, sad to see their once beautiful workplace up in flames. Out of the flames came new opportunities for our consumers and staff. Two new homes were built to take the place of this house in 2016. Next August we be breaking ground on two new homes to take the place of one of our older homes currently still in use today.



## — STATE — SOFTBALL

The Village Panther Softball team and Softball Skills participants made their way to the state tournament on August 3-4th. The softball team brought home gold with their first place finish. The first game of the tournament they beat Iowa City Thunder 21-20 in extra innings. In the Softball Skills competition Nicole A. brought home 2nd place and Austin B. brought home an exciting 3rd place. We are so proud of all of our Village athletes. Go Panthers!



## — BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT —



Monday, July 16th VNU hosted our 18th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament at Landsmeer Golf Club in Orange City. The weather was incredible with blue skies, sun and 85 degrees! Over \$64,000 was raised during this year's tournament. All of the money raised stays at the Village to provide the highest quality services and equipment for the individuals we serve.

Congratulations to the 2018 flight winners!

All Men's 1st Flight– Score of 57

Chad Brown, Curt Strouth, Brandon Braaksma and Shane Jager

All Men's 2nd Flight– Score of 64

Daniel Ten Clay, Dennis Ten Clay, Michael Ten Clay and Mark Den Hartog

Mixed Flight– Score of 59

Dave Van Essen, Jill Van Essen, Ty Van Essen and Jim Jansen

All Women's Flight– Score of 68

Brooke Wittrock, Ashley Sandersfeld and Rylee Goosen

## — KEVIN KLING —

Storyteller and writer Kevin Kling stopped by the Village to perform for our staff and consumers on August 1st. Kevin delighted us with his stories about growing up in Minnesota and Iowa and the old folktales he heard as a child from his grandmother.

The Village partnered with the Orange City Arts Council to bring artists with disabilities to Orange City to perform in Windmill Park that same evening. Jessica Rosenboom, VNU Art Instructor, worked hard to bring art pieces that were created by VNU consumers to display in Windmill Park that evening.

