



In This Month's Newsletter ...

We have plenty to share in this month's community newsletter. Here's what we've got: An important vaccine and safety message from Executive Director Kelly Friedman, community updates & reminders, recent accreditation we've earned, how to celebrate your vaccine shot on social media and more. Happy reading!

A Message from the Executive Director

February 26, 2021

Dear Residents, Family Members & Associates,

For the past 95 years, our top priority as an organization has been the health, safety and wellbeing of those who live and work in an Asbury community. Since the onset of the pandemic a year ago, our focus on safety has never been stronger, and I thank you for your partnership as we have shifted how we serve to best accommodate all the new precautions designed to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

As vaccinations have rolled out here at Asbury Solomons, our commitment to safety must not waver. This means that we must continue to rigorously follow all of the transmission-based precautions as outlined by the CDC. Just as we have been doing for months now, these precautions remain and include hand hygiene, physical distancing, wearing snug-fitting masks, associates' use of personal

protective equipment (PPE) when appropriate and careful screening processes related to contact with infected individuals, travel and many other occasions of possible exposure to the coronavirus.

Shortly after the COVID-19 vaccines received FDA Emergency Use Approval, we worked with Asbury Communities to facilitate the procurement and administration of the vaccines to the majority of residents and associates who consented to receive this important barrier to developing illnesses associated with the virus. I am proud to say that 368 residents and 113 associates here at Asbury Solomons have received both doses of the vaccine.

While the vaccines are highly effective and help to prevent the recipient of the vaccine from becoming seriously ill, it does not protect one from actually being a carrier of the virus. Even individuals who have received vaccines can still transmit the virus to individuals who have never been exposed.

The ultimate solution to this challenge will be what scientists call “herd immunization.” This is when the vast majority of the population has contracted and recovered from the virus or has received the vaccine protecting them. We still have a relatively long stretch before we reach this tipping point of safety. Until we reach this point in the pandemic we will continue to need to apply the same rigor around all the precautions noted above: masks, hand washing, daily screenings and continuous monitoring of rates of COVID-19 identified in our county and state.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Melissa Zelonis, Director of Nursing (410-394-3082, mzelonis@asbury.org), and she is in regular communication with Asbury’s Infection Control Council.

We have information, FAQs and more on our dedicated Vaccine Information page [here](#).

Remember: Every action we take matters – from getting the vaccine to following

health and safety protocols – and I know that we can count on each other ... we are #AsburyStrong!

Sincerely,

Kelly Smith Friedman, LNHA
Executive Director



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Updates and Reminders

Please note that these updates and reminders, as well as the latest vaccine and COVID-19 safety updates, are also included on our community operations site, Asbury.org/asbury-solomons/resources-events/family-friends:

- **The Wellness Center Fitness Room is open by appointment** and many fitness classes, programs, clubs, and events are available via Touchtown and our TV channel, 970. For a current schedule or more information

contact Genna Lee (glee@asbury.org, 410-394-3308).

- **If you need physical, occupational, or speech therapy services, Asbury Solomons Therapy Services is open!** Recently, Asbury Communities joined forces with its long-running partner, Flagship Rehabilitation, to provide oversight to our newly formed in-house therapy team. Flagship has been serving seniors across the mid-Atlantic for more than 20 years. Now, you can expect the same quality treatment and strong outcomes that you have always experienced provided by an in-house team of therapy experts. To schedule an appointment, please call Kris Ohler, Rehabilitation Services Manager, at (410) 394-3066.
- **Quick reminders:**
 - **Know a family member who should be receiving our community updates?** Please direct them to this webpage, asbury.org/family-covid-email-sign-up, to sign up!
 - **We are so appreciative of the messages of thanks we receive.** If you'd like to share a note of thanks, please [click here to launch a form](#) where you can type in your note of appreciation. We will take your submissions and find creative ways to share them with associates. Thank you!
 - **Looking to update your wardrobe?** Here's a way you can show off your community -- with Asbury Solomons gear! Check out the [Asbury Apparel online store!](#)

A Week of Mardi Gras Fun: Over \$6,000 Raised for Local Hospice



For years, Asbury Solomons has committed to raising money for Calvert Hospice with an on-campus Mardi Gras dinner featuring live music. But with the pandemic prompting physical distancing measures, associates at the community were forced to get creative and rethink the annual fundraising event.

Of course, they pulled it off. Despite not having the typical in-person dinner to raise, \$6,646 donations were made, exceeding the total amount of donations in previous years!

To maintain the excitement surrounding Mardi Gras, Wellness Associate Genna Lee planned a week of Mardi Gras events, working closely with the Dining Team to design themed snacks while asking residents to donate to Calvert Hospice.

“We wanted to provide an opportunity to the resident community to give to Calvert Hospice and to wrap it into a special event week. Residents and associates had a great time,” said Dennis Poremski, Director of Wellness.

Eight events were planned throughout the week, including a Mardi Gras Scavenger Hunt, Virtual Mardi Gras Costume Party and a Mardi Gras King and Queen Drawing. Residents who donated to Calvert Hospice were entered for a chance to win the title for King or Queen of Mardi Gras.

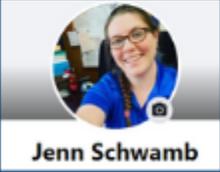
Residents John Martin and Nancy Milczanowski were ultimately declared the winners in a live announcement on the community's closed-circuit television and received a crown and tiara to wear.

We applaud both residents and associates for coming together to do all they can to creatively give back to the greater community, a stellar example of our mission in motion.

Received a COVID-19 Vaccine Shot? Celebrate it on Social Media!

Received your COVID-19 vaccination? Want to celebrate it? Then join the many other Asbury residents and associates who are celebrating by showing off in a new and exciting way -- on Facebook! Here's how:

4 STEPS TO ADD THE COVID-19 VACCINE FRAME TO YOUR FACEBOOK PROFILE PHOTO

-  **1 Edit Profile Photo:** Go to your Facebook Profile page and click the camera icon on your profile photo.
-  **2 Add Frame:** Click "Add Frame" (you can change your profile photo at this time too!)
-  **3 Search for Frame:** Type in "Asbury" or the name of your community to find the Asbury Communities COVID Vaccine Frame.
-  **4 Use Frame on Profile Photo:** Select the frame and apply to your profile photo!

We've Earned Top-Notch Accreditation



We are proud to share that we have once again earned EAGLE accreditation through the United Methodist Association of Health & Welfare Ministries. EAGLE focuses on an organization's commitment to Mission and living its faith-based principles. We take great pride in our Methodist heritage and its charge to "*do all the good you can ... to as many people as you can ... for as long as ever you can.*" We are one of four Asbury communities to receive this accreditation. [Read more about this recognition here.](#)

Joining Together: Asbury Foundation & Albright Development Team



We have some exciting news to share! The Albright Development Team is formally joining The Asbury Foundation. This partnership is in line with the overall Asbury-Albright affiliation process. Together, this team will support the entire Asbury family by combining its expertise and resources to continue to find creative ways to support those who rely on us through benevolent care and to look at philanthropy as an opportunity to enhance the communities we support. The Albright Development Team brings 82 years of experience to the eight-member Asbury Foundation team, which is led by President & CEO J.D. Shuman. [Click here to read the full announcement.](#)

New COVID-19 Treatment Available!

We are excited to share that we are either offering or helping to facilitate the latest in COVID-19 treatment: monoclonal antibody therapy. This infusion treatment has been shown to reduce the severity of COVID-19 symptoms and patients' rate of hospitalization and was approved under the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization status in Nov. 2020. This groundbreaking therapy is transforming our ability to effectively treat seniors who have contracted COVID-19. Since mid-January, approximately 20 older adults have been successfully treated at Asbury Communities' health care centers. Asbury can also coordinate the infusion treatments with nearby providers. [Please click here](#) to learn more and to read one individual's experience.