

MAY, 2020

# The Woodcrest Villager

*Special Edition: Corona Virus Pandemic*

Issue II

“AND PEOPLE STAYED AT HOME

AND READ BOOKS

AND LISTENED

AND THEY RESTED

AND DID EXERCISES

AND MADE ART

AND PLAYED

AND LEARNED NEW WAYS OF BEING

AND STOPPED AND LISTENED MORE

DEEPLY”

EXERPT FROM  
‘UNTITLED’ BY  
KITTY O’MEARA  
2020

## Masks and the “New Normal”



In curating photographs for this newsletter, one thing becomes very obvious; there are no unmasked faces. That’s because very early in April, ahead of the curve, Woodcrest began requiring all staff to wear masks at all times. Soon after, mandates and guidelines came down from the State and since then, we’ve all been getting used to the new ‘on your face’

normal. With world-wide shortages of PPE, an army of friends in the community rallied to our cause. Staff member Michon Doheny herself



crafted dozens and dozens of cloth masks. There are enough donated masks to outfit the entire house of residents and staff. They come in different sizes and shapes, colors and patterns. We have enough choices that we can browse and shop for just the right fit at our new “masks tree” stationed at the front door. We may be doing more laundry, but we are staying safe.

## A New Kind of Portrait Exhibited

Everyday, it seems, there is new change afoot. We are anticipating and responding by being fluid and ready. Residents and staff alike are exhibiting steadfast, no-nonsense New England hardiness and it is so admirable. The “new normal” has come to include visions of ourselves we might not have imagined before. To honor this, the entire building has become a portrait gallery, displaying the proud and determined faces of our whole Woodcrest Village community. Strolling through our halls, one can sense the iron will, but often playful nature that will carry us through this historic event.



## Looking Back at April

April offered up a broad range of weather conditions and we took every opportunity to celebrate. For April Fool's day, we all donned our wackiest attire and cracked ourselves up! Easter brought another wonderful meal together but distanced and even a visit from a certain candy bearing bunny. Earth Day is always appreciated at



Woodcrest and this year was no exception. We planted seeds and exercised our “flower power” by wearing a wild array of colorful flower prints. We made art and practiced good old fashioned pen-

manship. We went flower picking on long walks and read poetry. We took very informative virtual trips and maintained our health with new, modified exercise classes. We delved deep with our “newfound friend,” meditation. As always, we found ways to laugh and make the best of the situation.



# Tablets

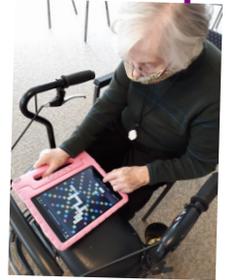


One of many changes to the rhythm at Woodcrest is the addition of a fleet of tablets.

These devices are making it possible to stay as closely connected as possible with the world outside of our doors, but

also within. Doctors are able to practice some tele-medicine, keeping up-to-date. Family members can call anytime to arrange video chats with loved ones at Woodcrest Village. Enid Chandler smiled as her family sang Happy Birthday right along with the rest of the us and she blew out her candles. Residents are adjusting to the technology

with ease and making the most of it, using it to maintain the scrabble games they've always enjoyed together. Adaptability is a trait easily spotted in our community.



# Things are Greening Up!

As usual, New Hampshire served up a long winter and as usual, we are happy to see it winding down. A box of individually packed seed starting kits was available and residents

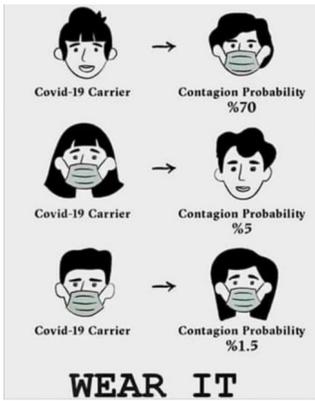


started flowers in their window sills. In the Courtyard, Morning Glories climb a trellis and wait to be planted on our sunny deck. Residents took to the gardens on warm days and prepared the beds for planting. Planning has begun for our raised bed herbs and



vegetables, which will take their place on our porches near Memorial Day. Not even a pandemic can dampen our love of growing things.





With all the changes and precautions, new signage appears frequently to help remind us all of things that might not come naturally, but must be adopted. To emphasize the critical importance of mask wearing, an illustrated graphic is posted at each resident door. In a common area where folks gather together, a bespoke sign reminds us about proper spacing and distancing. We're getting the hang of this!



## KUDOS TO THE CREW



Every single department at Woodcrest Village has had to evolve to keep pace with this crisis. Housekeeping staff, ever thorough,

scour everything in sight and conquer mountains of masks. Maintenance staff ceaselessly roam the building, fine tuning it for new protocol. Food service folks are expanding their job to include cooking shift meals and



pizzas to-go for staff in order to minimize co-worker's exposure in stores. Concierges tend bar and facilitate everything from ordering to video chats. The Activity department amends every day of every calendar

to fit safety guidelines. Nurses negotiate tele-medicine appointments and remain hyper-vigilant. R.A.s master video chatting



and create artful montages of photos to keep families in the loop. Every single staff member at Woodcrest Village

has stepped up to the plate and assumed new and challenging responsibilities. And they've done it with grace and style, love and care. Immeasurable thanks to you all!

