

January 7, 2021

Dear Residents and Staff of all RiverWoods communities,

Yesterday was the darkest day I can remember for our nation, and we have seen some pretty dark days over these last 10 months!

We are a republic that is reliant on trust and civility. We need leadership that provides a reason to trust, and a population that is willing. We are lacking in that right now. Yesterday proved that in the highest and most disturbing way.

In troubled times like these we need one another more than ever, and for some reason when we need one another, human nature tends to pull us apart. We need to fight that urge, because when smart people with good intent work together to solve problems that seem insurmountable...good things happen. We have seen that with the many effective vaccines that were developed around the world in an incredibly fast time frame.

Right now, our nation is hurting. And as communities we are hurting too. We are struggling with the death and limitations that the virus causes, the effect it has had on our lives; we deal with our own fears, for ourselves, our family and friends, and also for our state and our nation.

I wish I had all the answers to make things better, but here a few things that I know:

1. Anger and hatred aren't the answer to any problem.
2. We would do well to listen more and seek to understand. And to check facts. Facts matter.
3. Hope helps. When we despair and blame we generally don't make progress. Hope opens up our minds.

We do have things that give us hope. One is the vaccine. Getting the vast majority of our population vaccinated is the best way for us to save lives and eventually put this virus behind us. Its been a tough 10 months and there will be a few more

tough months to come, but an end is in sight if we can do our part and get vaccinated.

My second hope is that we, our RiverWoods family of communities, can be an example for our nation. We are a community under stress. But if we think about the greater good, think about one another, and trust that we are in this together, we will set a good example for our greater community and frankly, our nation. That's our job right now. Not to be small or scared or petty, but to be the biggest thinkers we can be, with the biggest and broadest mindset on how we can help.

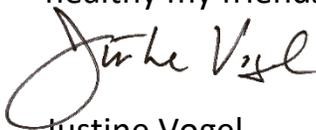
To that end, our initial vaccination clinics for our Health Care residents and staff are set. The remaining "first shot" clinics are happening January 11 at RWE and RWD, and January 19 at Birch Hill. Today we will submit paperwork to the State to allow us to be a closed point of dispensing to offer vaccination clinics to our Independent Living residents on site at each community. We don't know the date(s) yet, but you can trust that we will be relentless in making that happen as soon as possible.

As you consider getting vaccinated, I would suggest that maybe the question to ask isn't "do I want to take the shot," but maybe the question to ask is, "Do I want to protect myself, my community, my friends, and my family?"

I trust science, and I trust you. These are vaccines that are wildly effective with limited and brief (though annoying) side effects. The incidence of allergic reaction in the first several million doses has been .002% (so 99.998% of the people have NOT had an allergic reaction). And it works. That's a fact, and facts matter.

Healing begins when we care about the greater good more than our own fears, and we are at a point in our world where caring about one another is vital to our future.

More good is coming folks. 2021 has a lot of promise. Hang in there and stay healthy my friends!



Justine Vogel
TRWG CEO