

# Paging the Doctor

DR. ANN PARTRIDGE

**D**r. Ann Partridge is an internationally renowned oncologist.

Her work with patients at Boston's Dana Farber Cancer Institute is so widely respected that she has been invited to lecture all over the United States and abroad.

She directs Dana Farber's Adult Survivorship Program and serves as co-chair on national guideline advisory committees regarding the care of women living with metastatic cancer—guidelines that can make the difference between what treatment is (and isn't) funded by insurance companies.

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She cofounded—with Chief of the Division of Women's Cancers Eric Winer—Dana Farber's Program for Young Women with Breast Cancer. Her heart goes out to these women "trying to have a career, trying to have children, trying to date...all of those things that are hard anyway and then you throw in a breast cancer diagnosis and it makes it so much worse," she says. Since its inception in 2005, the program has shepherded more than a thousand young patients through and beyond cancer.

The work is intense, stressful, and at times psychologically agonizing. But she loves it.

So much so in fact, that every morning, Partridge begins the day in New Bedford, 60 miles away from the Longwood Medical Campus. She's learned to accept the epic commute because she loves a man who loves New Bedford.

Shortly after finishing her residency in Philadelphia, she married, moved to Boston, and began a fellowship at

Dana Farber. Her husband soon joined her from Washington, D.C. to practice law in Boston. They settled into their apartment and their work. Yet every weekend, he'd say to her: "There's nothing to do in Boston. Let's go to New Bedford."

She knows now what drew her husband back to his hometown.

After a couple of years, they bought a house and spent every weekend, vacation and maternity leave moment there. In 2005, with their oldest daughter ready to start school, they officially moved out of Boston and Partridge began her daily 60-mile commute.

They live with their daughters in a big old house where the entranceway is littered with the kids' sports bags, the doorbell doesn't work, and their neighbors are close by. "The community here is much more engaging," she says. "It's much less transient than Boston...I like the people who choose to be here."

They run into people they know wherever they go in the city.

"We've gone out for an anniversary dinner and had people sit down with us," she says. She takes it as part of the New Bedford package. Her biggest complaint is that when they unexpectedly run out of milk, she's always the one to pick up the next gallon. She says, "otherwise, if I send my husband to the grocery store to get something quickly, he's gone two hours." Like the commute, it's something you accept when you're married to the mayor of New Bedford.

