the HOOT

Monthly NEWSLETTER

Giving Thanks Edition

November 2026

A Note of Thanks from Your Board

Most Hoot readers received a letter from us last week. Your replies—from "it brought tears to my eyes" to words more moving still—have touched us deeply.

We wrote in the spirit of Thanksgiving, grateful for all you give to OWLS. Your responses reminded us that the deepest ties among us are often found in simple acts: welcoming Sandy to a euchre table, learning someone's name, or sharing what we know, as Paul Reasoner did even when teaching demanded so much of him.

Such kindness gives OWLS its meaning. We each have something to offer, and we each need something others can give.

You are also teaching a sometimes-stodgy board a thing or two. We are here to serve you. This Thanksgiving, we find ourselves grateful recipients of your care.

- *-Your OWLS Club Board of Directors*



Image shows a quilt that Sandy's friend made for Sandy's brother when she passed, and she added an OWLS tee-shirt tile in memory.

In search of meaning

Viktor Frankl believed meaning helps us endure extraordinary hardship. Paul Reasoner brought that lesson to OWLS by living it.

Diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in May 2024, Paul endured radiation, chemotherapy, Whipple surgery, and more chemotherapy. His last three scans showed no detectable cancer—welcome news, though tomorrow offers no guarantees.

Against that backdrop, Paul came to teach retirement investing.

Teaching earned him nothing and promised no extra days. It demanded something precious: his limited energy. Emaciated, sometimes needing help to finish a sentence, he kept showing up. He won far more than our sympathy. He won our admiration.

Among OWLS' many excellent volunteer teachers, I can think of none who sacrificed more to share what he knew.

Paul seems to have found meaning in remaining useful: teaching, contributing, and giving away a lifetime of knowledge while he still can.

Perhaps that is a quiet miracle of OWLS: a place to remain useful that sometimes brings out our very best.

Paul Reasoner brought us a course on retirement investing. He taught us something considerably more valuable.

-Frank Martin

Handmade with Love and Gratitude!

We are so thankful for our talented OWLS members who generously create and donate handmade items for us to sell at the club! Every purchase supports OWLS, and these thoughtful creations make wonderful gifts for friends, family, or even yourself!



Next time you're at the club, take a look at:

- Knitted hand towels
- NEW! Keychain bottle grip openers
- Owl magnets
- Owl keychains
- Owl jewelry

A big thank-you to our creative members for sharing their time, talents, and generosity with OWLS!

Grateful for the Gift of Time and Talent!

One of the things that makes OWLS Club so special is the generosity of our members. We are incredibly thankful for the many volunteers who give their time, talents, and hearts to make our club and community a better place!

From welcoming members at the host desk and leading classes and trips to teaching, helping with administrative tasks, and lending a hand wherever needed, our volunteers are truly the heart of OWLS.

And their generosity doesn't stop at our doors! Each month, OWLS members volunteer together at Cultivate Food Rescue and Habitat for Humanity, while our talented Friday Knitters create handmade items to donate to nonprofits throughout our community.

Whether it's an hour, a day, or a regular commitment, every act of service makes a difference. To all our volunteers, THANK YOU! You remind us that giving our time is one of the greatest gifts we can share. We are so grateful for each and every one of you!

Upcoming Events

- **Nov 5 - Free Skin Cancer Screenings**
  (Starts at 9:00 AM)
- **Nov 5 - OWLS Birthday Bash**
  (Starts at 1:00 PM)
- **Nov 13 - Lunch and a Play: Christmas Trip**
  (Starts at 10:00 AM)
  SOLD OUT!
- **Nov 13 - OWLS On The Go: Center for Hospice Care Tour : AM**
  (Starts at 10:00 AM)
- **Nov 13 - OWLS On The Go: Center for Hospice Care Tour : PM**
  (Starts at 1:00 PM)
- **Nov 18 - NIBCO Museum Tour**
  (Starts at 11:00 AM)
- **Nov 26 - OWLS Thanksgiving Potluck**
  (Starts at 1:00 PM)
- **Nov 26-27 - Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**
  (Except for the Thanksgiving Potluck)
- **Dec 3 - Holiday Crafting Party**
  (Starts at 10:00 AM)
- **Dec 6 - Lunch and a Play:** ***"Theatre People or The Angel Next Door"***
  (Starts at 12:00 PM)

Thankful for the Little Extras That Make OWLS Special!

There are so many wonderful people and organizations that help make OWLS a welcoming and caring place. This month, we want to share our gratitude for a few of the special additions that make a difference in our members' lives.

Joy Blooms
Thank you to this wonderful nonprofit for donating beautiful flowers each week that brighten our club and bring smiles to our members!

Cultivate Food Rescue
We appreciate the delicious frozen meals they provide and deliver each week for our members to enjoy.

OWLS Connect
We are grateful for the caring volunteers who make phone calls, send texts and cards, and provide rides to members who aren't feeling well. These thoughtful gestures remind us that no one has to feel alone.

NeighborLink
Thank you to this dedicated team for providing valuable in-home assistance to our members.

Our Lending Library
We appreciate everyone who donates books, borrows books, and helps keep our library organized and welcoming. A special thank-you to retired librarian Diana Gill for her efforts to make this space even more accessible and enjoyable!

And speaking of books, our **OWLS Book Club** is another wonderful way to connect through a shared love of reading! New faces are always welcome, so if you enjoy a good book and great conversation, consider stopping by a meeting.

It's these acts of kindness, generosity, and connection that make OWLS more than just a club. **Thank you for helping make it a community!**





New & Returning CLASSES

Nov 5

Budgeting for Everyday Life

2:00 PM

Learn practical ways to track income and expenses, prioritize when money is tight, and feel more confident about everyday spending.

Nov 9

Tai Chi

Mondays, at 1:00 PM

Experience the benefits of Tai Chi with Zach, a skilled practitioner of multiple martial arts, in this welcoming class designed for all ages and ability levels.

Nov 10

Bowling at Signature Lanes

1:00 PM

A fun, laid-back time to enjoy a few games with friends.

Nov 10

Building Brain Healthy Habits

1:00 PM

Discover the 10 Healthy Habits for your Brain and learn what the latest research, including the U.S. POINTER study, tells us about protecting brain health at every age.

Nov 19

What If It's Dementia? Signs, Early Detection, and Seeking Resources

11:00 AM

These informative sessions focus on topics that support healthy aging, disease prevention, and overall well-being.

For a full list of classes, pick up a printed calendar at the front desk. You can also see a full calendar online by visiting **www.owlsclub.org/calendar** or scan this QR code:

Do you have an idea for a new class or workshop you'd like to share or teach?

Gather your ideas and sign up to volunteer at **www.owlsclub.org/volunteer** by filling out an application form today. You can also contact Kristen or Maggie in the main office to fill out a paper form to get the conversations started and even learn how to promote your idea at OWLS Club.

Class & Activity HIGHLIGHTS

Free Skin Cancer Screening

November 5, at 9:00AM

A healthcare professional will be available to examine a specific mole, spot, or skin change that concerns you during a private, approximately 10-minute appointment.

November Birthday Bash

November 5, at 1:00 PM

Everyone is welcome to come enjoy cake, party games, lots of laughs, and good company as we make our birthday members feel extra special.

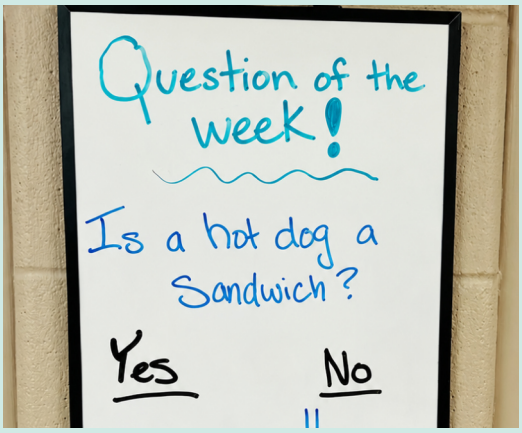
Tai Chi is back!

Mondays, at 1:00 PM

Experience the benefits of Tai Chi with Zach, a skilled practitioner of multiple martial arts, in this welcoming class designed for all ages and ability levels.

Question of the Week

There's a fun new reason to stop by Maggie and Kristen's office! Look for the Question of the Week and cast your vote whenever you're passing by. We'll change the question each week and share the results in our weekend email.



OWLS on the Go:
Exploring, Learning & Giving Thanks!

This November, we're thankful for the wonderful community organizations, local treasures, and experiences right in our own backyard! Our off-campus adventures are a great way to learn something new, spend time with friends, and appreciate all that our community has to offer.

OWLS on the Go:
A Visit to Esther's House

November 13, at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM

We're grateful for the compassionate care that Center for Hospice Care provides to individuals and families in our community. This special visit to Esther's House will give members an opportunity to learn about hospice services, tour the facility, and discover ways to volunteer. Our very own Ann Bowers, who volunteers with both organizations, will help lead the visit! Donuts, cider, and coffee will be provided.

Morning and afternoon options available!
Members may meet at OWLS Club or directly at Esther's House, located at 22579 Old US 20 East in Elkhart.



Christmas Lunch & A Play — SOLD OUT!

November 13, at 10:00 AM

Our holiday outing is already full! We're thankful for the enthusiasm of our members who love exploring, enjoying the arts, and making memories together. We look forward to a festive afternoon of good food, entertainment, and friendship!

Whether we're learning about local history, discovering valuable community resources, or enjoying a performance together, these outings remind us how fortunate we are to have so many opportunities to connect beyond the walls of OWLS Club!

OWLS on the Go:
Exploring, Learning & Giving Thanks!

November 18, at 11:00 AM

Explore a fascinating piece of Elkhart's manufacturing history! We'll enjoy a guided tour of the Rex Martin NIBCO Interactive Museum, featuring hands-on exhibits, historic artifacts, and the Plumbing Discovery House. Afterward, members will have time to explore at their own pace. Meet at OWLS Club to caravan over or meet us at the museum.

Thanksgiving at OWLS: Birds of a Feather Gather Together!

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on what we're grateful for, and at OWLS, one of our greatest blessings is the friendships we've made along the way!

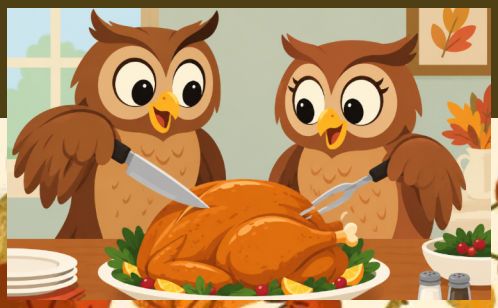
While many of our members will celebrate with family, we know others may be spending the holiday on their own. That's why we're keeping one of our favorite traditions going—our 4th Annual OWLS Thanksgiving Potluck!

Thursday, November 26 | 1:00 PM

We'll provide turkey, ham, place settings, and water. Simply bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share! After dinner, stick around for laughter, and wonderful conversation.

Whether you're spending Thanksgiving with family or looking for a place to celebrate with friends, there's a seat at our table for you. After all, we're all family at OWLS. Birds of a feather flock together!

Please note: OWLS Club will be closed for regular activities on Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27. The Thanksgiving Potluck will be our only club activity on Thanksgiving Day.



Thankful for Our Generous Sponsors!

This season of gratitude, we extend a heartfelt thank-you to our wonderful sponsors! Your generosity and belief in the OWLS Club mission help us create meaningful programs, lasting friendships, and a welcoming community for our members. We are truly grateful for your continued support!

BEACON HEALTH SYSTEM

Center for Hospice Care