

Guest Column by Jan Metcalf

Why I'm proud to live at Pinehurst

I owned houses for 43 years, my whole adult life. And since 1990, I was living in a townhouse in Fairport with a finished basement, and lots of stairs and a sloping driveway. It got to be a real chore to go up and down stairs, take the garbage out and get the mail in the winter. So Pat and I decided it was time to look for a safer and easier place to live, but where we could still be independent.

We spent a lot of time researching and visiting places around the Rochester area, and it took us over a year to find Pinehurst. But I'm so glad we did – we have a comfortable apartment, balcony and my piano, and our cats feel right at home. The location is perfect, too, and we've really come to love Honeoye Falls because it's so friendly and walkable.

But the location and amenities are not what define Pinehurst for me. It's the people, especially during these last months with COVID-19. There was a lot of fear in the beginning and it was comforting to not be alone. As the community "shut down," we had everything we needed right here, including meals that were delivered from the dining room to our apartment.

It was also very reassuring that the staff immediately took action by creating new infection controls and putting safety procedures in place, and communicating with us all along the way. As a retired medical technologist and medical writer, I know how easy it could be to catch the virus, especially in an environment where people live close together. But the Pinehurst staff and fellow residents took things very seriously – which provided us with real peace of mind. It was reassuring to see everyone here following the safety guidelines, including wearing their masks.

At one point, visitation was restricted which was difficult for many, especially because the community was



Jan Metcalf has been a Pinehurst resident since 2018. Photo provided by Pinehurst

closed as well. The activities here were first limited, then postponed, and are now restarting – which we are very happy about – even though we don't participate in everything, we have our favorites.

Throughout this pandemic, we had each other and the staff to lean on – if we needed it – and we are so glad that we chose to live in a place where we were not alone. And now with the community continuing to reopen, we're all still being careful and wearing our masks, but we're able to gather in small groups and have visitors. The staff here is doing such a great job looking after us. We never felt alone during this pandemic, which was very comforting. We trust that they really care, and take our health and best interests to heart. I feel confident that we'll get through this just fine.

As I look back on the beginning of this pandemic, and how things are still being handled, I'm so proud to live at Pinehurst. I would like to thank all the staff at Pinehurst for all their good work, my neighbors for their friendship and all of our friends in the community for their support.

Wheatland Historical presents program on "Seven Famous People From Rochester Plus One Four-Footer"

Don Schilling, popular speaker and author, and past Brighton School District principal, will present a fascinating look at some of Rochester's most notables. Mr. Schilling has authored 19 books on the history of Rochester people and events, as well as

one about the Erie Canal. The program starts at 7:00pm on October 15th and held in the Banquet room of the Genesee Country Village & Museum, 1410 Flint Hill Rd., Mumfords, NY. The program is free and open to the public. Arrive early and stop in at the

Flint Hill shop from 6 to 7pm. Hosted by Wheatland Historical Association and Genesee Country Village & Museum. For more information, contact whascottsville@gmail.com or call 571-4936.

Livingston County Board of Elections Reminds Residents of Voting Options for General Election

The Livingston County Board of Elections would like to remind residents of voting options as Election Day on November 3, 2020 draws near.

Absentee Ballot

You can now apply for an absentee ballot under "temporary illness" if you wish to avoid voting in person because of the COVID-19 pandemic or due to risk of illness to yourself or others. You must select the temporary illness portion of the absentee ballot application. Applications can be found at <https://www.livingstoncounty.us/123/Board-of-Elections> and can be either completed online or downloaded and mailed to the Board of Elections.

Livingston County voters wishing to drop off completed absentee ballots can do so at the Livingston County Board of Elections, Monday – Friday, 8AM – 4PM. Extended hours will be available during early voting and on Election Day.

If you need assistance in marking your absentee ballot, you may call the Livingston County Board of Elections at 585-243-7090 and make an appointment to utilize a ballot

marking device.

During early voting, there will be a staff member monitoring the corridor for voters dropping off ballots only. The ballot will be taken from the voter, time-stamped, and secured.

On Election Day, you can drop off your ballot at a poll site. An inspector at the entrance of the poll site will take the voted ballot and secure it in a ballot bag labeled for that purpose thus avoiding any delay to the voter.

Early Voting

Voters may choose to vote early and in-person for the 2020 General Election. The early voting poll site is located at the Livingston County Board of Elections, 6 Court Street, Room 104, Genesee, NY 14454. Early voting dates and hours are as follows:

- Saturday, October 24 – 9AM to 2PM
- Sunday, October 25 – 9AM to 2PM
- Monday, October 26 – 8AM to 8PM
- Tuesday, October 27 – 8AM to 4PM
- Wednesday, October 28 – 8AM

to 8PM

Thursday, October 29 – 8AM to 4PM

Friday, October 30 – 8AM to 4PM

Saturday, October 31 – 9AM to 2PM

Sunday, November 1 – 9AM to 2PM

Polling Sites

You can vote in person at your designated polling site on Election Day. Go to the website listed below to view an interactive polling site locator for Livingston County residents.

A list of sample ballots for the General Election by town can be found at <https://www.livingstoncounty.us/123/Board-of-Elections>. **Please be reminded that you cannot change your vote once it is cast.** Be sure to verify your choices before you submit your ballot.

For more information on voting in the General Election, we encourage you to call the Livingston County Board of Elections at 585-243-7090 or visit its website.

Livingston County is Reminding Residents of Importance of Public Health Orders as Fall Season Approaches

As the fall season quickly approaches, Livingston County officials would like to remind residents to follow public health orders amid the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

"Residents have a moral and legal responsibility to adhere to guidance and restrictions," commented Chairman of the Livingston County Board of Supervisors, David L. LeFeber. "With a slight uptick in positive cases over the last few weeks and schools reopening, we want to reinforce the critical importance of isolation and quarantine and the necessity of resident buy-in and compliance in this process. For us to be successful as a county in this gradual reopening process, we must be smart, civic-minded and prudent."

Individualized legal orders to isolate and quarantine due to COVID-19 are issued under the local Public Health Officer's authority to limit the spread of communicable disease. Jennifer Rodriguez, Livingston County Public Health Director, is the designated Public Health Officer in

Livingston County. "To truly flatten the curve, it is critical for all residents to fully comply with these Orders and do their part to protect public health in their own community," said Rodriguez.

Isolation is a critical component of reducing the spread of COVID-19 by separating sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. Close contacts to persons with COVID-19 are defined as individuals who:

Live in or have stayed at the positive case's residence; or

Are determined, by the County's disease control program through contact tracing, to be persons requiring quarantine.

It is important to distinguish that the contact has to have occurred while the positive case was determined to be infectious. A case is infectious from 48 hours before an affected individual's symptoms began and until the

individual is released from isolation.

While these orders are, of course, important and valuable in the protection of public health, they also carry the weight of law. Those breaking quarantine and isolation can face fines up to \$10,000.

"Yes, you might be a confirmed positive but feel fine. Yes, your close contacts might feel fine and also be asymptomatic. But remember, those with underlying health conditions and those that are elderly are very susceptible to the damaging impacts of this virus. Cavalier and care-free attitudes of those with positive test results are placing those vulnerable populations at risk. Please continue to do your part to help slow the spread," concluded Rodriguez.

For more information on isolation and quarantine protocols, please contact the Livingston County Department of Health at 585-243-7270.

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