



# Acacia Village

AUGUST 2020

## UNDER THE ACACIA TREE

### WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING HERE?



Our new library was added on. It starts in the hallways and takes up an entire corner with entrances on two sides. We are so lucky to have it.

It also has a fireplace for an added coziness that will come in handy during the fall and winter months.

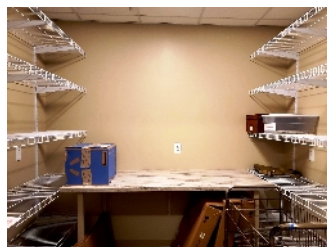


The upgrade included a new magnification machine for those with vision limitations and a new computer!

Activities/crafts and cards have a new look as well. What a great room with lots of natural and artificial light.



We are probably a bit more excited about our new package room than we should be. It will make our lives much easier during the holidays!



We all love our new office spaces.



Cottages and garden homes are still on schedule. Pictured left are

the two garden home buildings consisting of four apartments each.

Cottages are pictured right. The shot below is our beautiful view from the other side of the pond.



We are still under construction here in the Lodge and adding finishes touches to the already completed areas.

Next up, dining venues, Salon and fitness area including a yoga studio and massage room. We can't wait to show you everything when it's completed!

## LINDA'S LETTER - BY LINDA RAE AVOLIO

“Home is where love resides, memories are created, friends always belong, and laughter never ends.”

Two couples, the Douds and the Wheelers each moved into a 2 bedroom, Lodge Suite in Building B last year. Both couples chose to get away for a few months this past winter. The Douds went to Georgia, and the Wheelers left for Florida. They both returned in early March and said that they really looked forward to coming HOME! Acacia Village had truly become home in a short period of time. Their new friends were glad to see them, and the feeling was mutual. Menzer Doud said, “Acacia Village is a place that quickly becomes home. Everything from our neighbors to the staff and all of the endless amenities have, each in their own way, exceeded our highest expectations.”

Since I first started here back in 2008, the top three comments that I've heard over the years from prospective residents are: number one, “I'm not ready yet;” number two, “I don't want to leave my house;” and number three, “Why did I wait? I really wish I had done this a long time ago.” Number three is what we typically hear after residents have lived here for about a month.

We'll be welcoming several new residents this fall as they settle into the new Water-side Cottages and Garden Homes. Right now 5 of the 8 Cottages and 1 of the 8 Garden Homes have been preselected. You can get a great feel for what they look like by taking a virtual tour on our website at [www.acaciavillageny.org](http://www.acaciavillageny.org). If you are interested in learning more don't hesitate to call us at 315-798-4775.

Warmly,

Linda

## HOW LUCKY WE ARE - By CINDY COPPERWHEAT

According to a recent article in the Wall Street Journal Isolating the Elderly Is Bad for Their Health, "living alone without social interaction is implicated in higher rates of Cardio vascular disease, worsening dementia and Alzheimer's and shorter lives." They were referring to the impact that quarantining due to Covid-19 restrictions has caused.

We know first-hand what a difficult task it is to protect Residents from the Coronavirus and not isolate them to the point of causing physical and mental harm. We too had to keep our Residents away from family and friends and ask them to eat alone in their apartments. Amy Falvo, the Director of Acacia Village had to make some challenging decisions. The recommendations and mandates being handed down by New York State and the CDC were changing almost daily. Sometimes even twice in a day. We never lost sight of the fact that the isolation could cause problems for our Residents.

We started holding brainstorming meetings to come up with ideas that would keep people entertained and healthy. We still had activities planned every week. For example, bingo which is one of the favorite activities that we offer was modified, so we could continue. Chris and Taylor, our activity coordinators added additional bingo times to the calendar to keep the attendees to the maximum of 10 people as mandated by the state. The bingo cards were laminated, so

they could be disinfected between games. Exercise classes were treated in a similar fashion so chairs and weights could be disinfected between classes. We started showing movies daily so we could limit the audience to a maximum of 10.

Pre-Covid we normally had a coffee/tea hour every Wednesday afternoon where Residents could enjoy a cookie or snack and coffee. We started taking carts around on Wednesday afternoons, stopping at every door with cookies. Additionally on other days we delivered wine or beer or lemonade with a light snack. Office staff pitched in to help deliver the day's treat.

Although we did expect everyone to eat in their apartments we did start delivering dinners to everyone nightly and waived the normal \$2 room service charge. Residents also had the option of picking up a breakfast or lunch to be taken back to their apartments to enjoy. Neighbors would run into each other while picking up the mail or getting their lunch and have a socially distanced chat. We understood that this was still difficult for a group of people that are used to being so socially active, but just think about the limited options that people who still live alone in their homes have. They may not have anyone to make a delicious meal or to have a conversation with.

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# ACACIA DIDN'T KNOW – ACTIVITIES NEWS

## HOW LUCKY WE ARE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Yes, we are the mask police. We do remind everyone to please wear your mask. That is why our wonderful staff here continued to show up to work every day healthy! The staff is periodically tested for the virus. Not because it was mandated, (we were not included in the list mandated by the State), but because we all want to be sure that the 150 people that we love who reside at our Village stay healthy.

As businesses enter the different opening phases in New York State, we continue to open up more things here at Acacia Village as well. Visitors are once again allowed, as long as they are not from a restricted state on Governor Cuomo's list. They do still need to be screened at the front desk. We started taking residents grocery shopping again. Of course we have to limit the number being allowed on the bus to keep them at the appropriate distance. We are instituting a reservation program where neighbors can eat in the community room with their friends while still keeping distanced to comply with the rules.

We will continue to be diligent as our housekeeping staff keeps disinfecting the hallways multiple times a day. We will continue to be the mask police reminding everyone to wear their masks. We will continue to screen anyone who enters our building for an elevated temperature and symptoms. Yes, we feel that we are very lucky here to report that we have had no positive cases of Covid-19 at The Neighborhoods at Acacia Village.

(800) 593-3353 or (315) 798-4775.

NOW THIS IS LIVING

# Acacia Village

THE NEIGHBORHOODS AT

Utica, New York, 13501

2160 Blecker Street

ACACIA VILLAGE