YOU HAVE SPOKEN “Return the Red Hats!” “Bring back the Cottages bulletin board!” “370 Piano music!” “Wine and cheese for all!” “Advanced art programs!” “Resident choral groups!” “Museum trips!” “Drama!” “Longer weather forecast on 918!” The unofficial theme of July’s Resident Activities Forum, emceed by Executive Director Andy Eick, was “You Asked for It” (also the name of a popular 1950s TV game show). Andy and Community Services Director Vartkes Hovsepian asked the 70 residents who attended to propose new activities and innovative programs for our community. Your suggestions are receiving careful review. Stay tuned.

CELEBRATING A CENTENARIAN Community Services Director Vartkes Hovsepian presents Catherine Allard with a 100th birthday cake. Catherine’s secret to longevity: “spirituality and a sense of humor.”

SALUTING THE USA are starry-eyed Julie Podosek, Les Gediman, Pratima Gotswami, Carol Bajor and Virginia Drabeck.

A PETTING ZOO, POPCORN, AND GAMES! Oh, my! It must be Country Fair. Our annual family friendly harvest festival will take place on Sunday, September 10th, Grandparents’ Day. The grounds in front of New Horizons will be magically transformed with food tents overflowing with tasty barbecue, colorful booths offering fun activities, face-painting and picture-taking stations, banjo players, cotton candy, and a bubble maker, plus shopping. Don’t forget to scour the Busy Hands crafts tables for gorgeous handmade scarves, hats, afghans, dolls, and more. All proceeds will benefit Rosie’s Place in Boston, the nation’s first shelter for homeless and indigent women. Country Fair is free for all residents and children under five. Guest tickets, which include all food and activities, are $10 before August 30th and $20 thereafter. Sign up on the sheets posted in O’Connor Town Common and Meadows mailrooms, or email your reservations to resserv@cummings.com.
HAILING THE US COAST GUARD August 4th is United States Coast Guard Day, commemorating its 1790 founding as the Revenue Marine by Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton. It is a day we thank those who bravely protect our coasts and keep us safe at sea. Pictured is The Eagle, the Coast Guard’s majestic training vessel. She was a recent participant in the Sail Boston Rendez-Vous 2017 Tall Ships Regatta.

MASTER STACKERS  (Left to right) Michael LaFay does a double stack as Tony Faranda does his own balancing act across the table, with Sylvia Safferson observing; Beverly Brooks takes a breather from the intense competition; Susan Hill poses with Dolley Madison portrayer Janet Parnes, dressed in period costume. Dolley is credited with saving a copy of Gilbert Stuart’s portrait of George Washington before the White House went up in flames on August 24, 1814.

BEFORE YOU GO Any resident who is leaving for an extended period should call the Front Desk to let us know your plans. Remember to notify the US Postal Service and any daily newspaper delivery service to hold mail/newspapers until your return. And, of course, please make any necessary arrangements for pet care in your absence. Finally, a note to our 400 and 420 residents on meal plans: we ask you to call the Front Desk if you will be missing a meal. Otherwise, for your safety, we will make a wellness check.

VNA Care Advantage WHEN TO GET EXTRA HELP Unless there is a dramatic event, many times the need for extra help can be hard to recognize. We see the signs every day at VNA Care, and can help you identify when it is time to get that needed support before the situation becomes overwhelming. Help can range from assistance with bathing, doing laundry, getting ready in the morning, being escorted to meals and activities, and so much more. If you believe you could benefit from a little extra help, please contact Resident Service Director Christine Gill at 508-460-5286 or stop by The Wellness Center in O’Connor Town Common, located next to the indoor pool.