

DECEMBER ROUNDUP



December was a magical month at Decatur House, filled with festivities! Here's a recap of all the holiday fun and more that made this month special:

Musical Magic - The Sandwich Middle School band kicked off our holiday celebrations with a delightful performance of Christmas songs. Julie Charland and Matt York returned for their always-enjoyable musical performances, and Janice Hannah treated us to a festive sing-along during her holiday visit. We were also treated to Christmas caroling by St. John's Sunday School, the Singing Sailors (*pictured top left*) and our very own talented resident Lourana Thomas (*pictured second top left*).

Holiday Movies, Spirit and Lights - We embraced the season with classic Christmas movies, including A Christmas Carol, It's A Wonderful Life, The Polar Express, and Miracle on 34th Street. Residents also enjoyed participating in holiday spirit week with the staff - where they dressed up in holiday pjs one day (*see photo of Connie and Anita top middle*), crazy sweaters another (*see photo of Jess, Alex, Rose and Nicole top middle*). They also enjoyed scenic rides around Sandwich to admire the dazzling Christmas lights, and the awe-inspiring Giants displays.

Special Visits - Residents trimmed the tree (*see photo of Marilyn top right*) just in time for Santa's visit to Decatur House, spreading smiles and holiday cheer among residents. (*See photo of Maggie top right and Clara and Ted bottom left*). In addition, Corpus Christi continued their regular visits, offering holy communion and moments of reflection during this special time of year. We also hosted our annual holiday party for Decatur House families. Read more about that on page 4!

Crafting and Baking Fun - Residents got creative with festive holiday crafts on Fridays and joined Chef Cynthia in making and decorating gingerbread houses. (*See photos of Maggie, Judy, and Karen with their gingerbread houses bottom middle*).

More - Donna from Feisty Lion returned to lead her popular Tai Chi classes, keeping residents active and mindful during the bustling holiday season. We ventured out to lunch at Town Tavern and our lunch-in featured Chinese food, chosen by the residents. Claire and Jean M. shared a birthday and they both have the same favorite dessert - carrot cake! - which they shared with all the residents (*See photo of Jean and Claire bottom right*). As we step into the new year, we look forward to a wonderful 2025!





DECATUR HOUSE

Assisted Living in Sandwich Village

Around the House

Community SPOTlight

ROCKY HURLEY



Rocky Hurley’s life story is one of resilience, community, and contentment. Born and raised in Newburyport, Massachusetts Rocky grew up in the 1940s in a strict household with his parents and two brothers, with whom he remains close to this day.

Despite being born with epilepsy and cerebral palsy, Rocky’s determination has defined his life. He fondly recalls family visits to his maternal grandparents in Connecticut.

A graduate of Newburyport High School, Rocky achieved a major milestone in the mid-1970s when he earned his driver’s license. Being able to drive was life-changing for him, granting him a new level of independence. For 28 years, Rocky worked as a clerk for the IRS in Andover, sticking with the job for the stability it provided and earning a solid pension.

Upon retiring a decade ago, Rocky made what he calls the best decision of his life—moving to Sandwich. There, he fixed up his house exactly the way he wanted it, enjoying the strong sense of community that surrounded him.

Though he had to give up driving six years ago, his friends and neighbors stepped in to help. The Town Clerk, who is now a beloved friend, took him shopping every week, and he shared daily breakfasts at Café Chew with his brother Ron. The two were so regular, they were known for opening the café in the mornings. The staff became like family, treating Rocky and Ron with care and friendship.

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Decatur House Holiday Party

We had such a nice time at the Decatur House holiday party and hope that you did too! It was wonderful to see our residents with their families and close friends.

The Glasstown Carolers set the tone for the festive season with their beautiful voices and Chef Cynthia and her team outdid themselves in the kitchen.

Here are a few photos of the fun day!



Jean M. and her family



The Glasstown Carolers



Anita and her daughter, Teresa



Our residents, the Glennons’

Spotlight Rocky Hurley Continued

This past summer, Rocky moved into Decatur House, where he says there isn’t a single thing he would change. He’s grown especially close to Linda, the owner, whom he describes as “quite a person.”

He lives there with his beloved 10-year-old cat, Whitey, a sweet and cuddly companion adopted through Teaticket Animal Care’s program for matching older pets with older people.

Rocky’s easygoing nature and contentment shine through in every interaction. His brother Ron describes him as “the most content person” he’s ever met. A devoted Celtics fan, Rocky rarely misses a game.

Rocky Hurley’s story is one of perseverance, gratitude, and a life well-lived. Surrounded by friends, family, and a community he treasures, Rocky continues to inspire those around him with his warmth and positivity.

House Business

Seeking Baby Pictures!

We are looking for pictures of our residents as babies for our New Year’s Baby Board, which will be displayed during January and February. If you can share one with Mikaela, she will be sure to return it to you in perfect condition.

Her email is Mikaela@DecaturHouse.com or you can mail it to her attention.