



COVID-19 UPDATE

For Residents, Family Members, and Staff

Thursday, July 9th, 2020

We wanted to inform you that an Independent Living resident has tested positive for COVID-19 after being away on vacation, followed by the last 2.5 weeks in several medical facilities. Having had regular close contact, this resident's spouse (also an Independent Living resident) is currently in self-quarantine and will be tested for the virus. It appears that the resident with COVID-19 acquired the virus while in a medical setting. We are thinking positive thoughts for both residents and their families during this unsettling time.

As the body of scientific knowledge about COVID-19 continues to evolve, including how we combat its insidious nature, so too will the guidelines for how we protect ourselves and those around us from becoming infected. Two emerging theories – backed by growing evidence in the scientific and public health communities – are worth highlighting today.

First, it appears that the strain of COVID-19 now spreading throughout communities in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world is likely a different strain than the virus that initially infected humans in late 2019 and early 2020.

- This new mutated strain – referred to as “G” – seems to more effectively infect human cells and results in a higher viral concentration in the upper respiratory tract, thus making it more contagious (easier to spread).
- These attributes could help to explain the rapid increase in confirmed cases in California, Texas, Arizona and Florida and other states - including North and South Carolina.
- While COVID-19 “G” may be partially responsible for more contagion, it does not seem to make those with the virus any sicker – thank goodness!!

The other new insight emerging from the scientific and public health communities somewhat refutes that COVID-19 spreads predominantly through person-to-person transmission by way of inhaling large respiratory droplets from a sneeze or cough, talking or singing, and through surface contact.

- There is growing evidence that tiny airborne respiratory droplets, called “aerosols,” are an important avenue of viral transmission.

- In fact, hundreds of scientists and public health experts worldwide now believe that these tiny droplets can actually hang in the air for a number of hours, especially in poorly ventilated spaces.
- Both the World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are looking at this latest data and are expected to modify their positions on how COVID-19 is being spread.

One **related** item of local interest...

- On Tuesday, June 7, Mecklenburg County issued a proclamation specifically strengthening **mask-wearing** requirements which states:
“A face covering shall be worn while indoors by all customers, employees and other users of County, City or Town owned, or leased, buildings and facilities, and all persons in any other indoor or outdoor situation in which people cannot maintain the CDC recommended social distance, including those in County parks.”

New COVID-19 Case at The Pines as of: 7/9/20	
Independent Living Resident:	1 case*
Cumulative Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines as of: 7/9/20	
Independent Living Resident:	1 case*
Non-Health Center Staff:	1 case
*Virus was not acquired while the resident was at The Pines.	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Housekeeping Services

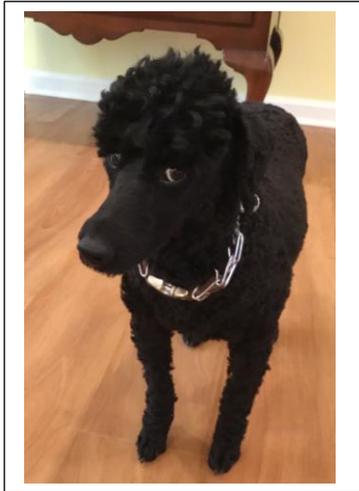
We know how pleased residents were when we re-initiated limited housekeeping services on May 4th. The recent July 4th holiday resulted in a modified holiday schedule as we have traditionally done, so that staff can enjoy much-needed time for rest, recuperation and recreation. We know that the modified schedule inconveniences some residents, which we ameliorate to the extent we can. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we return to our coronavirus-modified schedule. We will start a new cleaning schedule next week which increases the time allotted for cleaning each type of residence. Your monthly fees support this modified housekeeping service in addition to “other duties as assigned” that housekeeping staff has taken on to reduce residents’ potential exposure to the coronavirus.

Pool Update

The staff has been working diligently to reopen the pool. Unfortunately, we have encountered a series of unexpected challenges including the need to purchase new parts. More recently, the staff has been engaged in the lengthy process of draining, refilling, balancing the chemicals in and temperature of the water, and other tasks related to preparing the pool for residents. Please understand that we know how greatly many of you would enjoy use of the pool at this time, and the staff is committed to making this so as soon as possible.

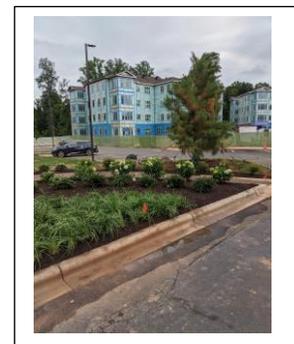
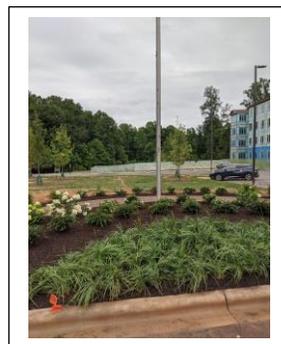
Thelma and Louise (Lulu)

While walking along Kimbrough Circle, many residents have had the pleasure of meeting Lulu (pictured left, following a recent grooming). Patricia Gallagher also shared a photo of Lulu's sister Thelma (pictured right), who was kept by the breeder as a show dog. Patricia writes, *"Thelma has already won competitions on the northern Minnesota/Canadian show circuit...The breeder named them Thelma and Louise after the film characters, and I shortened Louise to Lulu."* Thank you, Patricia, for sharing these delightful photos!



Landscaping in Flagpole Island

Many thanks to Art Englehardt for sharing photos (below) of new plantings by our front entrance's Flagpole Island.



Summer Magnolias

Rick Dynesius recently shared these lovely photos from a recent walk in his neighborhood. He and his wife Carol are future residents of the Villas at Poplar Hill.



Closing Thoughts

Thank you, Duane Christianson, for sharing your poem (below), whose setting is The Pines.

An Afternoon Rain

He cannot see the rain.
It is that thin and clear
as it moves without drama
toward a line of sun-lit trees.
It seems to wipe his hands
of heat and this day's cares.
Something in the woodland
offers light applause.