

# THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • December, 2018

## Meet Brian Vitello

Still exhibiting a bit of a New England accent, Brian Vitello traces his roots to Massachusetts — “about 30 minutes from the New Hampshire border,” he says. He recalls walking a mile on a country road to catch the school bus because the lane was too narrow for a bus. There used to be a mile of farmland between the house where he grew up and his father’s family homestead. “Now there are 40 houses.”

Brian has fond memories of the neighbors in that small mill town called Athol. “They’d just show up to plow a driveway or roof a barn.” When his grandparents’ house and barn burned to the ground, everyone showed up to rebuild. His father was one of 14 children; his mother had 12 siblings.

Brian made a career in the military — strangely enough, his introduction to knowing “love.” Having grown up in an environment without any display of affection or mention of the word “love,” Brian recalled saying goodbyes when he left for the navy. “My father hugged me. It felt awkward, but it felt so good. There were tears flowing down both faces.”

Contrary to most people who recount their experiences with any branch of the military, Brian insists he “loved” basic training. “I loved my drill instructor.” *(That may be a first!)*

He became a navy corpsman, similar to what a physician’s assistant is today. After his initial 4-year stint, he left the service, returning to Massachusetts with a wife who didn’t warm up to the people or



climate in New England. To keep his family intact, he re-enlisted in the service, this time in the army, joining a highly decorated unit in Washington State. At Fort Lewis he trained young people to be leaders, non-commissioned officers.

He fulfilled his dream of becoming a Warrant Officer, a level designated for officers above the senior-most enlisted ranks. “I gave the military everything I had (just about).”

He worked with the First Special Forces in Fort Lewis, participating in 16 special operations missions overseas ranging from 1-3 months to a year.

He finished his military career in 1998 after having served 22 years. “The military was my calling.”

Upon retiring, he’s worked in the area of career development and later as a purchasing agent for Gates Rubber in Kentucky. When the family moved back to Washington State, Brian went through the state fisheries program and worked as a purchasing agent for a large lumber mill processing furniture-grade lumber.

The family moved to Colorado in 2012, settling in Evergreen; he and his wife divorced a couple years later. In an effort to live closer to his son and daughter-in-law in Denver, Brian moved into Rocky Mountain Village (Genesee) during the summer of 2017.

Brian’s interests include organic vegetable gardening as well as raising honeybees and chickens. “I love anything outdoors,” and here that translates to frequenting Elk Meadow, swimming, archery, fishing. You might see him working out at Buchanan Rec Center.

He’s currently filling a vacated seat on the board of directors for Rocky Mountain Village and plans to run to be elected for a full term in January.

Brian’s a friendly guy who finds inspiration from strangers he strikes up conversations with in the grocery store. “My mission today is making as much difference in people’s lives as I can.”

*Profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick.*

*So, I close my eyes to old ends and open my heart to new beginnings.*

*--Nick Frederickson*

## Memo from the Manager

We will be changing the door code in January, so look for that in your cubbies. Please don't dispose of the notice in the lobby trash or give the code out.

Based on feedback on the calendar of events, the printed calendar will continue for those who request it but not printed for those who do not. There will be one posted on the bulletin boards.

The annual meeting will be held Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Bergen Park Church. Festivities start at 1 p.m. The Board looks forward to your attendance.

-- Kathy

## Water conservation tip of the month

Let your dishwasher do the work! An average dishwasher uses about 10 gallons per load. Running the average faucet for just four minutes uses the same amount of water. Wait until you have a full load if you can.

**WELCOME!**

Sharon Adams — Bergen 320



## Reminders from René and Kari:

Genesee had a family-full of 'angels' decorating our lobby! It's ... well ... a HEAVENLY-HAVEN! Stop in to view and enjoy what Margaret Kresge and her heavenly-helpers have created for this Season of Wonder.

Two other December events you won't want to miss: CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG, Wednesday, December 5th, at 7 pm in the Genesee Mountaineer Room. Joe Whitmill: song leader; and Phyllis Pieffer, pianist.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATION: Wednesday, December 12, 3 pm, in Genesee Mountaineer Room. All are invited for cake and ice cream .... you don't even need to have a birthday in December! Join in the fun!

ACES BRIDGE is canceled December 12<sup>th</sup> and will resume January 9th 1-3 pm Bergen building. All levels of experience welcome. Contact Rene Kilmer at 303-679-4907 if you'd like to participate.

EVERGREEN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY December 8th in Bergen Community Room 9:30-11:30 am. Irma Wolf, pianist, and members will sing Christmas carols. Bring your donation check made out to Evergreen Chamber Orchestra wrapped in foil to hang on the Charlie Brown Christmas tree.