

LEXINGTON HAPPENINGS



Welcome to “Lexington Happenings,” a collection of things to do and see and experience at Lexington!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020

#RISINGTOGETHER AT LEXINGTON!

Find just a few of the great stories that are taking place every day at Lexington here and on page 3!



- Levi Bovee from Bridge Street is devoted to community service. One of his preferred service projects is collecting pop tabs and donating them to Ronald McDonald House Charities. The aluminum is recycled to fund the organization's efforts to provide a home-away-from-home for families during the medical treatment of seriously ill children. This week, he and staff Elaine traveled to Albany to deliver a large haul of 289 pounds worth of aluminum tabs! Thank you, Levi and Elaine, for your service!



- October was Physical Therapy Month and we could not be more thankful for Lexington PTs and PTAs, who do so much every day to enhance the quality of life for the people they support. Throughout the pandemic, they went above and beyond to deliver services to people in their homes, getting everyone up and moving. Thanks to all of them for everything they do for the people they support!



- Joe D'Arpa from Grove Street in Schoharie is using the Sara Stedy Stand Assist secured through grant funding. The equipment makes it easier for Joe to safely transfer from his chair and it helps him to stand to his full height and bear his own weight to maintain the health benefits of these important functions. We are excited that many people will be able to benefit from this equipment.

MANAGERS:

Please post/share this information with your staff.

Does your program have an event/information you'd like listed here?

Please send all information to Megan Balser

(balserm@thearclexington.org)

at least two weeks in advance of the event.

For community events in Fulton, Albany or Schoharie Counties, please visit the links below.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FULTON COUNTY:

fultonmontgomeryny.org
44lakes.com

ALBANY COUNTY:

albany.com/events/
events.timesunion.com

SCHOHARIE COUNTY:

visitschohariecounty.com/events

MESSAGE FROM SHALONI



Dear Lexington Employees,

I hope you are all well as are your families.

COVID-19 AT LEXINGTON: We have seen an overall increase in testing, both for the people we support and staff, due to illness, exposure and travel. So far, thankfully, all tests have been negative except one. One young man we support in a home in Fulton County tested positive yesterday after having been exposed to a family member who was positive. Test results are pending for his peers and staff members. He and everyone else at this home are asymptomatic and the home is under COVID droplet precautions.

Dr. Cope, our Medical Director, recently shared an article from *The Albany Times-Union*, dated October 28, about how “the next wave has started,” as reported by physicians at hospitals in the Capital District. The article stated how new daily cases across eight local counties have increased noticeably, with the region topping 100 new daily cases three times last month – out of only four times this year. These physicians, who Dr. Cope knows personally and respects very much, are especially concerned about the recent rise in hospitalizations, with daily numbers increasing more than 400 percent from September 27 to October 27, according to figures published by NYS.

Albany County saw an increase of 329 during the last two weeks. In Fulton County, there have been 8 new cases, and Schoharie County had an increase of 13 during that period. Because of these concerns we are being extra cautious at our Albany homes and are watching carefully how these increases impact Fulton and Schoharie. Please continue to be diligent in all the precautions you are using to keep the virus away from you, your family and your Lexington family.

As you know, there is a lot going on at Lexington – the process of merging the two agencies continues, COVID-19 is obviously still a threat that continues to affect everything we do, and as we have told you in our recent meetings, there are many financial challenges that Lexington is currently facing and that we are preparing for in our future. But there are also many, many positive things going on at Lexington. The people we support continue to reach their goals and dreams and live the lives they want to live – all with the help of your amazing supports. Please read about some of them in this newsletter.

I wanted to make you aware that Lexington has updated its mission statement to reflect who we are today. A mission statement is an organization’s core purpose – it is why we exist. So, our mission is: “We empower people with autism and disabilities to live their best lives, every day, by partnering with their families, our employees and our community.” I would like to draw your attention to some of the specific words in this statement:

- Empower people....to live their best lives, every day – because you support people in making their own choices in how they want their lives to be and you do this every single day
- Autism and Disabilities – autism has been separated out as we have heard from people affected and their families that they feel that they have unique needs. We want them to see Lexington as a place for them.
- By partnering with their families, our employees and our community – At Lexington, no one does it alone. You partner with each other, with families of people we support and our community to help people live their best lives.

I hope you feel that this mission statement reflects what each of you do every day at Lexington so people we support can achieve amazing lives. I am proud to tell you that this was recognized by the Council on Quality and Leadership, or CQL, last month as they extended our Person-Centered Excellence Accreditation with Distinction by another year. Some of the highlights included a look at the merger with Schoharie Arc, how we continued quality services and supports through the pandemic, and how we have prioritized open communication with people, families and staff. Most importantly, they commended you for your creative approaches to keeping people engaged while staying safe. Thank you to all of you for all you do to help Lexington be one of the best agencies of our kind in New York State and beyond!

The next few months will bring about change and uncertainty as we continue to integrate the two agencies, develop new staffing schedules for our staff due to the reduction in our revenue, and deal with the precautions necessary for a possible second wave of COVID, not to mention the normal stresses that the holiday season brings. Please help and support each other through this time and talk to your supervisors if you are having difficulty.

Dan and I are extremely grateful for each one of you. Thank you for everything you do to help Lexington be a place where people we support live their best lives.

With sincere gratitude,

Shaloni

JAMIE PETRIN NAMED LEXINGTON'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

We are pleased to announce that JAMIE PETRIN has been named Chief Financial Officer of The Arc Lexington. In this position, Jamie is Lexington's senior executive responsible for managing the financial actions of the organization. Jamie has been with Lexington for over eight years, in the roles of Financial Analyst, Senior Financial Analyst, Controller, and most recently Division Director of Finance. Jamie also has previous financial experience working for Wildwood Programs and for Liberty. Jamie received his Bachelor's Degree in Finance from Southern New Hampshire University. His offices are located in Fulton at Gloversville's Burke Building and in the Administration building/TPI in Schoharie. Congratulations Jaime!

JOSLIN OUTSTANDING PERFORMER AWARDS

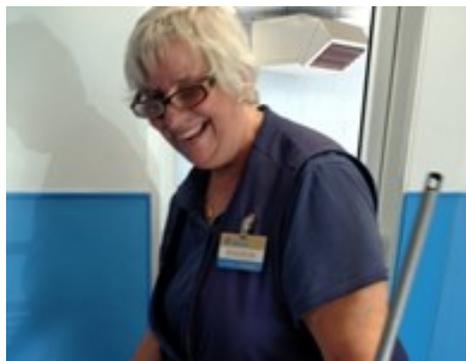
Three employees of Lexington-Schoharie's Toe Path Industries were named as Joslin Outstanding Performers by NYSID! Josh Jackson, Chris Stephens and Ray Trendell were honored for their efforts as part of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Production team during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. They were featured in segments on WTEN and Spectrum News. Toe Path Industries works with NYSID to fulfill state contracts for floor cleaning pads, feminine hygiene products and vehicle graphics for the NYS Police. Pictured at right is Josh being interviewed. See the story that appeared on News10 about these three valued employees of TPI at [www.news10.com/news/schoharie-county/disabled-essential-workers-honored-for-help-during-pandemic!](http://www.news10.com/news/schoharie-county/disabled-essential-workers-honored-for-help-during-pandemic)



From Fulton County, this year's nominee for the Joslin Outstanding Performer through NYSID is Justin Carpenter!

Justin is a custodian in the NYSID warehouse on Balzano Drive in Johnstown. "Justin is our go-to employee when others can't come to work," stated his supervisor. "He always answers his phone and quickly says, 'What can I do for you?' When I ask whether he can come into work, he's always quick to reply yes." Justin is a leader within his group and his co-workers have come to look to him for guidance. Since the start of the COVID-19 emergency, Justin stepped up to take a lead in learning and modeling the proper use of new sanitation and disinfecting protocols. About his nomination, Justin said, "I am happy to know that people think I do a good job." Congratulations Justin on being a leader and on your excellent work at the NYSID warehouse in Johnstown!

#RISINGTOGETHER AT LEXINGTON!



- In the spirit of Halloween, several day habs in Fulton held a pumpkin carving contest! Each participant decorated a pumpkin, using paint, props, craft supplies and more to make creative and fun designs. The winners were Joanna Deuel for Family Services (pictured), Zach for Pathfinders, Abby for Seasons, Aurora for the 465 group and Stacey Cool for the staff group. Congratulations to them, and thank you to all who participated!
- Sharon Smith was recently recognized with a plaque for 25 years of employment at Wal-Mart in Cobleskill! She was hired when the store opened in 1995. Sharon's supervisors and co-workers say they enjoy working with her because she is always willing to help out and does so with a smile on her face. Congratulations on 25 years of service, Sharon!
- The men at Northampton all chipped in to make delicious apple turnovers from scratch! They gave one to each employee in the Northville houses as a thank-you for being amazing staff and a great team. Thank you for being so thoughtful!

HR NEWS AND INFORMATION

FULTON AND ALBANY: EARN A BONUS FOR RECOMMENDING EMPLOYEES!

In Fulton and Albany Counties, the Employee Referral Bonus recognizes your efforts to help Lexington hire the best new employees. If you know great people looking for jobs, have them apply at Lexington! If we hire a person you referred, you could earn up to a \$500 bonus. Give an application to a friend or family member or have them apply online at thearclexington.org. Make sure they list your name as the referral!

HERE ARE SOME EMPLOYEES WHO REFERRED NEW HIRES IN OCTOBER:

Edie Boehme
Tonya Cionek

Nathan Cotton
Kathleen Cram

Racheal Foster
Tianna Hazel

Alexandria Poyfair
Terri Wasson

FULTON AND ALBANY RN/LPN REFERRAL BONUS PROGRAM!

Fulton and Albany have a bonus program for employees who refer RNs/LPNs who are hired by Lexington! You can earn up to \$750 in bonuses through this program. For details, [click here](#) or contact Heidi Smith at (518) 775-5439 or smithhei@thearclexington.org.

SCHOHARIE: EMPLOYEE REFERRAL BONUS PROGRAM!

Employees in Schoharie can earn a bonus for referring any full-time employee to work at Lexington! If we hire a person you referred, you earn \$250 if the employee stays for 30 days and \$500 after 180 days. For details, please contact Courtney Mickels in the Lexington-Schoharie HR Department at (518) 295-8130 or mickelc@thearclexington.org. Employees who recently received \$500 for referring full-time staff who stay on for at least six months are Angela Alquotob of Middleburgh Day Hab and Lawyersville IRA and Tricia Rotolo of Robert Street . Congratulations!

HERE ARE SOME EMPLOYEES WHO REFERRED NEW HIRES IN OCTOBER:

Haley Dorough

Britney Merwin

Chantal Wayman

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES (1, 5 & 10+ YEARS) | NOVEMBER 6 TO 19 | CONGRATULATIONS!

Heidi Ropeter, Employment Resources, 11/15, 25 years

Melissa Zajicek, Residential, 11/6, 25 years

Jeremy Spagnuola, Residential, 11/7, 15 years

Daniel Brown, Day Hab, 11/16, 5 years

Selena Montalvo, Residential, 11/16, 5 years

Karen Roscoe, Business Office, 11/11, 5 years

Mary Ann Metz, Business Office, 11/4, 1 year

Christine Natt, Residential, 11/11, 1 year

Januari Osborne, Residential, 11/18, 1 year

Sarah Worcester, Day Hab, 11/11, 1 year

EXTRA \$250 REFERRAL BONUS

Albany and Fulton Counties hold monthly drawings of \$250 for employees who refer new DSPs! Each referral is entered, even if they aren't hired. For details, contact Heidi Smith at smithhei@thearclexington.org or (518) 736-3965

REFERRAL BONUS AWARDEES FOR SEPTEMBER: TERRI WASSON, Gloversville Day Hab and JOHNTA TERRY, Albany Relief Staff. Congratulations and thank you for helping us recruit direct support professionals!

BASKET RAFFLE TO BENEFIT THE NIGRA ARTS CENTER

The Nigra Arts Center is holding a basket raffle! Come to the Center's lobby to browse 12 baskets in different themes and purchase raffle tickets—1 ticket for \$1, 5 tickets for \$6 or 12 tickets for \$10. Winners will be drawn on **Thursday, November 19!** Thank you for your support, and special thanks to Faith MacLean and her committee for collecting donations and putting together the baskets!

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT THE NIGRA ARTS CENTER

Wednesday, November 11 | 3:30-7:00 p.m. | Plaza's Italian Bistro Drive-Thru, 130 N. Pine St., Gloversville

We are holding a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Nigra Arts Center! Meals cost \$8 each and include spaghetti, meatballs and a roll. Contact your AD or Dale Schermerhorn at (518) 774-5757 or schermd@thearclexington.org to purchase tickets! You can also get them at the reception desk at the Nigra Arts Center. Collect your meals on November 11 by going through the drive-thru and presenting your ticket. Tickets will be on sale through **November 9**.

COVID SAFETY PRECAUTIONS—NEW YORK STATE TRAVEL ADVISORY

****Effective September 28, anyone entering NYS from a country designated under a CDC level 2 or 3 COVID-19 health notice must quarantine for 14 days from the last day in the designated country. This applies to everyone, including essential workers. The list of countries can be found at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html. If you plan to travel internationally to one of the countries on these lists, upon return you must quarantine accordingly. During this time your vacation and personal time will be charged for your scheduled hours. If you do not have vacation and/or personal time to cover these hours, your time away from work will be unpaid. You must notify your supervisor prior to international travel.****

Watch in the coming weeks for new updates on traveling to, and from, New York State.

ACCESSING WORKPLACE



Did you know that you can access Workplace and Workplace Chat not only on your desktop or laptop computer, but also on your phone or tablet? Whether you use an iPhone or Android, there are apps that you can download to access your Workplace account, groups, newsfeed and more. Simply go to your appropriate app store and download the apps: Both through Google Play, or Apple's App Store—you can download the apps entitled Workplace from Facebook and/or Workplace Chat.

Schoharie employees will be receiving an invitation to join Workplace via email. Fulton/Albany employees—if you're not on Workplace, please send an email to Courtney Mickels (mickelc@thearclexington.org) who will send you an invitation or add you to the platform. Join the Lexington conversation on Workplace! Questions? Please contact Courtney at her email address or by phone at (518) 295-8130, x262.

SCHOHARIE COUNTY: REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR CO-OP ORDERS!

If you placed an order with [Tri-City Foods](#) in October for Schoharie delivery, please remember to pick up your items on **Thursday, November 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m.** at 121 Opportunity Drive, Schoharie.

FILL-A-FREEZER RAFFLE TO BENEFIT LEGACY OF LOVE—SCHOHARIE COUNTY!

All are welcome to participate in a raffle fundraiser to benefit Legacy of Love—Schoharie County! Tickets are \$25 for a chance to win one of two five-cubic-foot chest freezers and \$500 gift certificates to fill them with farm-fresh meat from Highland Hollow Farms or Hessian Hill Farms in Schoharie County. 350 raffle tickets will be sold, and there are only about 30 left! The winners will be drawn and announced on the [Legacy of Love—Schoharie County Facebook page](#) this **Sunday, November 8**. To buy a ticket, please contact Tammy Ruise at (518) 295-8130, ext. 256 or ruiset@thearclexington.org or Wally Hart at (518) 661-9932, ext. 219 or hartw@thearclexington.org. Proceeds benefit the people and programs supported by Lexington in Schoharie County.

COOKING WITH LOVE FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT LEGACY OF LOVE—SCHOHARIE COUNTY

Usually, the Cooking with Love event hosts Schoharie-area “celebrity” chefs who prepare tastings for attendees to raise money for Legacy of Love—Schoharie County. COVID-19 has allowed us to re-imagine this fundraiser! For \$35 (the usual cost of a seat at the event), you can purchase a cookbook filled with recipes from our celebrity chefs, including appetizers, soups, entrees, desserts and more! For more information or to reserve your copy, please contact Tammy Ruise at ruiset@thearclexington.org or (518) 295-8130, ext. 256. Featured chefs include: Fr. Tom Berardi, Glenn & Matt Brisley, Kevin & Michael Brooks, Ralph Buess, Sean Byrne, Dale Case, Bill Crankshaw, Joe Crua, Alfred D’Alauro, Rep. Antonio Delgado, John DeSanto, Mario & Martin Diaz, David DiNicola, Stephen Fancher, Wally Hart, Brian Hayes, Gregory Hurd, Matt Lennon, Dr. Paul Miles-Matthias, Eugene Nachamkin, News10 ABC’s Ryan Peterson, Tom Quinn, Zach Reinhart Larry Stanley, Assemb. Chris Tague, Michael Willman and Johnathan Wilsey.

GIVE YOUR DONATIONS A “NEW BEGINNING” AT SCHOHARIE’S THRIFT SHOP!

Cleaning out your closets? Have your kids outgrown last winter’s apparel? Getting new furniture? New Beginnings Thrift Shop is a great place to donate gently used clothing, furniture and household items! The store is located at 404 Main Street in Schoharie and is open Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lexington employees receive a 10% discount! Call Denise Hennes, Store Manager, for more information on how you can donate at (518) 295-SHOP (7467). For more about New Beginnings, please visit [facebook.com/NewBeginningsThriftShopSchoharie](https://www.facebook.com/NewBeginningsThriftShopSchoharie).

THE ARC NY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DEGREE-SEEKING STUDENTS IN I/DD FIELDS

The Arc NY presents annual scholarships to students seeking degrees in fields related to intellectual or developmental disabilities! Applications are open now through **January 11, 2021**. Each \$3,000 scholarship is paid in two installments of \$1,500 per semester and must be claimed within four years of being awarded. For more information and to apply, please visit www.thearcny.org/about/scholarship-awards or click the scholarship name. For questions, email scholarships@thearcny.org.

<u>ARTHUR W. PENSE SCHOLARSHIP</u>	<u>JAMES F. REVILLE SCHOLARSHIP</u>	<u>JONATHAN WEINGOLD SCHOLARSHIP</u>	<u>JOSEPH T. WEINGOLD SCHOLARSHIP</u>
For physical or occupational therapy degree program students. One presented annually.	For full-time college students in a program related to I/DD, such as behavioral sciences, social work, healthcare administration and management, psychology or nursing. Two presented annually.	Presented to four full-time Arc employees who wish to further their education with the intention of contributing to the field of I/DD.	For students enrolled in a New York degree program leading to a special education certification. Two presented annually.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYEES OF CHAPTERS OF THE ARC NY

- **PARTNERSHIP WITH MARIST COLLEGE:** Marist College offers on-site and online programs for graduate and adult undergrad (age 22+) learners. They are offering all Arc New York employees, volunteers and their immediate adult family members a tuition discount on the eligible degree programs listed at marist.edu/admission/graduate/partnerships/eligible-programs-pricing. Details about the discount offered for specific programs can be found at <https://bit.ly/3iBuZyM>. For more about this partnership, visit marist.edu/arc-of-new-york-state. Those interested in participating may fill out a form at think.marist.edu/inquiryform to learn more. For details about information sessions being held this fall, visit <https://bit.ly/30Kf2jN>.
- **PARTNERSHIP WITH SUNY EMPIRE STATE COLLEGE:** SUNY Empire State offers in-person and online programs throughout New York. All members, employees and retirees of The Arc New York and family members who live in their homes can participate in their Corporate and Community Partner Benefits program, which includes a waiver of the admission/orientation fee and a \$100 scholarship. View a list of their degree programs at esc.edu/degrees-programs. To receive these benefits, participants must apply online and enter the partnership code ECPTRARC. More information can be requested at esc.edu/learn-more.

PAUL NIGRA CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

Lexington employees get a 10% discount at the Nigra Arts Center! Just enter the code **LEXEMPLOYEE** at checkout to redeem. We offer free classes to the people we support. If your house, program or someone you know wants to take a class, please call (518) 661-9932 or contact Maria Nestle at nestlem@thearclexington.org to sign them up. The center is located at 2736 State Highway 30 in Gloversville. For full listings of the classes and events offered, visit www.pncreativeartscenter.org.



ADAPTIVE ARTS CLASSES AT THE NIGRA ARTS CENTER

The Nigra Arts Center is offering art classes and social activities both through Zoom and in person! In-studio classes will be offered for homes to participate in as a single “family unit,” with only one house participating at a time. Weekend activities are also available. To see the November/December calendar, which includes both holiday-themed classes and our regular roster of yoga, baking, fine arts and more, visit www.pncreativeartscenter.org/s/November-December-2020-3.pdf. Pre-registration is required. To sign up, call (518) 661-9932 or email lozierh@thearclexington.org.

COME VIEW OUR NEW ART SHOW!

The 2020 Fall/Winter Art Show will be a diverse exhibition featuring work from artists across New York, including Creative Expressions artists! Come see the show **weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. from November 12, 2020, to January 22, 2021!** Join us also for a socially-distanced Meet the Artists Reception on Thursday, November 19 from 3pm-7pm.

CHECK OUT OUR VIRTUAL ART SHOWS!

Virtual tours of the 2020 New York State Summer Art Show, *Adirondack Life* Art Show and Membership Art Show are now available online! Check them out on the Nigra Arts Center Facebook page or at www.pncreativeartscenter.org/art-shows.

RESOURCES AND COMMUNICATIONS

Previous resources can be found at thearclexington.org/wellness or thearclexington.org/family-connections.

- **United Concierge Medicine: The Virtual ER**—Lexington’s Fulton and Albany Telemedicine provider (1-844-484-7362).
- **MVP: My Visit Now**—Lexington’s Schoharie Telemedicine provider. Click the link or visit <https://bit.ly/34D519b> to view a step-by-step flyer on how to use this program.
- **JFA 2020 Wellness Program**—Schoharie employees who participate in the health plan can complete activities for the Wellness Program to qualify for a discounted health insurance rate for the 2021 health plan! Those who are not enrolled in the health plan can still participate and receive a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card. The deadline to submit activities has been extended to November 30! Click the link for more information and a list of required activities.
- **Free Online ASL Courses**—From the **Lexington Activity & Resource Center**: Click the link for details about FREE American Sign Language classes offered by the American Sign Language University! Lessons start at the beginner level.

LEXINGTON HAPPENINGS DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The online digital archive of Lexington Happenings, which includes active links to all the resources and documents highlighted, can be found at thearclexington.org/lexington-happenings! If you have questions or would like to submit information for a future newsletter, please contact Megan Balsler at balserm@thearclexington.org or (518) 661-9932.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.facebook.com/PaulNigraCenter