

Spotlight Continued - Joe Powers

When Joe graduated, he made his living in food sales distribution. A couple of years after moving to Saugus, Joe met Joan, a beautiful, Italian, nurse at a Greek dance. Joe soon asked her to be his wife and after marrying, they started the family that produced two girls, one boy; and at present count, eight grandchildren.

For thirty years, Joe traveled the roads throughout New England and half of New York to sell food for business use, and eventually directed a large sales team himself. Joe and Joan had always planned to live on the Cape after retirement. Strategically, they purchased a home in Sandwich and lived there over twenty years before downsizing to a condo in Mashpee.

With a twinkle in his eye, Joe described wonderful friend and family vacations at his Cape home - all without him having to travel! With satisfaction, Joe expressed pleasure that his children and grandchildren emulate the fine family values that he and Joan brought them up with.

Joe is now making Decatur House his new home. When you welcome this proud man, of particular taste, remember, Joe isn't picky. He just remembers where he came from.



Joe with his children

Grampa Joe

Joe's grandkids

AUGUST 2025



DECATUR HOUSE

Assisted Living in Sandwich Village

Around the House

Community SPOTlight

JOE POWERS



Joe considers himself a man with a sense of humor and is described by his family as funny, loyal, Irish proud and a little picky. He enjoys watching baseball with the guys, playing cards – poker and hearts, and attends Christ the King church most weekends.

Joe was born and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts by three parents: his mother, an intelligent, hard-working elementary school teacher, his father-a just and fair-minded police officer, and his grandmother, who lived in the upper unit of a two-decker home.

Growing up, Joe spent a lot of time with his grandmother: listening to her stories, eating her cooking, and identifying with her loyalty to her homeland, Ireland. She had escaped a famine, and built a life in America, where she raised her family on traditional soda bread and simple recipes; many made with delicious potatoes.

Joe's grandmother had never forgotten where she came from. She had also never forgotten her faith. In fact, one of Joe's favorite memories of her is walking his grandmother to mass and being an altar boy at her church.

Joe had a deep respect for his father, and a desire to emulate his values and morales. One fatherly kindness Joe remembers fondly: when he was seventeen, his parents purchased a home in Saugus, Massachusetts, but his father commuted for a full year so Joe could graduate from school in Cambridge.

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Fire Safety at Decatur House

In light of the recent tragic fire in Fall River, Decatur House is assuring residents that their safety is our top priority.

At our recent Resident Meeting, Sarah reviewed our Fire Safety & Evacuation Plan. In August, we will have a simulated fire drill with the Sandwich Fire Department, where they will be on hand to answer questions.

The following fire safety systems are in place at Decatur House:

- Residents have an evacuation map on the back of their front doors.
- Residents who can ambulate should leave their apartments and go out front door to front lawn.
- If residents open their doors and there is smoke, they should close the door and wait for the fire department.
- Advanced addressable fire alarm and sprinkler system throughout the building,
- Fire extinguishers located in all key areas
- Fire suppression system in the kitchen
- Fire-rated doors: Resident apartment doors and interior-facing windows are rated to withstand fire for 20 minutes. Hallway doors are rated for 90 minutes and close automatically to contain a fire and prevent it from spreading,
- Illuminated battery-backed exit signs to ensure visibility in the event of a power outage.

JULY ROUNDUP



At Decatur House, you don't have to be an early bird to get a great spot to enjoy the fourth of July parade, because it passes right by our front lawn! Seating was arranged so residents and their guests could mingle with the community. The older children and adults tossed a football, while the little ones, dressed in their patriotic finest, were paraded around by proud parents and adored by the Decatur House's "grandparent" collective.

Some of the pets in attendance were dressed for the holiday as well - there was even a patriotic PIG! So Cute! As for the parade itself, it was so fun to see and interact with community partners and friends that were in the parade. It's just part of what makes Sandwich, feel like a real hometown. *See photos of Mo and Sally, Ben and Betty, Nancy D, Rocky and Clara, and Chief the pig!*

With the July heat and humidity, 'Vertigo,' 'The Man Who Knew Too Much,' 'Midway,' and 'the Highway Man,' kept movie lovers' cool and engaged with both mystery and history. Comedies: 'Dragnet' and 'Matilda' administered some of the "best medicine" and a different kind of cool.

Healthcare partners brought blood pressure and hearing aid clinics; what a convenience! Drew Jacobs, and Matt York, brought music to entertain and enliven the whole house. Reiki practitioner, Susan Nolan relaxed and recharged appreciative recipients. Residents also appreciated programs like make your own pizza by Chef Cynthia (*see photo of Tom below!*) and by volunteers Joyce Fryer, Donna Klucsevsek, and Mike Hayes who provide crafts, Tai Chi, music and spiritual services respectively, every month. *See photos of Lourana and Anita with their art, Francine and Alice playing volley ball, and residents enjoying the musical guest below.*

Many activities were rerouted to earlier times in the day to bypass the afternoon heat. Patio work-outs, morning strolls and early excursions helped keep the community active. Outings to popular restaurants, and the Heritage Museums and Gardens to view the antique auto exhibit were rewarding experiences for those who did dare to venture out.

July was a great month to be part of a supportive community that enables its residents to maintain maximum independence. August will be packed with fun activities, interesting outings, and new friends to enjoy them with.

