

Home Times Monthly

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

May 2024 volume 139

To My Dear Residents:

Welcome to the merry, merry month of May! This month the trees will grow leaves again, not just buds, and all those spring flowers will show their colors. Thinking about the anticipation I have every year for daffodils, tulips, lilacs, and lily of the valley to reappear in our landscape got me thinking about the language of flowers.

Someone long ago, with a good deal more time on their hands than me, came up with symbolism and meaning for many flowers. Here are just a few that we have in the Pond Home landscaping this time of year:

- ~ **DAFFODILS** –symbolize new beginnings, rebirth, hope, and optimism.
- ~ **TULIPS** - symbolize perfect love, elegance, grace, beauty, happy memories, & cheerful thoughts
- ~ **HYACINTHS** – symbolize a desire for forgiveness, joy, sincerity, and jealousy (just when I thought none of these meanings would be negative)!
- ~ **LILY OF THE VALLEY** – symbolize purity, joy, love, sincerity, happiness, and luck.
- ~ **LILACS** – this flower seems to have many meanings depending on the color of the flower. White means purity and innocence, violet symbolizes spirituality, and lilac-colored lilacs symbolize a first love.

May it be a merry month for you. Hope to see you outside smelling the many flowers we have around the landscape.

Thanks for reading,



Becky Annis, Administrator



Resident Spotlight



This month's resident spotlight is none other than **Beverly Leete**. Beverly is an amazing woman who possesses both resilience and a magnanimous heart. She has handled critical life challenges with grace and aplomb.

She reports that she was "raised in a very strict environment" adding that "If it was fun, we couldn't do it". Since her Father was the minister of the Nazarene Church, "chores, church, and more chores" occupied the years of her childhood. However, she reports that one of the highlights of having a minister as a father was

that they often had dinner guests who were missionaries from foreign countries like Africa.

Beverly married and raised her children in New England where her generosity and giving nature served to improve the lives of those less fortunate. She raised three biological daughters who all live locally. She has an adopted son who has special needs and lives successfully in New Hampshire. She happily remembers taking him directly from the hospital after his biological mother abandoned him.

Beverly continued to extend her generosity as a foster parent. Amanda was her first foster child. And although she wanted to adopt her, Amanda was adopted by another family when she was 1 ½ years old. Beverly reports that this experience was "heartbreaking".

Matthew and Mark, brothers, followed as foster children when they were 3 and 4 years old. They lived with Beverly and her family for 2 years. Always mindful of the needs of others, she ensured the bond with their two biological sisters was not broken through frequent visits. She describes their reunification with their biological parents and 2 sisters as a joyful event.

Another foster child needed to be placed for only three months. She took him in when he was 5 or 6. She laughs remembering him rolling in her grass. The social worker explained that he had never before played in grass.

Amid her busy life, her husband became disabled with a bone disease in his twenties. So, out of necessity, Beverly began working for a company that built modular homes. A job as a Software Engineer became available if she could pass a computer test. She did pass, and it was the beginning of a twenty-five-year career.

Beverly divorced her first husband and later married Jim in 1999. Unfortunately, 2 years after their marriage, they were in a “terrible car accident”. Jim injured his back and was wheelchair bound. She semi-retired to take care of him. However, eventually she had to fully retire. Despite the challenges they faced, Beverly reports they travelled all over the US, Mexico and Canada in a motor home. Her travels with Jim created her fondest memories. “It was a wonderful life.”

Beverly is most proud of her children. Her three daughters all work in the health field and her son is living happily in New Hampshire. She has 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

She loves gardening, crocheting and sewing.

Beverly lived at Pond Meadow for 12 years before moving to Pond Home in March 2024. She loves Pond Home adding, “I’ve never been so pampered”. She loves the Bubble Baths! Beverly deserves to be pampered!

May-Flower

by

Emily Dickinson

Pink, small, and punctual,

Aromatic, low,

Covert in April,

Candid in May,

Dear to the moss,

Known by the knoll,

Next to the robin

In every human soul.

Bold little beauty,

Bedecked with thee,

Nature forswears

Antiquity.

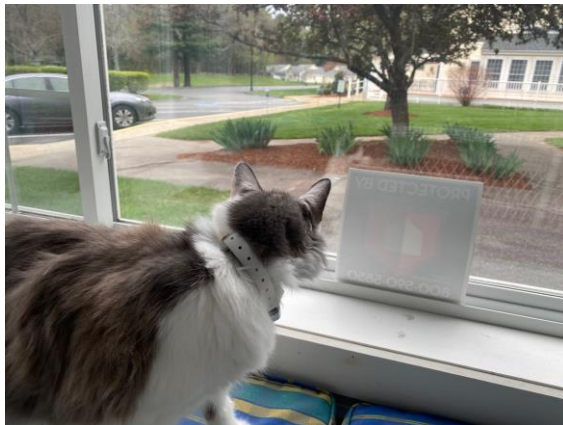


PATCHES' PURRSPECTIVE

I can smell it, spring is here. The sun is warmer and enticing me to be outside. As all of you know, I am an indoor cat, but every once in a while, I get an inkling and plan my (temporary) escape.

To date I have never gone far. Becky and all the staff keep asking me to stop my attempts to go out into Blooming Corner, but some days I just cannot help myself! Becky told me I had to tell you NOT to be concerned if I sneak out around you into Blooming Corner when you are going in or out. If an employee is not immediately available to help usher me back into my home (which I do love), please just push your call button that you wear and ask a staff person to open the door and escort me back in. Most of the time I walk right back into our home on my own.

It is not your job or responsibility to get me back in, but I do appreciate you alerting someone to my whereabouts. I would never want to miss a snack or meal because I am outside!



DEBBIE'S WISDOM

May is Older American's Month:

Mother's Day (May 12th) and Memorial Day (May 27th)

Let's recognize the powerful impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and wellbeing. Please do not isolate yourself here at the Pond Home. There is no reason to feel lonely. Let's all do our parts to be there to provide compassionate listening and support to each other and share our loving thoughts and feelings. This is a judge-free home, and everyone should feel welcomed and cared for. If you ARE struggling with feelings of loneliness, depression, and/or anxiety, please let staff know and they can put you in touch with our mental health specialists here at Pond Home. Spread your love and help make Pond Home (and the world) a kinder, more positive space for all.



May Birthday's

Carolyn Vitale	6th
Barbara Emerson	8th
Pat Hainsworth	10th
Faiz Loulache	20th
John Killion	26th
Dee George	26th
Ed Cavallari	29th
Patricia Moore	30 th

Employee Spotlight



Hello, my name is **Ava Morneau**. I started working in October 2023. I work here as a CNA while still attending high school. I live with my parents, brother, nana, and my dog Roo. I'm from Plainville. I grew up going to Pond Home to see my nana, Jeanne Conroy, who was a hairdresser for 33 years here at Pond Home. I graduate in May and plan to get my LPN. I love Pond Home, all the residents, and the community. Spending time here has been a blessing.



Roo



Activity Highlights for May

Weekly shopping-Stop & Shop and Target Wednesday's at 10am

Mystery rides Thursdays leaving at 1:30pm

Lending Library - Monday's at 10am

**Social Under the Stars is back - weather permitting -
Wednesday evenings!**

Wednesday's Music with Paul & Vince 2pm LR

Thursday Nights - Popcorn & a Movie 6pm LR

Exercise/Morning Stretch daily at 9:15

Monday Matinee - 1:15pm, LR

5/6: "The Front Page"
5/13: Arthur the King"
5/20: "Oklahoma"
5/27: "Hanover Street"

Saturday Matinee - 1pm, LR

5/4: "50 to 1"
5/11: "Mrs. Dalloway"
5/15: "Places in the Heart"
5/25: "TBD"

Sunday Evening Movie - 6pm, LR

5/5: "Rain Man"
5/12: "Mamma Mia"
5/19: "Waiting for Anya"
5/26: "On Golden Pond"

5/3: Sing along with Carol Kingsbury
5/4: Run for the Roses
5/4: Steven King entertains
5/9 & 5/20: Roberta Plays Ukelele
5/10: Carl Twomey performs
5/11: Eddie Dillon entertains
5/16: Resident Council
5/17: Michael Leidig plays piano
5/20: Catholic Mass
5/23: Pastor Ken
5/31: Kathy Earabino performs



HAIRDRESSER THURSDAY & FRIDAY