

On the Prom

Summer Edition

Promenade Towers Quarterly

July 2014

Spring Cleanup at Promenade Towers



John McGarvey – Our Landscaping Contractor

Inside and outside, our place is looking good. Volunteers and contractors have been busy with spring cleaning and maintenance. John McGarvey, our landscaping contractor, and his crew have been trimming and mowing and putting down new mulch around plants and trees.

The guys in the photo below work for Eastern Carpet, the company that cleans our carpets every spring and comes here for emergency cleanups throughout the year. This summer they'll also clean the tile in the lobby and ground floor.



The windows in the common areas have been cleaned by yet another contractor. We can all take pride in the appearance of our buildings. Like the many amenities at Promenade Towers, this work is paid for by owners' fees.

Many of you know Don Lary who works for our cleaning service. Don (in photo below) is here every Monday and Friday. In the two days that Don is here he does an excellent job vacuuming,



mopping, polishing and cleaning up after us. On the days he's not here we are fortunate that residents clean up their own spills.

Summer is here—Time for fun by the pool



New resident Kathleen Kerr (above) and her guests had a cookout at the pool on a warm summer day.



Kathleen's daughter, Madeline, center in the above photo, cooled off in the pool with her friends.

Quarterly Profile



Vic and Lu Laprade #121

The first time Vic and Lu Laprade retired they sold their house and just about everything in it; not just the furniture, but even all the stuff in the cabinets and closets. Then they loaded up some personal possessions in a small U-Haul truck and drove from Chicago to Clearwater, Florida. Lu drove their car and Vic drove the truck. At one point along the way while stopped at a traffic light Lu looked up at Vic and the truck and started crying. She said, "I realized that after 28 years of marriage all my belongings are in that little U-Haul truck."

Vic and Lu, who met in high school in Vermont and started dating when they were 16 years old, have been married now for 49 years and consider themselves "best friends." After the first 28 years, when they retired and arrived in Florida, they bought a condo. Then they got back on the road. Vic said, "We decided to drive to every state we've never been to. We did it in six weeks."

Three years later Vic got a call from Gordon Brothers, a financial services company that focuses on retail. Prior to his retirement Vic worked in management for Sears for 28 years. He had the background the Boston-based company was looking for in its search for someone to go to Washington, D.C. to close down a Woodward and Lothrop department store. Since the job was only for ten days, Vic accepted and he and Lu went to D.C. The ten-day job turned into ten years. He and Lu traveled all over the country and to England, too, closing down stores.

Back when Vic worked for Sears and while their three kids were in school Lu went to design school.

"I started my own business," said Lu, "but we moved so often that it wasn't practical to keep the business." After one of the many moves she started working as a design consultant. Lu's talent as a designer is evident to anyone who has seen their stunning unit. Pictures of their renovations on the *Property* page of our website have inspired others in planning their own renovations.

Vic and Lu, who are seriously retired this time, spend winters in Sarasota, Florida where Vic is president of their association. In Florida they are active in their church and were involved in a fundraising project that raised six and a half million dollars for the church expansion. For five years they both volunteered for hospice. They also volunteered at Doctors Hospital in Sarasota.

This is their third summer at Promenade Towers. "It's so pretty here," said Vic. "We enjoy our deck and we like being close to downtown. We walk downtown almost every day." Lu said, "Our goal is 10,000 steps a day." In the last nineteen days they walked 170,000 steps. Walking, working, volunteering, having fun together! It's like Jim Croce's song *Time in a bottle*, a song about saving every day "just to spend them with you." That sounds like Vic and Lu, doesn't it?

Save the Date for the Annual Lawn Party

Mark your calendar: **Tuesday, July 15**. That's the date of the third annual lawn party. This popular event is organized by the Promenade Towers Social Committee: Neila Smith Rockwood; Tom Leonhardt; Dave and Sheila Mathieu; Carol Patterson; Howard Lowell; Megan Ladd; Lu Laprade and Mark Rockwood. These volunteers sure know how to throw a party!

Bridge Anyone?

Social Committee member Tom Leonhardt says some residents have expressed an interest in forming a group to play bridge. If you are interested, email Tom: tleonhardt@maine.rr.com.

Hello to New Neighbors

Welcome to new residents: Kathleen Kerr; Louise Backer & Nicholas Ciciretti; Ken and Shelley Burek; Eric Junker; Alex Cornell du Houx & Morgan Rogers; Tanner Hoch & Liz Pagano; Owen & Chris John; Pat Dillenback; Dave Ritter; and Marlies Heitmann.