



April 1, 2020

Happy April Fool's Day!

Lots of questions coming my way about **lending/borrowing items** from each other - brooms, vacuums, books, movies. Is that allowed?

Well, it's risky. We are reading that this virus lives on surfaces for varying degrees of time. From the National Institutes of Health: "...The scientists found that severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was detectable in aerosols for up to three hours, up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel."

So what does this mean for sharing items? If you really need to, then **BE CAREFUL!** Disinfect whatever you are sharing before you give it to someone else. Then if you can, put it in a paper bag to give if small enough. Maybe date the bag? And the receiver should let the bag sit for a bit before opening. To the receiver -disinfect borrowed items before using and remember to wash your hands well with soap and water before and after giving/receiving items. Obviously, paper bags won't work for brooms or vacuums, but disinfect those too. That's the best I can do with this question.

And speaking of sharing items, a **request from the Linden Health Center**. We are not accepting the lovely magazines and newspapers many of you have been offering to share with Linden residents. Many of you have been dropping them off at the front desk to go over to Linden. Thank you for your kindness, but for the next few weeks, we can't take them in Linden. We will let you know when that can start up again.

An **update from Environmental Services** on a variety of questions:

Gardening

With the sun shining and the temperatures rising, there is a great temptation to get outside and do some spring cleanup. It's still a bit early, though, especially for our pollinators and beneficial insects. The temperatures are still going to bounce up and down for a bit longer and there is always the chance of a little more snow. Cutting down the dead plant stems and cleaning up the leaf debris will disturb them before they have a chance to emerge under their normal cycles. Please wait a few more weeks before cleaning up the garden beds around your home or your raised bed gardens.

While we were hoping to continue grounds work, the Governor's executive order is pretty clear: "Businesses should not continue aesthetic services such as gardening, tree pruning (if not essential for safety), or spring lawn cleanups." We are keeping an eye on further developments and clarifications so that we can, where possible, continue to take care of the campus and still be compliant.

Dinner paper bags

Please hold onto them and set them aside for future collection. The Tag Sale may be able to repurpose them. You can also put them in mixed recycling if you don't want to wait.

Housekeeping

A few weeks without housekeeping is manageable, but after an extended period of time, some things in your home will need attention. For those of you who do not have cleaning supplies, please email Leslie Parker, Director of Environmental Services and let her know which items you need:

- Cleaning solutions for bathroom
- Cleaning solutions for kitchen
- Cleaning rags
- Vacuum cleaner
- Broom

ES will package small containers of cleaning solutions and rags to drop off at your door and will set up a rotation for vacuum cleaners and brooms. If you have a bigger problem that can't be solved this way and can't wait until housekeeping services resume, please let Leslie know.

From **Linden Pen Pals**:

Linden Pen Pals - a short summary:

why = because we are a community that cares for each other.

how = contact a Linden staff member for a name of a resident who does not yet have a Pal or to tell us with whom you are already pals.

what = write, phone or email your Linden Pal weekly or more.

where = deposit written mail in Pen Pal drop box on table in Community Center vestibule. Staff will deliver to Linden.

what else = postcards, envelopes, note cards for use can be found beside the drop box.

Thanks to all of you who are participating. I know it means a lot to your neighbors in Linden.

I know many of you may be listening to the news that the CDC is considering recommending that all people wear masks when going outside. I did get asked the question if Wake Robin could provide masks to residents. Unfortunately, the answer is no. We simply don't have enough for our staff. Several of you generously sewed cloth masks and you will begin to see our staff wearing them starting today or tomorrow. But we have no extras. We have an extremely limited supply of surgical masks, and an even smaller supply of N95 masks. We need all of what we have, and more, to cover our needs in Linden. And until the healthcare and essential workforce have enough, please don't be buying up surgical or N95 masks, if you could even find them. My recommendation is to request that seamstresses continue sewing masks for your neighbors. Bandanas apparently will work as well. There's a pattern for making face masks on the table in the Community Center vestibule, if memory serves. Thanks!

Final reminder (hopefully)- The Wake Robin campus is closed to all visitors. Unless someone has been given permission by Meagan Buckley, Director of Health/Resident Services, or me, no one should have visitors on campus. That includes children/family members. If you have an adult child delivering groceries, you must meet that person in the driveway, collect the groceries, and bring them to your homes yourself. Seriously, no visitors please, anywhere on campus. We are screening everyone who is allowed to come and checking temperatures. I can't have anyone slipping into a building. They haven't been screened. Please take this seriously. We are currently COVID free on campus. There are now 8 senior housing/nursing homes with COVID in Vermont. We do not want to be number 9.

Alright, enough being Debbie Downer. What fun April Fool's tricks were you fooled by today? I'd love to hear.

Stay well everyone.

Martha



Martha E. Maksym
President and CEO