

Home Times Monthly

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

July 2019 volume 147

To My Dear Residents;



Time to celebrate our country's birthday! We can also celebrate summer, because it looks like the warmer, sunnier weather is finally here. The activity calendar at Pond Home is full of summer fun. Be sure to check it out and plan to join the fun. Try something new, you might just surprise yourself!

Thanks for reading,

Becky Annis, Administrator

July Birthday

Please be sure to wish the following resident a Happy Birthday:



9th ~ George Jussaume



Resident Spotlight

This month's spotlighted resident is **Virginia (Ginny) Gilbane**. She was born to the Lee family in North Smithfield, Rhode Island. Her father was the superintendent of a textile mill in Woonsocket during the 1940's. When that mill moved south, he was transferred to a mill in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. The family stayed put in their home, so that Ginny could graduate with her class, from Woonsocket High School in 1950. Ginny is thankful that her father made that

sacrifice for her benefit.

She had an older, by seven years, brother, Bob who usually served as another father figure for her. But, he could be playful too, like the time he chased her around the house with a live lobster!

At ten years old Ginny began taking piano lessons. She practiced on her family's grand piano and found she loved it. She continued to take lessons for a good decade, and can play by ear. She enjoys playing a wide variety of tunes, and we enjoy hearing her play on the home's living room piano.

Ginny attended the University of Rhode Island, majoring in Child Development with a minor in English. She had no real career plans when she arrived at school but enjoyed the liberal arts subjects.

Brendan Gilbane attended Boston University. He met Ginny when he visited a mutual friend at University of Rhode Island. They began dating about

a year after they first met each other. When Ginny was asked why it took so long she said she was dating his friend for that year. When Brendan finished college in 1948, he joined the army and was stationed overseas. This was during the Korean conflict, but he was sent to Germany for a year and a half.

After graduating from college, Ginny became the Director of Student Activities at the Rhode Island Hospital School of Nursing. She enjoyed the position, which included planning activities and meetings, including the graduation ceremonies. Ginny remembers as part of this job constantly driving students around to places.

Ginny and Brendan married in 1957. They settled in Wrentham. At that point Ginny made the decision to resign from her position, due to the long commute. Brendan worked at Boston University as an instructor of political science. He started on his masters right away, later attaining a Ph.D. in History. He remained at BU his entire career, becoming a professor and then a dean. A dormitory, (the Brendan F. Gilbane House) was named in his honor when he retired.

Ginny and Brendan had three children; two sons, Stephen and Barry and their daughter Deryl. Stephen and his wife, Deborah live in Arlington, Massachusetts. He is in the software industry, and she is a designer for Bose. Barry lives in Watertown, Massachusetts and has worked in sales his entire adult life. Barry is also his mom's IT support. She began using computers early on in the 1990's thanks to his support. She has now progressed to an iPad where she enjoys playing scrabble and solitaire games.

After graduating from BU, Deryl, moved to Boulder, Colorado. She worked for years in homecare in the Boulder area. Ginny enjoyed visiting her in Colorado for many years while she lived there. Now that Deryl lives locally Ginny enjoys seeing her on a regular basis.

All of her children attended and graduated from Boston University. Thanks to Brendan's career at BU, you cannot beat the free tuition!

The family enjoyed camping with a tent pop-up camper. They visited Vermont, all over New York State, and Truro on Cape Cod, where they eventually became regulars at a family campground.

Ginny is an animal lover and over the years the family had a bunny, two dogs named Spunky, and two cats named Mischief. The dogs were both beagle/basset hound mixes. Ginny loves the many dogs that come to visit Pond Home in the time she has been living here.

When her youngest, Deryl, entered nursery school, Ginny went to work at the school. This experience brought the teacher out in Ginny, and she realized she wanted to work with children with learning disabilities. She became

certified in Elementary Education, first teaching in the Norfolk Public Schools. She was their first teacher for those with learning disabilities. She later was recruited by Wrentham Public Schools. While working, Ginny continued her studies, taking graduate courses and developing a special interest in working with children with Dyslexia. She remained in the Wrentham School District for seven years.

After leaving the public schools, she began private tutoring for students with learning disabilities. She worked in Ashland, Lakeville, Hopkinton, and Holliston in this capacity. She also tutored students at her home.

She liked to stay busy, so she took classes in the use of computers and also worked for a temp agency. Some other jobs she held along the way included a part-time secretary in Scott Brown's Wrentham Office. At that point he was running for election for the first time to be the areas Representative in the State House. Ginny left after three years when her husband became disabled due to kidney cancer.

For ten years she was on the Board of Directors for the American Red Cross in Attleboro. She was Chairperson of Youth Services and also on the Disaster Team. Ginny said the first time she got a call regarding a disaster she needed to respond to she made her husband laugh. She ran into her room, got dressed in her gear and ran across the living room. Apparently it was rather an amusing sight, because Brendan laughed about it for years.

Ginny has lived in six places in Wrentham: South Street; Lake Archer, Hamilton Road, Franklin St. near the high school (where they owned adjoining acreage on the lake and lived for 30 years), Pond Meadow, where she lived for twelve years, and as of February of this year Pond Home.

Ginny and her husband traveled all over the United States and Europe. Ginny always loved to travel. One of her favorite trips was to Europe with girlfriends when she was in college. Once married, the couple's social life was heavily integrated in BU's 'deanship', attending many parties, programs, trips and meetings connected to the college. They did get to take a few trips to scope out possible programs for the school. One memorable scoping trip was the island of Majorca off Spain!

They had intended to retire to North Carolina, but that was not to be. After Brendan passed away, Ginny sold their home in Wrentham. She rented a house in Foxboro while she waited for a unit at The Community at Pond Meadow. That took 2 & ½ years. She moved to Pond Meadow in 2006 and was an active resident. She enjoyed Tai Chi, book club, and served on the resident council there.

She was happy to move to Pond Home in February, and jumped right into life here. She enjoys participating in the varied activities and loves visiting with her children in all the home's porches, sun room, and gardens. We are happy to have her join us here and add her bright spark to the home.

(Editor's Note: Thank you to resident Ellen Barrow who interviewed and composed much of this story when Ginny and she lived at Pond Meadow.)

Sun will come out Tomorrow

Well we hope so, anyway....when it does, get out there and enjoy it, but please take sunglasses, a hat, and use sun screen to protect any exposed skin.



Employee Update

Congratulations to the following employees who have completed the necessary schooling for their LPN training:

Anna Conniff~ currently works as a Cook & wait staff in the dining room

Lisa Sugrue ~ currently works as an on call CNA at Pond Home

Rachel Noviello ~ currently works as an on call CNA at Pond Home

Activity Highlights for July

On the 4th we have an ice cream float social scheduled for 3:00pm in the Living Room

On the 5th the Ice Cream Truck will be visiting at Blooming Corner at 3:00pm

On the 9th Senior Moments Chorus will be here at 2:00pm

On the 11th Protestant Church services are scheduled for 10:00am

On the 12th a Country Singer Jorlene will be here at 4:00pm

Art Matters will be here on the 17th at 2:00pm

We are holding the Bi-Annual Memorial Service on the 18th at 11:00am in the living room. Please join us to remember our residents who passed away over the first six months of the year.

On the 21st sign up to attend the Concert on the Common happening in Wrentham Center. Wrentham is such a lovely iconic New England town. This is a great way to enjoy a summer evening.

The Resident Council meeting will be held on the 25th at 10:00am

Patches

Please keep Patches, our house cat away from your plants. He is quick to stop chewing on things he shouldn't if you clap near him or say no forcefully. We love our kitty and want to keep him healthy. He adds so much to our home for residents and staff. Last month, Patches had an unexplained illness, which resulted in his excessive drooling. It stumped us and the vet, but might have been related to something he was exposed to. We ask that you help us keep him safe from his own curiosity.

For over 25 years Pond Home has had a house cat or two. We hope that Patches is ours for many years to come. He seems to have made a full recovery. We want to make sure he stays healthy.

Here is Patches looking very dapper in his tie!

