

A Note from Executive Director, Lisa Zimmers

New Life

Over the past year there has been an influx of Mahjong chatter. I see it happening at Twin Lakes in large, organized fashion and hear about it happening in small groups as well. I was completely ignorant to what Mahjong was other than a game. When asked, I shared with someone that it was a game like dominoes. It is nothing at all like dominoes. I also thought it was a new game, wrong again. It's been around for centuries. It's just widely broadened it's fan base.

It's not uncommon for beloved traditions, fashion, hobbies, or strategies to get new life after having been on the shelf for a while. Rebirth can be invigorating for many reasons. Previous initiatives, efforts and styles may have run their course during that time but likely brought joy, stability, and success during the period it was favored. Just because it didn't last for eternity doesn't mean it was a flop or wasn't loved at the time. It may have stalled for a variety of reasons. Some things just run their course. They may no longer be part of the main show but that doesn't mean there aren't still pockets of users or people who appreciate it as much as when it was broadly known or utilized.

Shuttle service at Twin Lakes is one initiative that has been tried in the past and didn't take off as planned. It was initially started twenty years ago. The thought was well intended but the need and operations were different. To assume it wouldn't be a value add in current circumstances would be premature. There are considerably more residents who call Twin Lakes home now compared to 2006. Another factor is the increase in initiatives available on campus compared to two decades ago. I wasn't part of the community at that time, but I have witnessed significant growth in both number of residences, increased occupancy percentage and expanded programming during my time. There has been a consistent increase in shuttle usage since inception in April of this year.

I recently had the pleasure of hearing from a resident who became a great-grandparent for the first time. To say they were elated is an understatement. When I asked the name of the beautiful girl, I was delighted to hear she will be called Ruthie. Traditional names have made a resurgence in the past couple of years. My own family will be growing in the spring. As I look forward to the arrival of a new grandchild, I continue to be in awe of the two granddaughters I have now. New life is a gift that we can receive, embrace and give in many ways.

-Lisa Zimmers