# The St. Andrews Journey

A publication of the St. Andrews Retirement Community

October 2026

Any candy donations for Halloween can be dropped off at the front office at McCready Manor.

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN



# Interview at McCready Manor with Vicki Simmons





Vicki was born in San Bernadino, California on June 29, 1954. Her dad was in the Air Force and was stationed there. After his four years of service was over, he and his wife, Maria Elizabeth Begley Hymer moved to Berea, Kentucky, where he was raised. Vicki and her brother, Steve Hymer enjoyed growing up and being educated in the town that is well-known for Berea College. Vicki's father was a car salesman, and her mother was a stay-at-home mom. Her mom kept a close watch on Vicki and made sure she did her schoolwork correctly.

Vicki met Landon Simmons while she was in high school and they had a long courtship as they both wanted a college education and attended EKU. Landon also served in the Navy. They married on June 5, 1973 soon after he got out of the service.

Vicki and Landon had two children; Cristi Elizabeth and James (Summer) Simmons. Vicki is very proud of her grandchildren; Megan, Landon, Roi Morgan, Avery, and Sailor Simmons. Vicki majored in Agriculture in college. She never used any of this during her life. Landon became a carpenter and a contractor. He built many homes and one of them was the home in which they lived.

Vicki is a very gifted Bluegrass musician. She was a founding member of the New Coon Creek Girls. Vicki's mother was a musician and played a piano and sang. She instilled a love for music into Vicki and introduced her to Lilli Mae Ledford, who was a member of the original Coon Creek Girls. Lilli Mae taught Vicki to play a bingo clawhammer style and influenced her musical approach. When the original Coon Creek Girls disbanded, she gage Vicki permission to use the name.

John Lair of Renfro Valley wanted an all-female band to replace Coon Creek Girls and Vicki formed the New Coon Creek Girls with Pam Gadd, Perry Combs, and Wanda Barnett. There have been many changes throughout the years. Members would drop out and others joined. Vicki has played with Romonia Church Taylor, Pam Perry, and Dale Ann Bradley.

The band was very popular during the 1980's and the 1990s, they began doing shows and festivals. They played at Renfro Valley, and the Grand Ole Opera in Nashville, Tennessee at least 29 times. Vicki has done shows worldwide. She performed in Ireland, Japan, Canada, and Africa.

Vicki is also a song writer and has collaborated on many songs. The New Coon Creek Girls have many albums such as: Ain't Love a Good Thing, Our Point of View, Everything You Do, The L&N Don't Stop Here Anymore, and So I'll Ride.

Vicki did a lot of travel by train so that is probably the reason for some of the songs. Vicki rode a train from California to Chavies, Kentucky where her mom was raised.

Vicki played several different instruments during her career. She played a upright bass, an electric guitar, and banjo. Her style blends traditional Appalachian techniques and contemporary-bluegrass, along with fast picking and vocal harmonizing. She was a member of the band for 27 years.

After they disbanded, Vicki joined a group called Tommy and Friends. The band members were Tommy and Shirkey Kersey, Vicki and Dave Hemmemerr. They travel throughout the states for several years.

Vicki will always be honored and remembered as a trailblazer for female bluegrass music. Vicki still performs sometimes at special festivals and events.

Vicki suffered a stroke in 2008 while she was in the hospital for a brain aneurysm. Renfro Valley did a benefit for her. She has had several more strokes. Since 2012, Vicki has suffered from vision problems which are unrelated to the strokes. She is a strong, determined lady who overcomes adversities.

Vicki enjoys taking care of flowers. She has a beautiful garden around her home in Berea. Vicki moved into McCready Manor, where she can get the assistance, she needs. She is glad she made the move, but found it hard to part with many of her possessions.

We are very glad to have this well-respected lady living here and she has already used her talent to entertain the facility. God bless you, Vicki.

– *Betty Herald*

# A DOLLAR FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

***"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." - Colossians 3:17***

Through contributions from families and friends in our Richmond and Madison County community, the McCready-Telford Foundation helps to enhance lives by giving additional financial support to McCready Manor and Telford Terrace that annual operational budgets of the facilities themselves cannot provide. That can only happen through the support of generous people making donations and contributions to the Foundation. With that said, it's important for current and future contributors to the McCready Telford Foundation to know how donations and contributions are utilized.

Currently, the Foundation is collecting donations for twenty-four room transformations for residents at Telford Terrace as part of the "adopt a room" program. This program aims to transform each room over the next few years so residents can live in the best accommodations possible with new and updated beds, chairs, dressers, tables and other items in each room needed by residents.

At McCready Manor, the Foundation is collecting donations to replace hallway carpet with wood flooring, replace the original elevators with new elevators, and upgrade the fire safety system. These upgrades will help to improve safety and health factors, as well as aesthetics for residents.

We hope to also provide support for new paving and parking space striping. This project is for the shared parking areas for McCready and Telford. We want to maintain a safe and effective area for both pedestrians and vehicles. Everything we do ultimately goes to support initiatives for our residents and families.

With total cost estimates expected to be more than $500,000, these expenses are long-term investments and improvements and are not recurring budgetary costs. These are large projects and will take time to complete. It will only be possible from continued generosity from our community. These upgrades will benefit folks living in our communities for decades.

McCready and Telford are wonderful places to live during the golden season of life. The Foundation strives to support our residents to have all that is possible in their living experience. Donations can be dropped off at McCready Manor and Telford Terrace, or can be mailed to:

McCready-Telford Foundation, Inc.
C/O Ken Bicknell, Director
300 Stocker Drive
Richmond, KY 40475

"I believe God has gifted me the responsibility to focus on helping others learn, achieve, and succeed."

*By: Ken Bicknell*
McCready-Telford Foundation
Executive Director

Telford Terrace Employee Appreciation




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Keeley Tiravanti - Designer
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5 Day Event

# McCready Manor's National Assisted Living Week Highlights

Vintage cars
cheescake
live music
& more!



Mary & Tom Cochrane having fun under the tent



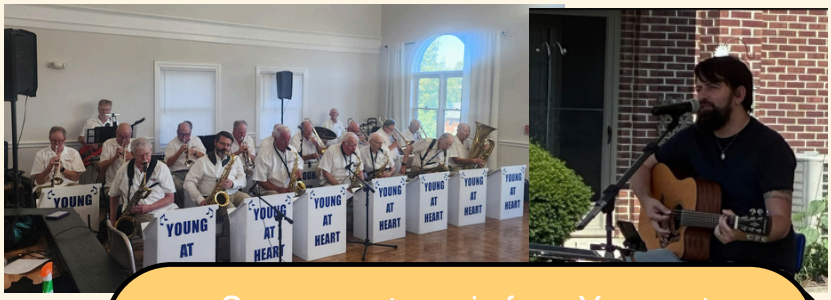
Nancy & Tim Kelly's BFF caricture



Vintage cars at our very own Cruise In!



Bill Ramsey eating Famous Lee Chicken with a friend




Some great music from Young at Heart, Jason Goble, and more!

## Thank you STAFF & VOLUNTEERS!













# Telford Terrace
## Mini Pies & Celebrations







Blueberry & Strawberry









Apple



## September Birthday Party



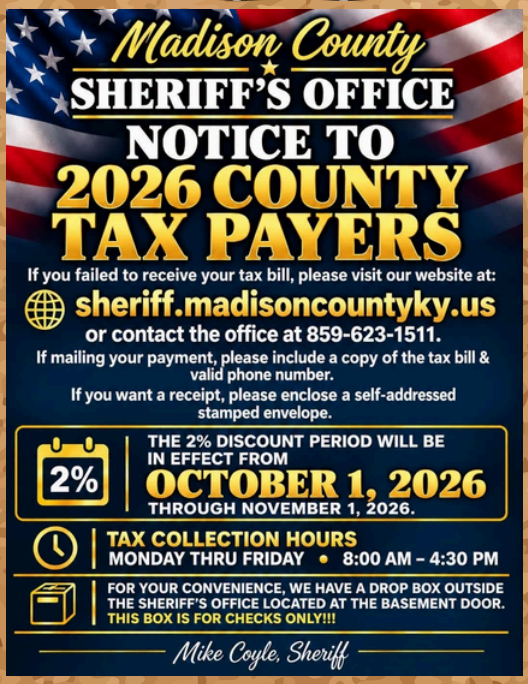
# St. Andrews Bulletin Board

**Telford Terrace Employee of the Month**




**McCready Manor Employee of the Month**








Please give a warm welcome to McCready Manor's new Occupational Therapy Clinic Director, Abby Fields!

## St. Andrews Retirement Community Donors

- First Baptist Church
- Chris and Kathleen Halcomb
- Sandra G. Ganter

## Welcome New SEPTEMBER McCready Residents

- Bob & Shirly Barryman




### McCready Residents

Betty Herald 10/3
James Rhodus 10/3
Wanda Lombardo 10/4
Jerry Faughn 10/11
Louis Kasitz 10/12
Paul Hager 10/15
Coetta Combs 10/18
Jane Land 10/18
Joseph Kopacz 10/19
Betty Landrum 10/25
Tim Kelly 10/31
Valerie Gabriel 10/31

### McCready Staff

Cindy Smith 10/21

### Telford Residents

Sula Reed 10/6
Ronald Coffman 10/20
Eugene Althauser 10/27
Joan Dyer 10/29
Shirley Gibson 10/30

### Telford Staff

Makayla Cotton 10/11
Brandon Long 10/13
Ajah Jones 10/15

### Condo Birthdays

Debra Singer 10/1

## Deepest Sympathies

To the family of
Marjorie Hendren
Basil Peck