



August 28, 2020

Common Thoughts

Preparing for Outpatient Services to Return to Liberty Commons Will Bring Significant Renovation of Rehab Clinic But Permanently Close Aquatics Programs

Early in the Coronavirus Pandemic, it was evident that keeping Liberty Commons' patients and residents safest would require suspension of outpatient services. State and federal government agencies came to shutter access to the building even to family members, except in the most critical of circumstances. Although long-term care residents can now see family members outside, it is still under strict Department of Public Health and CDC protocols. The pandemic is far from over and risk remains high, especially as we have come to understand the challenges posed by those who are asymptomatic.

Over the summer, we've been analyzing how to enable the outpatient program to continue without future interruptions. Should we seek permanent space off site? Are there other ways to look at it? All the while with the absolute certainty that the only way to ensure no spread of infection was to keep the outpatient staff and patients completely separate from the inpatient.

We determined that a permanent separate site was not

Message from Ellen to the Mermaids

I want to share with the whole water wellness community, my sincere gratitude for the enthusiasm, loyalty and love you have all shown to me as well as each other during the 20 years we have been sharing the pool, and life, together.

How fortunate we have all been to be able to laugh, sing and play as we exercised the aches and pains away. I truly can say this has been the best job I have ever had but honestly, it was so much more than a job for me. I will be forever grateful for having been given the opportunity to know and love you all.

Please don't stop moving and keep on smiling! I'm still at Liberty Commons Mon—Thurs mornings, so please feel free to call and say hi! Once a mermaid, always a mermaid!

Be well!

Ellen Summey/Your Head Mermaid



feasible, leaving us to look to prioritize how to come back safely into the Liberty Commons facility.

We have successfully identified a way to renovate the space into physically distinct inpatient and outpatient space, and can keep the staff similarly segregated.



BROAD REACH

HEALTHCARE

390 Orleans Road
North Chatham, MA 02650

(Continued from page 1)

Most of it entails reconfiguring treatment spaces, along with addition of new interior walls ensuring those physical separations.

In the course of this work, staff workspaces and patient treatment spaces would also be modified to ensure proper distancing. The ability to crowd into tight spaces have become a thing of the past.

Achieving the additional square footage necessary to do this can only be accomplished by converting the pool space in the rehab therapy treatment clinic, which

will also result in the closure of our aquatics programs. The pool has been drained, and will be filled in the coming weeks, ending a decades-long run of dedicated Mermaids in our presence.

Broad Reach President & CEO Bill Bogdanovich notes the sadness that this brings to the organization, “These ladies have found their way into more than the water. They’d come stay for coffee, and the relationships transcended the splashing. Aquatics program director Ellen Summey will remain part of the Broad Reach Family, which is at least some consolation.”

The renovation work will begin in the coming weeks, with anticipated completion before Thanksgiving.

