



July 28, 2020

Greetings everyone,

I'm back from a surprisingly restful few days off. I spent yesterday afternoon in a leadership retreat with the Directors. Super hot and humid, but extremely productive anyway! We are starting to get our heads around being in the right mindset to do strategic planning this fall. It's hard to think beyond this immediate crisis which is surprisingly complex to manage and very consuming. One particular 'aha!' moment I had was when we realized that what initially may seem like a simple "problem" to solve, upon reflection becomes a "complex dilemma" with unexpected impacts that need to also be considered. The analogy for me was one of an iceberg. You can see the tip poking out of the water that seems clear enough, but there is a lot more to it. This is how managing the myriad of issues on campus has felt these past many months. Seems simple to resolve at first, but actually not so much. Residents may not see the depth of the complexity (and that's by design) but I do hope you have an appreciation for how much we would on the one hand like to answer 'Yes!' to everything you ask, but in fact may not be able to for reasons that are far deeper and layered than the one request. Bear with us. This is entirely new territory for us all. At the end of the day, I hope we all are able to remain positive, kind, curious and generous with each other. That's what I believe we will most remember from these troubling times.

A few gentle reminders to everyone:

Our employees at the checkpoint are just doing their jobs. It may be a bit annoying to be questioned coming and going, but it's helpful for contact tracing and to make sure we screen everyone (a federal requirement for us!). They are out there in the heat and the rain and the humidity. Not the most sought after assignment. So please be patient and please be kind. It's really easy to do and makes a big difference. Thank you.

Also, as you know, we have been extra careful having our Linden neighbors interacting with others outside of the Health Center. If you happen upon one of our Linden residents enjoying a garden or the summer air, please take *extra* care to make sure your mask is on firmly. Make sure it is tied at the bottom and the top or securely around your ears. The research is startling about how many germs and

“droplets” can spread without effective mask wearing. This is extremely important both for COVID transmission but also for other viruses. You can't be too careful.

Bill McKibben is home from the hospital and just wrote a great essay in The New Yorker this week. A real shout-out to Vermont: <https://bit.ly/2CY1Ui5>

Some spots have opened up for the **Summer Concerts in the Park(ing Lot) for this Thursday, July 30th at 6:30 PM, featuring Vermont Symphony Orchestra violinists Sofia Hirsch and Laura Markowitz.** The sign up link here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040545ada72da3f49-summer>

Last Resort Farm Online Ordering

To help expedite purchases at the Farmers Market, Last Resort Farm has extended their online ordering form to accommodate Wake Robin Staff & Residents! Pick up for online orders will remain on Thursdays from 2:00pm to 4:00pm in the front of the Community Center. Here is how it works:

For payment we strongly recommend using Venmo listed on their order form. If you prefer to pay at pick up using cash, check, credit, or debit you can certainly do that too, just be sure to check that option on the form. For pick up, please wait your turn in line and pay at the stand. **Deadline to order online is 2:00 pm on Wednesday for a Thursday pick up at our Farmers Market.**

Opening various activities and rooms in the Community Center:

We continue to get a lot of inquiries about why we are not opening various activity rooms and spaces in the community center. We certainly are aware of the popularity of these activities (pool, woodworking, fitness, art studio) and are working on a plan to begin opening up more of these as the weather turns colder and outside activities are more limited. What we have learned is that opening up one of these leads to the “if them, why not us?” question. Believe it or not, there are cascading impacts (sanitation, mask safety and physical distancing, risk of virus spread, volume of residents coming and going from campus daily, etc.) with each decision that are very real to us in leadership as we manage through this crisis. We know many of you are eager to resume some of these activities. We will let you know as soon as our plan is developed.

Why are you asked where you are going at the checkpoint?

I know many of you are curious about why we ask where you are going when you go through the checkpoint. I have heard some of you feel like it's “an invasion of privacy”. We *are* asking for contact tracing purposes, and to make sure that folks

know what we are allowing and not at the moment. If you tell us you are going to Best Buy, it's an opportunity to remind folks that Best Buy is not allowed at this moment. It also is a record of you having left campus in case five days later you have COVID symptoms and need to have your memory jogged that you did in fact leave campus on Tuesday for "errands." I can't remember where I was yesterday half the time, and certainly would welcome a memory jog if I was asked where I went five days ago. So again, please be kind to our staff when they ask these questions. They are just doing what we have asked them to do, and they are certainly not trying to invade anyone's privacy.

Indoor and Outdoor gatherings reminder:

Small groups are invited to gather inside in residence lounges as long as appropriate physical distancing of six feet or more can be maintained. The number of people allowed will obviously depend on the size of the space. Any resident can use any residence lounge. You don't need to live in the building to reserve the lounge space. You can reserve these spaces by calling the front desk. This includes lounges in Maple (I was asked this question this week).

Outdoors, people are free to gather in groups of up to 10 as long as physical distancing is maintained and masks are worn. We ask that there be no group gatherings on individual residence porches or decks. Those should be used only by the residents of the unit. Gardens, grass spaces, the gazebo and porch off the dining room are available. And we ask that these gatherings NOT include eating and drinking at this time. We also ask that spaces outside of Linden neighborhoods be reserved for those Linden residents only and not the IL community.

A few Updates from ES:

Grocery Shopping Transportation

Effective immediately, independent living residents who can't drive themselves can call Transportation and schedule a grocery shopping during senior shopping hours. Reservations can be made by calling the Transportation line at 734-0273. At this time we are only using the Wake Robin cars and taking one person per trip.

The options for senior shopping include:

Market 32	7am-8am
Trader Joes	8am-9am
Hannaford's	7am-8am on Tue/Wed/Thu

Please call at least 48 hours in advance.

Window Washing

Our vendor will begin washing windows throughout campus beginning on August 3rd. Some windows will be easily accessed while others will require a lift.

Campus Speeding

When you see the speed sign light flashing very quickly and very brightly, that means you are going **10 mph OVER** the speed limit. It may not seem like much to you, but it is scary for the staff at the checkpoint. Also please think of your neighbors who may not hear the roar of your engine or may not be as mobile or agile as you whiz by. So all those in favor of safety on campus, please raise your right foot!

Today's humor- Still laughing about this one!

An old Italian man lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was so hard this year. His only son, Vincent, used to help him, but he was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here, my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days.

Love, Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Pop,

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.

Love, Vinnie

At 4 AM the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Pop,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love you, Vinnie

Stay well everyone,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martha".

Martha

Martha E. Maksym
President and CEO