

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • November, 2018

Meet Marilyn Wolverton

It was her asthma that brought Marilyn Wolverton to Colorado about 65 years ago. A girlfriend who'd relocated to Denver had encouraged her to move here; and when Marilyn's brother drove her west, she could feel her breathing getting easier as the altitude got higher and higher. "I've never had an asthma attack after that!"

It had actually been the chicken feathers around her — especially those in the pillows — that had made breathing so difficult. There was hardly any getting around chicken feathers when growing up on a farm in rural South Dakota.

It wasn't until she was a sophomore in high school — when a relative took her for allergy testing in Omaha — that she'd discovered she had allergic reactions to the feathers and strawberries. Until then she'd been thin and sickly, having no energy, and being subject to repeated bouts of pneumonia and anemia.

There were no school buses when Marilyn grew up. She recalls walking 1-2 miles to a country grade school in Falkton, SD, having frostbite on her cheeks one time during the severe winters in that part of the world. When the family relocated to 10 miles south of Doland, she drove to high school. "We lived on a farm and helped tend the garden and milk the cows." She recalls riding horses and having a pony.

Her five siblings still reside in or near Doland — a town of about 350 people in the northeastern part of the state. Although members of the family never wandered far, one of her brothers strongly urged her to apply to Wheaton College in Chicago. She was surprised at getting accepted and found that her time there really changed her life, building her self-confidence tremendously.

Armed with a degree, she taught grade school for two years when she returned home but headed to Denver in



her mid-twenties. She gained employment with the Children's Asthma Research Institute and Hospital (CARIH), which later merged with National Jewish Hospital. As a houseparent, she lived in a dormitory with some of the 90-100 asthmatic children who were being studied and treated for the disease. CARIH was located in the west part of Denver near Sloan's Lake.

She earned her Master's degree at CU Boulder, working as an assistant to the head of a department, which covered much of the cost for her to earn that degree. She became a guidance counselor at a high school in Westminster.

When a neighbor from South Dakota who worked at the Denver Federal Center gave her a ride back to Doland, she became enthralled with his stories of having traveled around the world for two years. They ended up marrying and moving to Evergreen where they raised three children. They built a Tudor-style home overlooking the lake and Main Street. "I lived in an unfinished house for a long time," she adds.

Marilyn's been an Evergreen-area resident for the past 50 years, including a part-time stint at the well known Evergreen Drug — everyone's favorite local variety store until about 10 years ago — where she sold yard goods.

Because of her many years in Evergreen and having two sons closeby, living at Rocky Mountain Village comes naturally for her. Thanks to a friend whose mother used to live here, Marilyn's been able to rent her unit in Genesee for the past 8 years. "It's a nice place with nice people. You can be as social as you want to be. I find that the activities are better than if you lived with a child in a house as long as you can get around."

Although macular degeneration keeps her from driving, she walks over to King Soopers to do her shopping, and walks to Bergen Park Church as well as restaurants. She also catches a ride to Buchanan Rec Center to keep up with Silver Sneakers programs offered there.

There's no keeping Marilyn down. She remains active and involved!

Profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick.

When you forgive, you in no way change the past - but you sure do change the future.

--Bernard Meltzer

Memo from the Manager

There will be an open house to see the new furniture in the Bergen guest suite on Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 12 and 13 so please go in and have a look around; the door will be open.

There will be a regular Board meeting on Thursday, Nov. 15 at 5:30 in Genesee.

The carpet install for the 4th floor of Bergen and the three stairwells in Genesee will begin on Tuesday, Nov. 6th. We ask that you be cooperative with the installers and take detours when necessary. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

During the upcoming holiday season many will have visitors that we may not recognize. Just be alert and question folks to make sure they are visiting someone who lives here. All our safety is the responsibility of each of us.

--Kathy

Two board positions open

As 2019 approaches, the RMVE Board of Directors is preparing for the Annual Owners Meeting. Among other business, there will be an election to fill two Board positions – one two-year and one three-year term. All owners are encouraged to participate in the governance of the Association. You are all members, and the Board of Directors represents each of you.

If you are interested in being a candidate for the Board of Directors, please submit a short resume and reason for interest by Dec. 15th so your name and information can be added to the packet sent to all owners for the Annual Owners Meeting.

If you have questions about what the position entails, please contact a Board member, the manager, or review the Bylaws of the Association, which outlines the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Directors.

**Join us for the
Appreciation Brunch
at The Wild Game
Thursday, Nov. 8 • 11:00**

**Sign-up sheets are in each building.
Show your appreciation
for staff and volunteers who serve
on the Board of Directors by being there!**

How much do you value the monthly calendars?

Kathy is seeking feedback on how much residents value the calendars of events that have been copied and distributed in cubbies each month. Are they a waste of paper? Are they something you hang onto and refer to? Or would a single calendar posted on the bulletin board serve the same purpose?

Please convey your interest (or lack of) to her personally or by putting a note in the box for the manager.

King Soopers cards help fund “extras” for Bergen and Genesee

King Soopers makes it possible for private organizations to get a 5% rebate on money spent at their stores when purchases are made on specially distributed gift cards. The cards come with \$20 of cash value and can be refilled at any of the stores with whatever amount the holder wishes.

Coordinators from each building sell the \$20 gift cards that trace back for these donations to their respective treasuries; King Soopers issues checks to each building's fund periodically as the rebates reach \$250.

The fund at Bergen has been active for more than 10 years. The fund at Genesee re-started about 2 years ago.

With about 30 residents participating from Bergen, that fund accumulates about \$5,000 each year. Participants meet annually to vote on a budget for how the money is used, and members head up committees to coordinate spending the money. Bergen's budget includes money for four parties, including the annual appreciation event. Money is allocated for beautification (clean-up, plants, etc.) and table decor. \$1,000 is budgeted for donations to organizations that provide services to Rocky Mountain Village, i.e., the fire department, Evergreen Christian Outreach, Mount Evans Home Health & Hospice, Seniors' Resource Center, and Bergen Park Church. In addition, gift cards are presented to staff in appreciation of the jobs they do.

There will be a meeting soon for those participating in Genesee to evaluate proposals for how their funds will be used.

For more information, or to acquire your gift card, contact the coordinator in your building:

**Jean Lewis (Bergen) - 303-997-6003
Jane Cadwallader (Genesee) - 303-670-7371
Jeri Dufford (Genesee) - 303-674-7616**

WELCOME!

**Margaret Taylor – G 213
Jan Hatcher – G 114
Michael Cramer – B 113**