



RESIDENT NEWSLETTER



Thomaston Woods & Thomaston Meadows

1460 Thomaston Drive
Amelia, OH 45102
513.752.1588

www.thomastonwoods.com

*An affordable living community
sponsored by
Episcopal Retirement Services
and St. Thomas Housing Corp.*

Important Phone Numbers:

Property Manager: (513) 752-1594
Email: lmiller@erslife.org

Service Coordinator: (513) 752-1588
Email: sschindler@erslife.org

Maintenance Work Orders:
(513) 542-5888

Important Reminder!

Rent is due by the end of the
business hours on the 10th of the
month to avoid late fees!

ERS

Episcopal Retirement Services

To Our Friends & Neighbors

All of us have been affected in some greater ways by how much our world has changed in what felt like an instant last March with COVID-19. With the pandemic, it has felt as if almost everything had to pause and or what we could do, where, how and with whom had to be considered carefully. So much of what we do may have had to change for this season, but our mission has not. Affordable Living Communities of Episcopal Retirement Services (ERS) has continued their mission to enrich the lives of older adults in a person-centered, innovative and spiritually based way. St. Thomas Housing Corporation has endeavored to complement this with Thomaston Woods and Thomaston Meadows. While we have been building ever more ways to not only have a safe and affordable place to call "home," we have been working together to help transform the lives of individuals and families through community developed one home at a time.

What is perhaps even clearer now is that community is more than a place, community is who we are and how we support and care for each other. In these months of the health crisis with regard to COVID-19, we have all learned and practiced what it means to care support one another and how we can stay connected, even when apart and even when what we have enjoyed and regarded as a constant has had to pause or change for this time. We are all doing what we can to keep each other safe and healthy. We are all eager to get back to the things that are easy to take for granted and bring us joy, but let's remember that we need to do so carefully and out of consideration for what our neighbor needs. It takes effort, patience and grace. It asks something from each of us, but community is worth the effort. Thank you for what you have and can continue to do for your neighbor and our greater community.

Pride in Your Community

You can Help Make a Difference!

Beautification Program at Thomaston Woods & Thomaston Meadows

No matter what your age, YOU can help make a difference in our community! It's that time of year again when we invite you to join us as we step-out & step-up to help clean-up our own community. It does not take much, especially when we work as a team, so why not join us and have some fun along the way? Please register to join us on Wednesday, November 4th from 3:30-5:30 Join the fun, make a difference, enjoy a meal and even get a new T-shirt! Adults, youth and even children can take part! Please call Sue in the Service Office at (513) 752-1588 to register (and let us know what size T-shirt). All materials and dinner will be provided. To get your correct size, please register with Sue by Friday, October 23rd.



THOMASTON WOODS

Here to Serve You in the Community Center Office

Office Hours

Mondays: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Tuesdays: 8 a.m.–2 p.m., 4–4:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: 10 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 11 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Fridays: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

• Lindsey Miller

Community (Property) Manager

(513) 752-1594 lmiller@erslife.org

Lindsey manages and oversees rental operations at Thomaston Woods and Meadows. She receives and processes rental applications, manages the rental waitlists, communicates with potential tenants, facilitates the move-in process, manages keys, and keeps track of the property's finances. She communicates most often with our maintenance worker, Val, so if residents have maintenance or facility concerns Lindsey is the person to alert and follow-up with.

• Sue Schindler

Service Coordinator

(513) 752-1588 sschindler@erslife.org

As a Service Coordinator, Sue is generally the first point of contact when residents have financial, medical, legal, homemaker, or emotional support needs. Sue is available to help residents articulate their goals and needs, and then matches them with outside services that meet those needs. Together, you can explore with her what might help in a situation, such as rental assistance, food assistance, tax preparation, financial literacy, community health clinics, and government benefits (Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, SNAP) forms.

• Val Kirieliuss, Maintenance Tech.

Work orders should be submitted to the office or call the maintenance line for at: (513) 434-3005.

(Please remember that if you call the maintenance line for an after hours emergency, maintenance will call you back from a number marked "Private or Unavailable" on your Caller ID.)

Decorating Contest Halloween & Christmas *Who's got the best decorations this year?!*



We know you have spirit and creativity – go ahead and show it off! All residents are invited to participate in our community-wide Decorating Contests for each Halloween as well as Christmas. Even though we can't come together as one party as in years past because of COVID, we can still celebrate each others' creativity & spirit! We'll judge who's decorated the front of their home (and apartment door for the Meadows) the best by a team of judges. Judging for Halloween decorations will be early evening on Wednesday, October 28th and for Christmas on Wednesday, December 16th. The winners will be notified by the office and posted in upcoming newsletters listed by apartment numbers. Good luck and have fun!

Stockings & Bells for Christmas

Don't Forget...It's time to register for
Stockings & Bells!

There are several ways in which Christmas is truly wonderful at Thomaston Woods and Thomaston Meadows. Once again, the members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church would like to help make Christmas special for our children of Thomaston Woods and our seniors by providing a gift of your choice (\$25 or less) which we can arrange for you to pick up before Tuesday, December 22. To participate, simply drop-off your registration form(s) at the Service Office, email your form to sschindler@erslife.org or call Sue Schindler directly at (513) 752-1588 and we can confirm with you the details. We need to hear back from everyone no later than Wednesday, November 4th so that we can get the information to the members of St. Thomas in time to get gifts ready.



Completed Registration Forms (due back Wednesday, November 4th) can be dropped-off at the Service Office, or email sschindler@erslife.org. For more information, call Sue in the Services Office at (513) 752-1588.

Considering that Next Step?

Going Back to School?

Did you know that St. Thomas Housing has a scholarship fund established for residents of Thomaston Woods for students attending UC Clermont? It's true! Over the years, we have had well over 25 resident "Thomaston scholars" from our community. Care to join them? If you are planning to study at UC Clermont next year (or next term), make a point to visit Student Finance / One Stop Student Services Office (100 H), or contact Dana Parker directly at UC by email at parkerd6@ucmail.uc.edu or call her at (513) 558-9964.

Welcome Sue Schindler to Thomaston Woods & Thomaston Meadows!

This Fall we are welcoming to our community Susan Schindler as our new Social Services Coordinator for both Thomaston Woods & Thomaston Meadows. Susan shares, “I am thrilled with being a part of the Thomaston Meadows and Woods community! I love meeting so many incredible and friendly people and hearing about their life stories. Everyone has been so welcoming, and I look forward to building these relationships as I continue in the Service Coordinator role. It is a rare opportunity to be invited into homes, and it is exciting to be a part of so many lives.”

Sue feels that as the Service Coordinator for Thomaston Woods & Thomaston Meadows, she has the privilege and opportunity to follow her two strongest passions:

1. Guiding others to thrive while finding their voice, and
2. Building lasting relationships through trust and understanding.

Cincinnati born and raised, Sue is proud Cincinnati West Sider (although she now lives in Sharonville). Sue’s first career roles was as a special education teacher in Blanchester, OH in the mid 1980’s. “During my years in Blanchester, I developed East side roots while living in Milford. I moved to Sharonville in 1983, when I married my husband, Bob. If you do the math, we’ve been married for 37 years!” Through caring for her own father through dementia, Sue discovered what it meant to be an advocate as well as caregiver and enjoyed seeing the difference it made. This led to a career change as a Family Advocate at the Center for Independent Living Options (CILO), Inclusion Network, and Talbert House. “I found that communication was the key by asking questions, gaining an understanding of the situations, and then getting resolve. It’s a great day when I see positive outcomes.”

On a personal level, Sue serves as president for a local Toastmasters group. With COVID-19 precautions, she too has learned to set-up Zoom meetings and deliver. Sue also blogs on “Good Things Going Around” website. She adds, “Like many of you, I root for the Reds no matter what and am saddened by the loss of the Big Reds’ Machine’s Joe Morgan one of the best 2nd base players ever. Of all of the changes from COVID-19, I missed attending Reds games the most.”

Sue looks forward to meeting everyone and being an active part of the Thomaston Woods and Thomaston Meadows community. As you get to know her, you will also discover how much she enjoys getting to hear your own stories. Welcome Sue!



Inter Parish Ministry Offers More Ways to Help

DRIVE-THROUGH PANTRY HOURS

Due to the current public health crisis with COVID-19, IPM is offering a Drive-Through Pantry service. Families in need may visit one of our Drive-Through Pantries every two weeks for a pre-packaged selection of groceries.

Location: Inter-Parish Ministry – Newtown Pantry
3509 Debolt Rd.
Newtown, Ohio. 45244

Hours: **Mondays & Tuesdays** (10 a.m.-12 p.m.)

Location: Inter-Parish Ministry - Amelia Pantry
1075 W Ohio Pike (on K of C Drive)
Cincinnati, Ohio. 45245

Hours: **Thursdays & Fridays** (10 a.m.-12 p.m.)

Proof of residence and photo ID required. The Newtown and Amelia locations serves all of Clermont County and some zip codes in eastern Hamilton County and western Brown County. *You will need to bring a Photo ID and a proof of address.* For more information, please call (513) 561-3932 or email info@interparish.org.

HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

October 26-29 (from 12:30-4 p.m. each day), IPM will be sign-ups for IPM’s Help for the Holidays by calling (513) 561-3932 between 12:30-4 p.m. Due to health restrictions related to COVID-19, sign-ups are taken over the phone this year. Clients **MUST** live in either Clermont, Eastern Hamilton or Western Brown Counties to be eligible. Last year, IPM assisted over 350 families and individuals to receive Christmas assistance.



Inter Parish Ministry
Feeding Families. Nourishing Souls.

KEY DATES & EVENTS AT-A-GLANCE

October

<i>Regularly on Tuesdays</i>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study w./ Fr. Darren & Marty (TM Gazebo or Community Room)
Friday, October 2	2:00 p.m.	Bingo (TM Community Room)
Tuesday, October 20	3:00 p.m.	Blood Pressure & Health - Thomaston Meadows (TM Community Room)
Tuesday, October 27	12:30 p.m.	Meadows' Community Gathering (TM Community Room)

November

<i>Regularly on Tuesdays</i>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study w./ Fr. Darren & Marty (TM Gazebo or Community Room)
Wednesday, November 4	DEADLINE	Christmas Stockings & Bells Requests Due (TW Community Center)
Wednesday, November 4	3:30 p.m.	Neighborhood Beautification Program (Meet at TW Community Center)
Thursday, November 5	1:00 p.m.	Podiatrist Visits Thomaston Meadows (T.M. Community Room) <i>*pre-registered visits only</i>
Friday, November 6	2:00 p.m.	Bingo (TM Community Room)
Tuesday, November 10	REMINDER	<i>Rent is due by the end of business hours on the 10th to avoid late fees!</i>
Tuesday, November 17	3:00 p.m.	Blood Pressure & Health - Thomaston Meadows (TM Community Room)
Tuesday, November 24	12:30 p.m.	Meadows' Thanksgiving Gathering (TM Community Room) * TBD due to COVID
Thursday, November 26	OFFICE	Holiday: Office Closed

December

<i>Regularly on Tuesdays</i>	1:00 p.m.	Bible Study w./ Fr. Darren & Marty (TM Gazebo or Community Room)
Friday, December 4	2:00 p.m.	Bingo (TM Community Room)
Thursday, December 10	REMINDER	<i>Rent is due by the end of business hours on the 10th to avoid late fees!</i>
Tuesday, December 15	3:00 p.m.	Blood Pressure & Health - Thomaston Meadows (TM Community Room)
Tuesday, December 22	12:30 p.m.	Meadows' Christmas Gathering (TM Community Room) * TBD due to COVID
Tuesday, December 22	REMINDER	<i>Last Day to pick-up Christmas Stockings & Bells Gifts (TW Community Center)</i>
Thursday, December 24	OFFICE	Holiday: Office Closed
Friday, December 25	OFFICE	Holiday: Office Closed
Monday, December 28	OFFICE	Holiday: Office Closed
Thursday, December 31	OFFICE	Special Hours: Office Closes at noon
Friday, January 1	OFFICE	Holiday: Office Closed

St. Nicholas Basket Run

One of the customs to help make Christmas special for our neighbors has been the St. Nicholas Basket Run. Each December, members of St. Thomas Episcopal Church assemble baskets, or rather tubs of housewares for each family – especially helpful around the holidays! With the COVID-19 pandemic still lurking about, St. Thomas has been thinking how to help while keeping everybody safe. This summer was the opportunity to try one of these ideas with our Christmas in July Gift Project, whereby each household received a \$25 Kroger Gift Card. Based on the response from that idea, St. Thomas is all set to do this again – just in time for the holidays. Each household at both Thomaston Woods and Thomaston Meadows will be receiving a \$25 Kroger Gift Card for you to use as you need. You'll be notified in December when and how to pick up your gift card. Most of all, know that this comes with prayers and best wishes from the members of St. Thomas to you and yours! May the blessing and hope that Christmas brings be felt throughout this new year!



COMMUNITY REMINDER

As you are aware, many of our children are required to get on/get off the school bus at the intersection of Thomaston Drive and Amelia Olive Branch Rd., directly in front of the Community Center. With two Head Start classrooms operating, the area is even busier. PLEASE REMEMBER that if you drive your child to the bus stop, you MUST use a designated parking spot. Anyone who walks to the bus stop MUST keep watch over your children and prevent them from running in the parking lot and roadway. If the parking lot in front of the Community Center is full, please use the overflow parking to the left of the building or Thomaston Meadows. Please do not pull your car into the parking lot and block an entrance. Thank you for your understanding and assistance! Our children's safety depends on it!!