

Noble NEWS



As I write this, I see out my window that snow is falling. Perhaps it's a sign that as we approach winter, things will begin to return to normal, albeit slowly.

As we navigate this historic time, it is important to know that the team at Noble Horizons continues to provide the finest care in the area.

Throughout the past 10 months we have not only kept the Coronavirus away from all residents but the Centers of Medicare Services (CMS) awarded us another 5-Star rating recognizing our stalwart commitment to the highest standards.

We have maintained our financial integrity with Federal and State support made available to us and other businesses in Connecticut. Once the virus has passed, we look forward to welcoming you back to Noble. While we were unable to inaugurate the holiday season with the Auxiliary's Festival of Trees and Holiday Fair - nor enjoy the significant financial support they generate - we have found new ways to celebrate and share the holiday spirit on campus.

Since I have had the honor to serve at Noble, I have come to know and embrace the support from the surrounding communities during this wonderful and often, magical season. So many of us have faced a myriad of challenges throughout this year and together, as a truly genuine community, we have persevered. We enjoy and celebrate our role in the greater Salisbury area and we will continue to support the various entities, just as you have supported us through this challenging time.

Please believe in and continue to support our initiatives and most importantly, please be safe and steadfast in your safety practices for a little longer. We are so close to the finish line!

I wish you the very best during this holiday season.

Sincerely,

Bill Pond, Administrator and COO

Noble LIVING

While COVID prevents us from hosting on campus programs, we continue to offer exciting events digitally! Since the pandemic began, Noble residents and friends have enjoyed several book clubs with Hotchkiss teachers, exercise classes, favorite history scholars such as Hamish Lutris, collaborations with local organizations like Salisbury Bank and Scoville Library and much more, all from the comfort of their homes!

As the cold New England winter beckons, fitness is easily within reach whether through Noble's weekly balance class on Wednesdays, Thursday's exercise class with Suzanne Mazzarelli or chair



Above: Suzanne Mazzarelli
Owner of Be Well Community Yoga
in Canaan, CT

yoga on Fridays with popular Yoga at Space instructor, Eleanor Miller. Participants enjoy the exercise and chatting with friends virtually. Perhaps the greatest advantage is the opportunity to enjoy programs with friends and family all over the world!

"The beauty of distance learning is that I told my son and daughter-in-law about Keith Moon's Russian expertise and they participated in the course. They live in Washington, D.C... thank you for such a great experience."

Noble Richards, Cottager

Join us!

Please visit the events page on our website to find free programs to enjoy with your friends and family and please feel free to email Caroline Burchfield with program suggestions. We love hearing from you.

Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

Judy McKernon on Responsibility and FUN!



Volunteers have been integral to life at Noble Horizons since its founding almost 50-years ago, and the absence of the Noble Horizons Auxiliary during the pandemic has been especially difficult. For almost a quarter-century, the Auxiliary, whose president is Judy McKernon, a daughter of one of the Auxiliary's founding members, has inaugurated the holiday season so it seemed timely to share a recent conversation with Judy.

Judy's father, Tom Wagner, was a local attorney chosen to administer the John H. and Ethel G. Noble Charitable Trust, the purpose of which was to "provide a place for older people to live out their lives in pleasant, homelike surroundings". Her mother, Fran, played a critical role in the organization of the Noble Horizons' Auxiliary in 1975. Today Judy carries out the Auxiliary's founding mission which is to help make life for Noble Horizons residents as pleasurable and as fulfilling as possible.

Judy's inherited love for Noble Horizons manifested later in her life. She worked locally in the insurance industry while also earning a degree in clinical psychology. She spent ten years as a school psychologist in Vermont but returned to the insurance industry in Connecticut where she could be closer to her mom. Shortly after her mother's passing, Judy retired and was asked to become an Auxiliary Board member. She joined the Board as its Secretary and went on to assume several roles, including co-chair of the Festival of Trees and her current position as Board President.

"I feel a big responsibility especially because it was something my mom started. And of, course I love it. Friendships are built and it's just fun!"

Community and Responsibility

Judy feels strongly about honoring her mother's connection to the Auxiliary and one of her priorities is to attract younger members who can ensure that the organization her mother helped establish half a century ago will continue to enrich the lives of Noble residents for another 50 years. "I feel a big responsibility especially because it was something my mom started. And, of course, I love it. Friendships are built and it's just fun!"

Where does Judy see herself in the future? Living at Noble Horizons, of course! Her mother and sisters have lived at Noble and at some point, she expects to join her sister who now lives in a cottage. When not giving her time to the Auxiliary, Judy volunteers with a fund at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation that provides financial support to people struggling with medical bills. Helping others is the undercurrent in Judy's life and we are grateful for her exceptional commitment to Noble Horizons.



Team NOBLE

Leaving a Legacy of Love

On December 4th we wished long time Recreation Department member, JoAnna Whitmore, a happy retirement. JoAnna joined the Noble community nine years ago, following a long career at Sharon Hospital. "It was one of the best decisions I ever made. As soon as I got here, I felt so at home. Everyone here is so caring and dedicated."

Looking back, she adds, "I feel like I should always have been here. I am leaving with lots of love." JoAnna immediately felt comfortable at Noble. "I have always loved the elderly. My children grew up with older adults in our neighborhood. We

baked cookies for them, invited them for dinner. My kids were friends with them."

JoAnna is passionate about the residents in her care. "Little did I know how I was going to fall in love with them. I am so blessed that they were willing to share their life stories with me. I have learned so much from working here and being around them. They are definitely my second family."

While JoAnna never intended to end her career during a pandemic, it has given her yet another perspective on her work. "I overheard a resident say that there is a spirit amongst the staff - that we are here to keep them safe and the resident feels so grateful. Hearing this warmed my heart."

JoAnna has hinted that she may return to Noble as a volunteer or even per diem. "When it is safe, I want to return for all the hugs I'm missing out on!"

Noble GIVING

An Early Holiday Gift for Whitridge

The season of giving arrived early this year when Whitridge received the gift of a new 70-inch smart TV!

When a Noble friend learned that Whitridge needed a new TV, she anonymously arranged for delivery of a brand new TV with all the latest digital capabilities!

The new television will transform programs in Whitridge, offering rich musical experiences, interactive games, big screen movies and life-size Zoom visits with families and friends.

"Television provides many therapeutic benefits to residents living with memory loss. Programming of old movies and tv shows can trigger memories and stimulate brain activity. To see the smiles on their faces is priceless!" A second television is on the Whitridge holiday wish list; please contact Caroline Burchfield (860-435-9851, ext. 190 / email cburchfield@churchhomes.org) if you'd like to make a wish come true!



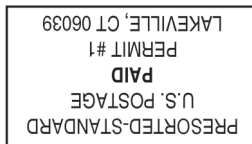


www.noblehorizons.org

Return Service Requested

Salisbury, CT 06068

17 Cobble Road






Noble STRONG

Enriching Lives - with your help

2020 has been a challenging year for all of us. The pandemic has been costly as we strive every day to keep COVID out and all who live at Noble safe. Beyond the increased COVID associated expenses (purchasing extensive PPE supplies, expanding staff responsibilities to meet COVID related needs, etc.), important fundraisers such as the Auxiliary's Festival of Trees have not been possible. That said, the Noble team, which has been dubbed **#NobleStrong**, has persevered, offering a haven from COVID for the men and women living at Noble.

Will you please join us by making a positive difference...every day at Noble Horizons by supporting one of our three key initiatives?

-  Continuing the renovation of the memory care area in Whitridge
-  Enhancing the Community Room, the center of our activities
-  Expanding resources for the Recreation program

To make a donation to **Noble Horizons**, please visit us online at noblehorizons.org or call **860-435-9851**. Thank you!