



## 2020 Thanksgiving Dinner Alma First Presbyterian Church 495 Charles St., Alma

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Thanksgiving dinner will take place this year, however the format will be different. Meals will be available for **drive through pick-up only** on **Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>** at 12:00 noon.

Reservations for meals are **required** and may be made by calling **Emma, 989-285-0231**, by **Tuesday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>**. The number of meals available will be limited and special orders **cannot** be accommodated. If you are not on the reservation list, you will not be able to receive a meal.

Meals will be available for drive through pick-up beginning at noon. Volunteers will be in the parking lot to provide directions. **Remain in your car** and your meal will be brought out to your car. Please wear a face covering to help keep everyone safe. The meal provided will be turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy, squash, green beans, roll and pumpkin pie. Donations are appreciated and needed to cover meal costs. A donation canister will be available when picking up your meal.

If you are home bound and unable to pick up a meal, home delivery will be available on **Friday, Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>** on a limited basis. To order a **home delivered meal**, please call **Craig at 989-681-2300** before Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The volunteer team has been working very hard to make this years meal available in a safe and efficient manner. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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

November 2020  
Volume XLV  
Number 11

# SENIOR GRATIOT

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

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



Jen Cook, Executive Director of Commission on Aging, accepts a donation check from the Gratiot VFW Post 7805. Presenting the check to Jen is Ken Davis. Thank You!



Like Gratiot County Commission on Aging  
On Facebook & Twitter



### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ 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

The **Senior Gratiot, Inc.** organization is operated exclusively for charitable purposes, within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to encourage and assist with the provision of programs and services for older adults in Gratiot County operated in cooperation with the Gratiot County Commission on Aging.

**Suggested contribution to Senior Gratiot:** **\$20.00 per year** helps to cover the costs of producing and mailing the paper. A great way to remember when to send your donation is to send it on your birthday each year.

**Address Changes:** Senior Gratiot is mailed under a nonprofit automated mail rate and will not be forwarded with a notice to the post office.

*Please notify the COA office using the form at the left each time you request a change to assure we record changes correctly. Thank you. Your assistance with this helps to keep the costs down.*

### Commodity Food Distribution Date

Commodities distribution will be on **Friday, December 11 2020**. Anyone 60 years and older who meets the income guidelines is eligible to receive the food commodities. Income guidelines are as follows: one person's monthly income no more than \$1,383; income per couple not to exceed \$1,868 monthly. (To confirm income guidelines, please call Eight Cap.) Anyone interested in the program must contact Eight Cap at 989-463-5693. Clients may pick up commodities at the Alma Elks, 610 W. Warwick Dr., Alma from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. or at the Commission on Aging, 515 S. Pine River St., Ithaca from **12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

### 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.

### Social Security Announces 2021 Benefits

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 1.3 percent (1.3%) in 2021.

The 1.3% cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 64 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2021. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 31, 2020.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail starting in early December about their new benefit amount.

Information about Medicare changes for 2021 will be available at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2021 are announced.

Information from  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
 ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER  
 1<sup>ST</sup> AT 2:00 A.M.**

### Air Conditioner Reminder

Fall has arrived and along with it the time has come to say goodbye to summer. Please remember to call the Commission on Aging office, 989-875-5246, to schedule the home chore department to come out and remove your COA air conditioner. Thank you!



To date,  
**J&J Party Store**  
 has donated \$8,251.43 to  
 the HDM program at the  
 Commission on Aging!

## SENIOR ACTIVITY BUILDING DONATIONS

THANK YOU for your gifts received by the Senior Activity Building from September 13, 2020 through October 16, 2020:

Volunteers, named and unnamed, who completely care for the Building during this pandemic while our Building is closed.

GIFTS in GRATITUDE to SAB  
By Jo Jones  
Sally Martin

In MEMORY of CLEO DEDIE  
By Evelyn Green  
Sherilyn & Henry Aussie  
Ellen & Carl Neuman  
Charles Green  
Wm. & Robin Green  
Jeff Cheney  
Jill Cheney  
Joan Sparks  
Joyce Raycraft

In MEMORY of JEAN MAHLER  
By Joyce Raycraft

In MEMORY of NEIL SOMERS  
By Jo Jones

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



## Senior Activity Building Information

By Jo Jones

The Senior Activity Building Board, Inc. has held its monthly meetings by phone during the pandemic, including the Annual Meeting which was held on October 20, 2020. The Class of 2023 was elected and Committee reports were submitted. The officers for the 2020-2021 SAB Board will be elected at the November 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

To contact a member of the Board, please phone the Commission on Aging to leave a message for Jo Jones. The number is 989-875-5246.

We ALL miss being together in our Senior Activity Building. STAY WELL!!



## Medicare D & Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period



### Changes to Scheduling Appointments

The annual Open Enrollment Period for Medicare D and Medicare Advantage plans continues through December 7<sup>th</sup>, with changes becoming effective January 1, 2021. During the Open Enrollment Period, Medicare beneficiaries may enroll, unenroll, or change Medicare D or Medicare Advantage plans.

The Gratiot County Commission on Aging has Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) certified counselors to assist you. When you talk with a counselor, you will receive assistance with the following:

- ⇒ Exploring Medicare Part D and/or Medicare Advantage Plans
- ⇒ Comparing your current plan with other plans for 2021 based on your current situation and medications
- ⇒ Reviewing what the plans cover, the premium, deductible, and co-payments will for 2021
- ⇒ Reviewing or assisting with plan enrollment if you decide to change plans
- ⇒ Assisting with an application to the Social Security Extra Help Program for anyone who appears may be eligible

Due to the current health crisis caused by COVID-19, MMAP, Inc. has suspended *all* in person meetings with beneficiaries, their family members and caregivers. **Counseling will only be provided via telephone, email, or postal mail this year.**

Please review your current plan to make sure it will cover all of your medications for 2021. If you currently have a Medicare D or Medicare Advantage plan, you should receive information about the 2021 plans at the end of September or early October. **Review this information! It will provide you with the premium, deductibles and co-payments for 2021.** The premium, deductibles, and co-payments often change from year to year.

The MMAP certified counselors at Commission on Aging will try their best to serve all those Medicare beneficiaries who need assistance during the Open Enrollment Period. Due to the number of requests, we may not be able to assist all of those who call. Information about the 2021 Medicare plans can also be found online at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or by calling 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227). The Medicare website should now be updated to reflect the 2021 plans.

If you are satisfied with your current plan, and want to continue with the coverage, you don't need to do anything. If for some reason your current plan will not be offering coverage for the 2021 year, you will be notified by your plan.

While the process for assistance will be different, the Gratiot County Commission on Aging counselors are here to help. **If you would like to schedule a phone appointment, please call as soon as possible.** It is *highly* recommended not to wait until December to call for an appointment as most available dates and times will likely be filled by then.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a phone appointment, please contact Sarah McClung at 989-875-5246.

**Please note:** Medicare Open Enrollment assistance is subject to change due to COVID-19. Changes will be communicated directly with individuals scheduled to be served.

## National Alzheimer's Awareness Month

November is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month as proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1983. This was done to not only bring awareness to Alzheimer's disease, but also to the caregivers who provide support to people that are suffering from Alzheimer's. Current treatments available are able to slow the progression of the disease, but there is no cure. The top ten early signs of Alzheimer's are as follows:

- \* Difficulty remembering things that just happened
- \* Inability to plan or solve problems
- \* Losing track of dates, seasons and time
- \* Misplacing things
- \* Mood and personality changes
- \* Poor decision-making
- \* Struggling with conversations
- \* Trouble completing familiar tasks
- \* Vision problems
- \* Withdrawal from social or work activities



# DONATIONS

## Senior Gratiot Newspaper

Patty Isenhower  
 Arnold & Edna Walling  
 Maynard Failing  
 Nancy & Richard Smith  
 Laura Furtaw  
 Stanley & Alice Howey  
 Ronald Schultz  
 Joan Cook  
 Stan & Lynn Mann  
 John Cremin  
 JoAnn Wagner  
 Eva Zavala  
 Leona Quidort  
 Gary & Cindy Johnson  
 Emma Lou Brandal  
 Donna Surbrook

## In Loving Memory of

Harold & Aldeen Roberson  
 By Nora Palmer

Chuck Coleman  
 Joe Malek  
 Dick Braman  
 Kerry Falor  
 Mary Toth  
 Roger Huyck  
 Ruth Fogelson  
 By Kelvin & Lovanne Price



Pamela Freed  
 By Pat & Elmer Freed

Dorothy Dougherty  
 By Lloyd Dougherty

Andrew & Barbara Gager  
 By Don & Diane Ruedger

Charles Donald Smith  
 Joanne DeVuyst  
 By William & Linda DeVuyst

Florance Bigelow, 62 Years  
 Have Past  
 By Alton & Waneta Bigelow

Hal A. Williams  
 By Jean Seward

Floyd & Mark Howdyshell  
 By Carol Howdyshell

Lila Decker  
 By Norma J. Bast

Our Parents:  
 Jim & Reva Rummer  
 Waldo Johnson & Evelyn  
 Lockwood  
 By Bob & Donna Rummer

Sam Ortisi  
 By Tom Mueller

Red Agle  
 Charles Agle  
 Gwen Durham  
 By Phyllis Agle

Douglas Massey  
 Charles Massey  
 By Ron & Pearlina Massey

Marie Taylor  
 Bob Crist  
 John Allen  
 Mike Baney  
 By Vickie Thum

## In Honor Of

All Firemen  
 By Sheila Nelson

Bill DeVuyst  
 By Vickie Thum

## Commission on Aging

Marty Peet  
 Thomas Schmitz  
 Gratiot VFW Post 7805  
 Lincoln Rd. United Methodist  
 Church  
 Sally Martin

## In Loving Memory of

Bob Crist  
 By Jo Jones

Jan Abbott  
 By Dick Abbott

Mike Doty  
 Dale Misenhelder  
 By Larry & Linda  
 Misenhelder



Bill Bushy  
 By Blue KC Actuarial Team  
 Ronald Fanslow  
 Joyce Johnson  
 Josephine Carmen  
 Brian Nielson  
 Donald & Judy Bushy

Cecil Gunderman  
 By The Berkley Family  
 Trey Williams  
 David & Caroline DeGraaf  
 William & Sandra Allen

Gwendel Dancer  
 By Bob & Sue Green  
 Bill & Bonnie Pangborn  
 Jim & Linda Marshall

Our Sister & Aunt, Cleo (Warne)  
 DeDie  
 By Iva Cross & Family  
 Susan List  
 Bryan & Barb Giles  
 Tom & Sandy Gulick  
 Steve & Kim Gulick  
 Brian & Karen Gulick

Richard Braman  
 By Pompeii Odd Fellow Lodge  
 No. 417

Anna Siefka  
 By Judith Eichorn

Lillian Hudson  
 By George Gibbs

Joe Malek  
 By Kendra & Bob Malek  
 Anita Kindel

Maxine Snyder  
 Jamie Sanders  
 Rick Rimmel  
 Mary Rimmel  
 Mary Gabrion  
 By Allen & Alice Schafer

Susie Page  
 By Dennis Page

Rick Rimmel  
 Mary Gabrion  
 Jack Cornwell  
 Leo Coston  
 By Gene & Pat Pitcher