



JUNE 8, 2020

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR FAMILIES & RESIDENTS

## ***A Message from Your Executive Director***

Dear Residents and Families,

Welcome to our newly designed newsletter – we hope you like it. Nothing makes me happier than to report that The Village continues to be COVID-free. I recognize that the restrictions we continue to abide by can feel challenging, but all the hard work of residents, families and our staff have really paid off. We are looking forward to being able to resume more normal social and family interactions.



We continue to follow the Governor's orders and guidance from the C.D.C., but want to assure you that we hear you and are doing our part with The Vermont Health Care Association to push the Governor's office for new less restrictive guidelines (see the links below.) We expect his office will continue to release new information over the coming weeks. My hope is that by the end of the current order, which expires June 15th, we see some forward motion. It is so important that we get families back together – and not just through a window pane.

We've added a survey component to our weekly newsletters as a quick way to get direct feedback on 3-5 selected questions each week. The survey will take very little time and will be invaluable for our team in making resident and family driven decisions to communication, planning and programs.

As spring has fully arrived, it has been wonderful to see so many residents enjoying our outside spaces. Cantore Terrace on the 5th floor has been particularly popular. We hope you continue to enjoy these spaces while also practicing social distancing. We have stocked Teddy's Pub with water to keep everyone hydrated while they enjoy the warm sunshine on the terrace. I hope you all like the new and improved newsletter format and find the additional information helpful.

Warmly,

Jodi Egger  
Executive Director



## COMMUNITY UPDATES/ACTIVITIES

We have some very exciting news to share! We are in process for a plan to initiate in person, outside Garden Visits between residents and their family or friends. These visits will take place on/near Greenough Garden which is located just off our 1st floor dining room. We anticipate rolling out this fantastic new opportunity next week. Be on the lookout for details about the visits and how you can sign up for your spot. This is great progress and we are thrilled to share the news with you.

We continue to book family Zoom/FaceTime/Skype calls and are here to assist you with getting set up to enjoy spending time with family and friends. Be sure to check out the link distributed by Samantha Tracey ([traceysamantha@thevillageatwrj.com](mailto:traceysamantha@thevillageatwrj.com)) to schedule your next visit.





## ***Department Spotlight: Human Resources***

We have been so fortunate to have the opportunity to expand our care staff even during this challenging time. As we welcome new residents to The Village at White River Junction we are also welcoming new staff. Please help me welcome Danielle, Amy, Denise, Ali, and Margaret to the nursing department and Sheila to the front desk as our new concierge.

Many of you have come to know Linda who has been a key part of the culinary team, working hard to serve our residents since last year. Linda has decided to move closer to family and will be leaving us mid-June. Our loss is North Carolina's gain and we wish her nothing but the best.

## ***Community Connection:***

We continue to find the window and FaceTime visits that residents and families share to be truly heartwarming. Seeing that connection is often the highlight of our day.



## WEEKLY SURVEY

The Village is committed to responding to the needs of our residents and their family members. Please take a few minutes to respond to the below questions. We will continue to include a quick survey each week with different questions. Your feedback is important to us!

### **Complete the survey:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N62PJD8>

- 1. How satisfied are you with how The Village has responded to the challenges of COVID-19?*
- 2. How tolerant are you and your family of the restrictions required by the Governor's Office?*
- 3. How satisfied are you with the communication from The Village to residents and family members.*



A positive result of the current social distancing has been the creation of extraordinary performing arts and cultural content now available on the web. Never-before-seen videos of significant performances, special one-time “live from the living room” shows and lots of “a peak behind the scenes” content is delighting us!

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## ***Take Me To The World***

Treat yourself and watch Take Me To The World, Broadway’s best and brightest stars give a tribute to Stephen Sondheim for his 90th Birthday. No doubt you will recognize many of his iconic songs from West Side Story, Gypsy, A Little Night Music, Into The Woods, Sweeney Todd sung by Meryl Streep, Patti LuPone, Audra McDonald, Jake Gyllenhaal, Mandy Patinkin, Neil Patrick Harris, Lin-Manuel Miranda and more!

### **Watch on YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A92wZIVEUAw&feature=youtu.be>

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## ***Early Settlements of Norwich Podcast Tour***

A little closer to home, the Norwich Historical Society and Community Center partnered with Chico Eastridge, Studio Manager for CATV and went for a drive in his nifty convertible to film Early Settlements of Norwich podcast tour. Take a virtual road trip through Norwich’s early years.

### **Watch on YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfoAh82i7Gs&feature=youtu.be>



We are committed to keeping you informed of how COVID-19 has impacted The Village at White River Junction. Our community continues to be COVID-free and we remain steadfast in our commitment to follow the guidance from both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and local health authorities by:

- Requiring employees to wear face masks and adhere to additional screening processes
- Increased frequency and rigor of cleaning and sanitizing common community areas
- Restricting visitors, including deliveries
- Restricting on-site group social events and recreational activities
- Review of our emergency preparedness and response program
- Asking residents and employees to communicate any travel plans
- Coordinating best practices across our large partner network
- Making the CDC's COVID-19 prevention resources and recommendations available to all residents

## NATIONAL UPDATES

### ADVOCATING FOR SENIOR LIVING

Your voice is important for the support of senior living communities. Under the leadership of Argentum, the leading national trade association serving companies that own, operate, and support professionally managed senior living communities, we are calling on Congress to take swift action to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents and staff of the communities as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please consider writing your legislators to voice your support of our most vulnerable and precious seniors by prioritizing senior living communities for personal protective equipment, testing and federal financial support. The following links can assist you.

#### **Take action:**

**Residents** - <https://www.votervoice.net/Argentum/campaigns/73634/respond>

**Family Members** - <https://www.votervoice.net/Argentum/campaigns/73633/respond>

**Community Staff** - <https://www.votervoice.net/Argentum/campaigns/73635/respond>

**General Advocates** - <https://www.votervoice.net/Argentum/campaigns/74049/respond>



# HELPFUL LINKS & STAFF CONTACTS

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html)
- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/index.html)

## LCS COVID-19 website

- [www.lcsnet.com/covid-19-update/](http://www.lcsnet.com/covid-19-update/)

## Local health department website

- <https://www.healthvermont.gov/local/white-river-junction>

## From the Governor

- <https://governor.vermont.gov/covid19response>

## STAFF CONTACTS

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