

Emerald Court Newsletter

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October, 2024



Sometimes

by Peggy Schleicher

Sometimes I feel scared. There is a lot of scary stuff in our world: anger, hate, lies, war, the list is long. But sometimes, I am reminded that people are amazing. Each of us has a story of a lifelong journey. Sometimes I get lucky and folks share their stories with me. As you know, Emerald Court is filled with fascinating people. Their bios continue to be shared in the Communication Committee's quarterly newsletter. A few weeks ago, I was chatting with a new EC neighbor who asked me if we had seen any coyotes at EC. She was asking if it was safe to walk here. Yes, some of us have sighted a coyote. But, as I told the new ECer, it is safe here. In the unlikely event that for any any reason, a walker was feeling unsafe, any porch could be a safe haven and any doorbell could be rung. Folks here at Emerald Court often comment how grateful they are to live in such a good-hearted, connected community. You know, a place where people pick up your mail for you, offer you rides to appointments, chat in the halls, share a hello while walking a dog, pull your trash barrels up to your garage, phone and email to check-in, lend you a highchair for your visiting grandchild, lend you medical equipment. The list is delightfully long. Poet, Tony Hoagland, wrote that "...we are up to our necks in miracles, every moment of every day." Here's the bottom line: Emerald Court is very fortunate to have so many caring people who look after each other in small and in large ways. Just wanted to say thanks. I'm not so scared after all.

■ ■ ■

EC Clubhouse Fun:

Upcoming Social Committee events:

Erik Baldwin - Sing-Along, - Oct. 25th at 7:00 p.m.
Voting Day - Coffee & Donuts, - Nov. 5th, 9-11 a.m.
Luncheon to Honor EC Vets,- Nov. 11th at 1:00 p.m.
Singer - Lisa Johnson, - Dec. 14th at 2:00 p.m.

Clubhouse Breakfast is on the first Sunday of the month. Info: Frank Carey (Unit 1221) - Magnolia; Ron D'Amato (Unit 16) - Villas.

Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7 pm in the Clubhouse. Info: Peggy Schleicher, facilitator: - (Unit 74).

Movie Group meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 1 pm in the clubhouse. Info: Linda Carey, facilitator: - (Unit 1221).

Card Games:

- **SCAT** - Mondays at 1 pm. Info: Bert Lyons (Unit 1230).
- **Cribbage** - Mondays at 7 pm. Info: Bob Schleicher (Unit 74).
- **Poker** - Tuesdays at 7 pm. Info: Betty Fulginiti (Unit 1211). *Men & women welcome.*
- **Texas Hold'em** - Wednesdays at 7 pm. Info: John Tellier (Unit 1226).
- **Bridge Group** - Thursdays at 1 pm. Info: Ginny Thomas (Unit 69).

Games & Chat Groups:

- **Chat Group** - Tuesdays at 2 pm. For info, contact Dorothy Caterino (Unit 1214).
- **Mahjong** - Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. For info, contact Pat Stratis (Unit 89).
- **Rummikub** - Thursdays at 6:30 pm. For info, contact Kathleen Pimental (Unit 1105).

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In Memory of

Patsy Chinchillo

March 1, 1945 - July 1, 2024

Friend and Contributor to Emerald Court Events

Meet Your Neighbor

By Bob Schleicher

Welcome to the next installment of “Meet your Neighbor”. Without further ado, here are more bios of our wonderful community residents . . .

**Margaret
& Ed Scott
(Unit #53)**

Margaret and Ed Scott moved to Emerald Court in October, 2006. We loved Emerald Court as soon as we drove through it. We previously lived in Westford, MA for 30 years. We have two sons, both who moved down to the southern part of Massachusetts last summer. One now lives with his wife in Scituate, and the other



with his wife in Norwell, ten minutes from his brother. Our daughter, husband and two grandsons, ages nine and eleven, live in Norwood. Margaret retired from Constant Contact in Waltham after working there as executive assistant for eight years in the sales and marketing department and for the President and CEO. Ed retired after many years in Materials Management for a number of local companies including Millipore and Waters Corp.

We love spending time with our family, especially our grandsons, and friends. We enjoy golfing, reading, playing cards and dining out with friends and spending time in Florida during the winter. Our favorite trip so far has been to Italy and Margaret would love to go back some day.

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**Lorraine
MacPherson
(Unit #54)**

Lorraine was one of the very first residents of Emerald Court, moving here in March, 2004. Prior to moving to EC, she lived in Lowell “for as long as she can remember”. She first worked at Raytheon, but after her two children were grown, Lorraine cooked for the Holy Union Sisters in Lowell for 24 years. She enjoys crossword puzzles, reading and walks with neighbors. She says she has totally enjoyed her twenty plus years at Emerald Court.



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Jan DiPietro (Unit #55)

Jan moved to Emerald Court in April, 2004 from Tewksbury where she lived since 1979. She was born and raised in Medford, where she met her husband Bob, who passed away in 2021. Jan has 2 children who have blessed her with 3 wonderful granddaughters. Jan talks about how she never wanted to leave her house, but now, years later, she is so happy that she resides here. Jan has worked as a teacher aid and full time for an oral surgeon. Later, after coming to Emerald Court, she worked part time at Bayberry for seven years, leaving after the Covid pandemic became a serious health risk. Jan enjoys entertaining and socializing.



Dina & Jorge Arana (Unit #57)

Jorge and Dina came to the United States from El Salvador in 1986 and made their home in Somerville, Mass., where they lived for 30 years. Following that, they moved to Dracut and remained there for four more years before moving to Emerald Court in 2020. Prior to his retirement, Jorge was employed by the Owens cross-country moving company. The Aranas have three daughters and six grandchildren, all of whom live within visiting distance. Jorge and Dina say they find Emerald Court a pleasant place to live.



Don & Linda Landers (Unit #58)

Linda and Don moved to Emerald Court in October, 2007. We left Wolfeboro, NH to be closer to Linda's parents who needed care. We worked together for many years at Teledyne Engineering offices in Waltham and Marion, MA and both retired from there in 2000. We also did something much more important while working there, we married each other. Since then we have been enjoying life together.

Betty & Jack McDonough (Unit #56)



Jack and Betty moved to Emerald Court in 2004 after having lived on Foster Road in Tewksbury for 36 years. Leaving the Navy in 1969 as a Lt. j.g., Jack began a career of writing and editing that included varying years at a daily newspaper, United Press International, Brandeis University, New England Telephone (NYNEX), and UMass Lowell. Betty, a registered nurse, began her career at DePaul Hospital in Norfolk, Va., and later worked at Children's Hospital in Boston and at the Dana Farber Jimmy Fund clinic. Jack and Betty enjoyed many years of sailing on their four boats out of the Jubilee Yacht Club in Beverly. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Kendra & Rick Sheehan (Unit #1218)



Kendra and Rick lived in Randolph, MA before coming to Emerald Court. Randolph was a convenient location for their commutes to work. Rick is originally from Cambridge and Kendra is from Brighton. They moved here to be closer to family and friends. They shared that they were

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impressed with Emerald Court the minute they saw it! They were delighted EC is a 55+ condominium community. They are ready to forego snow blowing and yard work. They have three granddaughters ranging from age four to age eight. Their family is scattered from Maine to Texas. After 43 years, Rick has recently retired from a career in Commercial Refrigeration Maintenance. Kendra is currently working for Curry College in Milton where she is a Senior Budget Analyst. They enjoy spending time in Maine. Rick notes that he likes to fix things. Kendra enjoys reading and being with friends. They shared that they are delighted with the friendliness and helpfulness they have experienced at Emerald Court.

William Santoro (Unit #1219)

Bill moved to Emerald Court in December of 2022. He relocated from his family's house near Shawsheen street in Tewksbury. Bill has no children and is a bachelor. Bill is a retired electrician who worked for Lowell Electric for 35 years.



He enjoys bowling, playing cards, watching old programs, and an occasional puzzle.

He has two brothers and many nieces and nephews.

and Priscilla, son-in-law Alan, and eight year old granddaughter, Valerie. The Wongs and their daughters were born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the U.S. in 1990. The girls continued their education in high school and college here. Since arriving here Cindy worked until 2012 at General Dynamics Corp. The Wongs enjoy singing and dancing and occasionally sing Karaoke with friends. They especially enjoy family days on the weekends.



Cindy Wong (Unit #1220)

Cindy comes to us from Atkinson, N.H. The floor plan and the quality of the property appealed to her and her husband, Jacky (who passed away in 2016), as they looked for a home closer to their daughters who live in Burlington and Waltham, MA. Their family includes their daughters, Esther

Linda & Frank Carey (Unit #1221)

Frank & Linda moved into Emerald Court in Sept. of 2010 following 42 years in Reading where they brought



up their two sons and where Linda taught elementary school for 27 years. Their family has grown

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to include two daughters-in-laws, five grandchildren, a great granddaughter, and a great grandson. Before retiring, Frank was a special needs vocational teacher in Somerville, MA for 30 years. Frank is a member of the EC Clubhouse Committee. His hobbies are golf, bowling, travel, participating in EC committee events and having fun socializing with the folks at Emerald Court. Linda is a member of the Social Committee and also facilitates the EC Movie Club. Since retirement in 2003 she has been involved in a Lifelong Learning program at Tufts University and since moving here has been active in E.C. events and clubs. Linda enjoys reading, walking, yoga, going to the theater both live and movie, traveling, and spending time with family. Both Frank and she love being part of this active, neighborly, fun community.

Check out the EC Website:

ec-tewksbury.com



Meredith Cohen (Unit #1222)

Meredith has lived in Tewksbury most of her life, moving to EC in 2008. She loves the layout of the units, the indoor garage, and wanted to stay in Tewksbury so our community was a natural fit for her. Meredith has one son, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren. She also has one brother. She has mostly worked in the customer service field and retired in October, 2020. Meredith likes to spend time with her grandchildren. She also likes to cook and bake so she often watches the Food Network and HGTV. She also loves the Patriots. Due to her work schedule she doesn't have much time to participate in events here at Emerald Court. Meredith loves the outdoors and enjoys taking walks.

Andy & Pat Russnok (Unit #1223)

Pat and Andy moved into Emerald Court in 2008. After their three children all became New



Englanders, they decided to follow them and do the same. Originally from Long Island, they raised their children in Massapequa Park, New York. Andy was in the Air Force for four years and was stationed in Georgia and Germany. Following his discharge he studied to become an accountant. His first job was located in the World Trade Center. As a family they enjoyed many visits to the Observation Deck, particularly the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. After Andy left the Trade Center he worked for a real estate firm in New York City. His boss was an Asian gentleman and when Andy retired his boss treated them both to a trip to China for three weeks.

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Pat taught elementary school for many years. She taught 2nd grade and 5th grade. After retirement in 2005, they bought a condo in Naples, Florida where they enjoy spending the winter months. They both like to travel, read, golf and play games with family and friends. Being interested in the activities of their six grandchildren also keeps them busy. They enjoy living at Emerald Court. The cribbage game on Monday night has always been a highlight of their life here. On their first visit to Emerald Court they met Norm Johnson and he told them about cribbage. They miss him every Monday night.

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**Did you know that the latest version of
the Vendor List (6/1/2024) is at the
bottom of the EC website "Home Page".**

ec-tewksbury.com

An Evening of Trivia

By Wanda Corcoran

The dictionary defines trivia as an "unimportant matter".

But on June 28 'twas the impetus for constant chatter.

*A group of thirty gathered at our clubhouse.
Some individually and others with their spouse.
Five teams of six each confident in their quest.
Began the journey to end the night saying they
were the best.*

*Memories were tested and quick recall was key.
(A strong suit evidently that is no longer me.)
But smiles were abundant and laughter filled
the night.*

*Sometimes even louder when the answers
weren't right.*

*The winning team shared a one hundred dollar
prize.*

*But all shared a night of fun, friendship and
highs.*



Trivia night at Emerald Court on June 28th was attended by 30 people who eagerly came together to test their memories and knowledge. Optimism floated throughout the room as five teams of six formed to work together answering a wide variety of questions created and researched by Peggy Schleicher. Each team huddled together and chose a name which represented them. They named their teams, 'The Wylde Ones', 'The Word Warriors', 'The Trivials', 'The Trivia Terrors' and 'The Shoe-Ins'.

For each of five rounds the teams were given a form with spaces for answers to ten questions. Peggy read each question and they were simultaneously shown on the TV monitor operated by Bob Schleicher. As questions would appear, the teams had an opportunity to "quietly" discuss and agree on

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an answer. A secretary had been chosen by each team to write the answer on the sheets provided. After the completion of each sheet, teams traded sheets to be scored.

'The Wylde Ones'



Sandy Rosenbach, Sharon Lopes, Jan DiPietro, Howard Teich, Steve Rosenbach & Tony Lopes

After the first round, which was aptly named "Fill in the Blank" the Teams were neck and neck. Questions such as, 'On what show did the Beatles first appear in the United States' were easily answered. In round two, images were shown and the challenge was to determine the prominent feature of the photo. Although somewhat more challenging, the teams maintained their good scores.

'The Word Warriors'



Sue Sandler, Ginny Thomas, Linda Carey, Kathleen & Peter Pimental, Penny Lambroukos & Kendra Sheehan

At this point delicious assorted pastries and beverages were enjoyed by all. Thanks to the social committee for providing the snacks. In round three the competition began to increase. The round concentrated on TV characters from the 50's and 60's. Most did well knowing the answers but at the end of the round only 'The Trivials' still had a perfect score.

'The Shoe-Ins'



Mary McElroy, Maryanne Anderson, Linda Ricciardi, Lorraine MacPherson, Lucille & Peter McCoy and Wayne Anderson

Round four, entitled Visual Trivia, was more challenging. At its conclusion 'The Trivia Terrors'

and 'The Trivials' were in the lead tied with 38 points each. Excitement was building as round five began. Entitled TV Jingles, this round was accompanied by several spontaneous sing-alongs. The jingles for Oscar Meyer, Folgers Coffee, Pepsodent and Green Giant resounded throughout the room.

'The Trivials'



Wanda Corcoran, Kathy & Kevin Walsh, Bill & Betsy Travis, Donna Davis & Alan Katz

In the end 'The Trivia Terrors' and 'The Trivials' ended in a tie with 48 points each. A tie breaker ensued, consisting of five questions. One of the questions ended the tie. The question which gave 'The Trivia Terrors' the win, was "In what country outside of North America did Starbucks open up its first shop". If you're thinking Japan, you are correct.

The Winning Team ('The Trivia Terrors')



**Standing: Gene Sdoia, Lennie DiGiorgio, Diane Fahey
Seated: Laura Thursby, Linda Martin & Bert Lyons**

Congratulations to Gene Sdoia, Lennie DiGiorgio, Diane Fahey, Bert Lyons, Linda Martin and Laura Thursby. Although they won the cash prize, I think all will agree that we all won a fun evening. Thanks to the Social Committee and to Peggy and Bob Schleicher for putting it all together.



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EC's Summer Barbecue

By Mary Ann Famiglietti

The annual Emerald Court barbecue gathering was held on Saturday, July 27, 2024 with 60 residents.

Frank Carey, our master of ceremonies, wore his hot dog hat. He opened the gathering thanking Patsy Chinchillo, who had died recently. Patsy was a real estate agent, and for the past twelve years had donated to our annual BBQ.



The BBQ was planned and hosted by the clubhouse committee - that always does a fabulous job. We owe a special thanks to Ron D'Amato & Wayne Anderson, who tended and cooked the food on the grill. The food was delicious and included: hamburgers, hotdogs, Italian sausages, peppers and onions, vegetable and potato salad, beans, and a Roman noodle rice dish. Thanks to all the residents who brought so many of the delicious



pastries and deserts.

After everyone had filled up on the food - Frank had the microphone again. He led everyone in singing the Emerald Court theme song, "Come and Participate". He then introduced Ellen Bartnicki, the realtor taking over Patsy's clients and who paid for

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this year's barbecue event.

Frank then led us into singing "Happy Birthday" to residents celebrating their birthdays within a few days. Those residents celebrating were: Ron D'Amato, Frank Carey, Vivian Tirella, and Ruth Mosey. We also congratulated Rita and Richard Humphrey, who were celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary.



Mary Loguidice was the winner of the 50/50 Raffle. She won \$100. Ruth Mosey ended the gathering, and kept us laughing, with a few of her jokes.



Frank did a great job, and a special thanks to the clubhouse committee for putting it all together.



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When Sad Things Happen

The Emerald Court Community is saddened to learn of the death of Dean Gibbons (Unit #1310). Dean passed away on Tuesday, June 18th, 2024. Our sympathy is extended to Marcia and her entire family.

Again we are saddened to learn of the passing of Bernadette Harris (Unit #6). Bernadette passed away on Sunday, July 18th, 2024. Our sympathy is extended to Red and his entire family.

We are also saddened to learn of the passing of Joanne Spurio (Unit #4). Joanne passed away on Thursday, August 1st, 2024. Our sympathy is extended to her entire family.

Because we care about our community, if you are aware of the passing of any of our neighbors, please inform us at bobschleicher1@gmail.com so we can get the information out to the community in a timely manner. One person's loss diminishes us all.

...



Computer Drop-In ...

Computer Drop-In is back in business. If you have computer questions / problems and are looking for a solution, stop by the Meeting Room in the Clubhouse on the 1st Friday of the month any time between 3:00 and 3:30 pm. We'll attempt to solve your computer difficulties – it's FREE!

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EC Welcomes New Residents

New residents to Emerald Court since July:

- Donna Marie & Rich Sullivan (Unit #34)
- Jean Gray (Unit #38)
- James & Janette Crawford (Unit #1102)
- Bonnie Barry (Unit #1124)
- Susan Guardino (Unit #1127)
- Bill & Brenda Griffin (Unit #1216)
- Tom Sullivan (Unit #1228)
- Richard DiGiorgio (Unit #1317)

We at Emerald Court wish you all the happiness that we've found here. ■■■

New Resident Snapshots

Social Committee member, Peggy Schleicher, introduces you to more new residents of our community. See their brief profiles below. You may have met them already. We are always confident to encourage new neighbors to join in the many social activities available in our community as we are sure of the big welcome you will give all of our new residents.

James & Janette Crawford (Unit #1102)

Before coming to Emerald Court, James and Janette Crawford lived in Greenland, NH for five years. Before that, from 2003 to 2019, they lived in Bridgewater, NH which is near Newfound Lake. They found Emerald Court attractive because it is closer to most of their nine grandchildren who range in ages from eight to fourteen. Seven of the grandkids live in MA and two live in Lakewood, Colorado. Emerald Court appealed to them because it is an established community with beautiful grounds and a large common area. James was employed by the Army Corp of Engineers for 34 years. He retired as Deputy Chief of Construction and Operations



Division in New England. After 36 years, Janette also retired from the Army Corps of Engineers where she was employed as an administrative assistant and budget analyst. James enjoys writing and humor. He was a humor writer in retirement for local newspapers and a magazine. He is the prize-winning author of *Duke's Diary* and *Sable's Diary*, tales of a dog and a cat. He also enjoys playing the guitar and biking. Janette enjoys the outdoors. She walks, explores, and bikes on trails. She enjoys sewing and quilting. Also, she is learning the keyboard. James and Janette are happy to be at Emerald Court.

Bonnie Barry (Unit #1124)



Bonnie lived in Woburn before moving to Emerald Court. She chose our community because she found the property to be beautiful. Her move to Tewksbury was motivated by the desire to be closer to her daughter, her 3-year-old granddaughter and her second granddaughter who is arriving in November! Bonnie shares that she belongs to a large and close family that is "always coming and going!"

Bonnie works in the financial field for a management consulting firm. She is happily working from home. Bonnie enjoys casinos, theater and shows. She is pleased with all that EC offers and hopes to get involved. Bonnie remarked that everyone she has met at EC is friendly! ■■■



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Get Yourself Published

“*Writer’s Window*” is still looking for budding writers. It is an open space for airing the **creative talents** of Emerald Court residents. If anyone has an interest in seeing their own article appear in the Emerald Court Newsletter, send it to bobschleicher1@gmail.com or call him at (978) 851-6569. It will appear in a future issue. It can be ‘fact’ or ‘fiction’

Writer’s Window

The Mystery of Magnolia’s Planters

By Elaine Williams

As you are entering the Magnolia building, have you noticed the two pedestal planters by the door? Have you enjoyed the beautiful flowers that are in them? Did you assume they were provided as part of our landscaping contract?

Well, they are actually provided by three residents of Magnolia. In recent years Josh & Marie Croteau, and Terry Caton, are the very generous providers and tenders of the planters.

One day as I was exiting the building I saw Josh watering the plants. Upon chatting with him I learned he, his wife Marie, and their neighbor Terry enjoy providing the flowers. In the spring they go to Costco and choose the plants they think will look the best and survive well over the summer.

Josh had always enjoyed landscaping when the



Josh & Marie Croteau and Terry Caton

Croteaus owned their home so he enjoys working with the plants and watering them daily. Marie likes designing so she makes sure there is an extra focus with the plant selection. Terry shares the cost of the purchase and helps with the watering when Josh and Marie are away.

In late fall the three will return to Costco to purchase winter greens to fill the planters for that season.

Thank you, Josh, Marie and Terry for your thoughtful, generous contribution to our Emerald Court community. Your flowers give me pleasure every time I enter the front door of Magnolia. ■■■

DID YOU KNOW?

By Wanda Corcoran

I’m going to try a new diet.

It doesn’t sound all that hard.

All I need to do is sit and think and keep my brain on guard.

Apparently the brain uses four to five hundred calories a day.

Most are automatic as it directs our muscles to work and play.

Some are also used to process the world around us, Aiming for successful solutions with a minimum of fuss.

Studies have demonstrated that when you challenge your brain to the brink,

It uses up some calories although not as many as one might think.

The more difficult equation that you attack with your firm resolve

Could be the catalyst for a small fraction of an ounce to dissolve.

So I’m adding things in my life which will require me to use more thought,

But maybe in the meantime I’ll try avoiding some of the foods I ought.

To read more about how thinking burns calories:
<https://www.healthline.com/health/does-thinking-burn-calories>

■■■

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Walkers at Emerald Court

By Elaine Williams

I bought my condo in the Magnolia during the winter. I was impressed with the landscaping as I entered Emerald Court, and immediately loved the condo. What I didn't realize at that time was what a wonderful property we have here.

When spring came I began walking the circle. It was then I discovered its beauty and peacefulness. I also learned that the two smaller loops that extend off the central circle are sometimes referred to as "the Mickey Mouse ears" because of the resemblance to the famous mouse's silhouette.



A few weeks ago I decided to spend the day meeting and interviewing other EC residents who also enjoy walking. The first people I met were **Lucille and Peter McCoy** who begin their day around 8 AM with a 20-25 minute walk. Peter explained that Lucille is the driving force behind their daily exercise. She enjoys walking so much she also walks again later in the day to get the mail. Peter proudly informed me that the following day would be their 59th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Dog walkers also walk early in the morning.

Valerie Capone actually walks her dog Brandy about seven times a day. For their first walk, Brandy is in a doggie carriage. Since the grass is still wet at that time of day and Brandy loves to walk in the grass, this saves Valerie from having to clean off messy paws. Saving that time means Valerie will be ready for her next walk which will be with a group



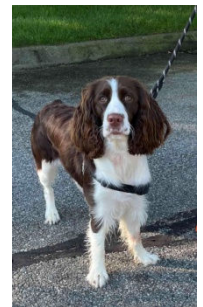
of friends and neighbors who walk together around 9 AM each morning.

Pat Coyle walks his dog Trixie three to four times a day. They like to walk around the circle each time. The first walk begins before 9 AM and the last one begins around 5 or 6 PM. Pat says he walks "because it keeps me alive!"

Dee

DeLorenzo

walks her dog, Bella, three times a day. Bella is a year old, energetic and friendly Springer Spaniel. She reminded me of the sweet Springer my Dad had in his later years. Bella's lovely owner preferred that Bella be in the photo alone.



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Walking around one of the loops I met **Majid Vahid**. His morning walk consists of going around the circle and loops three times which measures

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about 2 1/2 miles. He carefully measures his distance to reach his walking goal daily. Majid preferred to enjoy his walk without being photographed.

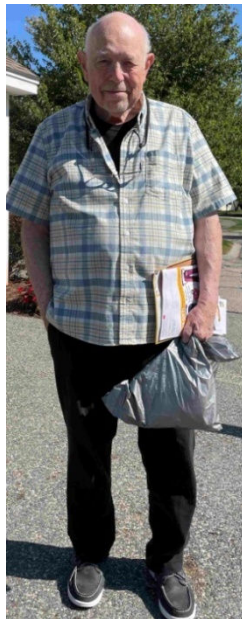
Around 9 AM there is a group of walkers who have been together for years. They walk every day for about 45 minutes. It was from one of them, Deb Barrigan, that I learned the "circle" is also called "the wheel". She said the group walks "the wheel and the ears" several times. The composition of the group varies each day. The morning I met them it consisted of **Deb Barrigan, Linda Ricciardi, and Wayne & Maryanne Anderson.** This is the group that **Valerie Capone** often joins after she walks Brandy.



Mary Ann Famiglietti also walks in the morning. Her weekly routine takes her to the gym four days a week. On weekends and Wednesdays she walks Emerald Court. Her goal is to reach 5,000 steps which takes her about 30-45 minutes to reach.

Later in the day I met **Ron Overko** walking to the mail house. He likes to walk about a mile a day. He has had this routine since he moved to Emerald Court 20 years ago.

Also getting his mail was



Tony Lopes. Although he was alone that day he and his wife **Sharon** like to walk together. They often do the circle and ears.

When I approached **Howard Teich** as he was returning from getting his mail, he preferred to keep moving as we talked. So as we walked a little distance he told me he enjoys walking the circle when he gets his mail each day.



Ed Coleman was returning from his walk when I met him near the Magnolia entrance. He walks six days a week, giving himself Sunday off.

With his earbuds on, he walks the circle and ears. In the winter, or when the weather is bad, he walks in the Magnolia parking garage or throughout the halls of the building.



Paul Constantino walks daily. He divides his walks between Emerald Court and the Tewksbury State Hospital

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property. He commented that he appreciates that a third bench has been added for walkers. He often rests during his walks, either on a bench or at the picnic table by the Magnolia barbecue grill. Paul walks at the Hospital also as he is a volunteer tour guide for the Public Health Museum which is on the grounds of the Tewksbury State Hospital. He encourages us to make a visit to the Museum.

I met **Dick and Barbara Cuoco** who were chatting with **Tom Berrigan**.

The Cuocos walk twice a day, each time consisting of once around the circle. They often meet friends along the way and stop to talk. Tom often joins his wife Deb as she walks with the 9 AM group of walkers.



Besides having the beautiful outdoor walking opportunities, residents of the Magnolia building have extra walking choices. I've been told that the building is two football fields long. The halls of each floor are open that entire distance. The floors are covered with commercial carpeting so they are comfortable to walk on even with sore joints.



From personal experience I have found they are perfect for walking when recovering from joint replacement. It was during that time that I often met **Mary Miano** who rises early in the

morning. She enjoys starting her day with a walk through the first floor hall, and sometimes the second floor also.

Dee Vanderburg will soon be 94. She was always active, enjoying swimming, golf and tennis. Now that she lives in the Magnolia building she walks the three floors of carpeted halls plus ten flights of stairs daily. This is the equivalent of two miles. She also wanted me to know she does Zoom yoga and cardio classes.



Earlier in the article **Ed Coleman** mentioned that he walks in Magnolia parking garage when weather is bad. Several residents do that. The garage is temperature controlled so it is always comfortable. I often meet **Terry Caton**, and **Josh & Marie Croteau** when they walk there in the winter. These three walkers can be seen in the photo that accompanies the article about the Magnolia flower planters.

I had a great day meeting and chatting with my fellow walkers at our beautiful Emerald Court. I look forward to many future walks around the wheel and the ears. ■■■



Happy Halloween!

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LCR Night at Emerald Court

By Wanda Corcoran

On Friday the 13th of September some folks decided to take a chance,
Hoping this was a "lucky" day and their wallets they could enhance.
Thirty-six hopefuls met to spend some time rolling dice.
Skill and experience not required, just showing up would suffice.
Rumors about this diversion had traveled near and far.
The strange game to be played was known simply as LCR.
Every player starts with a certain sum, 15 quarters we did choose.
A good amount you can win, but not terrible if you lose.
You begin each game with three quarters and hope in your heart,
And then the tossing and passing and holding does start.
Three die are rolled by each player when it is their turn.
Each is marked with three letters, the meanings easy to discern.
The C stands for center, L for left and R for right.
The rest of the sides have a dot which is always a welcome sight.
You see you must pass a quarter in the direction that each die does say.
But a dot means "no move required, hold your own for this play".
The person left with quarters becomes the winner of that game
And at that special moment they are so very glad they came.
The rest, although not winners, are not losers for you see
They laughed and shared with others a night of camaraderie.
"Lucky" Larry Cullity walked away the winner of the night

When his 50/50 raffle matched those drawn just right.
The rest of us were consoled by the treats we got to eat,
Several brownies and cookies ended up at many a seat.
So the next time mark your calendar and LCR come and play
A great evening you will see, a perfect way to end your day.
This writer can attest to having an evening of great fun
Even though she arrived with 15 quarters and left having none.



Top row: Valerie Capone, Lorraine MacPherson, Maryanne & Wayne Anderson, Peter McCoy.
Bottom row: Al Capone, Lucille McCoy, Mary McElroy & Linda Ricciardi.



Kevin Walsh, Laura Thursby, Carol Blanchette, Kathy Walsh, Jack & Linda Dempsey

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Top row: Barbara Swansburg, Linda Martin, Melodie & Howard Teich.
Bottom row: Wanda Corcoran, Jane Cassidy, Sue Sandler & Linda Langone.



Top row: Bert Lyons, Frank & Linda Carey, Marcia Gibbons .
Bottom row: Larry & Cheryl Cullity.



Top row: Bob & Peggy Schleicher, Ginny Thomas, Alan Katz & Donna Davis.
Bottom row: Arthur & Florence Correa.

...

You're only young once, but you can be immature all your life.

Charles Scoggins

WHEEEEL OF FOOOOR-TUNE

By Frank Carey & Elaine Williams

I wonder how many people here at Emerald Court, who at 7:00 pm, Monday through Friday, sit down in front of their TV's to watch the game show, "Wheel of Fortune". I know Linda and I are regular watchers and I'm sure we are not in the minority.

The popularity of this show has endured for decades and the show's host, Pat Sajak and co-host, Vanna White have become TV icons.

I personally think the show's popularity is because "Wheel of Fortune" is a light, viewer friendly TV game show that allows the viewer to play along with the actual contestants.

It would be difficult to try and explain all the rules of the game so I will just say that the game's premise is fairly simple. One by one, co-host, Vanna White exposes the letters each contestant requests as they try to be the first to identify names, places, or phrases, hidden on a word puzzle board.

Most of us, as viewers, can't help but play along, trying to identify the puzzle word(s) before the actual contestants do. I think of it as a simple brain exercise and lots of fun.

But of course we, the viewers, are not on TV competing. We're in our TV room relaxing while probably enjoying a beverage and a snack. NO Pressure.

So, what would it be like to be an actual competitor? How would you feel being on the stage, along with Pat Sajak and Vanna White, trying to win prizes, while TV cameras are filming you in front of a live audience?

Well, I happened to hear that Emerald Court had such a person, who in 1984 participated on "Wheel of Fortune", just nine years after the show's inception. Her name is Kathy Walsh #79. I



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shared that info with Elaine Williams, my article writing partner, and together we convinced Kathy to let us interview her regarding her experience. We also invited Kathy's husband Kevin to join us at our interviews.

It has been 40 years since their Wheel of Fortune experience so it's understandable that Kathy and her husband Kevin had a bit of trouble, recalling exact details of the entire experience. However we hope you'll enjoy the following information we were able to garner from Kathy's participation on "Wheel of Fortune".

In 1984, Kathy and a couple of friends heard or read that the producers of the "Wheel of Fortune" game show were looking for people to audition for a chance to participate on TV in the WOF game show. Thinking it would be fun and exciting to try out with the possibility of going to Los Angeles and being on TV if they were successful, they decided to go to the Colonnade Hotel in Boston where the tryouts would be held.

At the tryouts, Kathy and her two friends were informed that the producers would be selecting ten college students and ten adults from the huge number of people who were there to try out.

The audition was divided into two segments. In the first segment they were given five puzzles printed on sheets that looked like the WOF's puzzle board. Kathy said each puzzle had comas, hyphens, and similar punctuations to help in solving the puzzles, but she couldn't remember if the puzzles had any letters. Everyone had only ten minutes to solve all five puzzles. Kathy solved all five puzzles and was able to move on while her friends were not as fortunate.

The second segment of the tryout had those that passed the first segment brought onto a mock WOF stage where they played a number of WOF games. After playing the games they were told they would receive a letter in the mail, informing them if they were accepted or not.

Kathy had done well and did receive a letter notifying her she had been selected along with the date she would be appearing on the show.

The round trip flight, and the three day stay in Los

Angles for both Kathy and her husband Kevin, were covered by the show.

On the scheduled day they were to leave, Kevin and Kathy brought their two children, Patrick eight, and Kelly four, to Kathy's mother's house where arrangements had been made for them to stay. They then rushed to the airport, flew to Los Angeles, where, upon landing, they were picked up and taken to the NBC studios.

At the studio, Kathy was taken to an area to have her hair and makeup done and then brought to the theater, and placed, along with her husband, in the audience area where the WOF show would take place.

As she and Kevin waited for Kathy's turn to play the game, she remembers breathing a sigh of relief, as it was the first time that day that she was finally able to relax. However, that relaxing time was short lived as it was announced that she would be playing in the first game.

On stage, and behind the rail, contestants had to step up on a platform to get into their positions. Kathy said the reason for the platform was so the contestants could better reach the wheel when they bent over to spin it. Kathy also said the wheel was very heavy and a bit hard to spin.

Players were assigned a colored spot on the platform where they would stand: Red, yellow, or blue. Kathy was assigned the first spot which was red. She remembers being a bit upset because she had worn a beige suit and thought she would look better in front of the blue spot. The yellow was taken by another adult and the blue was assigned to a college student.

Kathy's impression of Pat Sajak was that he was taller than he looked on TV and that he was very nice. She said that like today's show, Pat had cards that he referred to when introducing the contestants.

Vanna, Kathy said, was Vanna; beautiful and smiling. Kathy noticed that when turning the letters, Vanna would walk one way to uncover a letter, stay on that side, then walk in the opposite direction to uncover the next letter called. She would then stay on that side until the next letter was called.

Kathy solved the first puzzle which was "Don't

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Cry Over Spilled Milk”. When she told Pat she wanted to solve the puzzle, he told her to carefully pronounce the words. She was very nervous and remembered what she was taught by the Catholic nuns at St. Mary’s High School in Lawrence: “Stand straight and enunciate your words”.

So she stood straight and very slowly, clearly and carefully, said each word of the puzzle. Kathy laughed about it as she told us because she had said it so carefully, Pat Sajak told her “You’re taking this game too seriously”.

That game was the only one she won. The college student was the big winner, winning the most money.

In 1984, the game awarded prizes equivalent to the amount of money each contestant accumulated while playing the game.

The large assortment of the prizes contestants could choose from, were displayed in an area located next to the contestants. The value of each prize was attached to each article.

After she solved the puzzle, she quickly chose the “Van Cleef & Arpels” string of pearls. She also chose a trip to Puerto Valletta and a few minor prizes using up her cash winnings. Certificates for the prizes were sent to her home by mail.

Kathy has frequently enjoyed wearing the pearls but she and Kevin chose not to take the trip due to the unrest in the area of Puerto Valletta at that time.

Although sometimes stressful, Kathy says she totally enjoyed the whole “Wheel Of Fortune” experience from her audition to her participation on the show. Everyone associated with the game was nice and all the contestants rooted for each other.

Both Kathy and her hubby Kevin wish they could remember more but, like most of us, after 40+ years, recall can sometimes be difficult.

Things have evolved since Kathy’s appearance on the show. Pat Sajak retired this year and Ryan Seacrest has taken over as host of the show while Vanna will stay on as co-host.

The following are some general facts about WOF that were published by Tami Tolley, in the *The Palm Beach Post* on February 26, 2019.

More than one million people apply each year to

be a contestant, about 10,000 get an audition, but just 600 make it to the live TV show.

The Wheel weighs a whopping 2,400 pounds.

Vanna never wears the same dress twice — that’s nearly 7,000 dresses in her 36-plus years on the show!

Pat tries to wear ties that match Vanna’s dresses.

The Wheel platform can change height to make it comfortable for all players to spin.

During commercial breaks, contestants are asked to step down from platform with their back toward the wheel while money amounts and prizes on the wheel are changed. Water breaks and makeup touch up happens at this time.

When playing with a partner, microphones are adjusted for the contestants in each group who are closest to Pat.

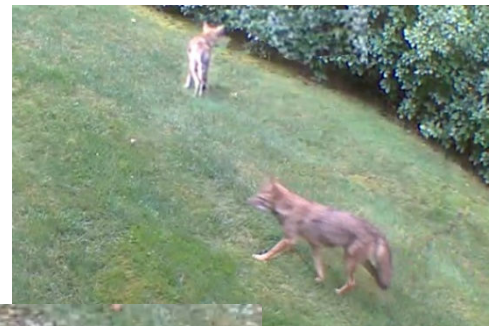
While in the studio, you cannot look at, wave or talk to your family/friends before your taping.

Vanna holds a Guinness World Record for the most frequent clapper.

♦ ♦ ♦

Public Service Reminder:

Be aware that our woods and grounds are shared by coyotes, foxes and other large animals. Be careful especially if you have small pets.



♦ ♦ ♦