

Home Times Monthly

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

August 2025 volume 154

To My Dear Residents:

I am sure many of you heard about the Fall River, MA Assisted Living facility that experienced the fire earlier this month. It resulted in 10 resident deaths and many injuries. Our hearts go out to all those affected by this tragic event. Facilities Manager, Josh Sampson's family, experienced a loss in this tragedy, his uncle passed away. This serves as a powerful reminder of how critical fire safety is in any care environment, and we want to reassure you that the safety and well-being of our residents and staff remains a high priority.

Of course, none of us want to experience a fire at Pond Home. I want to make you aware of all that is in place to help protect everyone who lives, works, and visits here, if one was to occur.

- **Fire Drills:** We hold monthly fire drills, live and observed by Wrentham Fire Department during daytime drills, and silent during evening and overnight hours. During live drills, the many fire doors are checked to make certain they close properly. These drills are done to make sure staff are comfortable and ready to respond if a fire/smoke were to be discovered.
- **Fire Detection and Alarm Systems:** All fire alarms and smoke detectors are tested on a quarterly basis. We contract with Johnson Controls for this service. Our alarm systems are directly connected to the Wrentham fire department for the quickest response possible. There is a central panel that monitors the detection system.
- **Sprinkler and Suppression Systems:** Pond Home is a fully sprinklered building. We utilize a wet system in all interior spaces and a dry system in the attics and exterior porches. We contract Johnson Controls to test these systems quarterly and keep us up to date so the sprinklers would activate if needed. The building is compartmentalized, with fire doors that break the building into protective areas, so that evacuation, and all its potential trauma and added challenges, is our last resort.
- **Fire Safety Training :** All employees are trained on fire safety protocols specific to Pond Home at orientation and annually. We are scheduling further training sessions now, in response to this sad tragedy, so all employees feel more confident in their role.
- **Inspections:** Pond Home is routinely inspected by fire safety authorities and the DPH to ensure compliance with all regulations. Wrentham Fire Department inspects us quarterly; we have an annual MA Department of Public Safety inspection and perform quarterly safety inspections in the building as part of our Quality Assurance Committee.

What can you do to help keep us safe from fire?

- Read the fire plan on the back of your room door to be aware of your responsibility if a fire alarm goes off. Unless you are in a room with a fire, your responsibility is to remain in your room with the door closed, awaiting direction from staff.
- Pond Home is a smoke free community. Please do not smoke on our property. Employees have a single designated area to smoke with a safety ashcan provided.

Pond Home is a long-standing member of MassMAP. MassMAP ([Massachusetts Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan](#)) is a program designed to help long-term care facilities in Massachusetts prepare for and respond to disasters. It facilitates cooperation and mutual aid among facilities like nursing homes, assisted living residences, and rest homes. MassMAP provides resources, training, and a web-based system for emergency planning and response. We actively participate in their annual drills and training sessions to remain up to date.

Be comforted by knowing we are a compartmentalized building. This means that fire doors close automatically when an alarm sounds and creates barriers for any fire or smoke to get into other sections of the building.

May we all continue to enjoy safe living and working at Pond Home for years to come.
Thanks for reading!

Fondly,



Becky Annis, Administrator

MESSAGE FROM FRONT OFFICE

Snail Mail

Please be aware that the cost to send a card or letter through the US Postal Service (now called snail mail) has increased to **\$0.78** as of **7/13/2025**. We are happy to weigh any packages or letters you wish to send and provide stamps at the front office. The charges for these stamps will be added to your monthly invoice. **No cash will be accepted.**



PATCHES' PURRSPECTIVE

I know many of you love the sun as much as I do. We must remember to enjoy it in moderation, to protect our fur....I mean skin. Speaking for myself, I know my fur is thinner, so too much time in the sun can bake me. For you, it can cause sunburn, serious skin damage, and lead to skin Cancer.

I remember when I was a kitten I could sleep in the sunshine all day without a problem. You probably recall being out in the sunshine as a child enjoying yourself and not getting sunburn or heat exhaustion.

Lots of things have happened since I was a kitten and you were a child to make the sun's rays potentially more harmful to us. For one, depletion of the ozone layer over the years allows more harmful UV rays to reach the Earth's surface and our fur and skin. Also, UV radiation has increased in most parts of the world meaning the sun's rays are stronger and more likely to cause sunburn.

So here is how to enjoy the sun safely:

- Wear sunglasses whenever you go outside, even if it is just hazy.
- Wear a hat when you go outside to protect your face and scalp.
- Use sun protection if you are going to be outside for more than 15 minutes.
- Reapply sun protection to exposed skin frequently.

If you want to know all the sunny spots INSIDE your home, just follow me around one day and check out where I like to hang out.

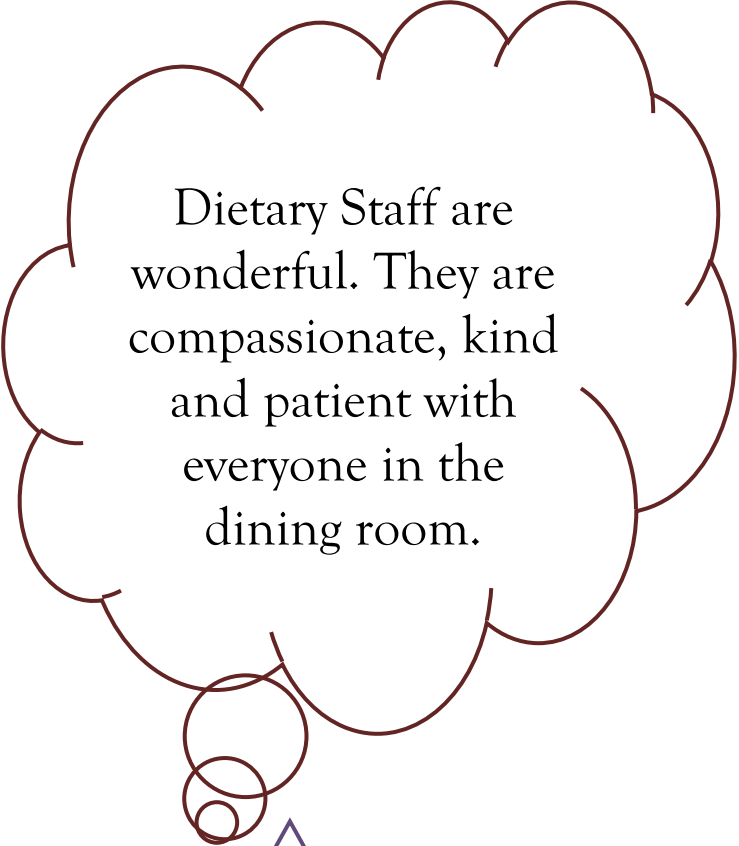
And that is my purrrrspective.....

Your furry friend




*Thanks to
Marilyn
Sutcliffe for
my new
portrait!!*

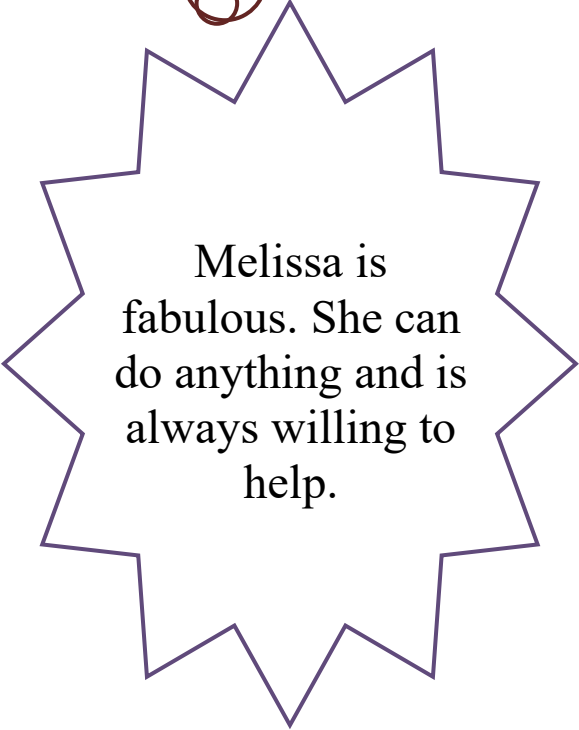
COMMENT/GRATITUDE BOARD



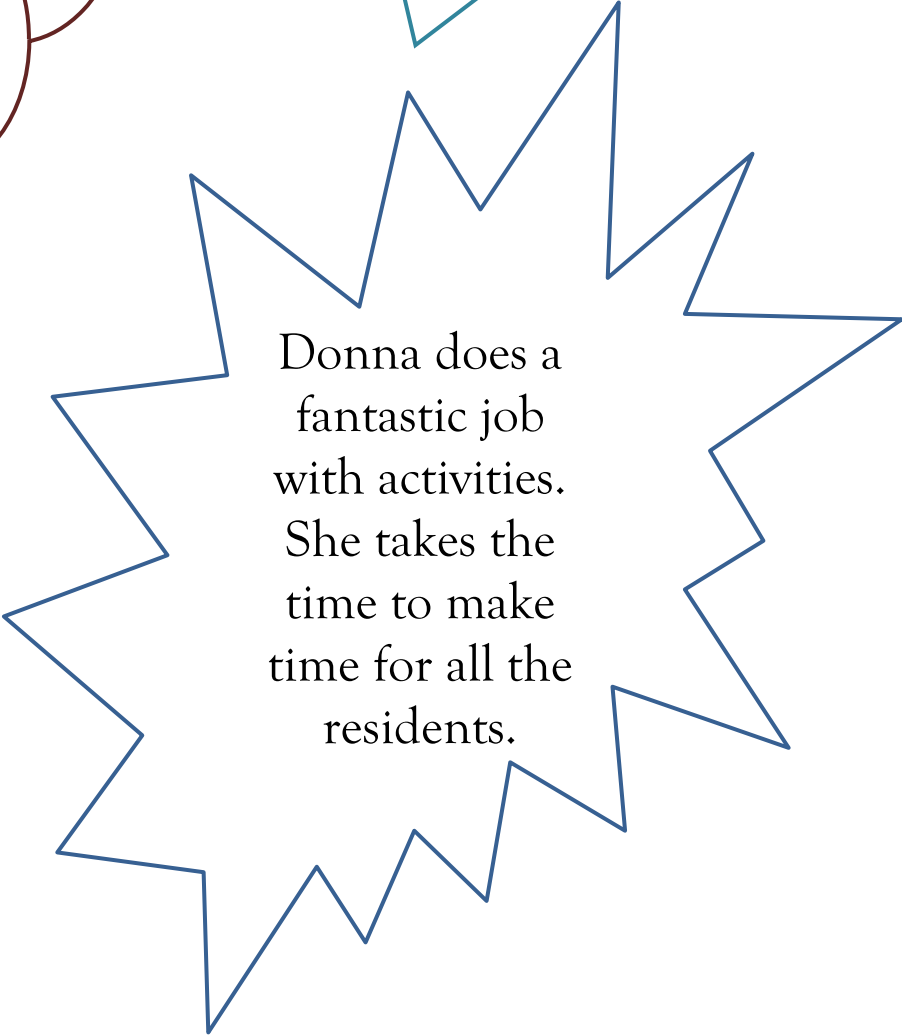
Dietary Staff are wonderful. They are compassionate, kind and patient with everyone in the dining room.



Maintenance staff are wonderful. They are very attentive and helpful.



Melissa is fabulous. She can do anything and is always willing to help.



Donna does a fantastic job with activities. She takes the time to make time for all the residents.

WORDS OF WISDOM

- ❖ August is like the Sunday of summer. Breathe the sweetness that hovers in August. August is a gentle reminder for not doing a single thing from your new year resolution for seven months and not doing it for next five. This morning, the sun endures past dawn.
- ❖ “A new month always brings positive vibes with it and infuse new energetic souls in us.”
- ❖ “August is the slow, gentle month that stretches out the longest across the span of a year. It yawns and lingers on with the light in its palms.”
- ❖ “August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time.”



August Birthday's

Joan Ioannidis 29th

RON'S KITCHEN CORNER

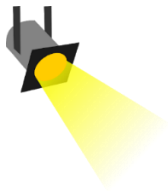
Summer Cookout - Saturday, August 2nd

New Ice Cream Flavor this month - Rainbow Sherbert

Next menu meeting September 2025 date TBD - these menus will be used for fall/winter beginning October 1st.

Message from Christa, DON

NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!!!



Activity Highlights for August

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

Mystery rides Thursdays leaving at 1:30pm

Lending Library - Monday's at 10am

CUDDLES with CODY - Tuesdays at 1pm

Social Under the Stars - weather permitting - Wednesday evenings!

Wednesday's Music with Paul & Friends 2pm LR

Thursday Nights - Popcorn & a Movie 6pm LR

Exercise/Morning Stretch daily at 9:15

Monday Matinee - 1:15pm, LR

Saturday Matinee - 1pm, LR

8/4: "Aunt Mary"

8/2: "Dirty Dancing"

8/11: "Royal Wedding"

8/9: "The Proposal"

8/18: "TBD"

8/16: "The Way We Were"

8/25: "Double Indemnity"

8/23: "Out to Sea"

8/30: "Of Mice and Men"

8/1: Eddie Dillon entertains

8/2: Steven King performs

8/8: The Rob Show entertains

8/14: Ice Cream Social

8/15: Michael Leidig plays piano

8/18: Catholic Mass

8/26: Author Marty Gitlin: The Greatest Sitcoms of All
Time

8/27: Out for Lunch Club

8/28: Resident Council

8/29: Doug Robinson performs



HAIRDRESSER THURSDAY & FRIDAY