

# On the Prom

Spring Edition

Promenade Towers Quarterly

April 2015

## Bicycle Storage Room Project Completed



Another Great Amenity at Promenade Towers

What a makeover! Compare the room in the above photo with the “before” photo below showing the room when the project was just getting started. See the saunas on the left and some of the lockers on the right?



The area in the “before” photo had both men’s and women’s locker rooms, saunas and bathrooms. Now the saunas and lockers are gone and there is just one bathroom with an entrance outside the bike room. The door to the bike room has a lock with a combination that is given to residents who have registered their bikes with the office.

Most of the work on the project was done by outside contractors, but residents also contributed to the transformation. Len Ney and John Rastl directed the project and worked alongside other volunteers—Nick and Rebecca Ciciretti, Barry

Glew, Judith Rastl and, of course, our maintenance custodian Joe Coyne.



The bathroom (shown above) will be available for contractors and appreciated this summer by residents who want to shower after using the pool. A bolt lock shows when the bathroom is in use.



The bicycle room with multiple bike racks and a security camera in the hall outside the door is an excellent new amenity for Promenade Towers.

## Recycle Program a Welcome Benefit

Our new recycle program is not only good for the environment; it is also a financial benefit for our Association. Since we started the program last September, we have reduced the amount of trash so much that we’ve gone from three to two trash dumpsters. We started with one recycle pickup a week, but quickly learned that we needed twice-weekly pickups.

Since trash pickups cost more than recycle pickups, residents are saving the Association over \$100 a month. Way to go!

## Quarterly Profile



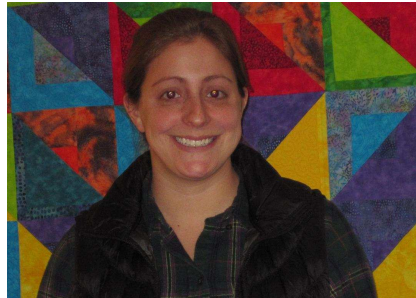
Louise Backer & Nick Ciciretti #136

Nick Ciciretti makes a mean cheesecake. That's what his daughter, Rebecca says. Don't get excited about tasting it, though. Nick only makes one cheesecake a year. "He's made it for my birthday every single year for the past 32 years," said Louise Backer.

Louise and Nick met in Philadelphia in 1982. She was working for the federal government for the Centers for Disease Control and he worked for the city of Philadelphia as an air pollution control engineer. Last September they celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Bar Harbor, Maine. Louise said, "I fell in love with Maine when I was a kid and went to summer camp in Cornish."

Nick and Louise moved to Portland when they bought their condo here last July, and they're already involved in volunteer work. They are ushers at Merrill Auditorium, and they have signed up with Wayside Food Programs to do food drives. Here at Promenade Towers Nick and their daughter,

Rebecca (shown in the photo here), were among the volunteers who painted the new bike storage room.



Rebecca just finished graduate school and has a Fulbright grant through the State Department. She'll be in Santiago, Chile for nine months to do research on the effects of air pollution on

children's health. She was here for Christmas, along with her sister, Alexa, who is a cello performance major in graduate school at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. Alexa and Rebecca traveled with Nick and Louise to Orlando to celebrate the holidays at The Wizardly World of Harry Potter.

Before Nick and Louise decided to buy a home on Munjoy Hill, they did a lot of research on locations in Portland. Louise said, "We wanted to move to a place where we could walk to restaurants and to the symphony." When they go to Merrill Auditorium, they don't drive; they walk. They even walk across Casco Bay Bridge to go to Bug Light.

Being by the water is one of many things they like about living at Promenade Towers. They also appreciate the fitness room and the new bike room. Nick says, "I think the bike room is a great feature for the Towers and is a good way to promote healthy living." Louise adds, "We are also thrilled that we have a recycling program here."

Even though Louise works full time and Nick teaches at Southern Maine Community College three days a week, they find the time for their volunteer work and other activities. Nick enjoys running and says he did the Back Cove Race Series. They both like cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking, and Louise likes quilting. Her quilts on the walls of their condo (like the one in that picture of Rebecca) are beautiful works of art. She also enjoys cooking. I asked Nick if he cooks, and Rebecca chimed in, "He makes pizza." Oh, and let's not forget the once-a-year cheesecake, his excellent birthday gift to Louise.

### Residents Gather to Watch Blizzard

The day of that first huge storm in January, Sheila Mathieu came up with the idea to have a wine party in the front lobby. The word spread and residents brought their own drinks and glasses and gathered that evening to watch the blizzard and the snow plows outside our front windows. It was a good night to be inside, visiting with friends by the fireplace.

### Hello to New Neighbors

Welcome to new residents: Katrina Desjardins & Mario Martinez