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**WESTMINSTER CANTERBURY WEEKLY SUMMARY–JANUARY 6, 2022–3 P.M.**

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**John Burns**

Thank you for joining us for the first *Westminster Canterbury Weekly* of 2022. We miss meeting in person, but we are grateful to stay connected while also staying safe.

**Tower Resident Garden Project**

*Residents may watch the video to learn about the Tower Resident Garden Project with Phillip Merritt from HG Design Studio.*

Our Tower Resident Garden Plots were temporarily relocated prior to the start of the Promenade and Parking Deck projects. We have been working on a plan for a new permanent location. Kathleen Pender, our horticulturist, has been working closely on the design with HG Design Studio, a Richmond-based landscape architectural and civil engineering firm. The garden plots will move to a different location on our campus and provide many improvements over the previous garden plots. This information has been shared with resident gardeners whose plots were affected. We all look forward to this new amenity on our campus.

The new Resident Garden Plots will be located near Westbrook Avenue. The project includes raised beds, a garden shed, benches, a possible future greenhouse and more. The plan is currently in review with the city with a response expected in February.

**Promenade and Parking Deck**

*Residents may watch the video for an update on the Parking Deck construction and Promenade expansion with Austin Burch from Gilbane Construction.*

*Parking Deck*

Precast installation will continue throughout the month of January with completion anticipated for the end of January or early February. So far, more than 100 precast pieces have been placed out of the total 351 pieces. Plumbing and electrical infrastructure are also being installed at this time. During February, there will be plumbing piping installation for the parking deck floor drain, electrical installation for lighting on the interior of the parking deck, exterior site stormwater line work, and elevator installation and testing.

*Promenade*

The expansion of the Promenade's footprint has been established with the concrete slab being installed. Steel arrival and steel installation has begun, which is a key milestone to the project that will allow other phases of work to begin. Inside, the wall and ceiling framing has continued throughout, and the layout of the new Promenade has come to life. Mechanical, plumbing and electrical infrastructure has continued. During February, steel installation and metal roof decking will be wrapping up. Roofing work for the expanded area will begin. Exterior façade work will be begin. Mechanical, plumbing and electrical infrastructure installation will continue in anticipation for drywall and fixture installs.

## **John Burns**

### *Wellness*

We are preparing for closing the Aquatic Center in the coming months as demolition begins to prepare for the Vital Living Center. Melissa Markey and Debra Jacobsen are finalizing an agreement with the Northside YMCA to allow residents to access the Y's pool and for our staff to conduct aquatics classes at the Y. Residents will receive a memo with the details soon.

Due to Wellness staff being out with symptoms or exposure, in-person Wellness classes are suspended. Residents will receive a memo with the details soon.

### *Coronavirus Updates*

Recent memos have provided ongoing updates on the current pandemic situation. In Henrico, the positivity rate on December 20 was 8.75%. On December 31, it increased to 20.9%. As of yesterday, the positivity rate is 35.12% and will likely increase before peaking. We have been surprised by how significantly the omicron variant has impacted our region. The good news is that omicron is not as virulent, and people are not as sick as prior surges. The surge is moving very quickly and will hopefully end relatively soon. Other senior living communities are being similarly impacted. While we have closed dining and suspended meetings, events and programs, we will restart programming as soon as possible based on virus spread and staffing.

As of this morning, 50 employees who tested positive continue to recover off campus in quarantine. Several others are in quarantine due to experiencing symptoms of illness. We appreciate your patience and understanding as our teams work to provide the best services possible.

Several residents who tested positive are already considered recovered. Eleven residents are currently recovering in quarantine – three in Independent Living, five in Assisted Living, and three from Parsons Health Center who transferred to the COVID-19 Unit that reopened yesterday.

### *Westminster Canterbury Weekly Survey*

Live updates began in response to the pandemic in March 2020. There have been 194 broadcasts since then. The format has evolved, and we want to ensure that *Westminster Canterbury Weekly* is helpful to you. A survey is launching today to get your input to help craft our future communications strategy.

Please take the survey online here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NQTVSDB>. The link is available on Touchtown under *The Tales*. A paper version is available in the Business and Information Centers or near the Avalon mailboxes. We strongly encourage you to take it online if possible. Please share your input by the end of January.

### *Theater Programs*

Our temporary shift from in-person programming has resulted in changes to upcoming theater programming. The performance by the Judy Carmichael Trio is rescheduled for June. The Maxwell Quartet performance scheduled for Monday, January 10, at 7:30 p.m., will air live on TV970 only. The movie *Belfast* will play on TV970 on Tuesday, January 11, at 2 p.m.

## **Lynn McClintock**

### *Pastoral Care*

Thursday worship services and Evening Prayer are currently being broadcast on TV970 with no in-person seating. The Sunday 4 p.m. service is postponed until we can meet again in person.

As a temporary exception to our usual procedures, memorial services, if desired by family, will be broadcast on TV970. This is a temporary exception during this period of high risk. Once we can gather again as a community, the services will not be broadcast. When memorial services are scheduled, they are posted in the elevators.

“It comes the very moment each morning. Wishes and hopes for the day rush back to you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists simply in shoving them all back; in listening to that other place, taking that other point of view, letting that other larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in. And so on, all day. Standing back from all your natural blessings and frettings; coming in out of the wind.”-*CS Lewis*

### *Prayer written by the theologian and author, Richard Rohr*

Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope that we can never comprehend. Thank you for leading us into a time where more of reality is being unveiled for us all to see. We pray that you will take away our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear and despair. Help us have the courage to awaken to greater truth, greater humility, and greater care for one another. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our suffering world. Knowing, good God, you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. Amen.