



## **COVID-19 UPDATE**

***For Residents, Family Members, and Staff***

**Thursday, August 6, 2020**

There is no surprise that the ways we are spending our time and how we are spending our money have changed dramatically since the coronavirus emerged. Some of these changes reflect safety and health guidelines as well as the new realities that have resulted – personal wellness concerns, long distance travel all but halted and retail businesses closed or operating in drastically different ways. The changes in our behavior also reflect a shift in consumer preferences to activities and purchases that genuinely bring us comfort.

First, let's consider some of the obvious changes:

- “Screen time” and digital connectivity are way up. Not only have many of us increased our TV time, but we are regularly relying on our digital devices to keep in touch with family and friends. Zoom gatherings are a daily occurrence for many. Screen time has also provided for learning opportunities, virtual travel, reading, and games with friends. Likely these will be among the behavioral changes that will stick with us even when COVID-19 is something of the past.
- We are also returning to forms of entertainment that largely seemed to be relics - especially for those under age 45. Board games, such as Scrabble, Monopoly, Risk, Clue and a new one – coincidentally called Pandemic -- are among the most popular games today.
- Listenership of radio programs is also on the upswing.
- Card games, jigsaw puzzles and even dominoes have all found new followings, and birdwatching and container gardening -- both of which can be enjoyed from balconies and patios -- also have new fans.

Among the most interesting developments in consumer preferences is how our food/grocery purchases have shifted. It's not just that people are cooking more; it's what's on the stove that's a bit surprising – home-popped popcorn, canned soups, macaroni and cheese, grilled cheese sandwiches, sweet treats, salty snacks and even Chef Boyardee Beefaroni (which is quite hard to get) are all among the comfort foods consumers are apparently craving.

None of these snippets imply that health care, household and hygiene products aren't also high on the preference surveys, but the popularity of certain games, activities and foods suggest consumers are particularly comforted these days by what is familiar and their interests gravitate toward what is tried and true.

**Active COVID-19 Cases at The Pines as of: 8/6/20**  
No cases

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Nursing Department**

We want you to know that The Pines' Director of Nursing, Amy Craven, recently suffered a deep personal loss. During this challenging time, Angela Blackwell, our Assistant Director of Nursing, has temporarily assumed Amy's responsibilities and is aided by our nurse consultant and other staff. We ask you to also keep Amy and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

### **Update from the Chair of the Executive Director Search Committee**

Three members of The Pines' Board Executive Committee addressed the Residents' Council during its monthly (Zoom) meeting today. The following is a synopsis of remarks made by Barb Neidinger, Chair of the Executive Director Search Committee:

The goal of the Executive Director Search Committee is to recommend one candidate to the Pines' Board of Directors. We are in the process of hiring an executive search firm who will oversee a nationwide search for the candidate who is the best possible fit for The Pines. The Committee is also developing a list of leadership attributes that are most important for success at The Pines and is developing a "position description" which will be advertised publicly and broadly. But most of the work of the Executive Search firm will take place in networking and talking with people in leadership positions at CCRC's across the country.

The Executive Search firm will present detailed information on its top 10 to 15 candidates to the Search Committee. The Committee will carefully consider these candidates and reduce the number to 3 to 5. The search firm will continue to do more in-depth analysis of those "finalists" checking references, doing background checks, etc. and the Committee members will interview each of those candidates. The Committee will agree on a set of questions that we ask all of the candidates, so we can compare one to another. After those interviews, the Search Committee will select 2 or 3 to make a personal visit to see The Pines and the Town of Davidson. The Committee will again interview them while they are here. We will then narrow the search to one candidate to recommend to the Board of Directors.

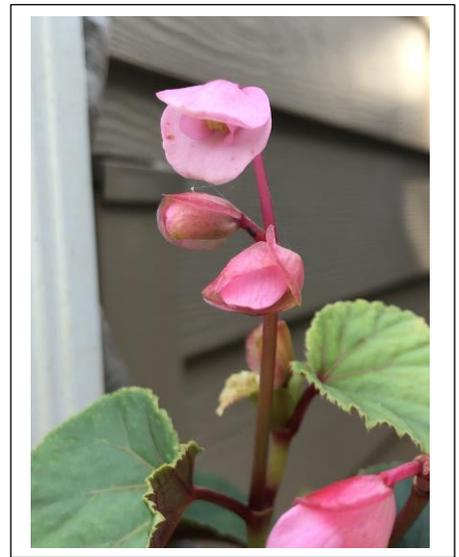
Our Committee deliberations must be kept confidential, out of respect for each of the candidates and to ensure the integrity of the process. Please do not ask Jean (Johnston) and Roger (Cothran) for updates. They will not be able to answer any of your questions. But we assure you that we will provide periodic updates.

Residents have input into the search process in three ways:

- Two residents are voting members on the Search Committee: Jean Johnston and Roger Cothran.
- Residents will receive a survey next week to give direct feedback to the Committee and the Executive Search firm.
- The Committee is open to any suggestions of particular individuals: please pass a name along to Jean Johnston. The Executive Search firm will follow up with that individual.

### **Pausing to Admire**

Thank you to the staff member who shared several ways to view and enjoy a begonia.



### **Possible On-Site Banking**

Aquesta Bank is interested in providing on-site banking services at The Pines in the space formerly occupied by Fifth Third, subject to obtaining regulatory approval (which is expected to be a routine process) and executing a lease with The Pines. Aquesta Bank is headquartered in Cornelius and operates five locations in the Lake Norman area, including Davidson. As soon as the lease is executed, Aquesta will send a written communication to all residents providing more details. If you wish to contact Aquesta in the meantime, you may call Leigh Wolff (704-439-4353) or Julie Brown (704-439-4336).

## **Update on Self-Quarantine Policy**

Residents have asked when The Pines might consider modifications to the 14-day self-quarantine policy. In July, the Residents' Association Executive Committee offered policy suggestions to management. Since then, management sought input regarding these suggestions from residents with professional backgrounds in health care. This special task group, which now includes both Jean Johnston and Roger Cothran, had its second meeting today. It agreed on some preliminary next steps, and once some materials being developed are reviewed, will seek feedback from the Residents' Health Services Committee before anything is shared more broadly by management. Members of the committee acknowledge the challenges of balancing safety and risk among a diverse resident population during a novel virus pandemic.

## **Indoor Air Treatment Upgrades**

As we work to deal with both the short and long term challenges brought about by the coronavirus, The Pines has also been working with its engineers at SFCS, Architects and Engineers, and other partners to find reliable and efficient methods to "sanitize/improve" the air that circulates through the Health Center and common areas of the Community Center. As a result, the Pines is installing "Bi-Polar Ionization Air Treatment Systems" (ionization systems) in the air circulation equipment to improve indoor air quality and reduce the risk of transmission of airborne infectious diseases. As of today, this ionization system has been installed in the existing Health Center and Wellness Center and is now being evaluated and tested. The next step will be to install the ionization system in the areas of the Community Center not affected by the expansion. In addition, the ionization system will be incorporated into the Nursing Care and Community Center buildings that are currently under construction. Ions are electrically charged atoms or molecules.

Bi-polar ionization improves air quality in two ways. First, it reduces the concentration of active pathogens, like coronavirus and influenza, thereby reducing the risk of transmission. The ions produced by the ionization system are attracted to pathogens such as viruses and bacteria. These ions "steal away" hydrogen atoms from the bacteria, leaving them to die. In viruses, the ions bind to the cellular receptors that allow the virus to attach to and infect human cells, rendering the virus particle inactive and non-infectious. Secondly, because the ions cause pathogens and other particles that are suspended in the air to become either positively or negatively charged, they are then attracted to each other, effectively increasing their mass and size. As the particles agglomerate (stick together), they create a larger surface and mass that then either falls to the floor, or is more easily caught by filters in the air circulating system because of the larger particle sizes.

This agglomeration also reduces airborne respiratory irritants such as dust, pet dander and pollen.



### Closing Images: Backyard Visitors

The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail has been spotted throughout our campus as it visits our residents' flowers. Thank you to Sue McFarland for a photo (left) as well as to Nancy Waite-Kahn, for a photo (right) of these gentle and beautiful creatures. Designated the official state butterfly for North Carolina by the NC General Assembly in 2012, it can be found in all 100 counties. Perhaps you will spot one today too! And – *thank you*, gardeners!



And Pris Woodmansee shares the following photo of another backyard visitor (actually, two). She writes, *“We have a large pot of geraniums on a table by the railings of our balcony. For the second year in a row, a pair of doves has nested and produced healthy young in this pot. We get a lot of pleasure watching them faithfully taking turns sitting on the eggs and feeding them when they hatch. They visited again today so I’m wondering if they are going to have a second brood. They have chosen a good spot because the railing and foliage shields them from predators.”*

