



246 North Main Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Loomis Life

November 2023 Volume 6, Issue 11

Serving Beyond Our Communities

November is an optimal time to express gratitude by volunteering time, talents, and resources to your local community. For not-for-profit organizations like the Loomis Communities, giving back to the communities we serve is a year-round endeavor. While the Loomis mission is to open doors to worlds of positive aging for our residents in Amherst, South Hadley, and Springfield, we also strive to serve the Pioneer Valley as a whole.

Throughout the holiday season, the Loomis Communities will be helping with several initiatives in the region. Perhaps you're considering ways you can contribute, too? We welcome you to join us. Here is a sampling of our projects for the month ahead:

- Toy drive at Loomis Village
- Pick-a-gift tree at Applewood
- Toy drive at Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing
- Non-perishable food drives at all three campuses
- Playing card donations at Loomis Village for older adults in South Hadley



Last year's giving tree at Applewood helped more than 75 children.

As we inch closer to year's end, we welcome your feedback.

Is there a topic you'd like to see us cover?

Please connect with us using the contact information found at the bottom of this newsletter.

Want to catch up on past editions of *Loomis Life*? Scan the QR Code below.



If you have been to an event at the South Hadley, Wilbraham, Pleasant View, or Longmeadow senior centers, you may have spotted our Loomis team members and residents dishing out some delicious food our chefs prepared. This year, we have been sponsoring lunches and hosting cooking demonstrations. These offerings have allowed us to bring some of the impressive recipes our chefs have curated to a larger audience, while simultaneously connecting with the wider community. We have several more of these happenings on the calendar, so we hope to see some of you there.



We also appreciate those who help spread holiday cheer.

Even while abuzz with charitable endeavors within and around the communities, we'd like to take a moment to slow down, reflect, and give thanks for the wonderful gifts we experience on a regular basis. The Loomis team is fortunate each day to enrich the lives of so many older adults and their loved

ones through independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing living options at three communities. We are especially grateful for so many special individuals:

- Residents who call the Loomis Communities home
- Team members who dedicate their time and energy to make Loomis a wonderful place to live and work
- Wider community members for welcoming us with open arms.
- The many prospective residents we have met and will have the good fortune to get to know this coming year

Writing Their Own Retirement Stories

The Loomis Communities woodshops, at each campus, allow residents to teach and learn new skills, resume passions, develop new hobbies, and engage in new experiences. When artisans who call Loomis home join forces to teach fellow residents their craft, the Bloom concept we've been sharing each month in the newsletter truly comes to life!

Randy Hyvonen and John Schechter, of Loomis Village (who just so happen to be master wood workers), demonstrated this very idea in October; they taught several fellow residents how to transform a simple piece of wood into a functional, beautiful writing utensil by working the lathe and other shop machines. This woodshop introduction allowed participants to work hands-on with the carpentry trade in a safe environment.

Lathes are a newer addition to the Loomis Village woodshop. They allow the creation of functional, simple items, such as pens to more complex pieces like bowls, cups, and cutlery from sizable cuts of wood. Projects like these naturally embody multiple aspects of our Bloom wellness facets — whether in the form of occupational wellness or social, emotional, and intellectual connections formed while working side-by-side in the shop. In the woodshops, and beyond, Loomis residents have the opportunity to flourish in multiple aspects of their daily living.



Loomis Village residents Randy and John assist in the pen-making process, showcasing different techniques.



Updates from Construction Central

We're moving right along at both Loomis Village and Applewood. At Loomis Village, the temporary walls have come down and the main lobby and new sunroom are starting to take shape! The result will be a more spacious and welcoming room for all to enjoy. At Applewood, the addition's main section is walled and ready for next steps. There is now a clear delineation between the new meeting room, updated library, and other improved spaces. The enhanced main entrance is also taking shape with pillars, extending to a future designated parking area.



Want to learn more? Have an idea to share? We want to hear from you!

The Loomis Communities - 246 North Main Street. South Hadley, MA 01075 - (413) 588-5178 - jpowers@loomiscommunities.org