



Dining Services Team Adapts to Precautions



Our Dining Services has been busy preparing for Mother’s Day. They have a special meal planned – with a sweet treat to top it off. This is just one of the ways our Dining Services team has stepped up during this crisis.

When the decision was made to close the dining rooms, the wait staff mobilized and became delivery persons. After residents were asked to remain on campus, Dining Services along with Operation Well-Being, which is run primarily out of the Marketing Office

LaSean Murphy preps vegetables for an evening meal. The entire Dining Services team had added or adapted duties due to COVID-19 precautions.

with support from Philanthropy, again stepped up to provide an in-house grocery service. Dining Services works with its vendors to provide the items that are then sold through the in-house grocery. Additionally, the Director of Dining Haider Mahmood has been working with vendors to obtain PPE (personal protective equipment) for our front line staff. Hats off to this hard working team!

Amid Change, Nature Carries On

“I have nature and art and poetry, and if that is not enough, what is enough?”

— Vincent Van Gogh

Today, we give you nature. Amid all the changes of these recent months, nature remains a constant. At VHRC, we are blessed with a beautiful campus that is springing back to life after winter’s grayness.

Many of you enjoy a walk around our grounds. Some of you enjoy simply being able to look out a window. However you take in the outdoor beauty, we hope it brings you peace and joy.



*Neighborly News***Keeping Up Connections from Afar**

Yvonne Wiederkehr posts a letter to her long-time pen friend who lives in Holland.

It was a year after World War II had ended. Like so many Londoners, Yvonne Wiederkehr and her family had fled the city to escape The Blitz, and now lived in Kent. "I was a school girl and the teacher asked, 'Does anyone want a pen friend?'," she recalls of a class project meant to mend post-war connections with the rest of the world. "We all said yes. I got Evalina in Holland."

And she's been writing to her ever since. "Over the years, we went through school, boyfriends, husbands, children, grandchildren – and now we are both in retirement homes," Yvonne says of her 74-year friendship with Evalina. "It's so lovely to be in touch with someone when you know them so well." In fact, sitting

down to share memories on paper with her friend is one of Yvonne's greatest pleasures during these difficult days in isolation – something that today's children who have grown up texting probably don't quite understand, she says. "Our letters brighten my days."

She describes their friendship as "two people talking by writing but never meeting" – except for once. The first and only time she met Evalina in person was in 1957 at her wedding in Holland. "The other day, I heard *Ave Maria*, which was sung at Evalina's wedding and was so beautiful. Now, every time I hear it I always think of that day," she explains, as she gets ready to post a letter to Evalina about that memory. "She is really one of my best friends."

— Michelle Crone

The Campus Voice

This publication is created for Vinson Hall Retirement Community in an effort to inform and delight. This publication is produced by the Office of Philanthropy and Engagement, but attempts to reflect the work and efforts of all VHRC residents and staff.

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