



Teamwork Made Testing Event Successful

In just two hours yesterday, the Virginia National Guard tested over 400 people in the Kathy Martin Community Building Ballroom plus all of the residents and staff of Arleigh Burke Pavilion and The Sylvestery. While the speed of the testing process was impressive, the behind the scenes teamwork is what made it a success, said Lisa Desmond, Director of Clinical Operations.

Adding to the logistical challenge, several key details were not known until just a few days before – and in some cases the day of – the event.

“Up until the last minute we didn’t know a lot of the details,” said Lisa. “In fact, it was Thursday that we learned it would be a two-hour testing event as opposed to an all day event as we had assumed. In the end, the National Guard folks who were here said that our set-up was the best they had seen.”

Residents were impressed with the process and also just delighted to see other people.

“I was very impressed with the efficiency,” said VHRC resident Mike Scott. “That 600 people could be tested in two hours was just impressive.”

“I hadn’t realized how isolated I’ve been,” said VHRC resident Carolyn Howell.



More than 400 residents, staff and contractors were tested for COVID-19 by the Virginia National Guard in the KMCB Ballroom on Tuesday.

“Yesterday, I saw so many people I haven’t seen in months – I felt like I’d been to the fair!”

Nearly 100 percent of Vinson Hall and Willow Oak residents were tested. All staff were required to be tested. Those staff members who were off campus on Tuesday will be tested early next week.

“I think it was a relief for the residents to have this testing event,” said Lisa. “This testing will allow us to know if any staff or residents are asymptomatic. Once we have the results, we will determine what this means for us. The information will be good to have.”

A Painter's Passion

From the beginning for Susan Berkey, "art was natural, it was just there." Whether designing backdrops for plays during elementary school, studying abroad in Florence, Italy while in college, working in advertising in New York after graduation, or teaching art at her former high school in New Jersey at age 23 – she was always painting.

And then for the next 40 years, she didn't. "I got married and we were posted overseas, you couldn't ship oils, and I was raising two kids," Susan explains. "I was busy doing other things." Very busy. She coached her kids' soccer team, taught at the International School in London, and worked for Sotheby's in Paris evaluating high-end art and furnishings at the Embassy, to name a few. Life changed again when she retired in 2003. "At that point, I realized I had the freedom to do anything I wanted, and one of the things I wanted to do was get back into painting."

These days, you can find her in Vinson Hall's art room, usually five days a week – and often with the same group of friends and fellow painters. "It's a social group and a support group – we've been together since the beginning and we rely on each other's mentoring," she says. She's usually working on a landscape, her favorite subject because "it's always changing. You look at it and you can



Susan Berkey with one of her landscapes, her favorite subject to paint, in VHRC's model apartment.

interpret it in so many different ways."

And now those landscapes will be on view in Vinson Hall's newly decorated model apartments. "Susan's art is very soothing," says Stephanie Lawrence, Director of Marketing. "When we're showcasing the apartments, we want them to have a good feel. I really appreciate the subtleties of her art. I just find it beautiful."

The Campus Voice

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Please direct inquiries, corrections, suggestions, or brief submissions to Amiee Freeman, Communications and Public Relations Specialist, amieef@vinsonhall.org or 703-538-3069.