

# TOM & NANCY *Shaughnessy*



## meet your neighbors

By Jonathan Pappalardo  
By Katherine Jackson, The Mirrored Image Photography

For the past sixteen years, Nancy and Tom Shaughnessy have called their sunny unit in Winslow's View, home. Now they are preparing to embark on their next adventure, heading south to join their daughter and three of their five grandchildren in Virginia.

Married 51 years and long familiar with the area, the couple resided in Hingham in the early 1970s, then Dedham, and "all around Route 128" before settling in Phoenix, Arizona in 1994. Tom was working for Motorola at the time, where he witnessed the transition from analog to digital phones and made high-performance chips for the company's best-selling flip phone. Nancy, who was a chemist at DuPont when they made the move, was able to retire.

Eventually, they returned back east as pioneers of sorts in Winslow's View. Familiar with the concept of large golfing and planned communities in Arizona, the couple decided on The Pinehills in 2002, when it was in the very early stages of development. According to Nancy and Tom, just 20 homes dotted their neighborhood back then. Now, there are more than 550.

Once resettled, Tom engaged his passion for music again, a love that began during his retirement in Arizona where he attended music school, encountering a Professor Emeritus from Arizona State University who became his teacher and mentor. He excelled, developing into a classical violinist.

Tom continued, and for nearly 15 years has been playing with a full-sized orchestra in Weymouth. He also founded a quintet at The Pinehills, which grew slowly and steadily until they had the right mix of people, instruments and musical interests. He eventually added the viola to his repertoire and began making the actual instruments, spending four to five hours in a single day handcrafting them in a little workshop he built in the basement. But, he says, "I'll only make violins if I'm listening to opera. It has to be Italian opera."

Many violinists are into construction and maintenance, according to Tom, and it takes about a year and a half to make one instrument. He used to have three or four in production at one time, all in different stages of development and while each instrument is unique and different, Tom always uses maple on the instrument and spruce on the top surface. Over the years, he's sold a few and has had several on display around the country.

Nancy, meanwhile, is now an artist specializing in watercolor. Her love of painting blossomed when she took classes in Arizona. She's taken lessons locally, too, from artists on the South Shore, on Cape Cod and at the Duxbury Art Association. She mostly paints flowers, says she paints sporadically and always uses pictures as her guide. Nancy is also a member of the painting group that meets at the Cabana on Tuesday Mornings.

Nancy's pieces come in a variety of sizes and she even makes note cards on paper. Throughout her time at Pinehills, she's displayed and sold her artwork at Laurelwood at the Pinehills and The Village Racquet and Fitness Club, where the manager gave her space to hang her paintings. She recently won an award for a painting she did of pears, at the Plymouth Center for the Arts.

Tom has been recognized by and involved with the Arts Center, too. "For awhile, it was just open to oil and watercolors," he says. "Then they opened it up to fine craftsman. I was able to win each year for about five years. First place, second place, best in show, things like that. It's been neat to get involved."

When they're not making music and otherwise creating, Nancy and Tom have an affinity for travel. They've enjoyed trips around the world during spring and fall, for the past 12 years. They've been all over Europe and Southeast Asia. Tom is an avid photographer who often visits museums around the world to see instruments. "I'm very interested in photographing them," he says. "I like to see who's done what so I can attempt to make a good reproduction."

Back at The Pinehills, Nancy is involved with three reading groups, including the Well Read Book Club, of which she's a long-time member. She also loves to cook but says she and Tom enjoy adventurous eating, as well citing Bangkok Thai Cuisine on Court St. as one of their favorites when they go out. Tom stays ever busy, too, as a member of a Sunday morning bike group that rides throughout Duxbury.

While they'll miss their friends and their community here as well as their active involvement in the town and all the offerings at the Plymouth Public Library, Nancy and Tom say they're looking forward to new beginnings in Virginia, particularly one major change: Their new condo won't have a basement workshop, meaning Tom will soon retire from making instruments. Half of his collection - which includes 24 violins and six violas - already hangs on the wall in their new home, purchased last year, near the University of Richmond, where their daughter teaches and their son-in-law is a full professor. Their son lives in California, with two children of his own.

Nancy and Tom say they'll miss the brightness of their home in The Pinehills the most. They appreciated living under lots of sun while in Arizona after living in typical New England homes over the years where the plentiful, tall trees tend to darken interiors, so they were instantly attracted to their cheery unit in Winslow's View. "We love the sun," says Nancy. Rest assured, the future for this artistic and enthusiastic pair still looks very bright.

