

LEXINGTON HAPPENINGS



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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2020

MESSAGE FROM SHALONI



Dear Lexington staff members,

I hope each of you is doing well, as are your families.

COVID-19 at Lexington

Our agency in both Albany and Fulton Counties is doing well with COVID-19 in terms of people we support – thankfully there are no current cases. We have had three employees test positive within the last month but they are doing well. There are currently a number of staff members pending results because of travel or they have been exposed in the community. Since May 7, there have been no positive COVID-19 cases among people we support. We are so grateful for all of you with your consistent use of masks and other PPE to stop the spread of transmission to anyone else in the Lexington family.

COVID-19 in Our Communities

As of September 2, the numbers in Albany and Fulton Counties are as follows:

- Albany – 2,791 – an increase of 108 since August 21
- Fulton – 311 – an increase of 5 positive cases since August 21

Both in Albany and Fulton Counties, the positive case increases are significantly smaller than the previous two weeks. But if you have been watching/reading the news, as college students come back to campuses and schools start in-person classes, there has been a spike in positive cases across NY State, specifically surrounding colleges. SUNY Oneonta has 200 or more students who have tested positive in the last couple of weeks, and there have been new cases reported at Mohawk Valley Community College and SUNY Cobleskill, among others. Because of these outbreaks, Dr. Cope, our Medical Director, is asking us to be conservative and extra diligent over the next two weeks to make sure it doesn't come into our environment. We hope you will be cautious as well in the community so we don't bring COVID-19 into Lexington.

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 or Albany Counties, please visit the links below.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

FULTON COUNTY:
fultonmontgomeryny.org
44lakes.com

ALBANY COUNTY:
albany.com/events/
events.timesunion.com

In-Person Meetings

As of this writing, we have just completed four days of in-person Nurturing Environment Meetings at the Nigra Arts Center. It was so good to see so many of you and have face-to-face conversations that we have been missing for these past months. At all the Nurturing Environment meetings, it was wonderful to hear stories about all the things you have been doing with the people we support during these months. These in-person stories, along with the photos and captions we have been seeing on Workplace, tell everyone how you have not missed a beat with the amazing support you provide to the individuals at our agency. Despite COVID-19 and all the changes that came with it, your passion and responsibility for the work you do was, and is, second to none. We are so grateful to you for it. Thanks also to Mo and Amanda for making sure all the tables and chairs were thoroughly disinfected between meetings!

Merger with Schoharie

We continue the work that needs to be done to successfully complete the merger with Schoharie by October 1. We are looking forward to combining forces with an agency that has a very similar culture to ours, that keeps the people we support at the forefront of everything we do. We will keep you updated as we get closer to the official date, and we welcome the new members of our family to Lexington.

All employees of Lexington and Schoharie Arc, and their immediate family members, are invited to join us at today's Employee Appreciation Event at the Nigra Arts Center from 1pm-6pm. The event is intended for you and your family to come and have fun, listen to Flame, and sample some fare from Mac Factor, Sammy's Country Wagon, and ice cream from Stewarts Shops. For those of you who are working during this time, please speak to your manager and have them contact the staff at the Nigra Arts Center so you can make arrangements to pick up food for these staff.

Thank you for all you do to continue to keep the people we support, and your co-workers at Lexington safe, healthy and happy.

Please take care of yourselves and your families,

Shaloni

RECOGNIZING OUR EMPLOYEES—NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

It's that time of the year again! Lets recognize all of the wonderful employees we have! Do you know a staff member who truly exemplifies the goal of our Nurturing Environment program? If so, please nominate him or her for recognition! Recognizing our employees gives you the opportunity to recognize the actions of Lexington employees, to enhance the supports we provide and improve our environment. Please complete the form, found at the end of this newsletter or by [clicking here](#), for the employee you would like to nominate and return the completed nomination form to Terry Williams at the Gloversville Day Hab building by **September 15, 2020**. If you have any questions, please contact Terry at williat@thearclexington.org or (518) 775-5382. Please take this opportunity to nominate and recognize Lexington employees who go above and beyond every day!

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Any staff member who goes beyond the expectations of their job and demonstrates excellence in creating, building and maintaining a nurturing environment is eligible. A staff who champions the vision of the Nurturing Environment program, with language and actions that demonstrate enthusiasm, may be nominated.

WHO CAN NOMINATE? Anyone who receives services from Lexington, their family, and/or any Lexington staff member can nominate someone for recognition.

REWARDING EXCELLENCE All nominations will be recognized at Nurturing Environment Program meetings. Employees who stand out will be selected for an award. Last year, 200 employees received recognition awards of \$10 to \$250, plus a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift card to the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, totaling over \$7,000.

#RISINGTOGETHER AT LEXINGTON!



It's a new month and we are beginning to transition into fall, but there is still plenty of summer fun to be had first! Here are some stories of what everyone's been up to throughout Lexington:

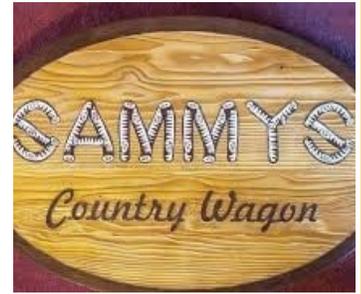
- Many of you have gotten a visit at your work site from an ice cream truck, courtesy of Dan and Shaloni! Employees and people we support throughout the agency have loved enjoying a sweet treat in honor of the above-and-beyond work you have all done since the beginning of the pandemic. If you haven't gotten a visit from the ice cream truck yet, don't worry—it will be making rounds again later this month when the weather is nice!*
- Lola Hayes loves horses, so for a surprise on her 85th birthday, Belmont hab coordinator Lori Semprevio and residence manager Katherine Marotta worked together to help her visit RE Equestrian and meet some horses! Lola loved her visit and it was a very special birthday surprise for her. Thank you to Lori, Katherine and RE Equestrian (the owner of which is the daughter of a former Lexington employee) for making this possible!*
- Mike Keyser was recently able to participate in a Zoom class with some people who live in Schoharie County! Mike learned about Andy Warhol and his iconic Pop Art Style and did his own Pop Art project with the class. He really enjoyed the experience and meeting new people! Thanks to everyone who helped coordinate the class!*
- Allison Patnode has been enjoying baking time! Thanks to Jaclyn Buelow for helping her make these delicious cookies.*
- The women who live at Eagle Mills have been wanting to spruce up their back patio table for a long time. A couple weeks ago, they put their plans into motion! Bethany Sweet and Melody Lewis worked hard to scrape off the old paint and sand down rough spots. They chose the color they wanted and painted it themselves with the help of housemate Joyce Peek and intern Chelsey, even adding a pretty design to finish it off! Bethany, Melody and Joyce did a great job beautifying their outdoor space and should be very proud of their hard work.*
- Matt Croft's garden has been very successful! He is pictured here with his haul of potatoes and a few green beans. The crop was enough to make a delicious side dish with parmesan cheese and parsley to share with his housemates!*

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION EVENT

Friday, September 4 | 1-6 pm. | Lower Lot, Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, 2736 NY-30, Gloversville

All employees of Lexington and Schoharie Arc and their immediate family members are invited to join us TODAY, September 4, at the Nigra Arts Center for a staff appreciation event! This is a drive-in and drive-thru event featuring music from Flame and light fare from The Mac Factor food truck, Sammy's Country Wagon food truck and Stewart's Shops ice cream. Listen to Flame and enjoy some delicious food samples without ever leaving your car!

Be sure to wear masks when interacting with volunteers, and please stay in your car to make sure everyone is safe and social distancing. There will be plenty of signage to guide you through and a lot of volunteers to help make it easy!



INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT GROUPS ON ZOOM

The Clinical Department is still offering Zoom support groups to the people we support! Anyone can join to talk, ask questions, share stories and spend time together with friends! Groups meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. They are facilitated by Sue Murray, Heidi Van Deusen and Darren Brown. Join by calling 1-646-558-8556 and entering Meeting ID 917 3144 1641 or by clicking <https://zoom.us/j/91731441641>.

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, including special education, physical or occupational therapy, and more! 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 annually to four full-time Arc Chapter employees who wish to further their education with the intention of contributing to the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities.	For students enrolled in a New York degree program leading to a special education certification. Two presented annually.

DRAMA GAME CLUB

Join the Clinical Department for creative drama games every Friday, 9:30-10:30 a.m.! This club includes activities that help people use their imaginations while communicating and having fun. Participants explore using their senses, pretending, role-playing, taking turns and using facial expressions and body language. This group is led by Vickey Morrison, SLP, and Gillian Aluin-Kemp, SLP. To participate, please click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81459832459>.

HR NEWS AND INFORMATION

EARN A BONUS FOR RECOMMENDING EMPLOYEES!

The Employee Referral Bonus recognizes your efforts to help Lexington hire the best new employees. If you know of great people who are 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 www.lexingtoncenter.org. Make sure they list your name as the referral source! Pictured below at left is Trisha Rotolo, a Schoharie DSP who recently received a bonus for referring another employee.

HERE ARE SOME EMPLOYEES WHO REFERRED NEW HIRES IN AUGUST:

Kirstin Barclay	Thierno Diallo	Marissa Hayes	Alicia Reidell	Carmen Robinson	Yahira VanBellen
Shatasha Carter	Lynce Doriscat	Amy Ippoliti	Bonnie Reuss	Melissa Toomer	

SEPTEMBER RETIREES—THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE!

Michele DelSavio, DSS III at Maple Avenue | Years of Service: 15 years, 9 months | Retirement Date: Sept. 5
Pat Harrod, Quality & Support Administrator | Years of Service: 35 years, 11 months | Retirement Date: Sept. 12
Theresa (Terry) Sieg, DSS III Eve at Belmont | Years of Service: 39 years, 1 month | Retirement Date: Sept. 21

NEW RN/LPN REFERRAL BONUS PROGRAM!

HR has added a new bonus program for employees who refer RNs/LPNs who are hired by Lexington! You can earn up to \$750 in bonuses through this new program. For more information, please [click here](#) or contact Heidi Smith at (518) 775-5439 or smithhei@thearclexington.org. The July winner was Donna Dresser, pictured below second from left. Congratulations!



EXTRA \$250 REFERRAL BONUS

Lexington holds monthly drawings of \$250 for employees who refer new direct support staff! Each referral is entered, even if they aren't hired. For more details, contact Heidi Smith at smithhei@thearclexington.org or (518) 736-3965. The July winners were Mikalla Sartin (East), Shi Anne Morgan (West) and Jessica Davis (Albany)—pictured above from left to right. Congratulations!

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES (1, 5 & 10+ YEARS)

SEPTEMBER 4 TO SEPTEMBER 17 | CONGRATULATIONS!

Amy Langley , Residential, 9/5, 25 years	Nicole MacGregor , Day Hab, 9/8, 5 years
Renee Gee , Residential, 9/11, 20 years	Michelle Tretola , Residential, 9/8, 5 years
Marla Lathers , Clinical, 9/5, 20 years	Cody Boles , Residential, 9/7, 1 year
Vicki Scheurman , Day Hab, 9/11, 20 years	Katrina Foster , Residential, 9/16, 1 year
Rose Marie Daley , Residential, 9/6, 15 years	Zoe Holland , Residential, 9/16, 1 year
Shannon Enders , Residential, 9/6, 15 years	Fallon Nestle , Residential, 9/16, 1 year
Kayla Ferguson , Day Hab, 9/6, 15 years	Katelyn Small , Residential, 9/16, 1 year
Theresa Walters , Residential, 9/6, 15 years	Nancey VanVranken , Residential, 9/16, 1 year
William Roe , Administration, 9/16, 10 years	

COVID SAFETY PRECAUTIONS—NEW YORK STATE TRAVEL ADVISORY

Effective June 25, New York State issued travel restrictions addressing any travel to states currently experiencing higher COVID-19 infection rates. Please review the list of states below where these restrictions apply as of this week:

Alabama	Georgia	Indiana	Minnesota	Nevada	South Carolina	Virginia
Alaska	Guam**	Iowa	Mississippi	North Carolina	South Dakota	Virgin Islands
Arkansas	Hawaii	Kansas	Missouri	North Dakota	Tennessee	Wisconsin
California	Idaho	Kentucky	Montana	Oklahoma	Texas	**Newly added
Florida	Illinois	Louisiana	Nebraska	Puerto Rico	Utah	

If you have traveled from and spent more than 24 hours in one of these states, you must comply with the following:

- Report this travel to your supervisor and, as needed, ask them for guidance.
- Seek diagnostic testing for COVID-19 ASAP upon arrival back in New York (within 24 hours) to ensure you are not positive. Failure to get tested in a timely manner upon your return will require you to quarantine as noted below.
- You must furnish your negative test result prior to returning to work. For any shifts missed while test results are pending, available vacation and/or personal time will be used or time will be unpaid if none is available.
- You will need to be retested about 7 days after your first test and furnish a copy of the test result upon receipt.
- It is possible that your work assignment may need to be temporarily adjusted while awaiting the results of the second test, depending on the circumstances of your responsibilities.
- You will need to monitor temperature and signs of symptoms, wear a face covering when in public, maintain social distancing, and clean and disinfect workspaces for a minimum of 14 days.
- To the extent possible, you are required to avoid extended periods in public, contact with strangers and large congregate settings for a period of at least 7 days.

Should you choose not to comply with the above requirements, you must remain out of work in self-quarantine for at least 14 days. During this time, your vacation and personal time will be charged for your unscheduled hours. If you do not have vacation and/or personal time to cover these hours, your time away from work will be unpaid.

HERE ARE 10 FUN ENGAGEMENT TOOLS TO USE ON WORKPLACE:

1. Create a group for your immediate team, then take and upload a team photo.
2. Leave 10 hearts on other people's posts every day for a week.
3. Take a photo at your next team event and post it in the Lexington Happenings News Feed.
4. Add a photo to your profile (a work-related one would be great!).
5. Use Workplace Chat (instead of email) next time you want to ask someone a question.
6. Reply to your next Workplace Chat message with a GIF.
7. Post an update on our project in a group and ask for feedback in the comments.
8. Share notes from your next meeting in a group.
9. Follow five co-workers every day for a month to build your network.
10. Create a poll to plan your next event for your team.

Workplace has been such an important tool for internal communications for Lexington – before the pandemic as well, but especially during these last months. Thank you so much for sharing photos of the people we support and staff – please keep them coming!

Not on Workplace yet but want to be? Send an email to Doug Blanc at BlancD@thearclexington.org to join the Lexington conversation!!!

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 full September and October calendars, visit thearclexington.org/s/September-October-2020.pdf. Pre-registration is required. To sign up, call (518) 661-9932 or email lozierh@thearclexington.org.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW VIRTUAL ART SHOWS!

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

THE NIGRA ARTS CENTER IS OPEN!

Come enjoy the grounds, view our art show, check out the gift shop or take a class! There have been some changes in protocol to keep everyone safe and healthy in our new normal. To see a video outlining the new procedures, please go to <https://bit.ly/3jLFbGO>.

COME VIEW OUR NEW ART SHOW!

The 2020 New York State Summer Art Show includes a display of work from New York artists, a special exhibition from two featured artists, and a showcase of award-winning photographs featured in *Adirondack Life* magazine. Come see it weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. until September 25!

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 Telemedicine provider (1-844-484-7362).
- **Coronavirus Sanity Guide**—From the [Lexington Activity & Resource Center](#): Click the link for some free guided meditations, podcasts, talks, podcasts, blogs and more designed to help your mental health during this trying time!
- **COVID-19 and Seasonal Allergies (CDC)**—Click to learn the difference between allergies and COVID-19 symptoms!

UPDATES LIKE THESE ARE POSTED ON LEXINGTON’S WORKPLACE COMMUNITY!

If you aren’t on Workplace, contact Doug Blanc at blancd@thearclexington.org for an invitation. Select how and when you receive notifications for new posts by clicking your profile icon, clicking “Settings,” then “Notifications.”

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

Megan Balsler | balserm@thearclexington.org
Lexington, Chapter of The Arc New York
2736 State Highway 30, Gloversville



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www.facebook.com/FlametheBand
www.facebook.com/TransitionsUSA
www.facebook.com/PaulNigraCenter

Nurturing Environment Program - Recognizing our Employees

NOMINATION FORM

Recognizing our Employees gives you the opportunity to recognize the actions of Lexington employees, to enhance the supports we provide and improve our environment.

Who are you nominating (please use a separate form for each employee)?

Name of Employee	Work Location

Please provide specific examples of what the nominee has accomplished, how it was achieved, and why do you consider it truly nurturing that is above and beyond his/her normal duties

You may attach additional pages if you wish.

Please print your name	Your work location	Please sign and date
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Please return completed form to Terry Williams at the Gloversville Day Hab building by September 15, 2020.