

Christine's Comments

Happy New Year! I sure hope you enjoyed your December goodies with Gingerbread cookies, Eggnog and Brandy on December 8th, Peppermint Mocha Cupcakes to celebrate December birthdays on the 15th and of course, Santa and his Elves on the 22nd delivering cookies and milk, and those neat lanterns and new red masks! Many of you asked who Santa was. We can't believe you had to ask, but those that still don't know, it was our very own Rick!

As we continue to social distance ourselves and do our best to keep fighting this virus, we put on our thinking caps late last month and came up with a few new ideas until we get approval to do more activities. On January 27th at 2:30pm, Chef Brian will offer a monthly social distanced food demo with healthy alternatives. The first 12 residents who call the office will be able to attend. We will keep track of who attends, so if you miss it one month, you will be able to attend another one. We will film Brian while he prepares the food, and we will show it on the big screen in the Cabaret Lounge so you can see it better. If you would like to sign-up, please call the office to reserve your spot.

We started Movie Matinees on Saturdays last month and up and we are getting a nice socially distanced crowd. We have been able to switch things up and watch movies through Netflix on demand (no more DVD's – that's so last year 😊). Tonya will post the movie each week. We have socially distanced the room to a maximum of 8 so it's first come first serve.

Check out your calendar because we have added Lifting Spirits Home Edition to Tuesday afternoons and an array of miscellaneous musicals concerts to Thursday evenings. But if you're just coming down to sleep, please do that in your apartment and give the seat to someone who really wants to participate.

Happy New Year everyone!

Meal Deliveries

The dining staff has a special request for residents that walk the halls for exercise. Please avoid walking during the delivery times of 11am-12:30pm for brunch and 4pm-5:30pm for dinner. They are working hard each day to get your meals to you.

If a resident is walking, some stop and chat, or chat with the resident receiving the meal. The deliveries get delayed while the resident finishes their visit. Staff has to move their food carts out of the way to let the walking resident get by and it takes up precious time.

Please be considerate of this. Avoid the above times, or if you must walk during these times, and you see the staff in the middle of the hallway with carts and delivering meals, please turn around and go the opposite direction. You may resume your walk any time.

I know this is appreciated by all, so please be considerate of the dining staff while they do their best to get your meals to you... hot!

A Poem To 2020

We welcomed you with fireworks
What a perfect year!
A twenty/twenty vision
Of the future, finally here!
But wow, you really messed up
You blew it from Day One
You filled our lives with misery –
We're so relieved you're done!
Now we greet another year
Remembering what we lost
Let's ring in 2021

And keep our fingers crossed...

CAMPUS COMMONS

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The Greatest Generation

It was the journalist Tom Brokaw who coined the phrase "The Greatest Generation" as a tribute to those born in 1924 and earlier. This generation faced more than its fair share of hardship, coming of age during the Great Depression and fighting the evils of World War II. There are still many lessons to be learned from this generation, and if we listen carefully enough, we might even learn that any generation can be called the "greatest."

The Greatest Generation has also been called the G.I. Generation by historians, due to the fact that 16 million Americans served in the military during World War II. This shared trial created what has been called a "collective ethos," a united mindset that grew out of the rally against the oppressive tyranny of the Nazis in defense of freedom. America was a small country reeling from the Great Depression. The United States Army was smaller than that of Portugal. The Great Depression had also decimated government coffers, making it difficult to find money to support the military. But thanks to a never-say-die, can-do attitude forged in the hardships of the Great Depression, Americans went to work and by 1945 had built a massive army capable of fighting the Pacific, Asia, Europe, and in the Mediterranean, as well as a civilian workforce to support it. Surely there were defeats and missteps in battle, but the Greatest Generation never did cast blame or look for a scapegoat. They instead forged ahead to the next challenge. Perseverance, bravery, and mutual respect would become their generational hallmarks.

Lessons learned during the war were put to use in postwar America. There was little room for patience or endless hemming and hawing on the battlefield. So, too, in the boardroom, in laboratories, and in politics. The most vicious policy fights on the floor of Congress gave way to mutual respect when the day was done. An entire generation had struggled together, fought together, and sacrificed together. This common experience united the Greatest Generation in bonds that could not be broken.

Music to Our Ears



On January 31, the world's greatest musicians and recording artists will compete for the coveted Grammy Awards. With or without a live audience, event organizers have carefully planned an awards ceremony full of dazzling performances.

The story of the Grammy awards began with the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 1953, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce developed the Walk of Fame as a beautification project that would honor the four major branches of the entertainment industry: motion pictures, television, audio recording, and radio. Representatives of the music and recording industry were asked to submit a list of names to be honored with the famous coral-colored star, but honorees would only be considered eligible based on minimum sales of one million records or 250,000 albums. The committee soon realized that these metrics would exclude some of music's most important names. The sales requirements were done away with and a new association was formed, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. This Academy was keenly aware of the Oscar awards for motion pictures and the Emmys for television. It was only natural that the music industry should have its own awards, and so the Grammys, named for the gramophone, were invented in 1959.

That very first awards ceremony was held in two locations simultaneously, in Beverly Hills, California, and New York City. Grammys were awarded in 28 categories, with Ella Fitzgerald winning Best Jazz Performance and Best Female Vocalist, Henry Mancini winning Album of the Year, and Domenico Modugno winning Record of the Year. Over the decades, the number of awards and categories has ballooned to nearly 100, but four awards remain the most coveted: Album of the Year, Record of the Year, Song of the Year, and Best New Artist. Only two artists have won all four at once, and this happened last year when 18-year-old Billie Eilish swept all categories. What extraordinary talents could win this year?

January Birthdays

In astrology, those born between January 1–19 are Capricorn's Goats. Goats are responsible masters of self-control and considered some of the hardest workers in the zodiac. They are practical planners and leaders who value experience and expertise. Those born from January 20–31 are the Water Bearers of Aquarius. These deep-thinking intellectuals have big and original dreams. The world is full of possibilities, and Aquarians seek freedom in order to reach their greatest potential.

Karin Powers, January 6th
 Gloria Roberts, January 10th
 Virginia Sawyer, January 12th
 George Tygret, January 14th
 Joanne McKee, January 17th
 Birgitta Ellis, January 25th
 Lorraine Day, January 31st

January Anniversaries

Shirley Moore - 9 years
 Michael Halfant - 7 years
 Nat Linenberger - 6 years
 Eleanor Witter 5 years
 Sam Adrien - 4 years
 Nina Lyon - 3 years
 Carol Doring - 1 year
 Shirley Marks - 1 year
 Gary Smith - 1 year
 Dorothy Wooldridge - 1 year

A Friendly Reminder

Please, please, please... when watering plants or filling your sink to do dishes, do not walk away from the sink. The majority of you have neighbors below you. If you forget about running water in the tub or sink(s), it spills over and runs down to the next apartment and creates havoc to those residents below you. Please be careful and pay attention. When leaving your apartment, double check and make sure everything is turned off.

Lincoln's Legacy

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which he called the "central act" of his administration and "the great event of the 19th century." But this story began over 100 days prior, on September 17, 1862, with the Battle of Antietam.

The Battle of Antietam was not a resounding victory for the Union Army. Union forces, led by General George McClellan, were successful in repelling General Robert E. Lee's push into Union territory, but it cost thousands of lives and casualties. President Lincoln was furious that McClellan had allowed Lee to retreat. Lincoln believed that if McClellan had pursued Lee and wiped out his troops, the Confederate forces would have suffered a setback too powerful to overcome. Lincoln eventually removed McClellan from command, and military historians have called the Battle of Antietam a stalemate.



Lincoln seized on the retreat of Lee as a victory, and the stage was set to make his Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862. Lincoln had long opposed slavery, once proclaiming, "There can be no moral right in connection with one man's making a slave of the other," but thus far his main aim in the war had been the preservation of the Union. The Emancipation Proclamation changed that by making the freedom of slaves one of the North's chief aims of the war. His proclamation called on southern states to rejoin the Union within 100 days, or on January 1, 1863, all slaves in southern states would be declared free.

There was little Lincoln could do to enforce his own proclamation when January 1 arrived. Not to mention, his proclamation did not apply to any northern or border states. But slavery had been officially condemned, Black Americans were permitted to serve in the Union Army, and Lincoln could now work toward a Constitutional amendment abolishing slavery. A defining moment of American history had been made.

SGN – Some Good News

Have you heard of this? Actor John Krasinski created the YouTube web series during the coronavirus pandemic back in March 2020 to focus entirely on positive and inspiring stories, a welcome change for many looking for an escape from the COVID-19 news cycle and quarantine. In just two months, "Some Good News" has garnered over 72 million views and 2.5 million subscribers on YouTube.

The actor produced eight free episodes on YouTube, including an "Office" reunion, a "Hamilton" performance, online graduations, and a virtual prom with special guests. You can view these short videos yourself on YouTube.

We should be telling you more good news behind the scenes of Campus Commons. Our home office started something like this several years ago called RAK (Random Acts of Kindness). It was to encourage employees to write in about random acts of kindness they witnessed other employees doing. It was to show that there are good people in this world and not everything is so bad.

This year, I want to focus on more Some Good News or Random Acts of Kindness. If you see another resident or an employee that you witness doing something positively wonderful and out of the ordinary, let me know about it. I'd love to include it in our newsletters.

Laundry Rooms

As a friendly reminder, if you've soiled a garment or linens of any kind with bodily fluids, please be respectful and wash it out in your apartment home before putting it into the washing machines and dryers. Remember, the washers and dryers are used by others. This is extremely important, due to the flu and cold season, and don't forget the elephant in the room - Coronavirus. If you see a resident abusing this, please let me know so it can be addressed promptly.