

VILLAGE VOICE

Bits and pieces

With crime appearing around RMVE, residents are encouraged to be on the lookout for strangers and strange behavior. A couple of months ago a car was stolen, as were two sets of bicycles – all from inside the locked garages. Locks to entryways were changed and new keys issued; the garage door openers were reset with new codes.

More recently catalytic converters were stolen from two vehicles in the parking lots during broad daylight. The activity was caught on camera showing a man-and-woman team with the man as the person on lookout and the woman being the one to crawl under the vehicle to remove the equipment.

Homeless people have taken to calling the RTD lot their home and a collection area for their accumulated junk. Pete MacKay reports that RTD has assured him the RVs and junk will be removed by March 1st.

Brac reports that security cameras have been installed and are recording. The cameras are monitored at night between 10 pm and 6 am. He will be doing a demonstration in the community rooms for anyone who wants to see how they work. Watch for flyers announcing the date.

Information on the false nurse pull alarms needs to be updated. Brac has updated stickers for residents — call the office, email or leave a note in the manager's boxes if you need to update yours.



Meet Helena Roberts

You just might overhear talk in the 'lift' or 'car park' about visiting at half 2 or half 4 and wonder what the heck that woman's talking about...

It's Brit-speak and likely it's coming out of the mouth of Helena Roberts, who moved into Genesee in April of 2022 from England.

Afternoon tea occurs between 2:30 and 4:30 in England, often taking the place of lunch and dinner, she explains. (And there, they call an elevator a 'lift' and a parking lot a 'car park'.)

The newcomer from 'across the pond' wasted no time getting involved here at Rocky Mountain Village, offering to take over revamping and keeping up the website – and doing a fine job at it, mind you! She got into computers 35 years ago when she took a job inputting information. "I bought one myself and taught myself," she says with a chipper attitude.

Then she got into teaching computers – mostly to seniors – something she finds herself doing here at Rocky Mountain Village. Oftentimes it's a call for help because someone's printer's not working; but other times it's teaching someone how to email or how to access the Internet, sort out folders, or figure out a SmartPhone.

Like many of us, Helena moved here because of family nearby. She has a daughter in Evergreen (with grandchildren) and a son in Denver, both of whom have called Colorado home for 15+ years. And Helena had been visiting twice a year, thinking someday she'd live here too.

Helen was born and raised in England, moving around up until age 10 when her family settled about 20 miles south of Manchester. She participated in sports in school and was quite good at athletics and running, she says. She played tennis when younger and played badminton and squash until she moved to the States. She still does a lot of swimming, going to Buchanan twice a week to swim her mile. Here she's joined the walking group.

Board of Directors

The new board officers are:

Pete MacKay, President (term ends '26)
pmackay@thevistagroup.com
303-809-0664

Brian Vitello, VP (term ends '25)
bmvitello@gmail.com
720-724-0664

Gerda Ceremsak, Sec'y (term ends '25)
ceremsak@gmail.com
303-674-5960

Marlin Ekiss, Treas. (term ends '24)
m.ekiss@comcast.net
303-997-5545

Facilities Manager: Brac Burford
RMVE2@comcast.net
303-674-4739

Community Manager Brittany Bazan
Brittany.Bazan@KCHOA.com
303-634-2872

For those who are having problems updating their automatic payment amounts, please reach out to Brittany Bazan by phone, email, or in person on Wednesdays when she can be found in the office at RMVE. Please set an appointment if you'd like to meet in person: see above contact info.

Board Meeting

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15th, at 2 pm at Bergen Park Church and on ZOOM.

WELCOME

- Marcia Walsh • Bergen 305
- Charlie Wilson • Bergen 419

Helena Roberts continued

While raising children, Helena was a stay-at-home mom, then worked part-time jobs 'whilst' the kids were in school. She'd gotten an education at a catering college, "a hotel school where people could get degrees as chef, cook, dietitian, management, bookkeeping, and hotel law." Her specialty was bookkeeping.

Prior to the death of her first husband, the family had a guest house within the castle walls of Caernarfon Castle in North Wales. "It was very popular with foreign tourists. I will talk to anyone, so I rather enjoyed it." She stayed there until after her husband died at age 41. "I decided to leave when the highlight of my day was talking to the bacon lady at the local supermarket." She moved back to Macclesfield near Manchester, a place known for many years as the world's largest producer of silk fabrics.

She remarried and traveled frequently with her husband whose work took them to the Middle East, Southeast Asia, India, Hong Kong, and Japan. "He worked in Iran for three months," she said. "I loved Malaysia." She did technical drawing and personal assistant work for him in his engineering consultant assignments.

Divorced and now somewhat settled in, Helena has been on the lookout for a bigger place at Rocky Mountain Village – a two-bedroom unit. "When I get my stuff from England, it will not fit in here," gesturing around her one-bedroom rental. "I'm a big crafter." By that, she means needlework, sewing, appliqué, tapestry, knitting, crochet, bobbin lacemaking, tatting, weaving with beads, and more!

"Everyone's been really friendly. I've made lots of friends. But I'll be totally honest – I felt like I was living in a hotel, coming from a detached house. It just felt weird. Everyone seemed very old. Then I realized I fit right in. It took me quite awhile to get my head around that!"

Article and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick

Foot Clinic

The Foot Clinic will return on Tuesday, March 7th, from 2-4 pm. As before, three members of the Mount Evans Home Health and Hospice organization will come to Rocky Mountain Village (Bergen House) to trim toenails for those of us who find it too difficult to do ourselves. This service is provided every other month.

The service includes soaking of the feet, trimming nails, and a foot massage with lotion. Blood pressures are also taken.

There will be a sign-up sheet posted in each of the buildings a week prior, and those who sign up will receive a reminder phone call the day before.

The suggested donation for this service is \$20. Please bring your own tools and lotion. Call Pat Haley at 541-343-9876 with questions not answered on the sign-up sheet.

