

JULY 13, 2020

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR FAMILIES & RESIDENTS

A Message from Your Executive Director

Dear Residents and Families,

Thanks to our community continuing to be COVID-19 free and the Governor starting to allow more activities to resume, life at The Village has been improving for all. The health care team, led by Director of Health Care Services, Danielle Yoder, has been working hard for these past months to keep residents safe and healthy, so this week I've asked her to provide an update below. We are also focusing our survey and weekly Talk Time on health at The Village.



It is expected that the Governor will announce updates to the guidelines for re-opening senior living communities at his press conference on Tuesday, July 14th. The Governor's Office has indicated that the plan will more clearly establish 4 phases of "re-opening" for all long term care facilities and will include provisions for increased levels of allowable activity, subject to limitations and guidance, as communities move through the various phases. We will share the details of his plan and how we will integrate the regulations into The Village as soon as possible. You can watch the press conference live on multiple news outlets and on the Governor's Facebook page.

The feedback from the surveys and the conversations during weekly Talk Time have been instrumental in giving us feedback on what we are doing well and what we can improve. The survey takes about 3 minutes to complete and I encourage more of you to participate. Please know that we take the feedback to heart and focus on improvement strategies in our daily Director's meeting.

The small group conversations during Talk Time have been a great platform to discuss specific questions around a central theme. It has been fantastic to have this time to connect. Don't be shy! Join in each Friday at 2pm.

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...continued

Our concierge, Candy, is working on a plan to make sure everyone has the opportunity to vote in the November presidential elections. We will be hand delivering a packet to each assisted living resident which will include instructions and all the necessary forms to make sure casting your vote will be easy and hassle free.



Last week's survey was about our move-in process led by Move-in Coordinator, Carol Kolenski. Carol is a dedicated team member and she really valued the positive feedback you gave her. This week's survey is focused on Heath Care services. See the link below.

Don't forget to let our team know if there are special activities you'd like us to organize or if you need help participating in something you see on our weekly calendar.

As always please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. The Directors and I are available for Zoom meetings as well if there is anything you would like to discuss.

On a personal note, I celebrated a birthday this week and was serenaded by our residents. It was such a joyful experience! It is moments like this that remind me how fortunate I am to work with seniors. A big thank you to our memory care resident Richard for playing guitar and to everyone who raised their voice in song! It made my day!

Warmly,

Jodi Egger
Executive Director

COMMUNITY UPDATES/ACTIVITIES



Ladybug Program

Memory Care resident Russ felt really special to be one of the few who received a Ladybug last week. These simply weekly Ladybugs bring such joy to our Village family of residents – so please do join in the fun!

For this week's Ladybug, we are asking families to send some photographic love to our residents. Make a sign or a banner for your loved one saying hi or expressing some other positive wish for them. Get a picture of you holding the sign – and don't forget to smile! Email your 'happy message' to Sam and she will distribute them this coming Saturday, July 18th.



Our Greenough Garden patio visits are going very well, but we have heard some feedback that it's hard to find an available time in the online sign up calendar. If you are having a difficult time organizing a time that fits your schedule, please email Sam directly and she will help get a convenient time sorted out. – **traceysamantha@thevillageatwrj.com**.

Here is the link to the online calendar:
<https://teamup.com/kszegtj8g4jco615xw>



COMMUNITY UPDATES/ACTIVITIES

Community Connection:

It is National Mac & Cheese Day this week and we are putting our chefs to the test! Our culinary team will create their best recipe and serve samples to our residents who will judge and award prizes for the “Best” and the “Most Unique”. Keep your eye out for the announcement of the winners in next week’s newsletter.

The weather has been glorious and we are spending as much time outside as we can. Residents are helping to tend the herbs and vegetables growing in Greenough Garden, enjoying afternoon social hours on our rooftop Cantore Terrace and of course, best of all, seeing family during scheduled patio visits. We have a Sip & Paint party scheduled for this Friday afternoon and a Saturday matinee movie showing in Lyric Cinema.

Our “trip to the tropics” in celebration of National Piña Colada Day was good fun for all!



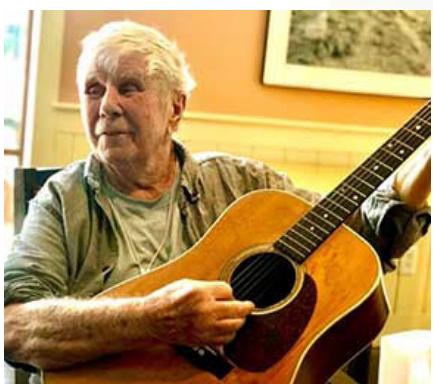


COMMUNITY UPDATES/ACTIVITIES

Chef Joelle spent some lovely time with residents while giving a cooking demonstration in Smith & Sons Kitchen and Russ doing some gardening.



Joyful singing with our Memory Care residents in honor of Jodi's Birthday last week – we even had a bit of dancing!





WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!



WEEKLY TALK TIME

Topic: Care

Friday, July 17 at 2pm

Talk Time continues this week with Jodi and Danielle, our Director of Health Services. 2pm on Friday is the time to share your thoughts on this important area of care. Bring your questions, suggestions and ideas and be a part of the process to help us deliver the quality and care our residents deserve.

Join this week's conversation about health care at the Zoom link below.

Please email Jodi at eggerjodi@lcsnet.com if you have topics you want to suggest for the weekly TALK TIME zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85761220670>



WEEKLY SURVEY

Health Care is one of the most important areas of service we provide to our residents. This week is the first of a multipart series of surveys around understanding how we're doing in this area.

Complete the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2XKY3C5>



Spotlight on Danielle Yoder Director of Health Care Services

Danielle began work at The Village on the first day of the COVID quarantine and immediately implemented an infection-control training process and protocol as directed by the State of VT, C.D.C. and senior living best standards as guided by Life Care Services. That The Village has remained COVID-19 free is a testament to her leadership.

Alongside her focus on virus prevention, Danielle has worked hard to get to know our residents and their family members. She is working diligently to make sure all care plans are accurate and up to date and we appreciate the support from residents and family members. Your notes and emails of appreciation have been a big support to Danielle and her team as they have worked their way through this challenging period of time.

“Since joining The Village in early March much of our department focus has been on virus prevention and protocols. I truly understand how difficult it has been for families to be separated for these past months.

“I have been developing and improving systems of communication with residents and families. It is our priority to establish a routine schedule of updates. As a part of this process, I have been diligently updating resident care plans, reaching out to families and encouraging nurses to do the same.

As we audit our internal systems and work on each resident’s care plan, we are making sure we are inclusive of the full scope of care including code status, assessments, migrating plans to Care Merge, dietary and allergy status as well as personal likes and dislikes.

We have added a nurse to both day and evening shifts and they will always have their cell phone with them to be able to respond to immediate





*needs or questions. To reach the nurse, call the main number **802-295-7500** and follow the menu prompts.*

I care very much about providing the best possible care for our residents and encourage families to participate in weekly surveys, join us for Talk Time and/or email or call me directly.

Thanks for your support.

Danielle”

New Team Member Spotlight:

Meet Amy Villaluz. Amy is an RN whose smile and positive energy light up any room. The love that she has for her work is evident upon meeting her. When she is not caring for our residents Amy likes to be outdoors. She enjoys hiking and other active pursuits. Welcome Amy!

Please say hi next time you see her in the Community.

PLEASE NOTE – Just for the photos we asked them to remove their masks so you could see their smiling faces!





TIPS FOR THE TIMES

Tea with the Dames

What happens when four legends of British stage and screen get together?

Dame Maggie Smith, Dame Judi Dench, Dame Eileen Atkins and Dame Joan Plowright are among the most celebrated actresses of our time and are also longtime friends who invite you to join them for a weekend in the country as they catch up with one another, reminisce, and share their candid, delightfully irreverent thoughts on everything from art to aging to love to a life lived in the spotlight. In this clip, they discuss hearing aids, diminishing eye sight and husbands. Bursting with devilish wit and whip-smart insights.



TEA WITH THE DAMES is a remarkable opportunity to spend time in the company of four all-time greats – up close and unfiltered. The full film is available on most streaming services – download on Amazon Prime, watch or Hulu or BBC America.

Watch on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/2VxsyjMv1d8>

Small Town Trilogy

From a little closer to home comes **SMALL TOWN TRILOGY** written by Upper Valley resident Elisabeth Gordon and is brought to you by our neighbor, Northern Stage. Elisabeth said, “These plays grew out of an idea to write a play based on our town list serve. After I moved to Boston, I realized that I could pretty much tell what was going on in town – who was moving, what the issue of the day was, just by reading the list serve!” This live online event took place in June, but is now available on demand.



Watch Online:

<https://northernstage.org/small-town-trilogy/>



COVID-19 IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Village continues to remain COVID-free. We are committed to keeping you informed of how COVID-19 is impacting The Village at White River Junction. We continue our robust commitment to following the guidelines 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
- Increasing the frequency and rigor of cleaning and sanitizing common community areas
- Restricting visitors inside the community
- Reviewing 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

Standing with Seniors Campaign:

From a little closer to home comes Tens of thousands of senior living advocates have already participated in the campaign, helping to advance our priorities in the House-passed HEROES Act. And while we continue to make progress educating lawmakers on the needs of senior living communities, we know that as a final compromise bill is crafted, lawmakers will be looking to hear from constituents who can help share with them the on-the-ground needs locally in their communities.

Taking part in these campaigns only takes a few minutes. Participants only need to enter their contact information to match with their lawmakers and click "send message." These campaigns are mobile-friendly, so you may consider asking your community members to take action from tablets, cell phones, or other devices. Even if you have participated previously, you can still take part in this campaign by sending this new revised letter to Congress.



Take action: <https://standingwithseniors.com/help/>



HELPFUL LINKS & STAFF CONTACTS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/index.html

LCS COVID-19 website

- 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>

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