

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • April 2020

Meet Sheryl Smith

High school sweethearts – Sheryl Smith and Ron, her beaux all through high school – tied the knot officially just two days after graduating. They'd been married 52 years when he passed away last year, thus bringing Sheryl to Evergreen to be closer to one of her two sons. She moved into Bergen the day before Thanksgiving, feeling she had much to be thankful for.

As has been true for most of us, she had a lot of paring down of belongings. She and her husband had lived in the same house in Littleton for 44 years.



Sheryl and her husband had both grown up in Sterling, Colorado, an agricultural town northeast of Denver. She'd been born in Kansas and relocated to Sterling at the age of five when her dad took a job working in the oil fields. "Oil field trash," she joked.

She learned to work early in life — babysitting and then working in a grocery store as a soda jerk. Church activities rounded out her life. "There weren't many activities for girls back then," she noted. "I had a very contained life."

She and her husband met while playing in the high school band. He played the bass drums, and she played the kettle drums.

Upon completing his first two years at the community college in Sterling, her husband went on

to graduate from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, then taking a job as a chemist for Marathon Oil. Somewhere along in there after graduation, Ron was drafted and spent time serving his country in the Vietnam war.

The couple settled in Littleton "back when there were still dirt roads," to get from here to there Sheryl notes. It was a strong neighborhood — all new homes filled with families who had kids who were raised together.

Littleton schools were on the track system back then in order to keep the schools open all year round. "There were tracks A, B, and C – three months on, one month off." The same neighborhoods were not necessarily on the same track, she pointed out, but Sheryl took a job in a school cafeteria because they'd ensure the workers had the same time off as their children.

Sheryl attended Arapahoe Community College for two years when the kids were older "just to see if I could do it," she smiled. "It gave me better insight to what my kids would be going through" (when they went on to college).

When her husband retired early, it enabled them to travel. One of the most meaningful trips they took was to Vietnam with about 10 other members of the 101st Airborne Division who'd served together during the war. Sheryl was the only woman in the group and was able to observe how that trip back to the war zone affected the others. The month-long excursion included side trips to Cambodia and Thailand.

Other destinations over the years included Athens, Italy, Croatia, Germany, South America including the Amazon and Peru, New Zealand, Australia,

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"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."

-Ronald Reagan

Memo from the Manager

WARNING -- I've been hearing reports from residents that they have been outrageously overcharged (and I would agree) for services rendered by Golden West Plumbing and by Blue Sky Plumbing.

To get registered on the Code Red system for Jefferson County, go to <http://jeffco.us/sheriff/emergencies> and click on the Code Red link. This will enable you to get phone calls or texts regarding emergency situations occurring in our area.

-- Kathy

Sheryl Smith continued

and Mexico. About half the trips were organized tours, while the other half she and her husband did on their own.

Over the years, Sheryl's hobbies have included country dancing, playing a lot of card games with friends (and some just with her husband), plus dominoes and cribbage. When her boys took to dirt bikes, she was right there with them trying to keep up. She and her husband explored Yellowstone on snowmobiles and rafted the Grand Canyon for a week. She loved mowing the lawn but never got into flowers, she points out.

During this "shelter in place" period, Sheryl's trying to master Zoom to have online face-to-face conversations with family members and is playing a lot of the same kinds of computer games that she used to enjoy with family and friends. "I have much to be grateful for," she says. "I'm very blessed."

While living in Littleton, she'd volunteered at a food bank there and signed up to volunteer at the Evergreen Christian Outreach (EChO) food bank just prior to the shelter-in-place order when EChO asked its volunteers to stay home. She looks forward to going back when they allow volunteers to return.

Sheryl has attended the coffees, played cards on Friday nights, and attended the St. Patrick's Day dinner since moving here. And when her sister and brother-in-law came to visit, they tried out the Guest Suite. "It worked very well!"

Sheryl is an energetic addition to Rocky Mountain Village, always offering to help in some way. "I'm very pleased with living here. I felt very welcome." And during these times she's also willing to help anyone that might need help.

Offering a last bit of advice: "We all need to get out and laugh a little."

Profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick.

WELCOME

Jerry Mertz is moving from 218-B to 314-G

Bud and Sandy Madigan 208-G

As shelter in place continues....

It appears that we'll be sheltering in place for another month, and many may need extra help after going through their first two-week supply of food. It's good to know that volunteers in Evergreen have organized to help people like us with picking up groceries and prescriptions.

Evergreen Corona Response — Charity is coordinating a team of 40 volunteers — 303-564-8863. They suggest you order online, having a friend or relative help you in advance with setup for King Soopers or Safeway (both doing curbside pickup) and putting in your credit card info online so they are not involved with money. They're up and ready to go and have had too few takers to date!

Linda Kirkpatrick — 303-674-6269 — is coordinating a short list of volunteers who have offered to do similar pickups for neighbors here at Rocky Mountain Village. Some live in our complex, one is a HS student, and a few are from the community at large. Linda is also willing to try helping residents (by phone) who have no one else to get them set up to order online or who have unusual requests like needing postage or making a bank deposit.

Special shopping hours for seniors — Although King Soopers, Safeway, and Walmart are having special hours for high-risk residents to shop, nearly all reports are that those time slots are EXTREMELY crowded with long lines and difficulty finding places to park in some cases. Walmart was the exception to that, according to one resident who got up early to shop between 6 and 7 am on a Tuesday (the only day of the week Walmart has special hours for this group of shoppers). Now that the initial hoarding seems to be over, the shelves and meat counters are stocked about the same all day long. And for the first time in weeks, there's even been toilet paper on the shelves in the afternoon at King Soopers! Be prepared to accept substitutes when ordering online.