

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • April, 2019

Meet JoAnne Soley

JoAnne Soley relocated to Evergreen a year ago from Northbrook, Illinois but only moved into her unit in Genesee in September. As with many folks here at the Village, living closer to family made sense after her husband passed away just shy of celebrating 53 years of marriage. She has a daughter nearby.

When searching for a place to live, JoAnne knew she wanted independent living so she could continue cooking and taking care of herself. Some of the places she looked at didn't have full kitchens. The fact that Rocky Mountain Village allowed



her to have a cat, added to the appeal. She adopted a kitty from the Animal Protective League, one that had been living at Chow Down and not necessarily thriving there. She's pleased her feline companion also likes its new home and is putting on weight now.

She and her husband traveled the country in their RV for 12 years, and each major stop is accompanied by memories of what they saw and did there.

The stay in Oregon was next to a museum with hot air balloons where she got to see the small balloons the Japanese used to carry bombs. In Florida they stayed in Key West, then the Panhandle. In Kentucky they visited the racetracks. "I remember hearing that one of the famous horses was buried at the racetrack – they only buried the head and hoofs!"

Alaska was on her husband's bucket list. That trip had them on the road for three months, spending one

month in Alaska fishing and taking in the glaciers.

Making jewelry is one of her hobbies, and she's enjoyed collecting the local gemstones as they traveled, using them in her jewelry-making.

RVing was their reward for working hard the rest of the year. JoAnne and her husband worked 7 days a week for 7 months rehabbing a house that had belonged to her inlaws. "I've worked on rehabbing three houses!" she says with pride. An interest in interior remodels stems from having helped her mother finish three bedrooms in a newly built house when she was a child.

Her memories of growing up in Chicago include contributing to the crime the city has become known for ... getting caught by the police while she and a friend were fishing in the park with just a line and hook with bread on it. She was only 8 or 9 at the time, and the police called their parents.

Roller skating was an activity in her youth that led to teaching skating and meeting her husband-to-be in 1954. Their courtship was a long 8 years because he served in the army during the Korean War. JoAnne worked as a secretary at Walgreen's and Allstate Insurance in her earlier years.

Painting used to be among her hobbies, but she hasn't done much of that lately. She still knits, crochets, and sews. Her grandfather was a tailor, so she grew up making her own doll clothes. She's explored a lot of things along the way, including hunting with a bow and arrow and taxidermy!

Since moving to the Village, she participates in the Stepping Out class at Elk Run, yoga twice a month, and the Aging class at the Seniors Resource Center. "I've met a lot of ladies since moving here," she says. Even though JoAnne has a car and drives, she elects to take the bus back and forth to the Seniors Resource

"My favorite weather is bird chirping weather."

Terri Guillemets

Memo from the Manager

Spring has sprung! A few reminders for the season

Please do not feed the birds seed. You may put out water and nectar for hummingbirds, but seed attracts rodents to the building. Even if you are on the top floors, the seed will fall and your neighbors below will have to deal with the rodents you attract by not following the rules. So...please follow the rules.

We will begin the cleanup of the landscape as soon as the weather allows. The big March snow cleanup has left some areas damaged, so we will be attending to those as soon as it is practical. It is usually June before the landscape starts to take shape, so please be patient.

-- Kathy

JoAnne Soley continued

Center with others from Rocky Mountain Village who all go at the same time.

She'll be making some trips back to the Midwest in the next year, having lots of things to dispose of, including a cabin at Lake Tomahawk, Wisconsin, a home in Illinois, a bus, and a 10th anniversary Harley Davidson motorcycle. She has a long list of things to do in 2019!

Profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick.

WELCOME!

Dave and Olivia Brandt 316 G

Lillian Rayer 115 B

Reminders from René and Kari:

FREE/OPEN TO ANYONE from Bergen and Genesee:

- Monday weekly HOA coffees & announcements:
9 am at Bergen
10 am at Genesee
- Friday Game Nights 7pm: Bergen
- Stretch/strengthen exercises: Genesee: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 1:30 pm
- Movie nights - watch for flyers
7 pm: Genesee: 1st & 3rd Mondays;
7 pm Bergen: every Tuesday
- Book Group: Genesee: 3rd Tuesdays. Call Janice Vickery for more information.
- Bridge: "Aces" - Bergen: 2nd Wednesday 1-3 pm - all levels of expertise welcome.
- Bible Study: Genesee: 7 pm Wednesdays
- Art Gathering: Genesee studio, Thursdays 2 pm. Guided by Carolyn Seymour
- Potlucks & Social finger-food get-togethers. Check bulletin boards for poster informations on dates & times.
Genesee: 2nd Monday Potluck
Bergen: 4th Monday Social
- April Birthday Party: Genesee, Wed., April 10, 3 pm. Cake & ice cream. All welcome!
- Saturday: 3rd Saturday, April 20th Evergreen Chamber Orchestra Guild will meet in the Evergreen room — coffee 9:30 am, 10:00 am program, 11:00 short meeting. The program for April is Jesse Nava and Sharon Kent Flutists. \$10.00 donation. All residents are welcome.