



April 22, 2020

Earth Day! And I woke up to a snow squall. My poor mama robin was hunkered down in her nest trying to keep those eggs warm. Isn't it amazing to look at before and after photos of metropolitan areas during this crisis and see how much the skies have cleared since we've all been staying home?

I hope you all will heed your fellow resident's call to action this Earth Day 2020 by planting a seed:

“For many gardeners, and artists, this could be a delightful distraction from being confined at home. There are 2 kinds of seeds you can plant: 1. A seed from a green plant – from a fruit, vegetable, tree or shrub. Put it in a small pot with soil, water it, and record when its roots and leaves appear, and how tall it grows. 2. A seed of knowledge – about climate change, loss of coral reefs, pollution, recycling, loss of species or other issues. Express your idea in a poem, painting, skit or other art. A seed is a symbol of regeneration, something to celebrate on Earth Day.”

I'd love to see and hear how you celebrated.

Independent Living Residence Renovations:

You will start to see some renovation work happening in a few cottages and first floor apartments with separate entrances that we are readying for move-ins. This work has been on hiatus, but with the green light from the Governor to start up some minor construction projects with teams of no more than two, we expect to get this going again soon. Workers will be masked and gloved and will not interact with residents. They will go through the same daily screening as our staff before being allowed on campus.

Gardening and Landscaping:

You will also start seeing Peter Hausermann out and about on the grounds cleaning up from winter and readying for spring (if it ever actually arrives for real!). Some of you have asked if and how you can help. We're looking to keep things simple. Residents can email him directly. For starters, he wants to know if you are interested in only the gardens around your home or if you are interested in helping campus-wide. He will work with responders accordingly.

More info about personal gardens and raised bed plots is forthcoming very soon. I know I keep saying that, but I really mean it. The community gardens committee is putting together its recommendation and we'll share any day now.

Payroll Protection Loan:

We did receive confirmation that Wake Robin has been approved for one of the federal Payroll Protection loans which will help us offset some unanticipated payroll and other costs associated from this COVID-19 pandemic. We have more to understand about the loan requirements, and the money is not yet in the bank, but we are grateful to have gotten our request approved.

WRRRA Staff Support Appeal:

I wanted to update you all on the WRRRA special appeal for staff support. Wow. Many, many thanks to everyone who has contributed.

The elevator from the staff entrance is also now literally papered with notes of appreciation from residents, and the wall just near the staff entrance has been transformed as well into a big thank you card from you all. The staff are so pleased and grateful. It's fun to see them just standing there reading the notes of appreciation. Thank you all for extending these sentiments to our employees.

What will life be like when we are actually face-to-face with our colleagues again? Check out this funny video https://youtu.be/DYu_bGbZiiQ

And finally...

- My mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by laying in bed all day, but look at me now! I'm saving the world!
- I swear my fridge just said "What the hell do you want now?"
- Whoever owes you money, go to their house now. They should be home.
- Homeschooling Day #3: they all graduated. #Done.

Happy Wednesday folks.



Martha E. Maksym
President and CEO