



We dedicate this edition of the *Bugle* to Connie L. in appreciation of all that she has done to make EastView such a strong community. - *The Buglers*:

Sarah B.  
Linda C.  
Lois K.  
Russ L.  
Ron R.

Angelika B.  
Phil C.  
Max K.  
Nancy R.

Cari B. (Design and Layout)



***Thank you,  
Connie!***

### **Rob A., Founder**

As EastView's first Marketing Director, Connie built a thriving community long before a shovel went into the ground. As Executive Director, her leadership has been the catalyst for EastView's fun, caring, and inclusive culture. None of this would have happened without the stress of long hours, hard work, and never-ending problem solving. Connie did it all with vision, grace, and empathy.

Connie has left an enduring legacy for ALL of us to carry forward. Love you, Connie. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

### **Sarah P., Board Member**

I have been on the EastView board for a number of years, both before Connie was the Executive Director and during her tenure. I have been so impressed with her work ethic, relationship building with both residents and staff, and incredible dedication to everything EastView represents. She has created a warm, safe environment for residents, and continually strives to make improvements. She is organized, passionate about the work and mission, and loved by all. It will be very hard to replace Connie in so many ways. She has left a true legacy at EastView.

### **John M., Former Board Member**

How fortunate the EastView family has been to have Connie L. as its administrative and spiritual leader over these past seven years. Connie came in at a particularly challenging time for the community, fostered a positive culture, navigated a pandemic, and shepherded it to an enviable position of stability and vibrancy. She has done this with vision, humility, hard work, unflagging commitment, and, thankfully, lots of music! Very simply, EastView's mission is to make lives better and Connie has been an effective leader in that important work. I'm sure that everyone joins me in wishing you and Chris much joy and happiness in this next exciting chapter.



Connie is a Vermont native and graduate of Williams College and the University of Michigan. For more than two decades she created and led respected nonprofit organizations and state government programs in Vermont.

In 2005, she became EastView’s first employee, assisting Founder Rob Alberts in the establishment of our community. Over the ensuing years she has continued to build expertise in senior living administration and is a growing voice influencing vital retirement opportunities for Boomers. Connie completed Vermont’s rigorous Nursing Home Administrator-in-Training program in 2018 and is a Certified Dementia Practitioner.

Under Connie’s leadership EastView has operated with positive revenue streams while providing employees higher wages and residents increased service delivery. In 2019, she oversaw EastView’s successful refinancing of its Bonds, and she continues to focus on building higher levels of expertise within its workforce.

In partnership with the Board, she is directing insightful analysis of future strategic endeavors. Connie energetically leads with a constant focus equating vital community with vital retirement while fulfilling EastView’s commitment to improving and honoring the experience of aging.



**Mission**

EastView at Middlebury’s Mission is to provide a resident-centered retirement community that fosters independence and freedom, promotes a high quality of life, and is respectful of and open to all persons.

**Vision**

To be recognized and respected as the retirement community of choice, providing the highest quality senior living environment while responding to the changing needs of those we serve.



*The Buglers asked residents to submit comments about Connie and the following are the wonderful ones we received.*

**Lois A.**

Connie has somehow combined the ability to be every EastView resident's loving daughter with the highly professional skill of being everyone's competent mother.

**David B.**

During the nine years I spent with my wife in the first retirement community I was part of in Virginia, my very strong impression was that the management staff, and especially the CEO, was very distant from that community even though the office was right in the main entrance to the building. We probably saw the CEO once a month at the only resident's meeting held. There was little community building from the top.

The first time I met Connie when I stopped by to look at EastView, I found her vacuuming the dining room (obviously during those difficult Covid days) and that instilled in me the impression that she was a person dedicated to the well-being of both staff and residents and she was ever ready to express that togetherness, hand-in-hand and shoulder to shoulder. Connie is down to earth for all the right reasons, and she is constantly committed to building a close community culture that puts people's well-being first.

Congratulations, Connie, on living out your values and may they bring you many fruitful and fulfilling years wherever your retirement years take you.

**Buz B.**

Connie's always warm personality while accomplishing her many tasks has made all the difference in setting the tone at EastView. She has been a major contributor to our wonderful community and she will be greatly missed.

**Rebecca B. and Bob P.**

One of our favorite things to do when friends and relatives visited us in our new living situation at EastView was to play, "That is our CEO." Their reaction was often a surprise. The youthful, diminutive woman carrying an oversized cello down the hall was in charge of this place? It was with great satisfaction that we responded with an emphatic, "Yes!"

Little did we know then that Connie sings like a bird, plays the bass fiddle, walks to work, spends (too) many Saturdays in her office, and solves many problems that we will rightly never know about.

We are proud to have been at EastView during what will be the legendary era of Connie's leadership.



**Linda and Phil C.**

Following arrival at EastView in November of 2019, our first weeks were devoted to meeting neighbors, learning the rules and regulations, and figuring out who was in charge of what. Connie seemed to be everywhere at once—always with a smile and instant recognition wherever we encountered her. A few questions arose in our minds—what exactly does she do? Does she live here at EastView? Is she in charge of everything? Who is this guy Chris beyond being leader of the orchestra?

Answers surfaced quite quickly. Connie is somehow always available to listen to and resolve problems effectively; she leads by example and communicates immediately, both in person and by e-mail. Prompt, cheerful attention to detail makes the performance of her tough job look effortless. She really is the mother hen taking care of her chicks (that's all of us). A definitive answer to the “this guy Chris” issue was a visit of Connie and Chris to our (as well as all other) cottages to share their wedding joy with warm greetings, huge smiles and miniature daffodils.

Connie, under your leadership EastView has grown into the vibrant, caring community that it is, and for that we are all ever thankful.

We wish you well in this retirement and hope there will be occasional updates regarding the next accomplishments in your life.

**Faith C.**

Beloved Connie

Small in stature  
Bursting with talent  
Steady and reliable  
Through many seasons.

Compassionate and organized  
Always leading by example.  
Providing safety, respect and song  
For her aging guests.

Thank you, Connie.  
We love you  
And we'll miss you!

**Vanda C.**

Connie is clearly a leader with a touch of velvet. I've never seen Connie without a smile and she quickly lends a hand for those in need. My time in orchestra has allowed me to see first hand Connie's incredible creative skills and beautiful voice, plus her quick wit and sense of humor. In addition, if after Connie leaves and there is a thought about abducting her back to EV, she will fit into the bass carrying case.

**Peg D.**

Six years before Covid, I volunteered at Porter and Connie was always around the hospital. Her lovely smile and attitude made us feel good. It has been a joy to find her running EastView. We will miss her!



**Elita D.**

I will miss seeing you at the helm and knowing that EastView is in good hands. Thankfully, you will still help to guide us into the future the next few months.

However, there is a time for all things. So I wish you and Chris a very happy retirement when you can catch up on all the things you've been hoping to do. I look forward to seeing you now and then at EastView to keep in touch. Goodbye and Auf Wiedersehen! Fondly.

**Anne E.**

Connie, you have imagined, guided, and co-created the EastView we know since before it rose up out of the meadow with the great pine at the top of the hill. You brought your vision, optimism, energy, humor, kindness, patience, joy, and grace to the enterprise...and look what happened! — a community whose residents and staff care about and for one another; share responsibility for continuing to make it a place that evokes the best in each and all of us; persevered through Covid and other challenges, and continues to be a blessing to those of us who have come here to age in its comfort. I'm sad for myself and all of us to know that you've discerned that it is time to retire, BUT I'm confident that what we have come to learn about ourselves and one another through these years of your leadership will sustain and bless us.

I am wishing you all the joy and satisfaction you so richly deserve as you explore whatever lies ahead now.

With love and gratitude.

*“Weel may the keel row, the keel row, the keel row, weel may the keel row for Connie alway.”*

**Betsy E. and Jane V. L.**

Connie embodies the essence of EastView. She is quietly aware of what is going on and is very good at her job without most of the residents knowing exactly what she does do. She responds to emergencies and pitches in when an extra hand is needed. When a neighbor fell, it was Connie who responded before the rescue arrived. Orchestra is blessed with her ability to both support with her cello or bass and star with her beautiful soprano voice. How can anyone replace Connie?

**Bob F.**

Thank you, Connie, for encouraging me to get back to playing my 'cello after so many years. I appreciate your help finding appropriate music for me and your continued support. You are part of the “magic” of EastView which enables us to live enriched lives.

**Janet and Fred G.**

When thinking about Connie the following come to mind: Janet thinks of Connie as walking to work, working on weekends, celebrating her anniversary with Chris by giving out daffodils to residents, attending winning basketball games, and playing and singing with the EV Orchestra. Fred thinks of Connie as always helpful, a giver of her time, and provider of in-depth answers to many questions that come up during Residents' Council meetings.

**Tai H.**

In the spring of 2010, three friends from Massachusetts decided to retire together and move to a senior living center. Middlebury, Vermont, seemed like the right place and the newly started community of EastView felt like the right place to live. After many emails and phone calls with Connie L., we arranged for her to visit us in Northampton, Massachusetts, and learn more about EastView. When she arrived at our house with all her maps and pictures and designs for the new adventure, we were excited. Connie's joy and enthusiasm and friendliness sold us right away. We moved into a cottage in the winter of 2012 and have been happy ever since.

**Dee and Barney H.**

Thank you, Connie, for your beautiful singing voice (a surprise), your hard work and listening ear, and for making us feel like family.



**Dick H.**

For residents who go back to 2005 when we gave EastView (Connie L.) \$1,000 towards our future place at EastView, we witnessed her fantastic ability to hang in and weather a five-year legal battle that delayed our construction process. During this delay, our nearby rival, the Lodge at Otter Creek, attempted to take advantage of our legal woes by enticing a few of us with deals to lure us to their hallowed grounds. The lawsuit was initiated by the owner of a house directly across South Street from the proposed location of EastView's Inn. The owner objected because of a number of reasons, but the primary concern was that the Inn would block her view of the mountains. So, when the EastView team sought and received the authorization to proceed from the local boards, the County Court, the State Court, and the Federal Court, the owner appealed, appealed, and appealed. But all during these very difficult times Connie remained positive and assured us that EastView would eventually prevail. We are forever thankful that we believed in Connie and so remained on board.



Initially, Connie operated out of a little construction trailer next to South Street and she eventually moved to smaller headquarters behind Helen Porter where she would handle our numerous inquiries.

Finally, after securing of the favorable settlement, construction began and Connie's responsibilities shifted to assisting us with our cottage and apartment details. The EastView architects provided us with five different cottage designs and numerous apartment layouts. So, guess what, we all wanted to be somewhat different! Thus we were very pleased to use some of the options allowed by the architect to customize our new units, even in some cases at an extra cost. All of this detailed effort was coordinated and accomplished with Connie's guidance. She worked hard in satisfying all of us. Truly, a stupendous effort that we all greatly appreciated. And, finally, a large contingent of happy people were able to call EastView their home in 2011...all thanks to Connie.

Now 13 years later, we wish her a well deserved retirement.

**Nathaniel H.**

Connie has done a wonderful job as the Executive Director at EastView. I admire her very much. She's always been available when I've had a problem. Her husband, Chris P., has done a wonderful job entertaining all of us with his music. I will certainly miss her and hope that she will be happy in her new status.

**Eleanor and David I.**

Connie is wonderful and knows what EastView represents. She has had an evolving role since the beginning and is gracious and willing to help in any way she can. We are very sad to see her go.

**Peggy K.**

The first word that comes to mind when speaking of Connie is "caring". Of course she cares about finances and upkeep of the buildings but much more than that, she cares about the people here: the staff and each and every one of us in apartments and cottages. Without this, EastView would just be another residence for seniors.



**Dottie K.**

Connie means a great deal to my entire family (daughter Molly and sons Doug and Mark). After my husband, Terry, died in November of 2022, Connie spent many hours patiently helping us navigate the difficult and Byzantine world of long-term care insurance. Her office door was always open to us even on weekends. She never made us feel as though we were interrupting her when we knocked on her office door with questions or new concerns. She even frequently baked special treats for us to brighten our days. How she found the time to do that I will never know! She made the process of moving from Independent Living to Assisted Living smooth and without complication. During those times it really felt as though Connie had become part of our family.

In fact, Connie and Chris became part of our extended family. During the nine months Molly lived right with me in my Independent Living Apartment, from September 2022 to June 2023, Chris started spending a few hours each week with me so that Molly could go home to Brandon to water her plants, catch up on e-mail, and run errands. He is still spending a couple of hours a week with me as I so enjoy each and every visit with Chris. We play music together and often go on scenic rides in the Prius. Chris always gets me laughing. His visits are the highlight of my week!

Connie does her job exceptionally well, with great enthusiasm and professionalism. She has been there for our entire family and for everyone in this wonderful community 24x7x365! Indeed, she has made EastView the wonderful retirement community it is and one that Terry and Henri (our beloved French Bulldog) and I have enjoyed. She is a dear friend to my whole family.

Molly, Doug, Mark and I hope Connie and Chris will remain close friends as they move into their well-deserved retirement. All the best!

**Lois and Max K.**

We have lived at EastView for 12 years, but our relationship with Connie goes back much farther. For several years before dirt was turned for the groundbreaking here, many of us met in various town sites to hear about Rob A.'s plans and hopes to construct this facility. Connie was always there, from the beginning.

I remember meeting Connie in trailers to look at flooring choices or possible changes to our cottage. As plans turned into a construction site, we stood in the mud to take a picture of the beams as they were erected. Connie was visible and helpful in answering questions as we actually moved in.

It is hard to visualize EastView without Connie. Her patience, availability, willingness to do any chores, mundane or important, have always been a part of our lives here. We will miss her gift of music, instrumental or vocal, and her kind attention to everyone.

We do wish her the very best as she and Chris move on, but we will miss her, for sure.



*This picture was taken very early on in EV's history. The following folks are still here at EV: Lois and Max K., Pat T., Anne E., Tai H., Holly S., Buz and Angelika B., Betsy L., Reg S., Gordon C., Charlie R., and Connie L.*



**The Holiday** (Author unknown) Submitted by Gordon C.

I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book.  
 And every year at this Special time, I go and take a look.  
 And that is when I realize that these names are a part ...  
 Not of the book they're written in, but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone who has crossed my path sometime,  
 And in that meeting they've become the rhythm in each rhyme.  
 And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,  
 I really feel that I'm composed of each and every name.

And while you may not be aware of any special link  
 Just meeting you has changed my life and a lot more than you think.  
 For once I have met somebody, the years cannot erase  
 The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.

So never think my Holiday wish as just a mere routine  
 Of names on a Holiday list, forgotten in between.  
 For when I send a Holiday wish that is addressed to you,  
 It is because you're on a list of folks I'm indebted to.

For I am the total of the many folks I have met  
 And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget.  
 And whether I have known you for many years or few,  
 In some way you have been a part in shaping things I do.

And every year when the Holiday comes, I realize anew  
 The best gifts life can offer is meeting folks like you.  
 And may the spirit of the Holidays that forever endure,  
 Leave the richest blessings in the hearts of you and yours.

**It Happened at EastView***Russ L.*

When Lois A. recently attended an event in the  
 Community Room, she took her seat one chair away from  
 another resident. When he leaned toward her to tell her  
 something, Lois could not hear him, so she moved to the  
 seat next to him. When Lois asked him what he was trying  
 to tell her, he replied, "I'm sorry, I don't remember."

**Welcome to EastView!**

Welcome to new residents  
 and staff who have joined the  
 EastView Community in the past  
 month!

Resident: Jenny D. (IL)

Staff: Dave D. (Strategic Initiatives  
 Director); Greg V. (Community  
 Life Assistant); and Emily M.,  
 Avery V., and Sydney W. (Servers)

**December Birthdays**

Deb F.	12/3
Gordon C.	12/5
Linda S.	12/6
Ed W.	12/8
Mio S.	12/9
Peg D.	12/19
Lois A.	12/22
Nancy F.	12/26
John F.	12/27

**句俳 Haiku**

A little flower  
 grows beside the railroad tracks  
 dreaming of far lands.  
*Angelika B.*

Trains keep rolling by  
 none does ever, ever stop  
 do you not see me?  
*Angelika B.*

I would like to go  
 with you to see the big world.  
 Please look and take me.  
*Angelika B.*

## A Look Abroad: The Christmas Truce of World War I

Russ L.

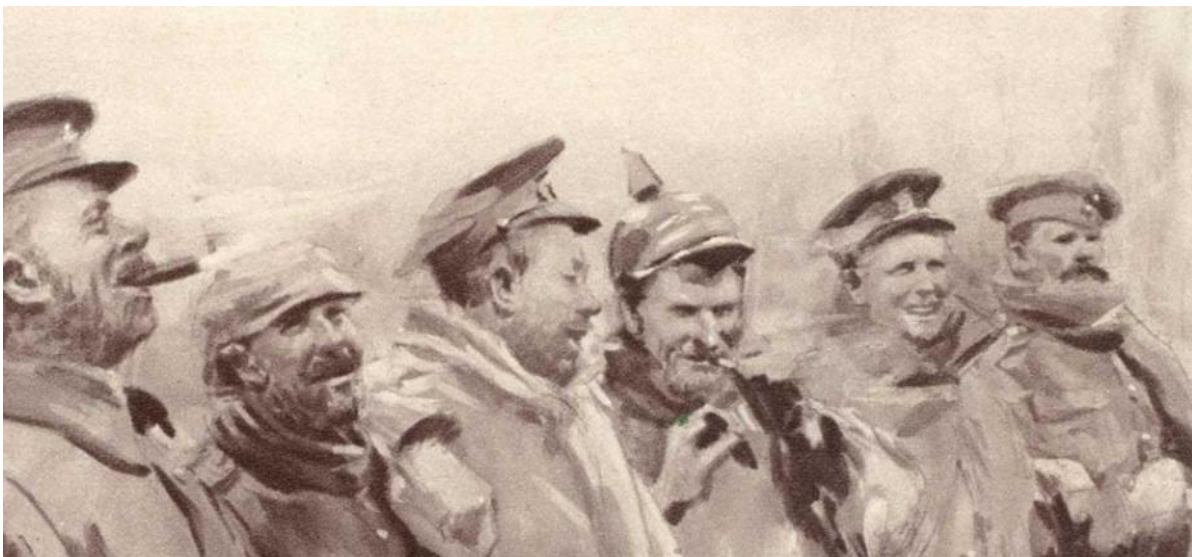
Since ancient times, humans have celebrated the winter solstice. In Europe, fir trees were brought indoors to be decorated as a symbol of the beginning of the earth's turn toward longer and warmer days. This time of the year also has a special meaning for Christians, who celebrate the birth of Jesus with a renewal of faith in the possibility of "peace on earth, goodwill toward men." What is called the "Christmas spirit" can appear even in the worst of times. One of the most remarkable examples occurred during World War I.

By December of 1914, the war along the front in Belgium already had congealed into a stalemate, with opposing German and British troops dug-into wet, freezing, and filthy trenches. They were separated in some cases by less than one-hundred yards of a killing field called "no man's land." In early December, Pope Benedict attempted to persuade the high commands on both sides to accept a holiday truce, but he got nowhere. But, as the Christmas holiday drew near, British troops noticed that in front of the German trenches there were small fir trees illuminated by lanterns. Then, on Christmas Eve, the constant shelling paused as junior officers on both sides, without higher authorization, told their artillery-men to adopt a "live and let live," policy of firing only if they were fired upon. During the lull in fighting that night, the British troops heard their German enemies singing Christmas carols. The Brits responded with their own carols. The two sides are said to have sung *Silent Night*, or *Stille Nacht*, together.

The next morning the Brits spotted unarmed "Jerries" crossing into no man's land, waving their arms, with some even holding bottles of champagne. The startled "Tommies" cautiously emerged from their trenches as well. Then the two sides met, unarmed, in no man's land to exchange Christmas greetings, share drinks and tobacco, and even play a bit of informal soccer. Similar incidents occurred at several other places along the British-German battle lines. A British vet later recalled a Jerry who imbibed so much of the Christmas spirits that he wandered back into the British trenches, where he proclaimed he intended to stay as a visitor. When it was explained to him that his only choices were to be a turncoat or a prisoner of war, he agreed reluctantly to be escorted back to the German lines.

Eventually, the troops retired to removing and burying the battlefield dead, and to refortifying their trenches for a war that would last another four years, and would take the lives of 8.5 million young men. As for the 1914 Christmas truces—some of which went on for several days—the high command on both sides made sure that such "fraternization" did not happen again. Perhaps, with all the carnage that followed over the next four years, the impulse would no longer have been there anyway. But for a brief period, the mortal enemies paused to remind themselves of the possibility of peace on earth and good will toward all.

This photo gives us an authentic image of the troops from the trenches on both sides.



**Linda K.**

*The Magic of Music Making with Connie*

It has been an unexpected and delightful experience for me to sit next to Connie in the EastView Orchestra. Under Chris P.'s creative leadership, we play music together for our own enjoyment and for the enjoyment of EastView concert goers. In the orchestra Connie's bass provides the foundation to the musical structure that the rest of us build on to create a song or a musical piece. Always there, Connie gives us a steady, rhythmic presence, that we can count on, measure by measure. Much like her leadership style as CEO of EastView, her musical style is quiet, steady, talented, and always looking ahead to what comes next.

Connie's willingness to take on a challenge with grit and determination is wonderfully revealed in a recent choosing to learn to play the cello, a most challenging instrument. Over the past year and a half, season by season, Connie's success as a cellist becomes more and more apparent. It has been a pleasure to both see and hear her steady progress on this beautiful instrument.

Finally, I think that I speak for all of us when I say that we especially enjoy her lovely solo voice as she steps forward to the mic and produces a surprisingly big sound on songs like "Cabaret" and "Fish and Bird".

Bass, cello, vocal soloist are the wonderful musical ways that Connie supports and helps bring the magic of music into the lives of EastView orchestra members and concert goers alike. Thank you, Connie!



**Betsy L.**

My husband George and I were among the first residents to move into EastView. We had heard about the new retirement place being built in Middlebury through our son Jonathan Miller-Lane, who was a neighbor of Connie Leach and a professor at the College. There was a lot about EastView that we liked. We also liked, and were impressed by, Connie when we met her and felt confident that she would be a great leader for EastView, which she has been. Another way in which we connected with Connie (and Chris) is through music, which has always been an important part of our lives.

Connie has guided EastView through some challenging years—including the pandemic. She and Chris have played an important role in setting that elusive "tone" that we all feel—and yet struggle to define. Connie will be leaving us a safe, comfortable place in which to thrive during our final years. That will be her legacy.



### **Cilla and Russ L.**

By the time we arrived at EastView, two and a half years ago, Connie had achieved legendary status. At EastView's founding, she was the marketing director who brought her sleeping bag to the unfinished Inn to sleep over just in case residents who moved in early needed some help. She could be spotted as the smallish woman who strummed away on the big bass at EastView concerts. She was always the available go-to person who knew all of us by name. Above all, she has been the rare CEO who is loved, admired, and respected by everyone, staff and residents alike. As far as getting the job done, no one is irreplaceable. But Connie is irreplaceable in so many other ways.

### **Gail and Alec L.**

Connie's impressive contributions to EastView will long be remembered and appreciated!  
With gratitude.

### **Audrey M.**

I have so many thoughts about Connie, but what comes to mind is the first Christmas after Covid. Andy and I went to have dinner in the dining room and Connie greeted us dressed as the Elf on the Shelf.

### **Deanne M.**

I moved to my EastView cottage shortly after the world was basically shut down by Covid. Everyone was quarantined. My new neighbors were welcoming with notes, baked goods and phone calls, but I did not actually meet anyone. Until Connie. Unfortunately, I fell when I was alone, called my daughter and the Concierge. The first person who arrived was Connie, who was warm, comforting and very quick to handle the situation.

She is creative and willing to explore options. For example, when a group of residents expressed a desire to swim, Connie arranged for a once a week visit to the pool at the Residence at Otter Creek with transportation by EastView. And, of course, we are all very grateful for the buffet dining which was initially staffed by senior management.

My experience is that Connie's leadership has created a superb staff who are extremely capable, and always ready to go the extra mile for EastView residents. We have all benefited greatly. And she writes poems and songs and plays in the orchestra.

Connie will be greatly missed.



*Connie guided us through the pandemic with strength and grace. She conducted community meetings via Zoom (shown far left at the EV Board meeting); she sang behind a protective plexiglass screen (center); and she played with the EV Orchestra wearing a mask (far right).*

**Alice P.**

Many years ago, I first met Connie when I was at Porter Hospital trying to get ads for the music concert program that the Sheldon Museum put on annually. She recognized my last name and mentioned that she had met my son in the parking area of the Episcopal Church in Rutland where he had been working at the time. I didn't see Connie again until I came here to EastView. I always remember Connie as being very pleasant and forthcoming. I don't see much of her now because she's so busy, but I think she is the perfect person to be running EastView. She is good at bringing people out to share their problems and suggestions they might have for changes. Connie is just as kind as she can be. She's also a good musician and that adds a great deal to the concerts that are held here. It's hard for me to imagine how EastView will get along without her or how they'll replace her because she's so thoughtful about everybody. I'm sure everyone will miss Connie as I certainly will.

**Linda P.**

Connie, EastView would not have become what it is today without your incredible ability to navigate the challenges which have beset EastView since its inception and the hard times which followed due to the Covid years. But above all, your personal involvement with the residents has created such a wonderful sense of community and caring. You *can* be replaced by someone with the requisite leadership skills, but as the song goes....there will never, NEVER be another you. Don't be a stranger!

**Larry and Susan R.**

A quick Connie quote about our move to Apt 102: "Why don't you install a sliding door and put a patio in and enjoy the views?" We did and life couldn't be better! Many thanks, Connie!

**Ann Ross**

When Connie retires from her position as CEO of EastView, will EastView remain the positive choice that it has been for elders who seek extended care in their later years? Yes, it will because of the constant caring attention Connie has devoted to her leadership role here from the time of EastView's inception to now at the time of her retirement.

**Peggy Rush**

Connie has been a strong ambassador for EastView for as long as I have known her, and her care for this community is remarkable. The long hours she works daily to accomplish her leadership tasks include resident conversations of care and support and various tasks accomplished wherever she sees the need.

She models thoughtfulness. Why pass up a resident's empty tray of dishes when going in the direction of the kitchen? Why not always greet everyone with a ready smile and kind word of interest? Why not take up another musical instrument? Need lyrics for an EastView song set to a familiar tune? Coming right up.

Connie is irreplaceable. May her departure from her leadership role not be the end of her EastView involvement. Our community feels such gratitude for what she has done for us.





**Linda and Paul S.**

When we first met Connie, a few months after we moved here, she was not working here; she was playing bass—with Chris playing banjo—for a concert on the Terrace. It was later that we discovered that she had skills other than just a wonderful singing voice and the ability to play—lemme see—three instruments. We learned of her previous gig, following her management time at Helen Porter, when she was acting CEO of EastView. We learned how part of her management style was to run the snowplows along with the outdoor salt, when the snow was heavy. We had never seen that with others in medical management roles. Later, when she was the CEO at EastView, Paul was working with the Residents' Council and had ample opportunity to observe her caring manner and the respect that the Board members had for her. But mostly we learned how her attitude of calm and her availability, regardless of her own tasks, have worked to create an atmosphere of kindness and effective organization that is part of the character of EastView. We will miss her.

**Jane and Ed S.**

Connie L. will forever be remembered by Jane and Ed S. as "The Pioneer of EastView". We first met Connie many years ago at a card table in a field on the east side of South Street Extension. She showed us the plans for a senior center construction project, but we were not interested at the time, since we had planned to move to California for our final years. As fate would have it, more than a decade after meeting Connie, here we are at EastView, happy as we possibly can be. Thanks, Connie, for your years of wonderful service. We will miss you!!!

**Holly S. and Bob R.**

Connie is a visionary, is very imaginative, and is a take charge individual. Those talents were applied as she participated in the initial creation of EastView and have characterized her CEO leadership role to the present day. She is outgoing and interested in what other people have to say and what they do. Connie graduated from Williams College, where Holly's father taught for many years. Discovering that connection brought us together right away and became the basis of what would become a permanent relationship. Connie is personable, has a great sense of humor, makes friends easily, and has many followers. She is wonder woman extraordinaire whom we have admired and come to love over close to 25 years now. We wish her and Chris a happy retirement.

**Bonnie S.**

How Do We Spell *CONNIE* ?

(Highlighting a few of her gifts)

**C** - Compassionate, Capable

**O** - Organized, Open (to all people and ideas)

**N** - Note-worthy (especially musically)

**N** - Nimble, Nurturing

**I** - Inspiring, Intelligent

**E** - Energetic, Enthusiastic, EastView Executive

**Pat T.**

For a few years my husband, Ken N., and I had been following the plans for what is now EastView. After EastView won the lawsuit that had been filed by a neighbor, the marketing for this retirement community began in earnest. With enthusiasm, creativity and skill, Connie organized all the public informational meetings at the Middlebury Inn. She was the real driver behind this project!

In August of 2005, there was a groundbreaking ceremony at the Kirk Center. Wearing my hard hat, I made the marketing speech but was terrified to speak in front of a packed room of people I did not know. People had come to learn about this new retirement community. It turned out this meeting was the official launch of the EastView project.

Connie was there at the beginning stages of EastView and has been our dedicated leader since she became CEO on January 15, 2018.

**Deb V.**

When I began mentally reviewing my friendship with Connie, I realized that EastView is inextricably linked with virtually our entire relationship. She and I were introduced to each other through Rob A. over 20 years ago when we were both recruited to work with him to assess community interest in and potential support for the creation of a community for people over 55. Thus was born EastView's Priority List.

One of my most enduring memories of our relationship is the two of us spending long afternoons sitting at the far end of my dining room table as we drafted and redrafted what eventually became various founding documents, including EastView's original Residency Agreements. Or walking the future site with her, checking possible future cottage lots marked with tall stakes. It was on one of those strolls that I chose the location of what would become my well-loved home.

On the Vernal Equinox of March 20, 2020, Connie L. and Chris P. were married at roughly 10:00 a.m. on my screen porch, which had been pre-warmed for the occasion. Connie gave each of us a small brocade boutonniere (created by Beau Ties) to wear on our collar or lapel. Two siblings were present by phone (pre-Zoom!) and my poodle Zoe hung out in the doorway.

I remember Connie coming around on Saint Patrick's Day to all the cottages and the units in the Inn, handing out a fresh daffodil to each of the residents. I remember Connie and Chris serenading us at various ViVa! meetings, usually including a song or two of their own devising. I remember Connie vigorously shoveling the front sidewalks at the Inn when outside contractors didn't arrive early enough to provide determined cottage residents with easy access to our early morning meditation sessions and exercise classes at the Inn. And when the Terrace Dining Room was re-opened part-time after Covid, staffed by a rotating group of EastView management and staff, I remember Connie and Chris demonstrating their restaurateur skills during their evenings on duty.

I have a very difficult time picturing EastView without Connie somewhere in the background.

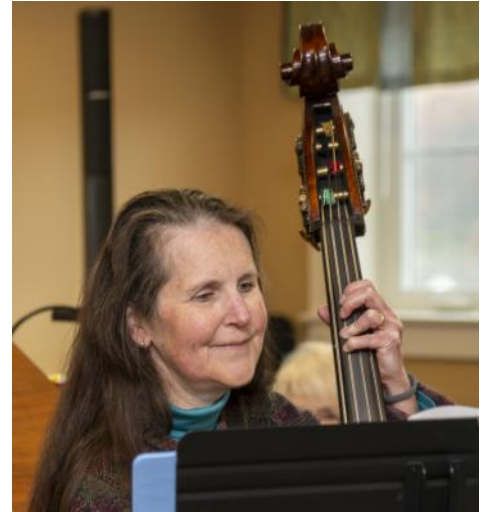
**Jan W.**

Soon after my February 2023 arrival at EastView, I joined the orchestra. At the first rehearsal, I noticed a diminutive musician who played the bass. I found the large instrument and its small player interesting to watch. Later in the rehearsal the same individual beautifully sang a solo. Who was this person?

The following week on a very cold night, I saw the bass playing singer taking a dog outside for its 9 pm walk. That seemed odd. Perhaps she was a sub who covered for individuals on vacation.

The dining room opened after being closed for Covid. There she was again. She cleared plates, reset tables and worked with the other servers. My guess as to her substitute role must be correct.

Finally, I did learn this lady's identity and my earlier guess certainly was wrong. This woman who seemed to do everything is Connie Leach, the CEO of EastView. Talented, kind, caring, intelligent, and calm are only a few of her attributes. My brief encounters and observations had given me more information than I had realized. How fortunate EastView has been to have enjoyed her steady leadership!



Bass, cello, and voice  
Connie plays with style and grace.  
Orchestra thanks her.

*Jan W.*

**Sally W.**

Words of praise of and affection for Connie abound. I concur with them all. But let us pause to imagine what Connie's next "life" might be: Perhaps the U.S. delegate to the U.N. See her seated at a desk in a smart business suit of subdued color arguing for our country's best interests and speaking for peace. Surely she knows how to calm and console troubled souls as she has done so many times here. Or perhaps Connie has run away and joined the circus. Haven't we all wished that? I see her on the wire doing astonishing tricks high above our heads. She's dressed in spangles. She's doing flips. Just like the time she got us through the Covid scare. She held us steady. Or maybe an artist? A sculptor. But not the kind with a mallet and chisel working in a haze of stone dust and flying chips but a sculptor making art on the potter's wheel, exerting pressure here and there where it is needed and then shaping and smoothing with skillful hands. Isn't this our community here?

So, whatever Connie chooses to do in the future, it will be good and worthy.

In the far future may she and Chris find themselves secure and comfortable in a community just like the EastView which Connie, with her team, has formed.



**“Fish and Bird”**

Words and music by Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan

They bought a round for the sailor  
And they heard his tale  
Of a world that was so far away  
And a song that we'd never heard  
A song of a little bird  
That fell in love with a whale

He said, 'You cannot live in the ocean'  
And she said to him  
'You never can live in the sky'  
But the ocean is filled with tears  
And the sea turns into a mirror  
There's a whale in the moon when it's clear  
And a bird on the tide

Please don't cry  
Let me dry your eyes

So tell me that you will wait for me  
Hold me in your arms  
I promise we never will part  
I'll never sail back to the time  
But I'll always pretend you're mine  
Though I know that we both must part  
You can live in my heart

Please don't cry  
Let me dry your eyes

And tell me that you will wait for me  
Hold me in your arms  
I promise we never will part  
I'll never sail back to the time  
But I'll always pretend that you're mine  
I know that we both must part  
You can live in my heart

