



**\$100 Drawing – Friday, September 18, 2020**  
**THE WINNER: WINNER – JACQUELINE B. TICKET #293**

**\$150 Drawing – Friday, September 25, 2020**  
**WINNER – BUTCH C. TICKET #317**

**\$250 Drawing – Friday, October 2, 2020**

**\$500 Drawing – Friday, October 9, 2020**

**\$1,000 Drawing – Friday, October 16, 2020**

**\$10,000 GRAND PRIZE DRAWING Friday, October 23, 2020**

*Congratulations to our winners so far and good luck to all ticket holders!*

# Strollings

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



FALL 2020



## Feeling Alone?

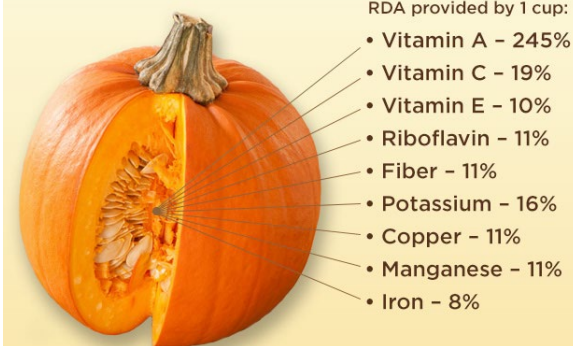
Many of us are feeling more alone now than ever. The Institute on Aging offers a 24-hour toll-free Friendship Line that connects you with a friendly emotional support person to speak with to ensure you feel safe and valued.

Give them a call at **1-800-971-0016**

Don't Let those Pumpkin Spice Lattes Fool Ya...

## Pumpkins are Healthy

(And Here's the Proof!)



### Resident Bulletin Board

Are you able to run errands for a neighbor?  
 Do you have an item you would like to sell?  
 Are you looking for someone to help carry in groceries from the car?  
 Post your notices on the Resident Bulletin Board, located across from the library.  
 Remember to keep a healthy social distance!



### NEW RESIDENTS

Please give a warm welcome to the following residents who recently joined the Cedar Lane Community:

**Audrey N.**

**Tim L.**

## Suzanne Lawrence

### Still Playing in the Dirt

"I'm not happy unless I have dirt under my fingernails," jokes Suzanne Lawrence, as she clears fallen leaves from the garden area outside the library window. Before she and her husband Jack made the move to Cedar Lane, Suzanne kept her green thumb busy tending to more than an acre of property. "I loved it, but it got to be too much." Now she tends to the community's patio planter boxes and garden areas, which are just the right size. "There is something very rewarding about being outside and seeing things grow," she said, remarking that the sunflowers were probably her favorites.



## Three Ways to Vote on Election Day

### VOTE BY MAIL



- Complete your Ballot
- Sign It, Seal It, Send It
- Return your Ballot
  - US Post Office
  - Drop box locations

### VOTE DURING EARLY VOTING



October 26-November 2  
 7 am to 8 pm  
 Hollywood Firehouse  
 24801 Three Notch Road  
 Hollywood, MD 20636

### VOTE ON ELECTION DAY



Tuesday, November 3, 2020  
 Vote centers will be open from 7 am to 8 pm on Election Day.



**Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 1, 2020, at 2:00 A.M.**  
**On Saturday night, set your clocks back one hour to "fall back."**

## Meet Lynn Pawlowitz

### Accounts Receivable Specialist

Prior to joining Cedar Lane, Lynn worked for a construction company in Dunkirk and an electric company in Harwood. This past February, she was married to her husband Tim in Antigua. "We have seven children between us but only one still living at home," she said. In her free time, Lynn enjoys entertaining, cooking and music. She is an avid cyclist who has logged more than 800 miles so far this year. She is also learning to sail. "My husband and I sailed to Onancock and Cape Charles, Virginia for our summer vacation. We have goals of sailing to the Caribbean once we retire." Please join us in welcoming Lynn!





## RESIDENT Stories

Interesting People. Fascinating Lives.



### Lori Davis Grew up in a Toxic Town

*Lori Davis spent her first 14 years of life in the town of Hinkley, California, the community that inspired the major motion picture 'Erin Brockovich' starring Julia Roberts. The movie chronicles real life events involving a cover-up of contaminated water, which caused devastating illnesses among the community's residents. Here is Lori's story.*

↑ Lori is pictured here with the real Erin Brockovich, a legal clerk who, despite her lack of education in the law, was instrumental in building a case against the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) of California in 1993.

Located in the Mohave Desert, Hinkley was one of those small towns where everyone knew each other. Today it is a veritable ghost town. Looking back, Lori now realizes that her brother's severe nosebleeds were the first sign that something just wasn't right in Hinkley.

"At the time, we all thought the nosebleeds were normal for him," she said. "Then we noticed all of our chickens, rabbits and turkeys started to die. Everyone shrugged it off, thinking maybe they got a bad batch of food. Around the age of 11, my sister and I began to walk funny."

When she was 14, Lori's family relocated to Maryland. When she attempted to start 10<sup>th</sup> grade, she was told she couldn't attend public school without first seeing a medical professional. "I went to Georgetown Hospital and was diagnosed with 26 different muscular disorders," she said. At the time, they had no idea Lori's health issues were tied to her hometown.

Those familiar with the movie will recall that in 1993, a determined legal clerk named Erin Brockovich began investigating an apparent cluster of illnesses in Hinkley, which were linked to hexavalent chromium, a rust inhibitor used by PG&E, and dumped into adjacent holding ponds, which eventually contaminated the ground water.

"One day my aunt called and told my mother about the lawsuit happening in California. We learned that a lot of people from Hinkley had developed cancer, had respiratory issues and were walking funny," Lori recalls. "As part of that lawsuit, I was finally tested by a doctor familiar with the adverse health effects of hexavalent chromium. She confirmed that I had chromium 6 poisoning and that is why my sister and I were slowly deteriorating over time. They had proof that the chemical was slowing damaging me."

In June 1996, about 650 plaintiffs from Hinkley won \$333 million in an out-of-court lawsuit settlement with San Francisco-based Pacific Gas & Electric Co. It was the largest legal settlement of its kind at the time, widely portrayed as a "David versus Goliath victory." While people around the country had visions of residents receiving millions of dollars, the attorneys were rewarded about 40 percent of the settlement.

Despite the significant challenges that life has thrown her way, Lori manages to find reasons to smile. Chief among those reasons are her two sons and five grandchildren, none of whom have suffered any ill health effects, which Lori describes as "a huge relief and a huge blessing."



### Sharon Best Moves into Cedar Lane, Earns a Dual Master's Degree

A lifetime of hard work ends, for most, in retirement. Not for Sharon Best. Instead of seeing retirement as a time of endless leisure, she views it as a chance to grow as a person and contribute to society.

Having become deeply involved with her church, Sharon felt a calling to do more. At the age of 66, she earned dual master's degrees in theology and psychology through Grand Canyon University.

"The hardest part was the reading. We had reading assignments every Thursday and Friday with follow-up questions on Saturday. We were always busy," Sharon says. "One time my dog Gigi, who was feeling ignored, grabbed the book right out of my hands!"

As if two master's degrees were not impressive enough, Sharon plans to go back to school in pursuit of her doctorate in theology. "With this COVID thing keeping us all stagnant, I'm going to take more classes starting next month," she said. We believe you can change the world, Sharon! The community is exceedingly proud of you.



### Sharon Berger A Beach Day with Bite

Sharon Berger and her husband Logan used to spend several months each year travelling in an RV. They made frequent trips to Florida for the beaches and shell collecting. A trip to the Tampa area in April of 2000, however, gave them something even more to remember.

"I was in the water to about my knees. There weren't many people on the beach at that time," Sharon remembers. "I felt a bite on the back of my leg. I looked down and saw a shark that must have been about four feet long. Suddenly everything was red all around me." Sharon kept her cool as she exited the water, examined the minor bite wounds, and called her son for advice. "My son is a doctor, so when I came out of the water, he told me to wrap my leg in a towel to stop the bleeding. Later I bandaged it up properly," Sharon said.

Sharon's daughter Dawn recalls calling her mother at that very moment so she could share the news that she was expecting her second child. Dawn said, "She told me she was standing on one leg because the other was bleeding from a shark bite. I told her I would talk to her later!"

Sharon says she sees shark encounter stories all the time on TV, and can't believe it actually happened to her. Did this attack keep her from enjoying Florida's beautiful beaches? Heck no. "Two years later we went back to that same spot and I went right in the water again!"



Cedar Lane is filled with interesting people who have done interesting things. Do you have a story to share with your neighbors in a future issue of Strollings? We want to hear about it! Please call the Front Desk and ask for Jen Bruckler.