

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • July 2021

Meet LeaVern Dabbs

While she's only been here in Evergreen two months, LeaVern (pronounced La-vern') Dabbs has been eager to get acquainted with her new neighbors. She immediately signed up to help serve at the spaghetti dinner and has participated in the Wednesday outdoor lunches. She's also already been hiking on Thursdays with the group from Genesee.

Her name had shown up on the welcome list much earlier when she first rented her unit in December, but she had to return to Missouri to sell her house.

She's from a small town in south-eastern Missouri — Dexter — where she'd lived all her life. "My dad was a farmer, and I married another farmer," she explained, saying her husband was also a teacher with a degree in agriculture, teaching at the junior-high level.

LeaVern was widowed at age 30, making her a single mom with two small children when her husband was killed in an auto accident.

Armed with degrees in biology and counseling, LeaVerne became a school counselor for 20 years, dedicated to years K-8.

Getting involved with a more personal side of kids' lives, as a counselor her work would delve into personal relationships, family situations, how kids got along with other kids, what special needs the students might have, and so forth.

"With family dynamics changing over the years, more families are without the original two



parents, and kids are being raised by grandparents and by unrelated adults," LeaVern added.

"Bullying came to light more," she noted. "We worked to help kids understand others, to include others, and to stand up for them rather than standing back and not doing anything for them."

She stayed in education for another 20 years, working part-time in the field of special education. During this period she came in contact with Hel-

en Irlen, who worked with dyslexic students struggling with learning and literacy. Fascinated by Irlen's development of colored lenses to aid those lacking eye-hand coordination, LeaVern and her sister both developed a better understanding of what has become known as the Irlen Syndrome.

With knowledge that fluorescent lights (and other light-related symptoms) can cause children (and adults) to see white spaces in between letters and the moving of words, the sisters were able to help students where they worked.

It was about the time of her career ended that teachers had started training for intruders. The school shooting in Paducah, Kentucky — about 85 miles away — brought it closer to home.

"My sisters and I bought a flower shop and ran it for quite awhile — about six years." LeaVern says she enjoyed the art of all of it — the flower arranging, weddings, funerals, events, and even the accounting. "Going to market was such fun!"

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**it's impossible," said pride. "it's risky," said experience.
"it's pointless," said reason. "give it a try," whispered the heart.**

Memo from the Manager

Window washing starts July 7. Watch the bulletin boards and cubbies for information. All your screens will need to be removed and access given to the upper decks.

Thank you for your cooperation in getting the road sealed and striped. They did a good job and it looks like new! We appreciate your patience when projects like these are being done.

A solution has been found for those of you who do not hear the fire alarms in your units. Watch the bulletin boards for information on that.

Please do not overfill the dumpsters. You all are charged when the lids don't shut. So if you go to deposit your trash and find the dumpsters already full, please take it back home and wait until they are emptied. Trash pickup days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday and they usually come before 9 a.m. Recycle pickup is scheduled for Thursday but the time of day varies.

The first in person Board meeting in a while is coming up July 15 at 2 p.m. in Genesee. See you there!

-- Kathy

LeaVern Dabbs continued

she said, referring to the big markets and shows elsewhere in the country where they got to see the new things and bought for the gift shop.

Family get-togethers and holidays have been a big part of LeaVern's past. Now that she's in Colorado she'll enjoy more time with her daughter who lives here in Evergreen. "And I'm anxious to see my son in Idaho," she says with enthusiasm.

Let's welcome LeaVern into the Rocky Mountain Village "family."

Profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick

WELCOME!

Maryanne Bach - 103 B