

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • March 2022

Meet Marryanne Bach

As a child Marryanne Bach used to have dreams about skating on a lake, so when she first visited Evergreen and experienced skating on Evergreen Lake, she felt like she'd arrived home. That was about 30 years ago when she relocated from Annapolis, Maryland.

Although Evergreen's been home to her for three decades, she continued to work for half of those years for the federal government with big responsibilities in big agencies and with people with big egos.

"I was the first woman in a lot of really fabulous jobs," she says, referring to positions in both the legislative and executive branches of government. That list of firsts had begun out of the gate with a master's degree from Iowa State, when she'd been offered a job as the first female ecologist in the state of Iowa.

She served as staff for the Committee on Science, Space and Technology in the House of Representatives, a bi-partisan (*an archaic term that still appears in the dictionary*) committee staffed by scientists and engineers from across the country.

With degrees in biology and ecology, it was her job to oversee all the research and development investments (non-military) in the executive branch, i.e., National Science Foundation (NSF), National

Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Dept. of Energy, Dept. of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

She worked for six different science advisors to three different Presidents – the first female assistant director for that department in Washington, DC, operating a year and a half in the White House Science Office. In addition to running Cabinet Councils, she made the final recommendations (via the Science Advisor) to the administration in all areas of investments in science.

Marryanne traveled all over the world, met with Nobel laureates, and came to understand the science investment in the United States as well as science policy and its relationship to industry and universities, and our international agreements.

When Manuel Lujan, Jr., from New Mexico was appointed Secretary of the Interior, she was one of a dozen or so employees he took with him. Her job was to oversee all policies and procedures for the agency.

Marryanne was given the opportunity to move in as a senior executive with Natural Resources and Hydropower, becoming the first female Regional Director overseeing 9 states from Montana



Don't Make Assumptions. Find the courage to ask questions and to express what you really want. Communicate with others as clearly as you can to avoid misunderstandings, sadness and drama. With just this one agreement, you can completely transform your life.

-- Don Miguel Ruiz

Memo from the Manager

The new door code will be operational Wednesday, March 2. Please don't give this code out. Only residents should have the door code or the buildings aren't really that secure. There is a functioning intercom system that will allow you to let people in once you've identified them and decided to. The reason for the intercom system is for just that purpose and if used, could eliminate the habit of giving the door code to folks who don't live here. If you need help in learning to use this system, please ask. Doors are continually found left ajar or just plain wide open. Your security is your responsibility. Please pull doors closed when you use them as a simple way to help keep your buildings secure and to keep varmints of all sizes out.

There will be a special Board meeting on Tuesday, March 8 at 9 a.m. in the Mountaineer Room of the Genesee House. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt the updated governance policies that were posted on February 22nd. The meeting will consist of the Board voting on whether to approve the policies and then the President signing them (he'll only use one pen).

Please do not leave your unwanted items in the common areas of the buildings. It is no one else's responsibility to discard or donate your items for you. It is not a good look. Thank you.

There will be a Regular Board meeting on Thursday, March 24th in the Evergreen Room of the Bergen building. There will also be a special meeting called by petition on the same date prior to the Regular Board meeting. The special meeting will begin at 2:00 and the Regular Board meeting will begin at 3:00. Notices of all these meeting will be posted on the bulletin boards and on the RMVE website so check those for more detail.

-- Kathy

Brian Vitello, 315B

Bruce Bernst

WELCOME!

Rai DesGranges - 303-B

Marryanne Bach continued

to Texas in the Department of the Interior. She kept a home in Colorado while having one as well in Montana where she was based.

Before retiring she would become the first woman Director of Security, Safety and Law Enforcement for The Bureau of Reclamation within the Dept. of the Interior.

Marryanne had grown up on Long Island but had spent a considerable amount of time on the farm her grandparents owned in Upstate New York when she was young. "I always wanted to get back to the farm," she recalls. So, when she retired from government work 15 years ago to start her own business, she got into farming on a small scale – "a farmette," as she refers to it, "with goats, horses, and chickens."

She also got into counseling after studying psychotherapy on the side. Having worked with people in leadership, she knew people were better leaders when they'd learned to attend to their personal wellness.

She's become a lay minister and a chaplain for various organizations. "Pubic service is in me," she says. "I have a calling to serve."

As for community service, she's been involved in the Evergreen Sustainability Alliance and acts as administrator for the Buffalo Park Community Garden. "I would love to see a community garden here!" she says, referring to Rocky Mountain Village. "The whole process of planting seeds and watching them grow, being close to the earth, getting your hands in the dirt, the whole cycle – it's such an enriching process ... the fertilization of plants but also the fertilization of friends. I can see one here."

From farm to table, Marryanne does it all. "I love making goat cheese and canning."

She volunteers at a friend's farmette, the new home to her chickens and goats when she had to give up her livestock. She donated her horses to a couple starting an equine therapy practice in Conifer.

Marryanne moved into Bergen in June of 2021, living on the first floor, adding to her list of "firsts." She hopes to pursue further her love for downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing – and visit some of the smaller national parks – now that her household responsibilities have been reduced.

Profile by Linda Kirkpatrick, photo supplied