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**WESTMINSTER CANTERBURY WEEKLY SUMMARY–DECEMBER 9, 2021–3 P.M.**

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**John Burns**

*Coronavirus Update*

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) positivity rate for Henrico County is currently 7.34%. This is an increase. Our region remains at a high community transmission level. Boosters are encouraged to help prevent the spread of coronavirus or severe illness. Experts continue to monitor the omicron variant. More data is needed to know whether it will cause breakthrough infections or severe illnesses. This week a Dining employee tested positive for COVID-19. This employee had been in quarantine due to the spouse testing positive. There is no risk of spread on campus.

*Vibrancy! Updates*

There has been significant progress with the Parking Deck construction. A large crane is present to help with placing the precast panels. At the Parking Deck construction area, the road that passes the Mary Morton Parsons Health Center and Child Development Center loop will be closed to traffic on Saturday, December 11. Please use an alternate entrance to access these areas, such as the Avalon Entrance.

There has been good progress on the Promenade renovation including installing duct work and prepping the site for the concrete pour that will happen next week, both inside the building and for the new slab for the expansion. The concrete pad outside of the Promenade is currently being demolished to make way for the new slab, resulting in some noisy periods.

*Westminster Canterbury Weekly*

The last *Westminster Canterbury Weekly* of 2020 will be on Thursday, December 16, at 3 p.m. Please join us on Thursday, January 6, in person in the Sara Belle November Theater.

**Whitney Woodruff**

*Holidays on Campus*

Westminster Canterbury elves have been busy decorating with Christmas trees, nativities and gingerbread houses all over campus.

Residents and staff are encouraged to dress in festive holiday wear for Festive Fridays!

Join us for the Live Nativity on Monday, December 13, 4-6 p.m., on the Tower Green. This is open to residents, staff, families and the Child Development Center. Join us to enjoy cider, cookies and live music.

On Friday, December 17, the Men's Chorus will perform at 1:15 p.m. in the November Gallery.

The Annual Christmas Eve Open House with live music and coffee punch will be from 10-11 a.m., in the Cochrane Commons.

Resident gift wrapping is available in the Center Lobby and Marketplace on Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-noon and Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. Wrapping paper, bows and tags are available. Please bring boxes if needed. This service is compliments of Westminster Canterbury volunteers.

## **Scott Coats**

### *Holiday Scams*

The holiday season is a busy time as we prepare for celebrations and shop for gifts. It is also a busy time for scammers as they devise ways to steal data through malicious email campaigns that can trick you into divulging personal information. Scammers will use email messages impersonating a brand, product or organization. The goal is to trick the recipient into believing that the email is legitimate and is of great interest or importance. The message will ask you to click on an attachment or link that will take you to a fake website that will try to steal your information.

Examples of some scams that have already started to make their way into residents' email are:

- **Fraudulent shipping notifications** - This type of email scam claims to be from UPS or FedEx and instructs you to click on a link to check the status of your shipment. The safest way to track packages is to go directly to the UPS or FedEx site and use your tracking number to track your package.
- **Charity Frauds** - This type of scam typically tries to trick the recipient into believing that they are donating money to a charity. The scammers are luring people to donate to charities that do not exist. This year, phishing campaigns are likely to exploit COVID-19 to convince people to donate to coronavirus-related charities. The safest way to donate online is to visit the website of a reputable charity and follow their directions for donations.
- **Gift Cards** - Scammers send out fake emails requesting personal information with promises of providing a gift card to popular businesses like Starbucks or Target. They may ask you to answer a brief questionnaire asking for your date of birth and other personal information. Be cautious of any email asking for personal information.
- **IRS Scams** - It is important to keep in mind the IRS generally does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. You can report any suspicious IRS message by visiting [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) for additional information.

Please take care to protect yourself during the holiday season and throughout the year.

## **Vanessa Perry**

### *Pastoral Care*

Please check *The Westminster Canterbury Tales* newsletter to learn more about upcoming holiday events. A musical highlight for the season includes a concert by organist Ed Schutt on Monday, December 13, at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come listen to holiday favorites and then head to the Tower Green for the live nativity.

### *Advent Prayer by Henri Nouwen*

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.