



Commission on Aging Updates

It has been a difficult time here at Commission on Aging, as we have struggled with not being able to provide a complete package of services to our clients. As we move forward during this COVID-19 crisis, we are taking all the necessary precautions to keep those we serve safe.

Our services have been limited to Home Delivered Meals over the last two months, many of which were frozen or boxed food. We have now begun delivering hot meals one day per week and are looking to slowly expand the delivery to three days per week beginning in June, continuing to do so in a safe manner

Our five food sites will remain closed at this time and it is very likely the closures may extend for several more months, even as we phase in other services. The population we serve is at the highest risk, so we are being extremely cautious when considering reopening sites. We will follow the guidance of the Aging & Adult Services Agency, Region VII Area Agency on Aging, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and the Mid Michigan Health Department.

Home Chore/Repair services are available on a limited basis, with the main focus being on air conditioners and window washing. We will limit services to the outside of homes at this time. Should an employee have to enter a home for any reason, they will be wearing a mask and gloves.

Should you have any questions, needs, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our agency. We are here to assist you and your loved ones during this very difficult time. We look forward to seeing everyone again soon. Stay safe.



Senior Project Fresh/Market Fresh Program 2020 Information.

The Michigan Senior Project Fresh/Market Fresh Program is coming in June. This is a coupon program for seniors 60 years of age or older who qualify. The coupons, a \$20 value, can be used at various farmer's markets in the area to purchase fresh produce grown in Michigan. Registration is required as there is a limited number of coupon books available. To register for the program, call the Commission on Aging and speak with Sarah McClung, 989-875-5286. If you have to leave a voicemail, please leave your name, phone number and that you are calling about Project Fresh. Please, **only leave one message**. Calls will be returned as soon as possible in the order they are received, however, due to the volume of calls, this may take a day or two. Thank you for your patience.

Eligibility Requirements:

Must be 60 years of age or older when receiving the coupons.
Must live in Gratiot County

Must have a total household income of 185% of poverty or less. (One person \$1967/month; two people \$2657/month)

There are some changes to the administration of the program this year due to the COVID-19 outbreak. There is not a class to attend. The coupon books will be distributed in the parking lot using a drive-through system, with one day at Commission on Aging and one day at the St. Louis Senior Center. See below for the details. If you are unable to pick up your own coupons, you may designate a proxy to pick them up on your behalf.

Pick Up Schedule:

Tuesday, June 16th
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Commission on Aging
515 S Pine River St., Ithaca

Thursday, June 18th
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
St. Louis Senior Center
1329 Michigan Ave., St. Louis

If you have any questions, please contact Sarah McClung at the Commission on Aging, 989-875-5286.



SENIOR GRATIOT, INC
515 S. Pine River
Ithaca MI 48847
989.875.5246
Change Service Requested

June 2020
Volume XLV
Number 6

Published by Senior Gratiot, Inc. A non-profit organization, in cooperation with Gratiot Commission on Aging
Website: www.gratiotmi.com/Departments/Commission on Aging

SENIOR GRATIOT

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 4
ITHACA MI

NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, call the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**.

Michigan Mental Health

If you are struggling with mental health issues, please call

1-888-733-7753

Peers are available from 10 a.m to 2 a.m. every day to assist you with any needs you may have.



Like Gratiot County
Commission on Aging



Coronavirus Scam Alert

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel has issued a consumer alert reminding residents to be aware of online coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) scams selling bogus products and providing false information on tests and treatments.

Scams related to COVID-19 are climbing with the continued confirmations of positive COVID-19 cases in the United States. These attempts to obtain the personal information of consumers include online posts pitching unreliable products, advice, fake tests and cures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Online offers are selling masks - that reportedly are not being delivered - to consumers while using misleading language to convince them to purchase. The CDC has repeatedly warned that wearing a mask does not protect people who do not have the virus from getting COVID-19.

Nessel also warns Michigan residents that misinformation about COVID-19 symptoms and treatment falsely attributed to a "Stanford Hospital board member" is being widely circulated on social media. The post falsely claims that people may not show symptoms for several days, but can "test" whether they have COVID-19 simply by holding their breath for more than 10 seconds - and if you can comfortably hold your breath without coughing, you probably don't have the virus. The post further recommends sipping water every 15 minutes to wash the virus into your stomach where stomach acid kills it, to prevent the virus from entering your windpipe and lungs. **Stanford University warns that this email did not come from Stanford Medicine** and contains inaccurate information.

The Attorney General's office is reviewing a high volume of consumer complaints and calls related to price-gouging and scams centering around COVID-19. Consumers are encouraged to continue filing complaints with the Attorney General's office and the Attorney General's Consumer Protection webpage is always available as a resource for consumers to turn to

If you believe you are the target of a scam, hang up the phone and verify the caller independently. **Do not give out any personal information** unless you have confirmed who you are talking to is actually who they claim to be.

To report a scam, **file a complaint**, or get additional information, contact the Consumer Protection team:

Consumer Protection
P.O. Box 30213
Lansing, MI 48909
517-335-7599, Fax 517-241-3771
Toll Free 877-765-8388

Online Complaint form:
www.michigan.gov/agcomplaint



Air Conditioners Available

Summer is here and soon there will be plenty of heat to go with it. The Commission on Aging has air conditioners which can be loaned out to you. These units are available thanks to a grant received from the Gratiot County Community Foundation.

To receive an a/c unit, simply call the COA, 989-875-5246 to request one. We will ask a few simple questions, and then our home chore department will deliver and set one up! The number of units is limited and are disbursed on a first come, first served basis.

When you are done with the unit in the fall, simply call the COA to let us know and the home chore department will come out and pick the unit up.



Gratitude Scavenger Hunt

There may not seem like much to be grateful for right now, but it is the perfect time to take the time to be grateful for the little things in life. Here some ideas to help you think about the good things and less about the difficulties of daily life.

1. Find something outside you enjoy looking at and take the time to stop and appreciate it.
2. Find something that tastes good.
3. Find something that makes a beautiful sound.
4. Find something that reminds you of the people you love.
5. Discover something new.
6. Find something that tastes good.
7. Find something that smells amazing.
8. Find something that is unique to you.

*Gratitude
is the best
Attitude*

COA Window Washing

With warmer weather just around the corner, it is time to be thinking about washing your windows. Our maintenance crew can get your windows washed for you. There is no charge for this service, but donations for labor are encouraged.

This is an extremely busy time of year for Dan and his crew. If you call in a request for windows to be washed, please be patient. Our staff will get you on the schedule as soon as possible. If you have additional jobs that you would like done at the same time, please let us know what those are when you call. This will assist Dan in planning the work schedule.

Call Commission on Aging at 989- 875-5246 for more information, or to place your request.



Afternoon Grief Support Group

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19

Foster/Adoptive/Relative Care Support Group

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19



SENIOR GRATIOT, INC.

**JENNIFER COOK, EDITOR
HOWARD POINDEXTER
VICKIE THUM
CRAIG ZEESE**

Senior Gratiot is published monthly for Gratiot County senior citizens 60 years and older by **Senior Gratiot Inc.**, 515 S. Pine River St. Ithaca, MI 48847. It is supported by donations and is printed at Stafford Media Solutions of Greenville.

Senior Gratiot Subscription/Donation

Please check: New Subscription Renewal Change of Address

Temporarily Away **Stop Date:** _____ **Restart Date:** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ DOB: _____

Temporarily Away Address (use only if wish to receive the paper while away)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Donation: \$10.00 \$15.00 Other

In Memory of _____

In Honor of: _____

Please make checks payable to *Senior Gratiot Newspaper* and submit to:

Senior Gratiot Newspaper
515 S. Pine River St.
Ithaca, MI 48847

Gratiot Community Senior Center Donations

May you find comfort in knowing your thoughtful gift has made a difference in the lives of others. We would like to thank the following individuals, who have generously donated to the Gratiot Community Senior Center at 1329 Michigan Ave., St. Louis from February 13th, 2020 to March 13th, 2020.

In Loving Memory...

Roy LaLonde
Barb Gladding
Agnes McNeil
Reg & Becky Fleury

Melba Demas
Barb Gladding

Bob Moore
Roberta Charney

Sponsors...

We would also like to thank Serendipity Frozen Custard and Donuts in Alma for providing frozen custard for our monthly birthday lunches!

Thank you!
You make a difference.



Senior Activity Building Donations



THANK YOU for your gifts received by the Senior Activity Building from January 11, 2020 through February 13, 2020:

Volunteers (named and unnamed) who completely care for the Building and its programs and activities.

Musicians: Bob Crist, Joyce Raycraft
Crystal Jar donations (unnamed donations, Progressive Euchre, Friday cards,)
February Cookie Sale Volunteers
February Cookie Sale Supporters

GIFTS in GRATITUDE to SAB

By Nan Freed
Sue Moomey
Jo Jones
Fred & Helen Hoard
Joyce Beard

In MEMORY of SHARON HOULDEN
By Larry Houlden

In MEMORY of ROGER BOVEE
By Larry Houlden

In MEMORY of DALE (CD) OWEN
By Keith & Pat Owen
Gary Hill & Phyllis Johnson

In MEMORY of DOROTHY HOFFER
By Food With Friends
Ida Kramer
Edna Carter
Joyce Beard
Virginia Maxwell
Joyce Raycraft
Rick, Kathy, & Heidi Vahderbeek
Gary Hill & Phyllis Johnson
Bill & Linda DeVuyst
Ray & Sharon Fish
Ron & Denise Kopleberger

In MEMORY of DOROTHY HOFFER
By Keith & Phyllis Shaw
Ron & Tami Mohr
Curtis & Chaunda DeVries

In MEMORY of DONNA HIPOLITE
By Joyce Beard

In MEMORY of SHARON MACLAREN
By Joyce Beard

In MEMORY of THOMAS CHOVANEC
By Joyce Beard

In MEMORY of DR. EUGENE NIKKARI
By Joyce Beard

In MEMORY of DORIS JEAN BROWNE
By Garold Browne

In MEMORY of MIKE BANEY
By Jayne Baney

In MEMORY of GLADINE GOODHALL
By Rose Capen

In MEMORY of BILL CAPEN
By Rose Capen

In MEMORY of AMBER HILL
DOLORES LOMBARD
By Ida Kramer

In MEMORY of DORETHEA GLOVER
By Ida Kramer
Linda St. Charles

In MEMORY of ARLENE GEARHART
By Linda St. Charles
Ida Kramer

In MEMORY of EDITH WILLIAMS
MAXINE WEAVER
By Linda St. Charles

In HONOR of BILL DEVUYST
By Bob & Mary Sullivan
Linda St. Charles

In HONOR of JO JONES
By Keith & Pat Owen

In MEMORY of MARIE TAYLOR
By Ithaca Food With Friends

In MEMORY of BOB CHAFFIN
By Ithaca Food With Friends

Gifts received at GRATIOT COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SENIOR ACTIVITY BUILDING AGENCY ACCOUNT:
By Mary Humm

Thank you



SENIOR GRATIOT NEWSPAPER DONATIONS

Donations and checks can be made payable to: SENIOR GRATIOT and mailed to 515 South Pine River St., Ithaca, MI 48847. These people generously donated \$580.00 to the Senior Gratiot Newspaper contribution fund from February 14 through May 14, 2020.

Lyle & Annette Hansen
Tom & Sally Nester
Barbara Mephram
Kendall & Marlene Foster
Kay Anderson
Bev Hardy
Mary Morris
Mary Becker
Thomas J. Schmitz
Pastor Shirley Ellsworth

IN MEMORY OF

CLARE & EMMA TROUB
By Gail Paradise

RON BRACKEN
By Mary Bracken

NANCY BARKER
By Sheryl Rutherford

WALTER MARTIN
By Nancy Francetic

**DOUG BRUSH
JERRY CRISPEN**
By Gerald & Marta Brush

GEORGE VOJTAS
By Katherine Vojtas

LEONA WOLFGANG
By Jacob Wolfgang

**MELBA DEMAS
CAROL CROWLEY**
By John & Julie Shimunek

**ROSE MARIE TAYLOR
ROBERT "BOB" CRIST**
By Jeff & Viola Doyle

**WM. & GOLDIE SMITH
KEITH & FRANCES FOSTER**
By Ruth L. Smith

JACOB HELMAN
By Sharon Helman

ELEANOR MCCREERY
By Sally A. McCreery

DICK WISER, MY HUSAND
By Dorothy Wisser

AVIS PYSCHER
By The Dick Wisser Family



COMMISSION ON AGING DONATIONS

Thank you to the following individuals who made donations for the benefit of the older adults of Gratiot County.

Barbara Crampton
St. Louis Correctional Facility Employees-
Casual Day Participants
Maple Valley Lions Club
Medical Staff of MidMichigan Medical
Center - Gratiot
Lincoln Rd. United Methodist Church
United Methodist Women
James & Kay Pavlik
Nancy Vernon
Larry Hoard
Lincoln Rd. United Methodist Church
Roy Roach
T.J. Schmitz
Lincoln Rd. United Methodist Church

IN MEMORY OF

JULIE ANN BRAUHER
By Marcella Brauher

MARIE TAYLOR
By Wm. Bertukit & Emily
Sybil York, Amelia & Isabel
Suzanne Bertukit & John Bibler
Marsha Beck
Joan Jones
Dorothy Swanson

DAVID NORRIS
By Mom & Family

NELLIE M. LITWILLER
By Robin Litwiller
Cheryl & William Davis
Larry & Charlotte Porter
Jeriel & Carol Beard

MARLIN BRUSH
By Bev Clark

JAMES NORRIS
By Veronica & Family

JUANITA SHANKEL CRIPPEN
By Richard & Jane Greening

ROBERT BECKER
By Mary Becker

**SHANA ANNA
ROBERT CHAFFIN
DONALD GODFREY
HENRY LEHMKUHLE
KEITH LYTLE
CHRIS MALEK
AUTUMN MENDOZA**
By Alan & Alice Schafer

CHARLES "DONALD" SMITH
By Steve & Tamara Puffpaff
Bonnie Barnes
Sharon Helman
Ruth Hall
Anonymous
Mary Lee & Madonna Mull
John & Jeiselle Ortisi
Strong-Kellogg Homestead Farms
Robert Strong
Keith & Janet Strong
Jenna Strong
Derrick & Jerilyn Strong & Girls
Alley T
Ken Wood & Diane Davis

AGNES MCNEIL
By Nancy Lefere
Dorothy B. Swanson
Donna Howe
Kellee Garcia

GARY L. SMITH
By Tom & Lynn Favara
Bob & Gail Paradise
Mike & Cheryl Leight
Mike Allen
Bob & Cathy Patterson
Tim & Rachel Musselman
Al & Becky Dickman
Richard Schenk

DAN ZAMARRON
By Thomas & Kathryn McDonald
William & Tammy Terrell
Patricia Smith
Jo Lynn Strong
Deb Terrell Smith
Roger & Louise Wing
Kathy Terrell
John & Karen Follett

LENORE MUSCOTT
By The Brannan Family,
Jak & Sharon
Amy
Holly & Rowan
Patrick, Jessica & Erin
Jackson
Gary & Cindy Johnson
Fisher Tradition Farms, Inc.
Wayne, Gary & Dayne
Fisher Families

JOSEPH BATORA
By Dewitt Twp Fire Fighters
Association

JOHN ALLEN
By Phyllis Parling
Craig & Kathy Parling
Bruce & Janice Tallmadge

DONNA BRECHT
By Bob & Gail Paradise

IN HONOR OF

JANET HOLT
By Gleaner Harmony Arbor #273

**JO JONES
CRAIG ZEESE**
By Lynne Ludy



Home Delivered Meals & Gram's Kitchen Donations

Thank you to those who made financial contributions from March through May to the Commission on Aging Food with Friends cooking kitchen "Gram's Kitchen", where 400 plus meals are taken out daily. Donations will be used to see that the home delivered meal service continues in Gratiot County.

Alma St. Louis Rotary Club
Lynda Kline
Donn & Patricia Gates
Sally Martin
Ithaca Lions Club
Michael & Sandra Hogle

