

Forster Woods Connection

May 2026



Planting Seeds of Connection



April at the day center was absolutely magical! One of the biggest highlights was our visit from Hidden View Farm, where six baby goats came in for everyone to love on—bringing smiles all around. Our Gardening Club also took off this month as we began growing wheatgrass, basil, and parsley in our indoor greenhouse. It's been exciting to watch everything come to life, with more planting to come in May!

Another big hit was our workshop and new ChompSaw tool—a safe, hands-on way to cut and create with cardboard. In April, we made heart and triangle cutouts that we'll paint in May and turn into garland for our upcoming wedding celebration. The ChompSaw has been a wonderful way to bring back the joy of building and creating! While April may be hard to top, we have a feeling May has a few things up its sleeve that are sure to knock it right out of the park!



What's Happening in May

We'll be welcoming Impressions 5 for a hands-on static electricity workshop—get ready for some fun (and maybe a few static hairstyles)! To celebrate Mothers Day we'll be planting flowers so they can grow in our greenhouse. We'll also celebrate the Kentucky Derby with themed games and a fun staff race. To wrap up the month, we're hosting a special wedding celebration where participants can reminisce and celebrate love, friendship, and connection. This is just the beginning—be sure to check out our calendar for even more this month!

Under the Tree - Forster Woods Podcast

We're excited to share the launch of our new podcast, *Under the Tree*, created to support and connect family caregivers through meaningful conversations, resources, and community insight. Our first episode, *Planting the Seed*, is now available! The easiest way to listen is by visiting our Facebook page and using our Linktree to access the podcast on YouTube, Spotify, and Amazon Music (with Apple Music coming soon). If searching directly on a platform, look for Under the Tree Planting the Seed, or Forster Woods. We look forward to continuing to grow this space and support caregivers in our community.





Birdfeeder Craft

Materials:

- ½ Cup Cheerios
- ¾ Cup AP Flour
- 3 ½ Cups Wild Bird Seed
- 3 Tbsp. Light Corn Syrup
- 1 Envelope Gelatine
- ½ Cup Water
- Bowl
- Mason Jar Lids
- Twine
- Parchment Paper

Directions:

- In the bowl, mix together the cheerios, flour, wild bird seed, light corn syrup, gelatine, and water.
- You can add more cheerios later for decorations!
- Knot-tie your twine onto the mason jar lids. Make sure your strings are long enough to tie to where you'd like to hang it. You can always trim them later! Lay the lids on a piece of parchment paper.
- Pile your birdseed mixture into your mason jar lids. Smash it down and even it out with your hands (tip: rub your hands with olive oil to prevent sticking!). Allow them to sit overnight before hanging.
- If adding additional; cheerios for a design, be sure to do that before they are set. Watch the birds enjoy!



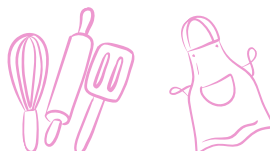
Flower Rice Krispie Treats

Ingredients:

- ¼ Cup Butter
- 5 Cups Miniature Marshmallows
- ½ tsp Vanilla Extract
- Optional: Few drops of food coloring
- Spring colored icing

Directions:

1. In a large microwave-safe bowl, heat butter, marshmallows, and food coloring for about 3 minutes, stirring every 45 seconds until smooth.
2. Stir in Rice Krispies cereal until well coated.
3. Press mixture firmly into a buttered pan using a lightly buttered spatula.
4. Use a flower-shaped cookie cutter to press and cut out shapes.
5. Decorate with icing and enjoy!





Funding Alzheimer's Research and Care

By Brooke DeNisco, Activity Connection

News about government budget cuts might leave you wondering how they could affect funding for Alzheimer's disease research and treatment. There isn't a clear-cut answer, but here is some information to help you better understand the financials behind Alzheimer's and dementia work.



The good news is that, in general, Alzheimer's research funding has trended upward over the past decade, largely because Congress has continued to support increases. In 2017, the federal budget for Alzheimer's was under a billion dollars, and currently it's closer to three billion dollars. Budget disputes have delayed the distribution of some of this money, leading to the temporary or permanent closure of some research facilities and projects.

Congress has proposed adding \$100 million to the funds currently allotted to Alzheimer's disease research. The budget still needs to be signed by the president to pass. Much of this funding supports the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure.

BOLD began as a bipartisan federal initiative that was voted into federal law. The goal of BOLD was to create a federal agency to address Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. BOLD employees direct the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) on how to strengthen public health for people with dementia.

BOLD doesn't focus on specific drug treatments or cures; they aim to build and invest in overall systems to direct people with Alzheimer's disease to appropriate care and to collect data on Alzheimer's disease for recordkeeping. BOLD also works on policies to detect dementia early and educate people on prevention.

Research labs, clinical trials, and drug development for Alzheimer's disease are funded by multiple sources, including federal and local government agencies, private grants, pharmaceutical companies, donations, and fundraising.

BOLD funding is not considered at risk right now. The current administration has proposed budget cuts to medical research and aging services, so that funding for Alzheimer's disease could be affected, as well as the ability of people with dementia to find affordable care.



May Special Events



WE WILL BE
==== ★★★★★ =====
CLOSED
 **ON** 
MEMORIAL
★ **DAY** ★



May Birthdays

May 3rd - Mario F.

May 21st - Marsha C.



Special Dates

- May 1st  Detroit Tigers Experience
- May 5th  Singing with Judy
- May 7th  Impression 5 Visit
- May 11th  Pet Therapy w/ Maggie
- May 12th  Melodies with Marcy
- May 13th  Kentucky Derby Game
- May 13th  Staff Race
- May 13th  Bible Study
- May 14th  Drum Circle
- May 15th  Participant Council
- May 18th  Pet Therapy
- May 18th  Movie Showing
- May 20th  Jamming with Karl
- May 25th  Closed on Memorial Day
- May 26th  Melodies with Marcy
- May 28th  Singing with Judy
- May 29th  Wedding Celebration
- TBD  Pet Therapy w/ Hounds



Opportunities in the Community

Hidden View Farm

Want to show a goat in front of the judges?

June 20th | 6pm

Fowlerville Fairgrounds

Free & Fun For All!

Hidden View Farm comes in multiple times a year to do baby goat visits with the participants!

Contact Melissa C.

greatlakesminisilky@gmail.com

(517)575-8871

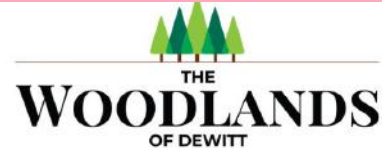
Impression 5

- Visit & Resources -

The local Science Center offers inclusive, hands-on experiences for all ages, with sensory-friendly resources like backpacks, interactive exhibits, and at-home activity ideas. Accessibility supports are available to help create a comfortable and engaging visit for everyone.

For more information, check out their website, Facebook page, or call 517-485-8116.

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May 2026



“April Memories”





Participant Spotlight: Patricia S.

Patricia is warm-hearted and has a deeply endearing presence at our center. Having been attending day program for many years, Patricia is a truly valued and beloved member of our community.

One of the most special parts of Patricia's day is her close bond with her dear friend Merrilynn. The two have known each other for years and share a truly meaningful connection. They ride the bus together each day, and Patricia will wait in the entryway each morning until Merrilynn is ready so they can walk in together. Throughout the day, Patricia stays close to Merrilynn, enjoying each other's company and rarely going anywhere without her friend.

Patricia enjoys a variety of activities, especially working on wooden puzzles and matching games, as well as participating in Bingo. She also has a deep love for animals of all kinds. Whether it's dogs, bunnies, calves, sheep, pigs, or goats, Patricia is happiest when she's spending time with them. During past animal visits, she couldn't get enough of petting them, and she especially enjoys when familiar favorites like Maggie the golden retriever come to visit.

A fun fact about Patricia is that she loves musicals! During our monthly movie showings, she always has a front row seat when a musical is playing, enjoying every moment. Patricia's kindness, gentle nature, and especially her beautiful friendship with Merrilynn make her truly special, and we are so lucky to have her as part of our Forster Woods family.



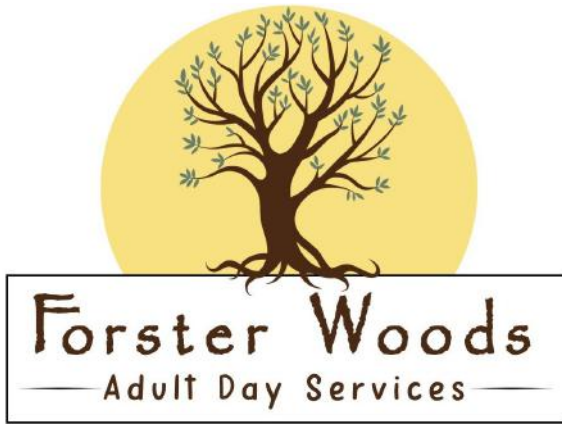
Ways to Support

Your support makes all things possible here at Forster Woods and there are several ways you can contribute and make a difference. Every donation helps us provide vital resources for our individual clients. From meals and personal care items to therapeutic activities and special events, your generosity directly supports their well-being. You can visit our website at www.forsterwoods.org or simply scan the QR code to make a donation today!



Our Amazon Wishlist is filled with supplies we use daily—craft materials, office items, and other essentials for our program. By purchasing an item, you make a direct impact on the lives of our clients, helping us create enriching experiences and maintain a well equipped space. Just scan the QR code for our Wishlist and see how you can help!





Supporting Adults. Empowering Families. Building Community.

Our program provides meaningful daytime support for adults who benefit from structure, social engagement, and compassionate care. Through enriching activities, personalized attention, and a welcoming environment, participants remain active, connected, and valued members of the community.

We also support families and caregivers by providing trusted daytime care and peace of mind. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive community where adults can thrive and families feel supported.

Program Impact

- Adults maintain independence and meaningful daily routines
- Reduce social isolation and build friendships
- Support veterans, older adults, and individuals needing daytime care
- Provide respite and support for family caregivers

Program Sponsors & Community Partners

We are grateful to the organizations and community partners whose support helps make our program possible.

