



246 North Main Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Loomis Life

February 2022 Volume 5, Issue 2

Upcoming Events

RSVP with
The Loomis
Communities

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March 17th:

(Virtual Event)

**Hot Housing Market: The
Ins and Outs of Staging
& Selling. RSVP using
the number or email
above.**

April:

(Virtual Event)

**Woodworking with
Loomis Lakeside at
Reeds Landing resident
Peter Courtney**

Date TBD

Celebrating Our Differences and Learning Together at Loomis

February is Black History Month, a perfect time to discuss diversity. This ever-evolving topic merits examination and conversation. The Loomis Communities are dedicated to embracing and actualizing a more tolerant and inclusive culture as we observe Black History Month — and every day. February provides a special opportunity for staff and residents to focus time and activities on African Americans' achievements and the pivotal role they play in U.S. history.

Here, we strive to open doors to worlds of positive aging. We do that in an environment of openness and discovery that celebrates the diversity of our world and our community. We are committed to treating others with dignity, kindness, and compassion. Part of that message is recognizing our humanity and inherent unity by welcoming all ethnicities, religions, orientations, and cultures at The Loomis Communities.

To deepen our commitment to diversity, The Loomis Communities Board of Directors created the Inclusion and Social Justice Committee. It is comprised of board members, community leaders, residents, and team members with this objective: increasing awareness of lives that may be different from our own, while learning to celebrate our differences, as well as the things we have in common. This is achieved through creating educational programs, attending

interactive and cultural events, and holding substantive presentations and discussions on race-related topics.

The Loomis Communities aim to not only participate in but to also sponsor events that highlight the importance of a more diverse world. These include performances and exhibitions like Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Silkroad Ensemble, and "We Are For Freedoms" at the University of Massachusetts Fine Arts Center. Residents and team members remain active in the community in many other ways too, including:

- Attending and researching diversity-themed exhibits
 - Augustus Savage Gallery
 - Carole Walters Exhibit
 - Eric Carle Museum: "Picturing the Dream: Black Artists and The Civil Rights Movement"
- Organizing and participating in protests, supportive of Black Lives Matter
- Scheduling film series and regular discussions

We look forward to continuing this important work right here at home, and within the community we call home, so that we can foster a vision for future generations. If you want to learn more about our diversity efforts, [click here](#). To learn more about diversity in The Pioneer Valley, [click here](#).



Residents of The Loomis Communities strive to make a difference in many ways, including community engagement and advocacy.

The A.I. World Can Make a World of Difference

We'd like to introduce you to a new team member at The Loomis Communities. His name is Buster. Buster is an artificial intelligence (A.I.)-controlled robot helping our wait staff at Applewood. Buster is programmed to move about through the dining room, from kitchen-to-table and table-to-kitchen. The Loomis Communities are proud to be the first community in Western Massachusetts — and the second retirement community in the state — to offer such technology. Buster allows our team to remain in the dining room with residents for an unparalleled customer service experience.

When the chefs load the plates in the kitchen, they use the included tablet to direct Buster onward. The robot then moves to assigned tables in a designated order. When Buster arrives, a hospitality crew member can serve the food and follow Buster to the next table. If working in one of our casual dining restaurants, these robots can be programmed to approach individual tables to inform residents they are welcome to place their food trays on the tiers for removal.

Buster is with us in Amherst on a four-week trial. Once completed, we will seek Applewood resident feedback before similar trials at Loomis Village and Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing. So far, it appears the new technology is a hit:

"I love it. I think Buster is a wonderful invention! We saw him today mostly bringing meals, and I would like to see him taking dishes away. It's a way to let the wait staff, whom we all love, spend more time with us and less time running back and forth from the kitchen." - Nancy Eddy, Applewood resident

There is even more innovation coming to The Loomis Communities, including trash receptacles able to distinguish what you're throwing away. Through advanced mechanisms, this A.I. will be able to advise on proper disposal when doing so to aid our recycling efforts.



Applewood residents and staff alike are enjoying getting to know Buster the robot at The Loomis Communities.



Marching for a Better Future

Residents at The Loomis Communities are often engaged in social justice initiatives. Their efforts make a difference, and some have even impacted history. One such resident is Wayne Cowan, who not only marched with Dr. King but also worked alongside Nelson Mandela. We had the privilege to learn more about his efforts toward a more equitable world, and you can as well. [Click here](#) to listen to the podcast.

2022: The Year of the Water Tiger

The Lunar New Year arrives annually with the first new moon at January's end. It continues until the full moon arrives fifteen days later. The Lunar New Year is more than just festivities, though; in some Asian cultures, it carries interesting predictions for the year ahead.

2022 has been deemed the year of the water tiger, which occurs only every sixty years. The way it works is that each year cycles through twelve zodiac animals along the apparent path of the sun through the cosmos. The twelve animals are mapped with five elements. Each new year then becomes associated with an animal and corresponding element. This Lunar New Year's designation of "water tiger" signifies an action-oriented one — full of strength, bravery, and clearing away of evil.

We at The Loomis Communities look ahead to the Lunar New Year in eager anticipation. For 2022, we aim to expand our communities, branch out to new technologies, and welcome new advancements that enhance the lives of those we serve.

So to all of our many friends from different places at The Loomis Communities and beyond, *Xīnnián hǎo, Chúc Mừng Năm Mới*”, and *Saehae bok mani badeuseyo!* We are excited to see what the Lunar New Year has in store for us all.