

## She found a niche here

If you enjoy a beautiful floral arrangement at White Horse Village, odds are decent that Beth Stensrud had something to do with it.

Here, she has found a place where she can use her gifts, connect with friends, and free up time she used to spend on tasks around the house. And one of her favorite things to do is brighten up campus with creative floral displays.

Beth minored in art in college, and picked up her flower-arranging skills at a garden club she belonged to in Wallingford. Eventually, she even opened a small business in her home where she created silk flower arrangements and Christmas decorations. She also enjoys growing living flowers outdoors.



When Beth moved in, she volunteered for several flower-related groups. One works with the Harvesters Garden Club, which grows vegetables and flowers and sells them regularly in the Clubhouse in the summer. The volunteers help arrange the fresh-cut flowers into bouquets for sale. Another committee ensures there is always a floral arrangement in the lobby to welcome visitors to the Clubhouse. After volunteering, Beth was eventually asked to lead both of these groups.

Prospective residents who visit for tours and luncheons have almost certainly seen more of Beth's artistic touch, as she regularly leads volunteers in creating centerpieces for the tables—like the fresh bouquets at the most recent Garden Day. "I'm happy to do it," she says. For one intensive project, she designed pink roses made from coffee filters, placed in vases cut from old wine bottles.

While Beth values the chance to enjoy her hobby and use her creative gifts, that's not the only thing that drew her to this community. Many of her acquaintances from Swarthmore Presbyterian Church have chosen to live at White Horse Village over the years, and her connection to people here introduced her to the idea. The lovely landscape and grounds also appealed to her love of the outdoors.

"I knew that I wanted something that I could be outside. I didn't want a high rise at all," she recalls. Appropriately, she has a garden around the patio of her garden apartment, where she enjoys sitting and taking in the scenery as the seasons move from spring to summer and fall. Even when it's cold out, though, she can take advantage of the pool or exercise classes.



It doesn't hurt that the landscaping is all taken care of. Before moving in, Beth had been living alone on 2 acres at the end of a cul-de-sac, and the final straw was when three big trees fell down one winter. Here, help is a phone call away for any needs like that. She can also pick up her meals from the Clubhouse each day or choose to dine in the restaurant.

Fortunately, by the time Beth was ready to move in, she had been on the waiting list for White Horse Village for a number of years, so she was able to quickly find a home here. She recommends getting on the waiting list early, to allow that kind of flexibility when the time comes.

"Don't wait too long," she says.