

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Rocky Mountain Village Estates • September, 2018

Meet Diana Aldridge

Maybe because she grew up in a family that simply stayed put in one house throughout her formative years, Diana Aldridge has always enjoyed moving. From her childhood home in Grosse Point Farms, Michigan, she didn't venture too far — changing addresses several times in Illinois, spending her more recent years in Hinsdale, southwest of Chicago.

She recalls that life centered around the lake as a child. “We lived near Lake Sinclair. We rode bikes down to the lake ... skated on the lake in the winter ... swam there in the summer.”

Armed with a teaching degree from the University of Michigan, she taught school (Kindergarten and second grade) in the Chicago area. “I loved it!” she said with enthusiasm, explaining, “The two different ages were terrific in different ways. Second graders were so funny, and Kindergartners were just dear.”

She married and raised two children before divorcing and returning to the work world. She'd been volunteering in the area of pet therapy at the Humane Society when a friend and board member suggested she apply for the newly created job of Executive Director. Not only was she the organization's first ED, she stayed in that position for 20 years before retiring. The organization had been around for 30 years at the time they took the plunge into paid leadership.

“I met some wonderful people through that,” she says, “both board members and volunteers.”



“I always loved animals,” explaining that a dog was always part of the family while growing up, and “there was a cat along the way.” Working around animals for more than two decades, she had to learn she couldn't take every cat and dog home that tugged at her heartstrings.

Diana wrote a column about animals for the local newspaper in Hinsdale once a month, and her picture showed up in the Chicago Tribune from time to time. Occasionally she'd appear on TV with pets or be interviewed when animal-related issues were in the news. As a result of her frequent interactions with the media, being interviewed for a profile in “The Voice” was not high on her list of things she especially wanted to do.

Ten years ago her daughter's residency in Evergreen was cause for Diana to relocate here upon her retirement, opting to buy and remodel a unit in Bergen.

Running into fellow resident Fran Sorenson in the garage was the start of her ten-year involvement with the Evergreen Garden Club. She's served on the board, acted as a docent in gardens on the biennial Garden Tour, and pulled weeds in many of the eight public gardens maintained around the community. Currently she's a garden leader, coordinating volunteers and work schedules for up to nine people who plant, water, and maintain the flowers and greenery in the traffic circle in Bergen Park.

For 6 ½ years, she worked at Mountain Daisy, a women's boutique in Bergen Park. Over the years she's helped some with landscaping at Rocky Mountain Village. In her spare time she enjoys prayer shawl knitting at Rockland Church, explaining that knitting is something she's done since she was 8 or 9 years old. Diana's a member of the PEO Sisterhood, acting as the group's historian. She's involved with the Evergreen Chamber Orchestra Guild, which meets at Rocky Mountain Village, bringing in musicians to perform once a month from September through May.

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“I close my eyes to old ends and open my heart to new beginnings.”

-- Nick Frederickson

Memo from the Manager

Getting down to the end of summer now. If you have known problems on your deck and I have not made it to you to inspect it yet, please give me a call or leave me a note so I can come directly to you and we can get any issues dealt with before winter. Thanks.

The lobby flooring projects have been put on hold for now.

Please welcome your two new Board members appointed recently – Brian Vitello will fill Fred Nyland's remaining term until January 2019 and serve as Vice President and Walt Weiss will fill Fran Pallesen's remaining term until January 2020 and serve as Secretary. We are proud and pleased to have them aboard.

Board meeting on the 20th at Bergen at 5:30.

-- Kathy

Aldridge continued

She enjoys walking around Buchanan Park and going on an occasional group excursion such as to hear the Colorado Symphony perform at Red Rocks Amphitheatre.

For someone who likes moving, Diana plans to stay put. "This is the longest I've lived anywhere" since raising her children.

"I LOVE it here!" she says. "I love my neighbors. What's nice about living here is that you can participate on any level. And if you choose not to get involved, no one bothers you."

Profile and photo by Linda Kirkpatrick.

WELCOME!

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