

Home Times Monthly

*A newsletter for Pond Home residents with all the news
that's fit to print*

August 2019 volume 149

To my Dear Residents,

Beginning this month, Activity Director Fran Gonçalves is taking over the organization and preparation of the Pond Home resident newsletter. I will continue to interview residents and write the Resident Spotlight, as learning more about each of you is one of my favorite parts of the work I get to do here at Pond Home.

I feel this change is necessary, so that I can focus on marketing the services we offer. As many of you know we have openings in our Residential Care section. Believe it or not, this is the first time in seven years! So, I'm working to get you new neighbors! If any of your friends are looking for a nice place to live with this level of support, please send them our way. If we cannot help them, we are happy to provide guidance and referrals to other options in long term care.

Change is the only constant, right? So, with that in mind, please share with Fran what you would like to see in your monthly newsletter going forward.

As always, thanks for reading,

Becky Annis, Administrator



*Feeling as healthy and as youthful as possible doesn't have
anything to do with finding that mythical Fountain of Youth – it
could be as easy as drinking water from the sink, right in your own
home.*

**PLEASE STAY HYDRATED flavored water is available all day at the
elevator. The outside garden has a drinking fountain and is equipped
with cups and a trash barrel for disposal**

Speaking of youth, be sure to say Happy Birthday to

Alice Hassell and Shirley Valukis, who both share the same birth date August 7th



Resident Spotlight

This month's spotlighted resident is **Joseph Vatkevich**.



Joe is a friendly man who enjoys following sports teams, beating fellow residents, Bill and Jim at cribbage, and joking around with people. However, ask him about sharing his life story and he becomes uncharacteristically shy. After gentle prodding, he agreed to share.

Joe was born in Athol, Massachusetts at the beginning of the depression. He is the youngest of three sons, each brother born 5 years apart from each other. He lived in 'farm country' and graduated from Athol High School, where he played basketball, football, and his favorite, baseball.

He excelled at baseball and pictured himself playing for the majors someday. He considers himself lucky to have had the opportunity to try out for three big league teams, the Red Sox, Yankees, and Philadelphia Phillies. He also considers himself lucky to have had a scout take him aside after his try-out with the Yankees. He told him to find another way to make a living; harsh words, but in retrospect, good advice for young Joe. He enlisted in the United States Army. He discovered just how valuable his 'farmer's' education was when he took a military test, early on. Of all those taking the test, he was one of only three without a college education to pass! He spent two years in Korea with the army. He says the Korean people were good people who had nothing, but were kind and giving. He felt they were taken advantage of by the US at the time.

When he got back home he took advantage of the GI Bill for college. He took courses at Harvard and then enrolled at Bentley University in Waltham, MA for a degree in Constructive Accounting.

After graduating, he found a job as a Personnel Administrative Supervisor for a material handling company in Boston. He worked for two such companies, eventually being promoted to the position of Vice President of Administration and Finance.

A highlight of his working career happened in 1973, when his company hired the then current Miss America as a model to pose with their products. After working out the details of her contract, Joe & Miss America went out to dinner. He reports she was a lovely woman, inside and out, who has gone on to success in television on the 700 Club. As the years went by, he had fun turning that dinner into his 'date with Miss America'. "Don't worry," Joe assures us, Doris, knew all about it! While working in Boston, he was introduced to Doris Lawson by a mutual friend. She worked for American Express as a Travel Agent. They dated and were married in 1957. Her company gave them a fabulous honeymoon to Bermuda, complete with a private chauffeur to take them wherever they wanted to go! After the honeymoon, they settled in Brockton, where Doris had grown up. They raised their two sons, Peter and Mark there. Joe shares that he and Doris were happily married for 59 years, before Doris passed away.

The couple had friends in Wrentham. After visiting them at The Community at Pond Meadow, Doris suggested she and Joe consider that community for their next home. Joe agreed and they moved to Pond Meadow.

Joe loves following all sporting events, especially the Red Sox. For years he would go watch them play in Florida at their spring training, sizing up the team for the coming season. He managed the football pool at Pond Meadow for all the years he lived there.

While a resident at Pond Meadow, he was also on the Resident Council, attended the Men's Breakfast, and many other social outings. He loves all types of music, from opera to Rod Stewart, and everything in between. For years, each month he would make a CD of seasonal music favorites for many friends. Pond Home was the lucky recipient of many of these CDs. He keeps up on current events by watching the news and reading The Boston Herald each day. You can find this friendly man at most exercise programs offered at

Pond Home and attempting to beat Bill and Jim at cribbage on Saturday mornings! We are glad he is part of our community.



Stay in touch

If you would like to send your loved one a message via email Please send it to residents@pondhome.org we will gladly print and deliver it to them!

Employee Spotlight

August's spotlight employee is Carole' (Carol-lee) Mensing. She has been here at the Pond Home since October 2014 helping with resident transportation. She enjoys driving the residents to medical appointments. She says, while we are driving together, "I learn about families, careers, book reviews, and what life has to offer".

She absolutely loves meeting and getting to know both the residents, and the staff at Pond Home. She has the privilege of her background in nursing, retiring from full time work in 2014. While she doesn't see patients anymore she continues to work as a nurse collaborating with other health care professionals writing articles and chapters for books related to diabetes care.

Many of the staff knows her as a member of a barbershop quartet. She and her group have sung at Pond Home for several events. Along with Director of Nursing Terri Javery and Terri's daughter Abby, Carole sings in our chorus and holiday shows.



Carole's all-time favorite musical event was attending WOODSTOCK in 1969 (She says she was barely legal). She was raised in Minnesota, the daughter of a mortician and an accountant, so her travel to NY for Woodstock was a big deal. Carole says it was worth it. The 50 year reunion is happening this August! Carole will be sharing more about her experience on the 16th of this month with all of you. Yes, she was a **flower child**, and a little hippie still lives inside of her!

She is happiest when singing, with friends, or being home with her kitty, Ms. Pumpkin. She enjoys seeing her friends at Pond Home too.

Mark your calendar Activity Highlights for August

On the 1st Protestant Church services are scheduled for 10:00am

On the 1st we have an ice cream truck scheduled for 3:00pm in Blooming Corner (weather permitting)

On the 2nd we will be entertained by Katherine at 4:00pm

NEADS dogs, including Becky's weekend puppy Josy, visit in the living room at 1:30 on the 3rd. See how much Josy has matured since the last time you saw her.

On the 7th we will be going to Sweat Beach for a picnic leaving at 11:00 (sign up)

Sign up for the LEI (Let's eat in) Chinese lunch held in the living room

The Resident Council meeting is scheduled for the 15th at 9:45

Celebrating 50th anniversary of "Woodstock" on the 16th don't forget to wear tie-dye - presentation by Carole

Catholic Mass will be held on the **19th** at 10:30

On the **21st** we are going to the Wrentham Senior center for a lobster roll lunch the cost to residents is \$10.00 Don't forget to sign up

On the **25th** sign up to attend the Concert on the Common happening in Wrentham Center. This is a great way to enjoy a summer evening.

Lee and friends in the craft room at 10:00 am

On August **29th** is a resident/staff BBQ

**Activities are subject to change, please check with activities if you have questions*