

Whitinsville Retirement Society Inc.

FALL 2024



APPROACHING 50

**COME CELEBRATE
OUR GOLDEN
JUBILEE GALA !!!**

Dinner, program and music in
Mendon MA's elegant, waterfront

GRAND VIEW

**SPACE IS LIMITED – contact WRSI
for tickets TODAY!**

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21

In the frigid months of early 1975 a group of hearty souls from local churches banded together forming a vision to lovingly care for the elderly population within their congregations and broader community. Their first meeting, for the purpose of forming a society to establish a retirement complex in Whitinsville, was on January 30 in the Fairlawn Christian Reformed Church.

An interim committee of six people, out of the 65 present, was elected. Afterwards, they made an offer on the nine-acre Mason property on Chestnut Street, which was for sale at that time. On February 13, the interim committee decided to incorporate within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and did so just a week later on Friday, February 21, 1975 as the "Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CONTINUED FROM COVER: On March 6, members of the corporation were notified that the Whitinsville Retirement Society Inc's bid to purchase the Mason property had been accepted, and proposed by-laws were also adopted. During the next several months, funds were solicited from members and friends for a down payment on the property. On July 1, the title of the same was taken in the name of the corporation. By July 31, the first director/coordinator of the retirement home had been hired and renovations on the existing 20 room home were being undertaken. On October 21, our first resident moved in, two more joining in November, and another two in early 1976. The retirement home was off and running— God is good!

On February 22, 1977 the Board of WRSI authorized a loan application from Farmers Home Administration to construct 24 units of "independent housing" for the elderly on the property. By July of 1980, the independent housing complex was completed and being occupied. The retirement home had enough rooms for nine residents, with construction underway to make rooms for an additional 15 residents, including a small apartment for a director's residence. God is good!

Jump ahead nearly five decades to the Fall of 2024, just a few months from existing for 50 years, and as always God is good! To extol His goodness, dedication and love, the current Board of WRSI has authorized a Golden Jubilee Gala as the first of multiple events throughout our upcoming 50th year. Our Gala event will be held at the elegant Grand View in Mendon, MA on the evening of Friday February 21st. There will be hors d'oeuvres, reminiscing, multi-course dinner, a program honoring our past/present/future, music and more. Space is limited. Contact WRSI (508-234-6381) for tickets or more information. If you can't attend, or even if you can, consider sponsoring a resident or being a gold/silver/bronze sponsor of our Gala event or Golden Jubilee itself. No- this event is not a fundraiser...Yes- this event is a time to celebrate our year of Jubilee. God is Good!

THANK YOU VETERANS



Resident Artwork



THE COOK'S CORNER

I would have to say that my time cooking here has been a fun and interesting experience. Jeannine hired me in March of 2020, yes during Covid. As those days were trying for all of us, we survived it and we're all happy that time has gone by. In the past, I used to cook for hundreds of people at a time, whether it was dance groups or rock groups, to cooking in resorts, cooking in people's homes, this was a new experience!

In my 20's I cooked for Rock 'n Roll bands such as: Roy Orbison, Crystal Gayle, Cheap Trick, U2, The Tubes, B52's, Warren Zevon, Joe Perry Project, Pat Benatar, The Beach Boys to name a few. I went to Paul Smiths College for Chef Training and Hotel Restaurant Mgt., but was injured numerous times on the job through the years. I never thought I'd be able to work in a professional kitchen again until I came across the WRH. There are just enough people here for me to cook for these past four years, and every day is a blessing that I can come to work and cook for my new "stars"! Jeannine lets the cooks and the residents bring in our/their own recipes to cook. One day in December, I brought in a Chocolate Revel Bars recipe, made them and was sharing with Jeannine that my mother used to make these during Christmas time. Later she had a worker in her office and offered him a cookie and he said, "Do you happened to have Chocolate Revel Bars?" as he remembered them from his family making them. She said our cook just made them!! Funny coincidence!

The other day I brought in a Ratatouille recipe, and shared with the residents that this was one of my father's favorite dishes. They all enjoyed it! A few of our residents from past and present have brought in recipes and they all enjoy the recipes they used to make for their families and/or themselves prior to them living here. Some of our residents have more challenging diets than others, but I figure it out with them and encourage the residents to speak up if something is not correct with their meal, or if they want something else before their supper is served. I love working with the volunteers as well as the staff. Everyone is friendly and helpful.

- Geri

ROLLING WITH ROLLY G

As one of the newer Board members of WRSI, I would like to make several observations. First of all, the staff lead by Jeannine are extremely helpful, hard working and a pleasure to be around. Their goal is to serve, and day in and day out they work to provide a home atmosphere for the residents. They provide delicious meals, tea time and many activities. They work very hard to meet the needs of the residents making them feel at home.

Second– the residents are very happy and engaged. I always hear friendly conversation and see a big smile on their faces when they are together, or when a visitor comes to spend some time with them. The meals they share together promotes friendship and fellowship. Many residents are relieved and thankful to have the burdens of taking care of a house removed so they can enjoy the great care they receive. Moving into the apartments is also a relief. They are able to manage the smaller living space and have the opportunity to spend time with other residents if they want to.

Third– the grounds and buildings are very beautiful and well maintained. As I walk around the home, I am struck by the architecture and woodwork. The rooms where the residents gather are warm, friendly and inviting for fellowship and friendship. I thank God for this wonderful place where our senior members can live and experience the joy of care and dignity. I believe WRSI is fulfilling its mandate to provide that place for our senior members.

JEANNINE'S JOURNEY

In 1990 I was working for the Blackstone Valley Tribune and was fortunate to stumble upon a garage at the rear of 10 Chestnut St that was home to a little second-hand shop run by some very special women. Beyond the items for sale, the true draw for me was the welcoming kindness of the ladies I would encounter working there. Fast forward a few years, to when I was a new mother venturing out on a warm summer day to visit the little shop and introduce my daughter to the ladies. After a short visit, I secured my little one into her car seat, locked the door and swung it closed and realized I left the car keys sitting on the seat, I was in a real panic! It was now a hot summer day and she was now locked in the car with the windows closed. The ladies at the shop comforted me reasoning that, "The car was in the shade; all would be well." They called the local police station and while we waited, the ladies played peek-a-boo through the window with my daughter to keep her entertained. As promised, all worked out well!

Over the years, I came back to visit or to shop, but honestly, never gave much thought about this wonderful place called the Whitinsville Retirement Society, but that was about to change. Job postings for the Home caught my attention from time to time as I continued to visit. My children grew and moved into their adult lives and I went back to work. Years later, a cooking position was posted, before I could even think, I was on the phone, and had an interview scheduled. I remember asking myself, "What am I doing?" I could not shake the feeling that this entire situation was beyond my control. I remember feeling very emotional when I entered the Home and I told the Director, "I don't know why I am here". Before I knew it, I was cooking, then doing the bookkeeping, and helping in all ways needed. A few months before Covid, the Director, at that time, resigned. She had mentioned to me months earlier that she was making plans to leave. She suggested that I would be a good replacement. I dismissed the idea as it was more than I wanted to take on. You can guess how that turned out....



During the spring of 2023, I took a leave of absence to care for my daughter and grandchildren. Jennae, my daughter, lost her right leg above the knee after a recurring osteosarcoma tumor grew around her tibial nerve. Previously she'd had multiple surgeries to remove the cancer in an attempt to save her leg but the tumor grew back leaving her with no other option but amputation. I can't even begin to explain how this community loved and supported my family through this very difficult time! We received cards of encouragement, prayers, and meals. We could feel the community support and love for us. The staff, Board, and volunteers pulled together to keep things running smoothly. I felt so blessed and full of gratitude for this community. As I reflected on that time and Jennae worked toward her healing, I was reminded of what drew me to be here. It's the sense of community, love and care for one another, faith, and trust that "All will be well...." To God be the praise!

Sincerely, Director Jeannine Crawford

Become a member today!

Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters;

With loving residents living together independently, we're rapidly approaching our golden anniversary— in a few months the Whitinsville Retirement Society will move into its fifth decade! We hope and pray the Whitinsville Retirement Home and Elderly Apartments continues to bless those entering their doors as well as their larger nearby community.

The Whitinsville Retirement Home provides a loving atmosphere within a homelike setting and includes all meals, housekeeping, weekly laundry, and basic cable service. Each resident has a private room and bath, along with several common social areas, which allows for both carefree living and companionship.

The Whitinsville Elderly Apartments offer individuals secure, comfortable living in a pleasant environment at a very reasonable rent. Amenities include laundry facilities, inside mailboxes, a community room for both informal gatherings and special functions and even a gazebo where they can enjoy the beautiful grounds.

Currently a six-member Board of Directors oversees both the Retirement Home and the Elderly Apartments. Typically, between six and nine board members volunteer to serve a three-year term, and each year two or three new members are elected to replace those completing terms. Please prayerfully consider being a part of the Board or a Committee (using the form below) serving to support the mission of this wonderful establishment.

To those of you who are members, your prayers and financial support of the Whitinsville Retirement Society (a non-profit organization) continue to be a blessing to those who live there and to those who someday hope to make it their home. To those who are not currently a member, we would like to ask you to consider joining. To become a member, simply complete the form at the bottom of this letter or visit our website and join online. Details for either method are found below. If you would like to support the Society in more tangible ways in addition to being a member, please note that on the membership form or speak with a board member.

The residents love visitors, we encourage you to take time to visit. Please pray for the residents, staff, Board and Committees as they work together to make the Home and Elderly Apartments the best places they can be.

Sincerely,

WRSI Board of Directors

Randy DeVries, Rolly Gjeltrema, Wendy Groot, Tom Kuik, Scott Schneider & Susan Smith



To join this year or renew your membership, please mail this portion with your check (made payable to the Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc.) to: Whitinsville Retirement Society, Inc., 10 Chestnut Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588 or visit our website (www.whitinsvilleretirement.com) then under the "Payments" tab select "Society Membership" and populate the form to complete your membership online!

Name: _____	Annual Membership:	\$35.00
Address: _____	Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ _____
_____	Other:	\$ _____
Email Address: _____	Total:	\$ _____

I am interested in serving on a Committee or the Board of Directors (please check one):

Yes - I am interested in a **Committee** or **Board** (please circle one or both)

No - Not at this time

Possibly - Please call me with more information @ (_____) _____ - _____