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Adam Howard: Finding community at Harbor Hill

“I never want to give it up, because I don’t know if I’d ever be able to find another affordable place like this.”

Adam Howard
Resident, Harbor Hill

For many residents of Provincetown, the summer brings good weather and excitement, but also stress over housing. Many endure the “Provincetown shuffle” where they move out of their winter rentals which are then rented to tourists, scramble to find seasonal housing, and then return in the fall. Harbor Hill’s year-round rentals provide stability to residents so they can avoid the chaos of Provincetown housing. One of the first Harbor Hill residents was Adam Howard.

Adam is a Service connected disabled Navy veteran living in one of Harbor Hill’s two ADA certified accessible units. Adam had lived Provincetown before, but had never expected to move back full time. “It’s really difficult to find accessible units anywhere,” recalls Adam, “Most places you apply and get stuck on a wait list, and you’re just waiting for an opening” Adam was one of the first applicants for Harbor Hill, and among the first to move in this past winter.

Before moving to Provincetown, Adam was living in rural Pennsylvania but was not welcome in his community. “There were a lot of people who were hostile to people unlike them. I stayed for two years, but eventually couldn’t take it anymore,” says Adam. After looking for accessible units online, Adam learned of Harbor Hill. “Everything just kind of came together, and I couldn’t be happier. The community here is very welcoming.”

Not too long after Adam moved into his new apartment the coronavirus swept across the United States and Massachusetts was sent in to lock down. Adam lives alone with his support dog Grafton and was happily surprised by the support he received from the CDP at the outset of the pandemic. In March and April, the CDP’s housing staff made weekly check-in calls to all of the resident’s including those in



The inside of Adam’s apartment at Harbor Hill

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Harbor Hill. “I live alone with my dog, so it is really nice to know there is someone looking out for me in case something was to happen,” says Adam.

Since relocating, Adam has worked to become a part of the community both at Harbor Hill and in Provincetown. Before settling here, he had over 40 years of experience as an educator and Artist/Blacksmith. and has started helping the owner at Provincetown Welding Works, a local metal working shop. “The owner is getting older and can’t do everything he used to,” says Adam, “And it’s a good way to get out of the house and stay busy.” Provincetown welding works has been an integral part of the art/culture and history of town and has been in the Kacergis family for many generations.

Also a photographer and writer, he will be releasing a book of Provincetown themed poetry entitled *TELL TALES* by *WASHASHORE* this fall. “As an artist, it’s great to wake up every morning in one of the most beautiful places in the world,” he says.

Harbor Hill consists of 28 separate units, and while Adam was able to move in this winter, many of his neighbors weren’t able to move in until after the stay at home order was issued. Even though he hasn’t been able to spend time with any of his neighbors, he can already feel a community starting to form among the residents. “I feel very safe here and everyone seems very nice,” Adam says. “We look out for each other, I can’t wait until this is over so we can really meet each other.”

The residents of Harbor Hill are as diverse as the town of Provincetown. Most work in Provincetown and represent a wide variety of industries from food service, to performing arts, to local government employees. Adam says, “There is very broad spectrum of people who live here, truly representative of Provincetown.”

Adam has now lived in Harbor Hill for six months, and says he couldn’t be happier. “I never want to give it up, because I don’t know if I’d ever be able to find another affordable place like this beautifully situated at town’s very west end.”