



New Mercer Commons

Happenings

OCTOBER 2020



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Fort Collins, CO
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ADMINISTRATOR

Gina DiGiallonardo
Ext. 2201

ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

Sarah Coler
Ext. 2230

ADMISSIONS

Gabby Cabello
Ext. 2202

DIETARY MANAGER

Cindy Miszczuk
Ext. 2205

HOUSEKEEPING

SUPERVISOR

Michele Hanna
Ext. 2226

MAINTENANCE

Gary Halsey
Ext. 2228

MEDICATION

MANAGER

Connie Smith
Ext. 2231

OFFICE MANAGER

Melinda Ford
Ext. 2200

PINES ADDITION

Front Desk
Ext. 2234

SOCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTOR

Alison Ford
Ext. 2217

STAFFING

COORDINATOR

Jessica Thornes
Ext. 2204



Nobody has a BINGO system like Pam! She can play six cards like its nothing!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST MONTH

September was a whirlwind, but we clung to each other (in spirit) and here we are in October. Here are some of our most memorable moments..

We celebrated the final day of Summer with our cherished Mobile Ice Cream Parlor AND we welcomed the fall by jumping on the Pumpkin bandwagon and making our very own Pumpkin Spice soap bars.

Our memory care unit joined in New Mercer Commons First Annual Stuffed Animal Adoption Event. Thanks to the warm hearts of our residents, we were able to find homes for all of our donated companions!

With the formation of the New Mercer Commons Welcoming Committee, our residents took the lead in ensuring that each person who joins our community here at New Mercer will feel loved and welcomed.

We celebrated Labor Day by taking the first steps in preparing for the upcoming presidential election with a Voter Registration Party. Now we are ready to make our voices heard and stand up for what we believe in! As a reminder, if anyone has questions regarding registering to vote (residents and staff included) just ask Sarah, our Activity Director.

We have managed to make it through another month COVID free! We recognize the efforts and sacrifices that this takes on each of your parts, and truly, we





COVID Precautions

You all are truly super heroes. Wearing masks and stand six feet away from your neighbors may not seem glamorous, but it is saving lives. Keep it up! In case you would like a quick reminder of what you can do, here it is!

1. Wear a Mask

We ask that you continue to wear a mask when you are in a commons space including the halls and when you have company, staff or fellow residents with you inside of your room. Make sure that the mask is covering both your nose and your mouth to ensure that it is effective.

2. Hand Washing

Try to wash your hands are when you're leaving your room as you return to your room, before eating, after using the restroom AND after coughing, sneezing, or blowing your nose. And! Before you touch your face!

3. Social Distancing

Social distancing means keeping at least six feet of space between yourself and other people outside of your home/room.

cannot thank you enough. While this accomplishment merits celebration (HURRAH!), we must also acknowledge that the battle is ongoing. Please continue to be diligent in our hygiene practices. At the end of the newsletter, you will find some updated critical tips to prevent the spread of germs in the building. Thank you all so much for your efforts!

ACTIVITIES COMING UP THIS MONTH

WISDOM STUDIES AND COMMUNION

We are continuing Wisdom Studies with our chaplain Peter this month! Please continue to check your weekly chronicles for details as each side of the building (Memory Care, Commons, and Pines) has a different time scheduled. Peter will also be circulating around the building on the second Thursday of each month (Thursday, October 8th) to serve a nondenominational communion.

HALLOWEEN DECORATING

As we approach the holiday season, I think we need to unpack our rusty decorating skills. So this month, we are recruiting all of you to help us decorate the building for Halloween! We will be conducting some “spooky” craft clubs throughout the month and then your crafts will be displayed around the building! I hope you're excited!

SPOOKY MOVIE MATINEES

In order to get into the Halloween spirit, we will be hosting some spooky (ghost undulations) movie matinees. Don't get too scared. We recognize that spooky isn't everyone's cup of tea, so we will be holding votes for what you want to watch; The Addams Family, Boris Karloff's

Frankenstein, or the great classic It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown. There's a spooky movie for everyone.

FALL FESTIVAL

The fun of October obviously isn't just in Halloween. It's watching the leaves turn gold, taking a breath of the crisp fall air, bundling up in a blanket with a hot cup of apple cider. This month, we are going to enjoy all of these classic fall activities from an indoor pumpkin patch to pumpkin decorating, from warm apple cider to caramel apples, we're going to do it all!

FACILITY UPDATES

CALENDARS AND CHRONICLES

It's difficult to find words that sum up 2020 thus far. Maybe 'unpredictable' conveys some of it. A little bit tumultuous, sure. Well, October is holding true. We are continuing to make

Gretchen in the moment that she adopted her new cuddly companion, Charlie.



adjustments to activities to develop a system that can bend with the times. Here is what to expect this month. The spirit of the Daily Chronicles lives on in our “New Mercer Commons Weekly Chronicles.” They have served us well in providing schedules for each day’s activities, a continuous channel of communication from the building’s management to you, and of course, a never ending stream of jokes and good news. The Weekly Chronicles are here to stay.

As the Weekly Chronicles are continuing to provide us with a schedule for each day, we are steeping back from our activity calendar for another month.

This month, we will be welcoming two new members to our Activities Department! I don’t know who’s going to be more excited; All of you, our Activity Assistants, or our Activity Director. More details to come as these positions are filled and finalized, but definitely keep your eyes out for some new faces in the activities department.

NEW SERVICES OFFERED

New Mercer Commons is now offering Visiting Ancillary Services (VAS) right here in the building! VAS is the leading nonprofit provider of dental and hearing services to individuals in care facilities. This transition will give New Mercer’s residents the opportunity to receive the services of a dentist and dental hygienist, audiologist, AND optometrist here in the building.

We will initiate this process on a referral basis. Residents who have had a referral should have received an appointment reminder. If you have questions regarding whether or not you are eligible to receive these services, please reach out to our administrative staff.

VOTING INFORMATION

There is only one month remaining until the 2020 presidential election! Keep a close eye on your Weekly Chronicle because we will be releasing the date that Larimer County is dropping off our ballots as well as providing more information about how to cast your ballot!

The general presidential election will take place on November 3, 2020. The deadline for both voting by mail and registering by mail is October 26, 2020. If you are interested in learning more information about the 2020 Election, you can also visit the League of Women Voters site, vote411.com for factual information about the candidates.

OUTDOOR VISITS

We recognize that, as the winter months approach, outdoor visits may not be an option forever. Please know that Columbine Health System’s upper management is tirelessly working with the CDC and Colorado’s government to develop systems that ensure that contact with our loved ones will always be available in one way or another.

But, that being said, we still have some warm days ahead. You are welcome to take advantage of the remaining warm weather by scheduling an outdoor visit with your loved ones. If you and your family are interested in scheduling an outdoor visit, go to our facility’s webpage at <https://columbinehealthfacilities.com/new-mercero-commons/> and scroll down until you see a link in the right hand column that says ‘schedule an outdoor visit with your loved one.’

NEW MERCER COMMONS BEAUTY SALON

Yes! New Mercer Commons Beauty Salon is open! Nicole is in the building on Thursdays and many people in the building are anxious for her services, so if you are wanting to schedule an appointment, sign up on the sheet posted at the Beauty Salon ASAP. Spots fill up quick!



NEW MERCER COMMONS COVID PRECAUTIONS

You all are truly super heroes. Wearing masks and standing six feet away from your neighbors may not seem glamorous, but it is saving lives. Keep it up! In case you would like a quick reminder of what you can do, here it is!

How to Properly Wear a Mask:

- Avoid touching your mask as this can spread germs from your hands to your mouth.
- Your mask should be covering your chin AND your nose. The top of the mask should rest on the bridge of your nose.
- Avoid using a blue surgical mask (such as the ones used for leaving the building). These masks are not reusable. If you need a cloth social mask, pick one up from Melinda at the front desk.
- Make sure that your masks are getting washed every day. They should be washed by our Housekeeping Department. In order to ensure that this is getting done, please avoid storing your mask in drawers or other locations that will be difficult to spot by our staff.

Hand sanitizer is also provided in the buildings' common areas. This can be used before and after touching shared supplies like puzzles, our resident computers, books from the library, or our nu-step machine.

A LETTER OF RECOGNITION

I would just like to take a quick moment to acknowledge the difficulty of the times and thank you all for being a part of New Mercer's family. I want each and every person in this building to know that, when you are expressing sadness for not being able to hug your families, we hear you. When you are aggravated that you can't get your hair done with your favorite salon, we hear you. When you express frustration for the limitations that have been placed on activities, we hear you. When you express disappointment that you can't eat meals with your friends and neighbors, we hear you. We hear you and every time you express that you are struggling with the current circumstances, it matters to us.

It is not news to anyone when I say that this year has been difficult for care facilities like our own. We have all had to make our own unique sacrifices for the cause of keeping each other healthy and retaining the freedoms that we have now. And I know that, with the year progressing and the restrictions still in place, we will all experience days of hardship, BUT I just want you all to know that through these times, as cheesy as it sounds, you will never be alone.

This building is a community that exists on the foundation that we all take care of each other. From our housekeeping staff to our dietary staff; our care providers and CP assistants to our administrative, social services, admissions, and reception staff; our nurses and the many healthcare professionals that enter our building to lend services to our activities staff and to the therapists and home care professionals that join us every day; We are and will be here. While we all know that our presence in the building will not automatically ease our every struggle, we hope we can all lean on each other and know that our struggles will never go unheard.

All of that being said, there are plenty of joyous moments that await us in the coming months. We will still see the faces of our loved ones and pictures of great grandchildren, and we will reunite with our neighbors at silly craft clubs, and enjoy inordinate amounts of sweets following BINGO games and door to door deliveries. While it is important to acknowledge that we have our struggles, hopefully we will never allow ourselves to lose sight of the beautiful moments that happen each and every day. Hang in there.

Pat is very focused as she pours her handmade shea butter, pumpkin spice soap mixture into its mold.

