

THE LARK

August 2020

Meadowhill.net



MEET BARBARA MASSY



We continue our Meadow Hill series on nonagenarians – residents in their nineties. We are happy to have as a neighbor, Barbara Massy who lives in unit #203. She was born in 1927 in Jefferson City, Missouri, attended high school there and went on to the University of Missouri.

Since her college years, Barbara has been saying ‘yes’ to just about every opportunity that comes her way. Because of this, her 93 years have been rich and interesting and fun. Most of the opportunities that came her way were a result of her passion for the Spanish language. She learned Spanish in high school and college. This knowledge opened up doors to her that were unique and diverse.

Her first opportunity in 1948 was a job with the First National City Bank of NY in Mexico City, Mexico. After about a year she was asked to work at the U.S. Embassy there. In 1952 she was asked to work for three U.S. ambassadors in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, where she served for four years. After this, she was asked to work at the State Department in Washington D.C. as secretary to Henry Holland, the Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs. In this capacity she attended the Conference of 20 American Presidents in Panama travelling on Air Force Two with the Secretary of State and four other passengers. While she was in Panama she was unfortunately assigned to stay in her hotel room with the State Department safe. So she didn’t get to see much. However, she did sneak out with a friend to take a peek at the Panama Canal. (Are we impressed yet? This is what comes from saying ‘yes’ to opportunity.)

After a year with the State Department she joined Roberts and Holland, a New York City law firm. This is where she met her husband, Hamon.

Wait, we are not done yet. In 1952, Barbara said ‘yes’ to a position as assistant to the rector of St. George’s Church on Stuyvesant Square in New York City. In 1963, Hamon got a job at Pratt & Whitney in Connecticut which began her journey as a Glastonbury resident. While she lived in Glastonbury on Foote Road, she was a paralegal assistant to Gordon Ferguson at Tyler Cooper & Alcorn for 25 years. During this time, Hamon passed away. Following her retirement from the law firm in 1995, she worked for several years as bookkeeper at Meadow Hill Condominiums.

Barbara’s three daughters, Barbara, Fran and Lolly, all living in Connecticut, have given her 5 wonderful grandchildren.

Now that we have seen Barbara’s vast career choices, let’s see what she has done with her life since she moved to Glastonbury.

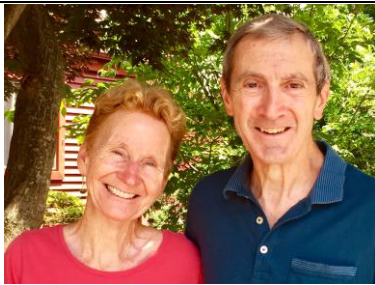
She has a passion for travel as you might expect. She has travelled much of the United States and has also travelled extensively abroad. A few, only a few, of the highlights are Greece, Japan, Israel/Egypt, Cuba, England and Ireland, New Zealand, China/Tibet/Vietnam, Italy and many other places. Are you inspired yet? I am!

How fortunate we are at Meadow Hill to have residents from rich and diverse backgrounds. Take the time to get to know Barbara and our other interesting neighbors.

You might expect Barbara's favorite quote to be:

"Life should not be a journey to the grave
With the intention of arriving safely
In a pretty and well preserved way.
But rather to skid in broadside,
In a cloud of smoke,
Thoroughly used up, totally worn out
And loudly proclaiming – Wow, what a ride!"
Quote by Hunter S. Thompson

GRANDPARENTS TO THE RESCUE!!



Grandparents are often known for bragging about their grandchildren. But let's flip that and brag about grandparents for a bit. At Meadow Hill, we can boast about three residents who rose to the challenge to help their grandchildren, who were forced into remote learning due to COVID19, with parents working full time in the same house.

This is exactly what Kathy and Mike McCarthy-Proulx did this spring. While they were still enjoying the warmer weather of Florida in March, their daughter and son-in-law found themselves dealing with children's anxiety and their own stress levels in West Hartford. Mike and Kathy's kids and grandkids drove to Florida and

secured a rental near them. That is when the McCarthy-Proulx's morphed into teacher/ grandparents.

Many children need structure in their learning while other children are fairly self-sufficient. The McCarthy-Proulx's found both in their 8, 11 and 13 year-old grandkids. The learning day typically ran from 9:30am to late afternoon, depending on how many "recesses" the kids had. They followed typical classroom traditions such as the Pledge of Allegiance and class songs. And they would all break for "linner" (lunch/dinner) as an entire family mid-day. The lessons were challenging to the kids – independent assignments, research papers, online connections with teachers and classmates and some video learning - on reading, writing, poetry, science, math, music and social studies. While Mike and Kathy learned a lot too on those subjects, they had to contend with laptop and iPad technology issues and working with Google Meets and Zoom videoconferencing. Oh my.

After five weeks, the extended McCarthy-Proulx family returned to CT, where Mike and Kathy continued their daily schooling assistance in West Hartford. But as exhausting as this three-month, daily work was for them, the grandkids joined Mike and Kathy for an overnight sleepover every Saturday, revealing that they were fun, as well as smart grandparents.

For a different kind of experience, consider Suzanne Litke, who has given remote learning assistance to her grandson in Rockport, Maine. As a long-time Language Arts instructor, Suzanne began working with her 7-year old grandson in March and continues her daily 90-minute Skype sessions with him through the summer in order to maintain his progress. As with the McCarthy-Proulx's, Suzanne has had to flex between teacher and grandparent but offers the incentive of playing online tic tac toe as a reward after working on reading for an hour. Suzanne enjoys seeing her grandson learning in the moment.



The energy and creativity needed to do what Mike, Kathy and Suzanne have done this year is remarkable, showing us all how we can find unexpected purpose in our lives. Marrying that purpose with family is just a bonus.

BERRIES AT MEADOW HILL



The Friends of the River Committee has planted ten blueberry bushes on the path to the river just before the bridge on the left. They are there for anyone living at Meadow Hill. Thank you to the committee members and enjoy!!!

LIBRARY UPDATE



The Welles-Turner Memorial Library plans to reopen to the public on Monday, August 3, 2020 with limited hours and services.

Reduced Library hours will be:

- Mondays & Fridays: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Tuesdays & Thursdays: 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Wednesdays: 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

All users must adhere to current CDC guidelines that include: (1) wearing a face mask that covers the nose and mouth; (2) maintaining a social distance of at least six feet. If you have any questions about Library services or these reopen plans, please visit the [Library website](#) or contact WTML staff at **(860) 652-7719**.

For those who prefer it, curbside pick-up is still available.

GAS STATIONS AND YOUR CAR ARE GERM CITY

According to the publication Real Simple, “Whether you’re popping downtown to fill up on groceries and gas, or headed out on a family road trip, you’re going to want to maintain a clean car and smart hygiene habits between point A and point B. Think about it. You’ve been keeping your home and self spick and span since the coronavirus outbreak-disinfecting surfaces, washing hands thoroughly, wearing a mask in public, and practicing social distancing. Now it’s time to bring all those responsible practices with you on the road, too.”



Important routines:

1. Have hand sanitizer at the ready. Clean your hands with it every time you’re done at the store, restaurant, or gas station.
2. Keep sanitizing wipes handy, too. Clean these major touch points every time you get in the car, the steering wheel, temp control knobs, touch screen, door handles, arm rests and cup holders.
3. Store a clean face mask or two in the car.
4. Use disposable gloves to pump your gas, then dispose of them properly afterwards.
5. Keep payments as clean as possible. Try your best to give exact change or tell them to keep the change. Keep your credit cards sanitized.

JOIN THE LARK COMMITTEE



Hopefully, you all have enjoyed reading the Lark publication once a month, learning about various people in our community, goings on, pertinent information about town activities, social occasions at Meadow Hill and lots of other things.

The committee is made up of four dedicated writers who take turns publishing the Lark plus one talented technical person doing setup. It may seem like a lot of work and that we all need to have experience with writing or journalism. That is the farthest thing from the truth. We

all have fun and meet some very interesting neighbors on our quest to publish the Lark. We invite you all to join in the fun and be part of this important committee. No experience necessary. Contact Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347.

SAVE MEADOW HILL EXPENSES

Get information sooner. Many Lark subscribers have not registered their email with Imagineers. (The Lark list and Imagineers list are separate and cannot be shared).

Imagineers can send many notices to you by email rather than paper. Every paper letter sent is an expense to Meadow Hill and it adds up. Call or email our Assistant Property Manager, Lauren Figge, 860-768-3313, and have your email added to their list.



SUBMITTING WORK ORDERS OVER THE WEB



Did you know you can submit work orders over the Web? And that you can check your Meadow Hill account online as well?

If you are comfortable with the web this is an advantageous way to submit work orders and check on their status. Some advantages: Nothing gets lost in translation when you type in your own work order; it saves Imaginers time; and you can submit or check on it anytime, day, night, weekends. You can also check the status of your Meadow Hill financial account.

Imagineers has a system to do this called Pitera. Pitera is available from the MeadowHill.net Contacts page or at: <https://app.pitera.com/>

The first time you will have to select Registration Request, then after a couple of business days, Imagineers will setup your account and you can logon and begin submitting work orders and checking status. So, why not request an account today and be ready when you need to submit your next work order!

Of course, if you are uncomfortable with using electronic tools you can always submit work orders by emailing or calling the Assistant Property Manager. Email is available at the MeadowHill.net Contacts page, phone numbers are available there and in the Lark.

BOARD REQUESTS AGENDA ITEMS TEN DAYS BEFORE BOARD MEETINGS

The Executive Board requests that agenda items, especially, owner requests for approvals, be sent to our manager, Sheila Duncan at least ten days in advance of Executive Board meetings. This is so that they can be included in the agenda, and so that the Board and the Grounds or Tree Committee can review them before the meeting. Requests submitted after that time may be deferred until the subsequent meeting.

MEADOW HILL COMMITTEES

Advisory committees play an important role in Meadow Hill. They provide information and work that improves Meadow Hill beyond what the Board and Manager can do without assistance. Below are the committee chairs, liaisons from the Board and Committee members. Let's all thank these community members for their work to make Meadow Hill a great place to call home.



Budget:

Larry Abbott, (chair)

Communications:

Gene Flynn, (Chair), Luther Weeks, (Liaison), Mike Proulx, Denise Weeks, Norma Flynn, Elaine Lembo, Linda Fillion

Grounds:

Mike Proulx, (Chair), Connie Liscomb, (Liaison), Jack Raycroft, Todd Blais, Norm Gordon, Kim Trela, Vicky Germani

Nominating:

Larry Abbott, (Chair), Connie Liscomb

Social:

Sandy O'Leary, (Chair), Hazel Brimley, Dick Brimley, Denise Weeks

Rules:

Luther Weeks, (Chair)

Stables:

Elaine Lembo, (Chair), Larry Abbott, (Liaison), Nancy Roberts

Trees:

Gene Flynn, (Chair), Toni Dolan, (Liaison), Roger Bouchard, Bob Kolwicz, Dave Faxon

Friends of the River:

Roger Bouchard, (Chair), Larry Abbott, (Liaison), Donna Goselin, Bob Kolwicz, Lynn Willsey, Beverly Willsey, Jane Marcin, Daren Hill, Marge DeMay, Dave Fillion

Maintenance and Amenities:

Luther Weeks, (Chair), Vin Liscomb, Bob Kolwicz

Greenhouse:

Sandy MacGregor, (Chair), Luther Weeks, (Liaison)

Vegetable Garden

Dave Fillion, (Chair), Larry Abbott, (Liaison)

Meadow Hill in Bloom



NOTICE TO UNIT OWNERS AND RENTERS



The board and staff are asking the residents of Meadow Hill to inform their guests, contractors and/or home health aides as to where to park their vehicles. Every effort should be made to park in designated parking areas rather than on roads and no vehicle should be parked in such a manner as to impede or prevent passage of motor vehicles on Meadow Hill roads. This is a safety issue. We appreciate your cooperation. For complete details on rules governing motor vehicles go to http://meadowhill.net/?page_id=13.

MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

Clubhouse and Hollister House – Closed until further notice due to the coronavirus.

Clubhouse and Hollister House Rentals - Rentals discontinued until further notice due to the coronavirus.

Lark Submissions Please contact Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347 for more information on submitting articles and notices.

Game Day – Cancelled. Usually held on the first Wednesday of the month from 1-3pm at Hollister House is cancelled until further notice due to coronavirus.

Book Club – Cancelled. Usually held on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 at the Clubhouse is cancelled until further notice due to Covid19.

We will be recommending two books a month for folks to read based on recommendations from book club members. This month's books are:

- “All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr, a Pulitzer Prize winner and
- “And They Called It Camelot: A Novel of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis” by Stephanie Marie Thornton, historical fiction, 2020.

Bingo – Cancelled.

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

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Asst. Property Manager: Lauren Figge
860-768-3313

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TREASURER
Larry Abbott
860-682-2543

DIRECTOR
Sandy O'Leary
860-916-0740

DIRECTOR
unfilled

To Email Management staff or Board Member click on <https://tinyurl.com/MHillContacts>

BOARD MEETINGS

Monthly Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm.

THE NEXT MEETING
August 19th

Current and previous meeting minutes can be found at www.meadowhill.net

Meetings will be electronic.

1:30 PM

Hard copy minutes are no longer available at the clubhouse due to the coronavirus.

Information on how to connect will be forthcoming from Imagineers.

Meeting Will be Electronic

Committees and Residents should submit agenda requests and reports to Imagineers 10 days before the monthly Board meeting.

To email Board Members or submit work orders refer to the MeadowHill.net.