

FEBRUARY ROUNDUP



The headlines scream, “Punxsutawney Phil on the lamb. It’s Ground Hog Day again!” Memes calling for the firing, arresting and shunning of Punxsutawney Phil have been popping up and keep our residents looking for the funny side of the whole winter weather situation.

Soup Day at First Church, shopping outings, and weekly excursions to the Sandwich Center for Active Living’s walking track help residents maintain independence and fitness goals. A trip to the Stomping Grounds Grill was a delicious reunion with owner, Helene, who was formerly a chef at Decatur House. *See photo of Lourana, Donna and Connie above.*

We kicked off more fun with a Superbowl Social hour, where Pete, Activities Assistant Christine’s husband, led a game interpreting the referees hand signals. *See photo above.* We celebrated love and sweethearts with a Valentine’s social hour with musician Richard Amir. Residents and staff contributed unnamed sweetheart pictures to decorate the bulletin board which were revealed during the social. The board created a lot of curiosity, speculation and fun.

Returning artists L’eonie Little-Lex and Mary Shea created room for pride in some students and self-amazement in others. Returning volunteer, Joyce, brought beads that residents fashioned into necklaces they enjoyed making and were proud to model afterwards. *See photo of Joyce with Eugenie above.* For the foodies at Decatur House, there was cookie decorating (see photo of Ed with his heart cookie), baking (*see photo of Nancy T. holding up a tart*), and a fun southern style taste test with pickled watermelon rinds and okra.

Another sweet surprise was exercise guru-Kristin- volunteering with the resident’s reading drama group. The residents performed a skit during social hour. It was a lot of fun and participants say they can’t wait to tweak a few things and do it again! Speaking of a lot of fun, we brought back 25 cent Bingo. Residents and their guests packed the sunroom and did a lot of LOL-ing.

Of course, we can’t fit everything we do at Decatur House into one short article: movies, crafts, games, puzzles, nails (*see photo above*), and exercise. But there will always be room to say thank you. Thank you to the snow removal team. Thank you to the health care team. Thank you to the kitchen staff. Y’all kept Decatur House operating during the biggest blizzard since ’78! Most of all thank you Decatur House residents. You are the reason we do what we do.

P.S. If anyone sees that Punx’ Phil, you can tell him we don’t want to see him nor his shadow around here anymore!



Spotlight: Christine Bengtson continued -

Recently inducted into the Taunton High School Athletic Hall of Fame, Christine's lifelong qualities of discipline, resilience, and dedication remain evident in everything she does. We are grateful she has chosen to share her next chapter with the Decatur House community, where her commitment to caring for others continues to shine.



Blizzard of 2026: All is Calm after the Storm

Our Wellness Nurse Melissa snapped this photo (*bottom left*) of Decatur House on Monday night. She wrote, "Now that the wind has calmed down a little bit, it's so pretty and peaceful, not a bad place to be in a blizzard. Sweet dreams!" Melissa, a resident of Sandwich, stayed overnight with her dog and her mom to make sure that everyone felt safe.

While much of the Cape was without power all week, the generator kicked on at Decatur House immediately, as soon as the power went out without so much as a flicker. It was so seamless that nobody inside would have even known that there was a historic blizzard happening outside.

The generator is state of the art and powers the entire house - from the elevators and the full kitchen to everything in between. Facilities staff worked round the clock to clear the snow and downed trees, as well as make sure that every staff member's car was shoveled out. Other staff slept over and worked doubles and triples since replacement staff couldn't get into work. *See photos below of Kimmy with Nancy D., Ben enjoying a cigar on the porch, and Jon working hard in the kitchen.*

We are grateful to our staff and grateful to all of you for entrusting us with the care and safety of your loved ones.



MARCH 2026



DECATUR HOUSE

Assisted Living in Sandwich Village

Around the House

Community SPOTlight

CHRISTINE BENGSTON

Still Running Toward What Matters Most

Born and raised in Taunton, Massachusetts, Christine Bengtson has spent her life guided by determination, compassion, and a natural drive to keep moving forward.

Her love of running began as a child while watching her brother's baseball games, eventually leading her to excel in track and field at Taunton High School. Her athletic achievements earned her a full track scholarship to Northeastern University.

Although she initially pursued a degree in Criminal Justice, her path shifted after moving to Cape Cod and working at Shawme-Crowell Forest Campground.



There, she discovered her true passion: working with children. She went on to earn her Master's in Early Childhood Education from Bridgewater State University and spent several joyful years teaching kindergarten.

Life brought new chapters, including marriage, raising two children, and years devoted to family life. When she later returned to the workforce, Christine continued supporting families through early childhood education programs while also caring for her aging father, which sparked a meaningful new calling helping older adults live with dignity.

Today, Christine brings the same energy and heart to Decatur House. Whether serving breakfast, driving residents to appointments, or supporting activities, she approaches each day with warmth, reliability, and genuine care.

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