

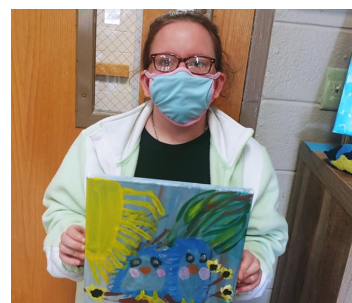
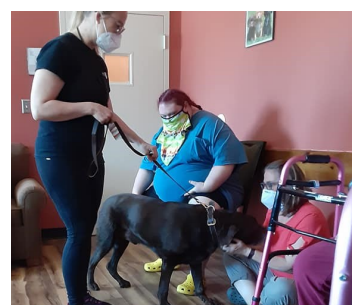
LEXINGTON HAPPENINGS



SPECIAL BULLETIN: COVID-19 UPDATES

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021

#RISINGTOGETHER AT LEXINGTON!



Between beautiful weather, holidays and new opportunities for the people we support, there is a lot going on at Lexington! Here are a few stories:

- We hope all the moms at Lexington had a wonderful Mother's Day! Tammy was so happy to receive these beautiful flowers from her son!
- Eva loves reading and independence. She used to use a device called "Merlin" to enjoy her books, but it recently wore out. Staff Lori Scanlon and Amanda Bowman took it upon themselves to research devices offered by the same company to find something newer that would better suit Eva. They found AmiGO, a portable desktop magnifier that Eva can take anywhere! This tool will open up new opportunities for the independence that Eva strives so much for. Thanks to Lori, Amanda and everyone else who supports Eva to do what she loves as self-sufficiently as possible!
- Experience Events have continued to be held throughout Lexington this spring, and on May 5 various houses visited Burke, the Nigra Arts Center and Schoharie to celebrate Cinco de Mayo with build-your-own tacos, nachos and non-alcoholic margaritas! Thanks so much to Kingsboro Catering for the delicious food and to all the volunteers who decorated for the fun, colorful event and made it all happen!
- Some of Lexington's day hab programs recently enjoyed a visit from Tex the therapy dog! Seeing animals like Tex and our therapy rabbits always puts a smile on everyone's face. Thank you to the canine therapy dog handlers who brighten everyone's day by sharing the joy of dogs!
- Helen from Bacon Brook recently turned 95, and she was able to celebrate with her family! Thanks so much to all the staff who made it possible for the family to be together and who worked hard to make the day special for them all.
- Susan Alexander has a weekly ritual of greeting the garbage collectors when they visit Feura Bush. It makes her day when they wave to her and beep their horn as they drive away!
- At the beginning of May, Nick Fletcher returned to his job at Kelley Farm and Garden in Cobleskill! He has worked there since 2017, but the pandemic kept him away from work for over a year. He is so excited to be back with his coworkers and doing what he loves!
- Creativity abounds at Gloversville Day Hab! Several houses attend regularly to enjoy a variety of classes, from painting and drawing to making their own home décor. Pictured is Misty Snell with a beautiful bird picture she painted.

MESSAGE FROM SHALONI



Dear Lexington staff members,

I hope you are all well as are your families.

Unfortunately, we currently have one person we support who is positive for COVID-19 and he is hospitalized, but doing better. We also have two employees who are currently positive, with a number of employees on quarantine due to exposure.

I am continuing to emphasize the need for vaccination. Right now, Fulton County is still sitting at a high risk level, with only 33% of the population being fully vaccinated; Schoharie is registering 36% being vaccinated; and Albany County 50%. As of May 19, the 7-day positivity rate in Fulton County was 1.6%; in Schoharie County it was 1.8%; and in Albany 0.9%.

We continue to provide you information here and on Workplace about how to get the vaccine, and we can still support your efforts to do so. You can also continue to talk with RNs at the agency about the vaccine, or our Medical Directors should you wish to contact them. We also encourage you to have a conversation about it with your own doctor, who knows your health best. As well, there are so many things that vaccinated people can take advantage of – pro baseball and basketball games where you can sit next to friends and family, entertainment venues that only allow vaccinated people to participate in events, and more. Watch Workplace for information regarding these opportunities for those who are vaccinated.

Our vaccination rates are as follows:

- 97.6% of people we support in our residences, including Supportive Apartments and Transitions, are fully vaccinated.
- 47% of people we support in the community are fully vaccinated.
- The total number of vaccinated employees is 56.7% of the total eligible – in Schoharie 54.2% of staff, Fulton 59.3% of staff and Albany 38.4%.

As you saw in HR Updates last week, increasing our staffing levels is a priority for us, both for you as staff members and for the people we support. We know how hard you are working – many of you are working extra hours, extra shifts and helping out at programs/homes different than where you are regularly assigned, and we can't tell you how much we appreciate it. Residence managers are helping out with direct support duties, as are many others. In order to best support people in our residential program, we need your help, and many of you are already stepping up. Please watch for details regarding a number of recognition programs that offer opportunities to earn extra money by helping out the residential program. We hope you are able to take advantage of what we are offering.

During this pandemic, the need to upgrade our IT infrastructure and ensure direct communication with all our employees has been critically highlighted. Through grant funding, we are pursuing many upgrades. In this issue, you will see an announcement of new and enhanced communications tools to make sure we are all connected in our three counties. There are new opportunities and new technologies that we can use to have more efficient meetings, and to communicate important messaging to everyone at the agency. After an initial trial, we will see the rollout of these new technologies in the coming months.

In the last issue of Lexington Happenings, I talked about how important it is to have opportunities to see each other face-to-face. As the weather gets warmer and we can gather more safely outdoors, we are planning some dates in

June to see all of you and recognize the work that you have done, and for any recognitions that we have not been able to publicly celebrate during the last year. Please watch for details and dates in the coming days and make it a point to join us at one of these meetings. I am excited to be able to see you!

Again, I couldn't be more proud or more grateful to all of you for all of the effort you put in to make sure everyone is safe and working towards their goals. You all make it happen every day in every way. Thank you for all you do!

Best,

Shaloni

NEW COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS AVAILABLE TO ALL STAFF AT LEXINGTON

To better enhance communications agencywide, all employees will now be provided access to e-mail with a Lexington email address. In addition, we are making available Office 365 to everyone who uses Citrix as their primary computer source (mostly in residential and day hab programs). With these new tools, everyone across the agency will now have access to email, and Office 365 will simplify and unify computing tasks at remote sites.

Microsoft Teams will also be made available to all users, due to the increased usage of that platform for a number of different meetings, including Life Plans and more. Soon anyone will be able to log in and join/host a meeting in Teams.

The rollout of these new communication tools will begin with initially testing the email and Office 365 at two sites, Gloversville Day Hab and Prospect Avenue. The goal of this testing is to iron out any challenges and create a rollout template that can be used across the agency. This will include trainings, testing and an implementation process. We expect the initial testing at the two sites to begin in the next two weeks. Watch for more exciting details to come as we enhance our communications tools for all of our staff at Lexington!

LEXINGTON GOLF TOURNAMENTS IN FULTON AND SCHOHARIE COUNTIES

Lexington has two golf tournaments coming up in June! All are welcome to participate in these fun fundraisers for the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts and Legacy of Love—Schoharie. See below for details about each tournament!

LEXINGTON GOLF TOURNAMENT | FRIDAY, JUNE 11 | HALES MILLS COUNTRY CLUB, JOHNSTOWN

Golfers have the opportunity to win awesome raffle prizes as well as a variety of contests and games, including Skins, Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, Cornhole and Hole in One! Registration includes greens fees, cart, golf gift, a specialty drink hole, breakfast and lunch, and snacks and beverages on the course.

- Fee: \$125 per golfer
- Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.; Shotgun Start at 9:00 a.m.
- Format: four-person scramble
- Proceeds benefit the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts!
- For more information, to sponsor or to register, please contact Lynette May at (518) 661-9932 or mayl@theardlexington.org.

OPPORTUNI-TEE GOLF TOURNAMENT | FRIDAY, JUNE 18 | COBLESKILL GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, COBLESKILL

Play for cash prizes in a variety of contests, including Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, Putting and Top Two Teams! Registration includes greens fees, cart, contests, lunch, dinner, snacks on the course and a golfer gift.

- Single golfer fee: \$125; foursome fee: \$400
- Registration begins 10:30 a.m.; lunch at 11:30 a.m.; Shotgun Start at 12:30 p.m.
- Format: four-person scramble
- Proceeds benefit Legacy of Love—Schoharie County!
- For more information, to sponsor or to register, please contact Tammy Ruise at (518) 295-8130, ext. 256 or ruiset@theardlexington.org.

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

New York State has opened the vaccines to anyone 16 and older. Vaccines are available at pharmacies, hospitals, local public health departments at different locations and Federally Qualified Health Centers statewide (like the SUNY Albany site and the Utica site at SUNY Polytechnic). If you want to get a vaccine, here are some of the ways to do it:

- To make an appointment at any of the state-run sites throughout New York State, visit <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov> or call the New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline at 1-833-697-4829.
- Many pharmacies are offering COVID-19 vaccinations. You can schedule a vaccine at CVS or Walgreens through the stores' apps, available in the Google Play Store or iPhone App Store, or you can contact individual stores/pharmacies for information.
- Contact your county's Public Health Department or monitor their Facebook pages for vaccine information:
 - **Fulton:** (518) 736-5720 | fultoncountyny.gov/public-health
 - **Albany:** (518) 447-4580 | www.albanycounty.com/departments/health
 - **Schoharie:** (518) 295-8365 | www4.schohariecounty-ny.gov/departments/public-health
- You can also continue to contact our #LexVaxChamps for help finding a vaccine:
 - **Albany:** Teresa Wands, (518) 332-5674
 - **Fulton:** Kelly Green, (518) 736-4193
 - **Schoharie:** Liz Weingarten, (518) 295-8130 ext. 230

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION SHEETS

To help employees make an informed decision about the COVID-19 vaccine, we have created an information sheet that contains links to credible medical and scientific resources, links to videos and information from the CDC, the WHO and our Public Health Departments. You can access the sheet at <http://bit.ly/2NGINzf>. We have also added fact sheets about the Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccines to the Vaccine Information page on our website at <https://thearclexington.org/vaccine>.

EXCELSIOR PASS

New York's Excelsior Pass provides a free, fast and secure way to present digital proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative test results. Think of it as a mobile airline boarding pass, but for proving you received a COVID-19 vaccination or negative test. You can store your Pass digitally on your smartphone with the Excelsior Pass Wallet app, available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. You can also print your Pass from the Excelsior Pass website and bring it with you.

Businesses and venues can scan and validate your pass to ensure you meet any COVID-19 vaccination or testing requirements for entry. Along with your Pass, you'll be asked to show a photo ID that shows your name and birth date to verify that the Pass belongs to you. Adults may hold passes for accompanying minors. Once you and your party enter an establishment, you will still be asked to follow state and CDC guidance regarding social distancing, face coverings and hand hygiene.

Participation in Excelsior Pass is voluntary. New Yorkers can always show alternate proof of vaccination or testing, like another mobile application or paper form, directly at a business or venue. You can find more information on the Excelsior Pass at <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/excelsior-pass>. They also have a question and answer line that is open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.: 1-844-699-7277.

LEXINGTON ACTIVITY AND RESOURCE CENTER

THE EXPERIENCE: EVENTS FOR THE PEOPLE WE SUPPORT

If you and the people you support are looking for some fun new things to do, please join us for a series of special experiential events at the Nigra Arts Center, 465 N. Perry Street and 121 Opportunity Drive! Houses are invited to come enjoy movies, games and food in private family-unit rooms. If you are interested in signing your house up, please call (518) 661-9932 to reserve a slot. Limited slots are available, so don't wait!

BINGO NIGHT | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9 | 3:00 P.M.

Win Bingo Bucks that can be cashed in for awesome prizes! Be sure to bring cash for the concession stand. Capacity: Nigra Arts Center—2 houses; Johnstown—3 houses; Schoharie—3 houses.

MOVIE MATINEE: FOOTLOOSE | TUESDAY, JUNE 15 | 3:00 P.M.

Come enjoy watching the fun movie musical Footloose! Be sure to bring cash for the concession stand. Capacity: 2 houses per location.

BBQ PICNIC | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23 | 3:00 P.M.

Celebrate the beginning of summer with a delicious BBQ dinner! Capacity: 2 houses per location.

REMEMBER TO PLACE YOUR CO-OP ORDERS!

Co-op orders with [Tri-City Foods](#) are now open for June delivery! You can order online at tricityfoods.com or obtain an order form from Lynette May (for Oppenheim or Johnstown) at mayl@thearclexington.org or Tammy Ruise (for Schoharie) at ruiset@thearclexington.org. The deadline to place orders is **May 24**. The pickup dates and times in June will be as follows:

- **SCHOHARIE**—Friday, June 11 | 3:30-4:15 p.m., 121 Opportunity Drive, Schoharie
- **OPPENHEIM DAY HAB**—Thursday, June 17 | 3:10-3:30 p.m., 405 Co. Hwy 114, St. Johnsville
- **JOHNSTOWN DAY HAB**—Thursday, June 17 | 3:30-4:30 p.m., 465 N. Perry Street, Johnstown (by the gas tanks)

FOR SCHOHARIE: JEAN EMERSON SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORED BY LEGACY OF LOVE

Lexington employees and their friends and family who live in Schoharie are welcome to apply for the Jean Emerson Scholarship! The program awards two scholarships of up to \$1,000 per year to those who plan to pursue or continue their career in supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Scholarship winners will be eligible for a paid internship at Lexington. To learn more about this opportunity and how to apply, please visit <https://bit.ly/3ac7Hyf>. Applications are due by **May 28**.

VIRTUAL IN-HOUSE MUSIC

Virtual in-house music is available for any Lexington home! See the May performance schedule at <https://bit.ly/32ViEjt>. If you would like to schedule music for your house, please contact Tammy Miles at (518) 775-5475 or milest@thearclexington.org.

ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED ZOOM ACTIVITY CALENDAR

The Engaged and Empowered day hab program offers daily social groups, activities, games, crafts, trivia, meetings and more to the people we support! See the full May calendar and participation information at <https://bit.ly/2R7yC7s>.

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS ZOOM CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

Creative Expressions offers a selection of art classes, games, puzzles, musical performances, virtual tours and other activities via Zoom every month! To view the May calendar of events and get the participation information, please visit <https://bit.ly/3uggE16>.

WELLNESS 2GETHER CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Wellness 2gether hosts Zoom activities between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. every weekday! There are games, karaoke, educational sessions and more. No registration required—just log into Zoom! See the May calendar and details at <https://bit.ly/3sYCN2N>.

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 Arts Center is located at 2736 State Highway 30 in Gloversville. For full listings of the classes and events offered, visit www.pncreativeartscenter.org.



KID SUMMER CAMPS COMING BACK TO THE NIGRA ARTS CENTER!

The Nigra Arts Center is excited to bring back our popular summer camps for children ages 5-12! Camps promote fun and creativity through STEAM (science, tech, engineering, arts and math) learning. The program, sponsored by National Grid, begins the week of **July 5** and ends the week of **August 23**, running weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Discounts are available for Lexington employees, children from the same family and more! Spots are very limited. If you want to sign up your kids, please contact Lynette May at mayl@thearclexington.org or Maria Nestle at nestlem@thearclexington.org or call (518) 661-9932. For more details, a schedule of weekly themes and a parent information packet, please visit www.pncreativeartscenter.org/camps.

MAY CLASSES AT THE NIGRA ARTS CENTER

Check out our adaptive arts class calendar at <https://www.pncreativeartscenter.org/adaptivearts>! The Nigra Arts Center offers adaptive arts classes and social activities through Zoom and in person. In-studio classes are offered for Lexington homes to participate in as a single "family unit," with only one house participating at a time. All are welcome to participate in any Zoom class! Pre-registration is required – call (518) 661-9932 or email Hailey Lozier at lozierh@thearclexington.org to sign up.

NEW ART SHOW COMING SOON

The Nigra Arts Center's 2021 Regional Art Show will be on display from **June 3 to July 8!** Plan to see the artwork from local artists and elementary, middle and high school students **weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** The show will also be displayed virtually at www.pncreativeartscenter.org/art-shows and www.facebook.com/PaulNigraCenter.

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).
- **Project Connect Pandemic Helpline**—A 24-hour helpline to support people with disabilities, their families and members of their support teams. Click the link for details about what services are offered or call the helpline any time at **888-847-3209**.
- **Information on COVID-19**—News, information and resources regarding COVID-19 at coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home.
- **Schenectady County COVID-19 Vaccine PODs**—Schenectady County is holding free COVID-19 vaccine PODs (points of dispensing) four days a week in May and June, open to all, no appointment needed. Visit <https://bit.ly/3hMJz9M> for details.
- **What to Expect After Getting a Vaccine**—Visit <https://bit.ly/345yGrG> for info on what to do and expect after getting vaccinated.

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 Balser at balserm@thearclexington.org or (518) 661-9932.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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