

Marshall County leaders seek answers in case of missing woman

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MARSHALL COUNTY — Two weeks after she disappeared, investigators and loved ones are still searching for answers about what happened to 54-year-old Kathryn “Beth” Pipitone.

According to Marshall County Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht, Pipitone was reported missing on June 28. She was last seen at her home in Aurora, Kentucky, near Los Amigos and Aurora One Stop. Pipitone can’t walk without assistance from another person or medical device. Her friends hope Aurora residents with security cameras can help determine what happened to her.

“How can a woman that can’t walk without major assistance get up and walk out of her house? Nothing makes sense,” her friend of nearly 20 years, Susie Powell-Moraga, said in a Zoom call on Monday. “How did she get up, how did she leave? I mean, she can’t get out of the bed by herself.”

Pipitone introduced Powell and husband, Julian Moraga, more than ten years ago. They helped support each other during the Zoom call, and each spoke extensively about Pipitone, who they described as a caring, loving friend.

“She had a really beautiful personality. I mean, she was just very friendly to everyone. She was very loving and, I mean, she was a really good friend to have,” Moraga said.

Pipitone is the mother of two boys. Powell and Moraga said it’s unlikely she would have left them with no explanation.

“If you knew Beth, you loved her boys, because her love — she had so much love for her boys that it spilled over into everyone that met her. She would never, ever leave her boys,” Powell said.

According to Marshall County Emergency Management Director Curt Curtner, the initial search for Pipitone was extensive.

“I had dogs and drones out Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and after four days we exhausted any leads with dogs and drones from that area,” Curtner said.



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Marshall County Emergency Management Director Curt Curtner (left) and Marshall County Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht (right) said Pipitone was reported missing on June 28.



File photo

The Marshall County Sheriff’s Office is asking the public to reach out with any information on the disappearance of Kathryn Pipitone.

After coming up dry, the physical search was postponed until they get any more leads. But Marshall County Sheriff Matt Hilbrecht said the investigation remains a top priority.

“I can tell you that all my detectives are on this case right now and have been for hundreds of hours at this point,” Hilbrecht said. “A case like this can go cold once we’ve exhausted every avenue of investigative leads possible. We are not at that point yet, so we’re still very much working as an active case.”

Hilbrecht said they haven’t ruled out foul play, and with Pipitone’s whereabouts still a mystery, it’s a possible avenue. “At this point in the investigation everyone’s a suspect,” he said.

The possibility of foul play ties in with Pipitone’s disabilities, which raises concern for investigators. “I don’t think, from my standpoint, that she was medically capable of walking off any distances...in the immediate area,” Curtner said.

Powell and Moraga encouraged Aurora residents to check their

doorbell cameras for any sign of Pipitone. They also called on volunteers to help in any way they can.

Powell started a Facebook group with the goal of eventually organizing a search party. It’s a place where Powell and Moraga hope people can come together to share ideas and information.

They said it’s difficult to plan a search party from their home in Arizona — and they could use assistance from someone with experience who knows the area.

“Anything anyone can do to volunteer to help out is the name of the game right now,” Moraga said. “We need all the help we can get.”

Powell and Moraga said they know the circumstances don’t look good, but they’re not giving up on finding Pipitone alive.

“I am still working under the assumption that Beth is alive somewhere. I know there’s some people that don’t think so, and they’re very blasé about everything. I can’t be blasé. This is a human,” Powell said.

Powell is a cat lover, just like Pipitone. She has six foster cats at home — not to mention her daughter, and bills, and groceries, and work. She has a lot on her plate, but, from over 1,000 miles away, she’s still making time to try and find her friend.

“Beth is definitely worth fighting for,” Powell said.



Contributed photo

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Pipitone was last seen at her home in Aurora, Kentucky, near Los Amigos and Aurora One Stop.

ell and Moraga said on the call, finishing each other’s sentence. “Her boys need her back. The family needs her back,” Moraga continued.

They ask anyone with information on Pipitone’s disappearance to send an email to susanspowell@hotmail.com.

Hilbrecht said any-

one with information should also contact the Marshall County Sheriff’s Department. He encouraged residents to do their own searching if they so choose, but he urged caution.

“If they find anything that could be evidence, leave it alone, don’t touch it and contact 9-1-1,” Hilbrecht said.

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