Volume 4, Issue 7 April 2021

Adult Services Presents

THEBUZZ



141 S. Main Street Manville NJ 08835 www.thearcofsomerset.org

"Friends are the gardeners of our souls."

-Unknown

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Looking for a fun opportunity? Be a guest contributor for The BUZZ

> Please contact: Karen Kowalski







Bunny kisses and Easter wishes



Sports Talk

The "Let's Talk Sports" group engaged in a rousing discussion of a variety of sports related topics today with Jason and Josh which was a "homerun" as always! Donna was very eager to show the group the baseball that she got at the Patriot's Stadium. This led to of course a good discussion of the start of the baseball season and even into what the difference is between baseball and whiffle ball which uses a lighter ball and bat. Damandeep wore a most appropriate Yankees jersey; however, Cliff then mentioned that his favorite is the Mets - especially Pete Alanzo. It is exciting that the AA affiliate of the Yankees is now stationed at our very own Patriot's Stadium where we all look forward to going to again in the future. Donna posted a good question of Jason regarding "how far can you bat, Jason"? Jason said that he was able to previously bat 300 feet - wow! Diana gave us an update that she continues to enjoy watching Nascar with a recent win made by Ryan Blaney. Alex and Cliff mentioned that they cannot wait to get back to bowling again. We also spoke about hoping that Tiger Woods can recover so that he can enjoy a victorious return to the course when that time comes. Thank you Jason, Josh and the youngest sports fan, Josh's son Marshall, as well as all of the sports fans for this wonderful discussion about our mutual enjoyment of....all things sports!









Med Talk

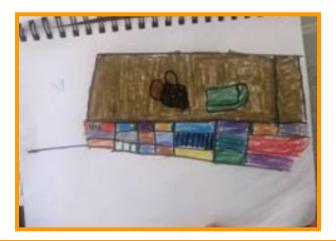
"Medtalks" with Rutgers Medical students, Joseph Hawes and Ijeoma Unachukwu, once again provided an insightful, education and fun time learning about how medications make us feel. We learned about some general medications that we may take and discussed that sometimes medications may make us feel all better but there are times that medications may not make us feel good. During this discussion, a few let us know that they had the COVID vaccination, which is definitely a medication, and that they were happy to receive it. We learned that the most important thing when taking medications is to let our doctors and staff know if a medication does not make us feel good - communication is the **KEY!** Thank you Joseph and Ijeoma and we look forward to our next "Medtalks".





Art by Damandeep





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Mondays & Fridays at 10AM

Mary's BINGO Group

All winning names for March were put into Mary's purple bowl, one name was selected as the grand prize winner and that winner is...









This Week in Literacy

This week was all about getting excited and ready for Spring! Winter is behind us and there are sunny skies ahead! We looked at pictures of different scenes from Spring and thought of sentences that could be used to describe each picture. When he saw a picture of a garden, Michael talked about seeds. Shawn added that "They are planting seeds." Mary built onto their sentence by saying "The seeds grow into flowers." That sounds like great teamwork! We also tried to name a spring word for every letter in the alphabet. Diana had some great answers for the letter T. She said "tree" and "turtle." She also said daisy for the letter D.





Virtual Programming

The Arc of Somerset County is thrilled to be able to offer a wide array of virtual programming for individuals within residences and for those whom are served through our day habilitation programs. All individuals are welcome to attend any and all groups in order to catch up with friends and participate in fun and interactive activities. Please refer to the this months virtual calendar and feel free to contact Director of Adult Services, Karen Z. Kowalski, with any questions at: karenk@thearcofsomerset.org

- Bingo: Enjoy time with friends while playing "Bingo" with Mary Scibelli in this very popular group! Any new individuals interested in joining this group, please contact Karen Kowalski to coordinate so that you can receive bingo cards
- "Art with Alec & Tonya": Join fellow artists as they learn about different types of pencil and paper drawings. Make sure to have paper, pencils and either colored pencils, crayons or markers
- "Royal School of Yoga": Enjoy a relaxing start to the week with Jane and friends with yoga. Yoga poses can be done seated or in standing based upon ability level.
- Literacy classes: Join Mary Scibelli with her very engaging classes wherein literacy concepts are taught. Would be helpful for participants to have pencil and paper or someone to assist with this.
- "Morning Exercise with Friends": Start the morning right with gentle stretching and exercise with friends. Exercise can be done in seated or standing position.
- "Music for Hope and Inspiration": Join musicians and those whom just enjoy music for this varied music programs featuring guest musicians on a variety of instruments such as guitar, piano, voice, harmonica, accordion. Participants are encouraged to sing, clap, dance to the music or just smile, make comments and enjoy a good musical time with friends!
- "Self-Advocacy Group": Join Suman and the Self-Advocacy Group to learn about current issues and events surrounding self-advocacy. Please contact Karen Kowalski for more information if interested.
- "Hot TopiX": Join friends as they participate in a variety show program that features topics, people within the community and generally things of interest that we want and need to know about! Previous topics have included virtual tours, Trigger the Therapy Dog, beekeeping, balloon sculpting, dental care, photography, virtual live tours of flower store and local dog bakery. The sky is the limit with what can and will be learned in this group!
- "30 Minute Mystery": Join friends in a mystery group which will have different themes for each session! The mystery awaits you!
- "Cool Collections": Join friends as they learn about each others' memorabilia! One
 collection is featured each week to include items such as baseball/basketball cards,
 magnets, remembering years that people were born, Swarovski crystals.

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Virtual Zoom Schedule April 5th—April 16th

Please note: Please join any activity that you are interested in. Every literacy class has been opened up to everyone, not just the home that is listed. Attend as many as you like!

Monday, April 5th

10:00-10:30: Bingo with Mary

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

11:00-11:30: 30 Minute Mystery

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

1:00-1:30: Royal School of Yoga

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

2:00-2:30: Art with Alec & Tonya

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

Tuesday, April 6th

10:30-11:00: Literacy class (Griggstown)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

1:00-1:30: Literacy class (RHGH)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password:12345

1:00-1:30: "Music for Hope and Inspiration" -Guest Musician: Louie and Music Game

> Meeting ID: 481 232 8925 Password: 12345

2:00-2:30: Literacy class (UA2)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

3:00-3:30: "Hot TopiX" - Live Virtual tour of Chicago with Elijah

> Meeting ID: 481 232 8925 Password: 12345

Wednesday, April 7th

10:15-10:45: Morning Exercise with Friends

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

11:00-11:30: SGH Literacy Class

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910

Password:12345

1:00-1:30: 30 Minute Mystery

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

Thursday, April 8th

10:15-10:45: "Cool Collections" - TBD

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

10:00-10:30: Literacy Class (Ardsley)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910

Password: 12345

11:00-11:30: Literacy Class (Cambridge)

all welcome!

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910

Password:12345

1:00-1:30: "Music for Hope and Inspiration" Tommy Strazza

> Meeting ID: 481 232 8925 Password: 12345

3:00-3:30 "Hot TopiX"

Let's talk portion control

Meeting ID: 481 232 8925 Password: 12345

Friday, April 9th

10:00-10:30: Bingo with Mary

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

11:00-11:30: Morning Exercise with friends

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

1:00-1:30: Literacy class (Commons 1)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910

Password: 12345

2:00-2:30: Literacy class (Claremont)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

2:45-3:15: 30 Minute Mystery

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

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Virtual Zoom Schedule

April 5th—April 16th

Monday, April 12th

10:00-10:30: Bingo with Mary

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

11:00-11:30: 30 Minute Mystery

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

1:00-1:30: Royal School of Yoga

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

2:00-2:30: Art with Alec

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

Tuesday, April 13th

10:30-11:00: Literacy class (Griggstown)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

1:00-1:30: Literacy class (RHGH)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

1:00-1:30: "Music for Hope and Inspiration"

Justin Brown

Meeting ID: 481 232 8925 Password: 12345

2:00-2:30: Literacy class (UA2)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

3:00-3:30: "Hot TopiX" -

Spoken word Poetry

Meeting ID: 481 232 8925 Password: 12345

Wednesday, April 14th

10:15-10:45: Morning Exercise with Friends

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

11:00-11:30: SGH Literacy Class

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

1:00-1:30: 30 Minute Mystery

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

Thursday, April 15th

10:15-10:45: "Cool Collections"- TBD

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

10:00-10:30: Literacy Class (Ardsley)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

11:00-11:30: Literacy Class (Cambridge)

all welcome!

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

1:00-1:30: "Music for Hope and Inspiration" - TBD

Meeting ID: 481 232 8925

Password: 12345

3:00-3:30 "Hot TopiX"

Ann's animal and special Raffle

Meeting ID: 481 232 8925 Password: 12345

Friday, April 16th

10:00-10:30: Bingo with Mary

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910

Password: 12345

11:00-11:30: Morning Exercise with friends

Meeting ID: 956 878 9920 Password: 566600

1:00-1:30: Literacy class (Commons 1)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

2:00-2:30: Literacy class (Claremont)

Meeting ID: 701 845 7910 Password: 12345

3:00 pm: Advocacy General Meeting

Meeting ID: 508 102 0273 Password: 9A4nFe



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Thursdays at 10:15AM

Cool Collections Group

Barbara's TV Clip Dedications



During this "Cool Collections" we went back in time and watched some old

During this "Cool Collections" we went back in time and watched some old school video clips! Barbara was very thoughtful and dedicated each clip to a friend from the group, which made it all the more memorable! We watched "love Lucy", which was dedicated to Donna, we saw "Knight Rider", who Barb dedicated to Alex, and "Happy Days", dedicated to Diana. All of our friends felt so special, as seen by the smiles on their faces when Barb told each of them she dedicated a clip to them. Barb dedicated "Six Million Dollar Man" to Burton, "Bionic Woman" to Frances, "Ghost Whisperer" to MaryLou and "The Hulk" to Damanadeep! We even learned some trivia after each clip, such as that Lucy's baby is a boy! Barbara did a great job presenting and made her friends feel so special- kudos to you Barb! Thanks again Barb, it was really fun! was really fun!

















Danielle's IMPRESSIVE Harry Potter Collection

Danielle's 'Cool Collection' led us on the Hogwarts express straight through platform 9 3/4! What a seriously impressive collection she shared with us today. All of her items were related to Harry Potter and the Hogwarts house he is associated with in his movie series, Gryffindor! Danielle had copious amount of Harry Potter items including magazines, posters, all of the books in the series, hats, jackets, pajamas, a wand, three blankets, ornaments, keychains, mugs, and MUCH MUCH more that we simply did not have time to go through. Danielle explained to us that she has spent years collecting her items and has even been to Harry Potter World in Florida! How cool! She was able to share with us the names of the main characters in the movie, and some of the fantastic beasts they are associated with. There simply wasn't enough time to show everything, but don't you worry! We're marking down a part 2 of the collection sometime in the near future! Thank you Danielle - this is truly a 'magical' collection!

Thursdays at 10:15AM

Cool Collections Group

Harry Potter

























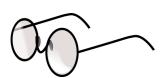
















Tuesdays & Thursdays at 1PM

Music for Hope & Inspiration Group

Coffeehouse Project

The "Music for Hope and Inspiration" group certainly enjoyed another rocking good time with our friends, The Coffeehouse Project! The playlist is always surprising and just makes us want to dance, sing and move in such an engaging way. The group enjoyed songs such as "Hanging on the Telephone", "You're The One That I Want", "I'm Not Your Stepping Stone", "Leave It All to Me" by Miranda Cosgrove and a clear crowd favorite of "Since You've Been Gone" among others. Two paws up with approval also by Leah's cat and Kait's dog whom also attended the group!









Thank You Denise & Colleen

Colleen continues her love of leading music groups from her time at Jill Court and it is so fun that now Colleen's, daughter, Denise is involved in picking and enjoying the songs along with the rest of our "Music for Hope and Inspiration" group! The group enjoyed spending time with each other while singing, dancing and clapping along to favorites such as "I Get Around" by the Beach Boys, "The Way You Make Me Feel" by Michael Jackson, "We Are the World" and many, many others! Time with music spun by DJ's Colleen and Denise is always a wonderful way to spend an afternoon with friends and fellow lovers of music.







Tuesdays & Thursdays at 1PM

Music for Hope & Inspiration Group

Luck O' the Irish with Felix!

The "Luck o' the Irish" was still in the air during our "Music for Hope and Inspiration" group with our friend, guitarist and storyteller extraordinaire, Felix Reid! Felix kept the spirit alive this week with Irish classics such as "Goodbye Mick and Pat" among many others that had typical Irish quick and rhythmical beats that we could not help but clap, tap and sway along to! We learned that many of the themes of Irish music surrounded thoughts of revolutions and involved instruments such as the banjo, flute and a different percussion instrument called the bodhran. Thank you Felix for warming our hearts as we enjoyed the continuation of this special holiday this week - we are lucky to have you in our lives!

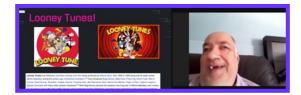


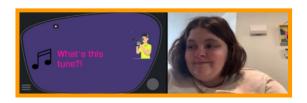




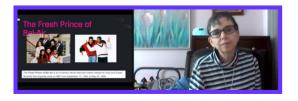
Name That Tune: Cartoon and TV Edition

The "Music for Hope and Inspiration" group had in the words of Shaggy from Scooby Doo, "another mystery on our hands" as we enjoyed our time together listening to and identifying some of our favorite cartoon and tv theme songs! From "Ghostbusters" to "Winnie the Pooh", "The Flintstones" to "Rugrats" and even more recent with "Big Bang Theory", the group were able to quickly name the songs as well as characters such as when Lori said, "Pebbles" as a character in "The Flintstones" or when Diana let the group know when the "Fresh Prince of Belair" song came on. We learned a lot about the creation of each of the cartoons and television shows also. Thank you Kait and Lexi for this out of this world experience back in time with friends!









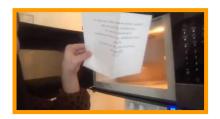
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Tuesdays & Thursdays at 3PM

Hot TopiX Group

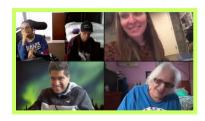
Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt

Do you know what is on the other side of a rainbow?! In "Hot TopiX" we sure found out! A little leprechaun by the name of 'Lucky' left our friend Kait a trail of clues at her house to locate a prize at the end of the hunt! We had to decipher clues such as, "Lucky competed with the tooth fairy to place the clue in this spot" - where would this be?! Under the pillow! Then we had to solve, "This is the next clue, you don't miss a beat. You'll find it somewhere you put your feet". Can you guess where that one brought us? A pair of shoes! Eventually the leprechaun hunt brought us to Karen's house - man that little Lucky sure is quick. The last clue led us to the top of her TV! Together we found the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow! Inside the pot of gold Lucky left Junior Mint candies, a mug, an Irish flag, and a Dunkin Donuts gift card - and guess who won the prize? BURTON! Great job Burton - we definitely could not have located it in the first place without him. Then...the next day on "30 Minute Mystery", 'Lucky' surprised us all with another scavenger hunt that Damandeep won! Happy St. Patrick's Day - cannot wait to see when Lucky strikes again!





















Hot TopiX was a meowin' good time today! Lexi had the pleasure of meeting with the volunteer staff at 'Karma Cats' and she took us along for the ride virtually. Once inside, we were able to meet with all their beautiful felines including Kevin, Cookie, Eleven, Millie, and Ivy - they were all so cute! During the tour, we were able to see the different cat homes, beds, and play areas, and we learned cats like to be perched up high! The staff at Karma Cats shared with us a lot of information including how a microchip gets inserted into a cat safely, and the best ways to socialize a cat are through play and food. Our group asked some fantastic questions to the staff including "why is a tuxedo cat called a tuxedo cat?" (because they look like they are wearing a black and white suit) and "do the cats go on trips to the vet" (yes)! They even showed us pictures of all their previously adopted cats on their cat wall of fame as well as their kitty calendar. We had a marvelous time on our LIVE tour of Karma Cats, and we would love to visit again in the future. Thank you to the staff for showing us around!









Tuesdays & Thursdays at 3PM

Hot TopiX Group

Live Virtual Bowling

Strike! Split! Gutter ball! Guess what we played LIVE in Hot TopiX this afternoon?! You guessed it! We did LIVE virtual bowling, and sure was it a blast! Competition was fierce, as Lexi, Karen, Damandeep, Donna, and Frances all competed for first place. Can you take a guess at who won? Donna! It was no surprise to us - she was a natural. We got creative and as we took turns playing we tried planning out the best way to stack our cups strategically so that we were able to knock down more cups. Turns out you can knock down more cups the higher you stack your bowling pin towers! Karen and Damandeep definitely used that technique to their advantage! LIVE bowling was so fun, and we CANNOT wait to play next time.











Boots and Cats

What a funny, unordinary Hot TopiX today to kick start everyone's spring fever! We had special guests Selina and Karen's sister, Patti presenting boots and cats! We got to listen to a cool beat box video, looking at some unusual pictures such as meat in boots and a cat who was also half bee?! How "buzz" are! We learned about a bison and danced to the Bee Gees! Our group today had a lot of laughs and we are thankful for our special guests again, Patti and Selina - come back soon:)









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Mondays at 1PM

The Royal School of Yoga

A wonderful start to our beautiful week with Jane and our friends in yoga! During the group today, we enjoyed gentle stretches as Jane led us through mindfulness journeys as we thought about the cherry blossoms, plants getting ready to sprout, more hours of daylight which is refreshing - hopefully all of us are getting time to be outside and enjoying nature in its glory. Jane reminds us to "walk a path of peace, love and strength". Thank you Jane and all of the yoga students in the group today!





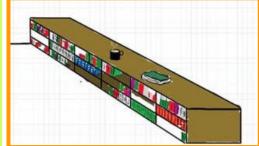
Mondays at 2PM

Art with Alec

Artists came together today as led by art instructor and friend, Alec for our weekly art lesson. Today, Alec facilitated the artistic design of a scholarly bookshelf filled with books and a nice cup of coffee or tea or other hot beverage on top! This group rose to the challenge and were able to create their own interpretation of a scene perhaps out of our homes, library or bookstore with loads of books waiting to be read. Thank you Alec!







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ToonMe

Enjoy seeing different people from The Arc of Somerset being magically transformed into cartoons!!!

WHO WILL BE NEXT?





DONNA ARA

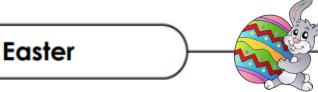


ELLIOT

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WORD SEARCH



Q Ε S S Z Ε M G Ε D S S C Ε Х E В S 0 В S S S Х Q U Τ M D S S G Х U Ν Ε G G S G S C Ν Н C N Q T U S Ν

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden $\land \lor \rightarrow \leftarrow$ and \lor .

APRIL
BASKET
BONNET
BUNNY
CANDY
CARROT
CELEBRATION
CHICK

CHOCOLATE DAFFODILS DUCKLINGS DYE EGG FLOWERS GRASS HAPPY HOP HUNT JELLYBEANS LILY MARSHMALLOW PASSOVER PEEPS SPRING

SUNDAY SUNSHINE TREATS TULIPS







April Holidays April 1st—April 16th

Thursday, April 1st



April Fools' Day



Major League Baseball Opening



National Burrito Day

Friday, April 2nd



Good Friday



National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day



World Autism Awareness Day

Saturday, April 3rd



National Find a Rainbow Day



World Party Day

Sunday, April 4th



Easter



International Carrot Day



National Hug a Newsperson Day

Monday, April 5th



National Deep Dish Pizza Day

Tuesday, April 6th



National Siamese Cat Day



National Sorry Charlie Day



National Student-Athlete Day



National Tartan Day

Wednesday, April 7th



National No Housework Day



National Walking Day



World Health Day

Thursday, April 8th



National Empanada Day

Friday, April 9th



National Name Yourself Day



National Unicorn Day

April Holidays April 1st—April 16th

Saturday, April 10th



National Hug Your Dog Day



National Siblings Day

Sunday, April 11th



National Barbershop Quartet Day



National Eight Track Tape Day



National Pet Day



National Submarine Day

Monday, April 12th



National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day

Tuesday, April 13th



International Be Kind to Lawyers Day



National Make Lunch Count Day



National Peach Cobbler Day



National Scrabble Day

Wednesday, April 14th



National Gardening Day



National Look Up at the Sky Day

Thursday, April 15th



National High Five Day



National Laundry Day



Tax Day

Friday, April 16th



National Eggs Benedict Day



National Librarian Day



Selena Day



Wear Pajamas to Work Day

The Arc's Virtual Art Show

Calling All Artists

We are accepting all kinds of artwork!
These pieces will be displayed at our Virtual Art Show

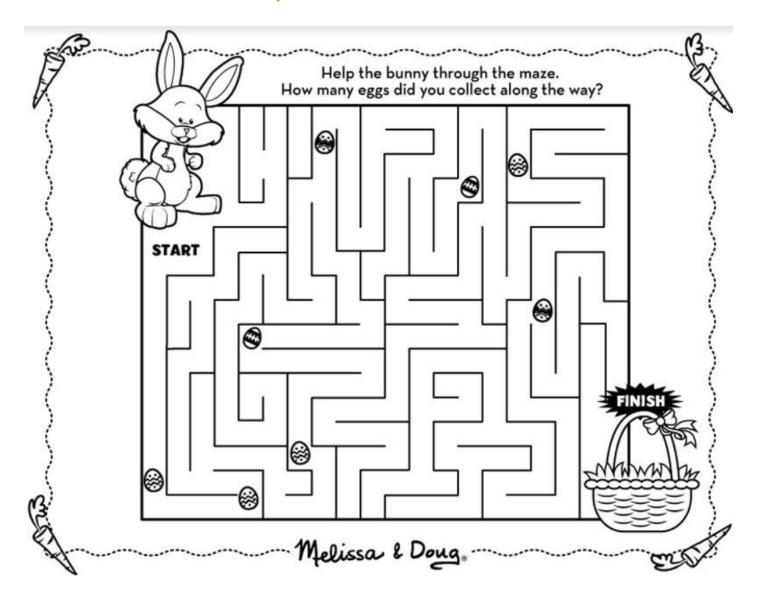
SUBMISSION ARE DUE FRIDAY APRIL 16TH, 2021



PLEASE EMAIL ALL ARTWORK TO
KARENK@THEARCOFSOMERSET.ORG

Easter Maze

By Lexi Disbrow, OTS



Thank you everyone for the wonderful time I have had here at the Arc! I have had so much fun with all of you and have made so many great memories. I am so happy I have gained so many friends & I will be sure to come back into groups and visit. It is not a goodbye, but I will see you later! :)

Sincerely, Lexi Disbrow, OTS



Craftsman Corner

6 Signs It's Time to For New Wiper Blades



Visibility out your front windshield is an essential to being able to drive safely. Your windshield wipers play a significant role in keeping you safe, especially during rain or snow storms. Check out these six signs that you need new windshield wipers. If you even suspect your blades aren't doing a good job, it's time to replace them.

1. Rubber Problems

Take a close look at your windshield wipers. Is the rubber all one smooth piece or is it cracked, split, or broken off in places? If you see any imperfections in the rubber, that means it's time for new wiper blades. The blade may also get a rounded look, which means it's gotten too old and you should replace it.

2. Windshield Streaks or Film

When your wipers cause streaks on your windshield, it's pretty obvious, especially if you're caught in snow or rain. But if you notice a consistent film of grime on your windshield, even after you've sprayed fluid to clean it off, that's another sign your wipers are dirty and need to be replaced. Sometimes wiping the blades with a paper towel will clear up this problem, but if it keeps happening, you know what to do.

3. Chattering Sounds

You know that awful noise your wipers make when they drag across the glass? That means they need to go. Not only is that noise irritating, but it usually means the wipers aren't cleaning your windshield the way they should because they're only in contact with the glass some of the time. The inconsistent job left behind can cause vision problems while you're on the road.

4. Bent Frames

The metal part of your wipers can get bent or damaged for all sorts of reasons. Hacking the ice off your windshield in winter can do it, as can some car washes. Even rough handling of the wiper blades when you wipe them down can bend them. If the frame or the blade is bent, it won't come into contact with your windshield properly, and even if the blades seem to function fine now, they won't be soon enough. Time to replace them.

5. Bad Windshield Contact

When it's raining hard, it's really obvious when your wipers stop reaching certain parts of your windshield. If the blades aren't coming into contact with the corners or some spot in the middle anymore, you need new ones. They've pulled up from the windshield because of old rubber or because of a bent frame, and they aren't doing their jobs anymore.

6. Season Changes

Before winter starts, get new wipers that are specially designed for winter, even if your blades are functioning fine, now. The ice and snow in winter will damage regular wiper blades much faster than those manufactured to withstand cold temperatures and frozen windshields.

If you feel the vehicle needs new wiper blades send a detailed Vehicle Work Order Request to us at the Maintenance Dept.

Buzzword

Dear Friends and Families,

It is amazing to think that it has been one year since the world was turned upside-down with the COVID-19 pandemic during which time there was significant heartbreak and loss. At that time, the Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) announced the closure of congregate day habilitation service facilities and restrictions were put in place on visitation within group homes and supervised apartments. In spite of this very challenging last year, there were many signs of resilience from individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, families and friends, direct support professionals, providers, support coordinators, Division staff, community partners and many, many others. With the daylight savings time occurring recently and spring upon us, we are pleased to announce that there is a light shining indicating signs for positive changes as per DDD and therefore The Arc of Somerset County by the following exciting news:

Please note that all bulleted information here is effective as soon as the required updated documents are signed by the consumer's legal guardian.

- Indoor visitation within a group home can now occur if the residence has not experienced any new COVID-19 positivity in staff and residents in the last 14 days. This was previously 28 days.
- Outdoor visits can now take place whenever indoor visits cannot. This was previously only available
 if the residence had not experienced any new COVID-19 positivity in staff and residents in the last
 14 days.
- Residents can participate in either visit type, regardless of vaccination status.
- PPE and social distancing are still required for all visits.
- Physical touch is permitted while wearing PPE if the resident so chooses.
- Off-site visits with family and friends are now permitted for any duration regardless of the
 vaccination status of resident. Isolation upon return to the residence, regardless of vaccination
 status, is only required if the resident or the person returning them relay that the person has
 experienced an exposure (15 minutes or more within 24-hours of someone who has recently tested
 positive for COVID-19) while on the visit. Exposure is no longer assumed by simply engaging in an
 off-site visit.
- Fully vaccinated residents of non-healthcare congregate settings (e.g., group homes) should
 continue to quarantine for 14 days and be tested for COVID-19 following an exposure to someone
 with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Please see Guidance for Residential Providers on Visits with Family and Friends for more information.

Prior to any friends/family visitation, please continue to contact Director of Adult Services, Karen Z. Kowalski, MPH, OTR:

karenk@thearcofsomerset.org (908)256.34322

Looking forward to connecting again with everyone through these positive and safe changes.

Sincerely,

Karen Z. Kowalski, MPH, OTR Director of Adult Services The Arc of Somerset County