DECEMBER 2022

Palmer Senior Center dba Mat-Su Senior Services SENIOR MONTHLY CHATTER



CORE VALUES RESPECT | TRUST | INDEPENDENCE | SECURITY **COMPASSION | UNITY**



A Message from Brandi...

It's the end of the 2022!! It's been an amazing year with us having various transitions and overcoming many obstacles. We accomplished a successful Holiday Ball, and I am overcome with joy with the results. The holidays can be a time of celebration, love, and hope for everyone. The holidays also bring memorable sounds, smells, spirit -and stresses. Some tactics for staying positive during the holiday season include reminiscing in an encouraging and uplifting way. This can be an ideal time to remember traditions and friends that have come through your life, reflect on things that have changed, and appreciate things that haven't. The true meaning of the holidays is love and togetherness, so avoid overspending what you don't have.

Instead try recruiting the help of family members or friends to help you decorate, make homemade presents, or take yourself to go see lights at the fairgrounds. It can be hard to admit when you have feelings of loneliness, depression, or are simply not feeling celebratory this holiday season. This can be especially true when others are enjoying the holiday season. Please remember the people around you care about you and are here to support you. The holiday season is no time to feel alone. For those who are not able to see loved ones in person, set up a day and time of the week that works for both parties to speak on the phone. Find social activities around you to participate in with friends or other seniors. There may be other people having a difficult time as well during this season and they will be seeking support in each other.

In November, we attempted to have a volunteer led "Chatter Folding Day" and I want to thank John and Carol for showing to fold the chatters. Until we're able to better structure this and obtain more volunteer participation, we will move forward with sending this out to be printed. November also brought about the return of "Bingo" and I am ecstatic about this. In December we will have Bingo on Thursday December 8th and Thursday December 15th 1pm-3pm. Please come to the admin office to let us know if you are interested in volunteering for this. Verona would love to conduct trainings so we can ensure that Bingo remains intact as an activity at our center.

December will be a very busy month with our Board meeting being Monday, December 12th, our Membership meeting Wednesday the 14th at 11:30 am. On that same day at 2pm will be the movie matinee of "It's a Wonderful Life". Lastly Coffee Chit chat will be Friday, December 16th at 10 am. This last Coffee Chit Chat we had 16 people in attendance!!!!

Brandi Burchett CEO



AARP sponsors our December 14th Membership Meeting!

This year-end membership meeting will be an informational session. We will not have any items to be voted on but rather an uplifting sharing of information from your MSSS staff, board members, and AARP. Those in attendance of the membership meeting will be receiving holiday gift bags and AARP swag (pillboxes, jar openers etc). This membership will be is extremely exciting as it will still provide you necessary information about Mat-Su Senior Services and AARP updates on Brain Health, but with the added benefit of the love, laughter and fun connected with the holidays. AARP will also be participating along with First National Bank Alaska for our "Christmas in Christmas" initiatives for those receiving Home Delivered Melas. This will be providing an assortment of Holiday bags, blankets, toiletries, and AARP Swag.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Page 1 Message from Brandi
- Page 2 MSSS Services & Staff
- Page 3 THANK YOU!
- Page 4 Note from Linda
- Page 5 Membership
- Page 6 Activities
- Page 7 Lunch Menu
- Page 8 Coloring
- Page 9 Gift Shop Page 10 - Birthdays
- Page 11 Senior Shout
- Page 12 Christmas Friendship Dinner
- Page 13 Senior Housing
- Page 14 Board, Hiring & Volunteers
- Page 15 Facility Rental



CORE PURPOSE

Seniors Quality of Life

CORE VALUES

Respect-Trust-Independence-Security
Compassion-Unity

Mission Statement

MAT-SU SENIOR SERVICES' primary mission is to promote honor, dignity, security, and independence for older Alaskans and to assist them in maintaining meaningful, quality lives. Our clients include older Alaskans, individuals with Alzheimer's Disease or related disorders, and anyone of any age on the Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver Program.

Services available:

- CONGREGATE MEALS: Monday Friday, 11:30am 12:30pm at the center
- HOME DELIVERED MEALS: Call-in by 9am Monday-Friday to start or make changes
- ADULT DAY SERVICES: Monday Friday, 7:30am 4pm
- CHORE & RESPITE & SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES: Call Monday Friday, 8am 4pm
- NOTARY SERVICE: Traveling notary available
- VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Call Admin 745-5454
- SENIOR HOUSING CHUGACH & COLONY ESTATES: Call 761-5001
- FACILITY RENTAL & CATERING: Call 761-5006
- **TRANSPORTATION:** Medical rides in the Palmer or Wasilla area, call 761-5050 one week in advance

Voluntary donations accepted for all services.

Suggested donation amounts are:

- CONGREGATE MEALS: \$5
- HOME DELIVERED MEALS: \$6.50
- TRANSPORTATION: \$5 (Palmer, RT)
 \$8 (Wasilla, OW)









United Way of Mat-Su
Food Bank of Alaska
Coalition of Mat-Su Senior Centers
ACAO



DEPARTMENT MANAGERS

CEO......Brandi Burchett
COO/HR.....Beth Westland
HR CONSULTANT.....Kirk Henke
ACCOUNTING MANAGER.....Anna Weiss
Transportation/Facilities.....Tim Pettit
Adult Day Services.....Christopher Koops
Chore/Respite Services.....Lisa Mecham
Kitchen/Food Services......Yossi Assis

Mat-Su Senior Services is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



THANK YOU! to all of our Holiday Ball Sponors, Donors, Volunteers & Attendees!

PLATINUM







LIVE AUCTION









SILVER























SILENT AUCTION & EVENT IN-KIND

203 Kombucha **AK Republic** Alaska Chicks Co. Alaska Vintage Markets Alaska's Best Phillys Baddest Batch Betty Russel **Bleeding Heart Brewery** Blessed & Distressed Bluff View Designs **Botanical Rhapsody Organics** Bow & Arrow Mercantile Chickadees Gift Boutique Crafts by Meesha

Everett's Holly Danielle Esthetics Homespun Alley

Jennifer McCreary Jerelyn Miyashiro

Denali Fur

Mahay's Riverboat Adventures McKinley Birch Bed & Breakfast McKinley Birch Enterprises

Meta & Rose MSSS Gift Shop Noels Hair Salon

Old Man Russ Fine Food &

Catering

Noisy Goose

Palmer Alehouse Poppy Lane Reindeer Farm Soul Sisters

Spunky Monkey Alaska

Suzie Q Studios The Tipsy Mermaid Three Bears Alaska T Rex Woodworking Valley Hotel William "Taylor" York

VOLUNTEERS

Aaron Burchett Alexis Westland Dora Wheeler Elda McCraw Erick Westland Erin Welton Ginger Sweeney len Smith Heidi Pace Linda Derflinger Rayce Wittner Rus'sel Wittner Ryan Olayvar Sonia Smith ue Shaw Sue Welton Tim Fritzler Tom Schulman Will Pace



As I write this, we are poised to begin the whirlwind of Thanksgiving until New Year's Eve in just a few short days. Days and weeks filled with traditions and celebration. For some, it means travel and for others there will be visitors. Memories will be shared and new memories will be made. The cold and dark days of the beginning of our winter are warmed by gaily decorated homes and businesses filled with voices of friends and family proclaiming the joyfulness and love of the season.

I find myself contemplating using at least a portion of that time to review this past year and do a check list of what has been accomplished while noting the shuffling of needs, priorities and game plans that will affect the beginning of a new year so very soon. Even with all of the "joyful noise" of the Christmas celebrations, there are plenty of quiet "silent night" moments that give us an opportunity to reflect on what this cycle of our journey has completed and has generated in the form of new requirements, necessities and desires that will in fact fill our personal days as well as the center's with an urgency not to be ignored.

To this end, I and your Board of Director's in conjunction with the staff of Palmer Senior Citizen's Center continue to fulfill our promises to you, our membership, and to the communities we serve. We will cast a vigilant gaze on the fast upcoming year of 2023.

As always, remember to be kind and may you have the most wonderful season of celebration.

Linda (A. Combs

Board President



Join us at our next

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14TH AT 11:30AM



Puzzle 1

			3		1	8	9	
9	7			8	6		1	2
3	1	8		7				4
		5	6	9			8	3
7	4	6	1					5
					2			6
			7			2		
4	8	7			3	2 5		
			8				4	

Puzzle 2

2		5				4		
7		6	2		5		8	3
	4		7	6	9		1	5
4		9	5		6	3		
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		8	4	7				
				3				2
		2						
5	6		9	2		1		8

2022 ACTIVITIES

M O N

ALL ACTIVITY LOCATIONS WILL

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED CONTACT LISA MECHAM AT BE LISTED IN THE LOBBY FOR QUESTIONS

907.761-5026

WEEK 1

DRUG ENROLLEMENT W/THE AGING & **10AM KNIT ALONG: COME KNIT OR 11AM MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION CROCHET WITH YOUR FRIENDS** DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

윤

10AM SENIOR STRENGTH

12:30PM BIBLE STUDY

1PM GOLDEN HEART LOUNGE GRAND OPENING & RIBBON CUTTING

CEREMONY

10AM 1ST TUESDAY BOOK CLUB W/TONI 10AM A NEW YOU W/TONI TRUESDELL

1PM PINOCHLE

10AM KNIT ALONG: COME KNIT OR **CROCHET WITH YOUR FRIENDS**

1PM OSTEOARTHRITIS: WEIGHING THE TREATMENT OPTIONS

W/STEPHANIE PACKARD FROM ARCTIC MEDICAL CENTER

CLOSED

3PM YOGA (439 W ELMWOOD)

10:30AM CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH

TRUESDELL

FOR BEGINNERS W/GLENN

WEEK 2

C.ASCHENBRENNER LAW OFFICE OF

10AM SENIOR STRENGTH 6PM ESTATE PLANNING

15

10AM A NEW YOU W/TONI TRUESDELL

11:30 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

12:30PM SANTA VISITS

1PM LIVING WITH VISION LOSS W/JACKIE OLSEN

10AM KNIT ALONG: COME KNIT OR CROCHET WITH YOUR FRIENDS

10AM SENIOR STRENGTH

W/CEO, BRANDI BURCHETT **10AM COFFEE & CHIT-CHAT**

3PM MOVE, DANCE, LAUGH 12:30PM BIBLE STUDY W/KAY SLACK

CLOSED

27

WEEK 4

11:30AM POLKA MUSIC - CLOSE

10AM SENIOR STRENGTH

10:30AM CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH

10AM A NEW YOU W/TONI TRUESDELL

10AM KNIT ALONG: COME KNIT OR

CROCHET WITH YOUR FRIENDS

3PM YOGA (439 W ELMWOOD)

1PM PINOCHLE

3PM YOGA (439 W ELMWOOD)

1PM PINOCHLE

FOR BEGINNERS W/GLENN

12P ZUMBA (439 W ELMWOOD)

WEEK 3

12:30 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING

10:30AM CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH FOR

1PM YOUNG AT HEART W/TAYLOR YORK

12PM ZUMBA (439 W ELMWOOD)

BEGINNERS W/GLENN

10AM SENIOR STRENGTH

9:30AM ESTATE PLANNING - LAW OFFICE

OF C.ASCHENBRENNER

1PM YOUNG AT HEART W/TAYLOR YORK

12PM ZUMBA (439 W ELMWOOD)

1PM YOUNG AT HEART W/TAYLOR

10AM A NEW YOU W/TONI TRUESDELL 1PM PINOCHLE

2PM MOVIE MATINEE: IT'S A

WONDERFUL LIFE - HOSTED BY CEO, **BRANDI BURCHETT**

10AM KNIT ALONG: COME KNIT OR CROCHET WITH YOUR FRIENDS





*CLOSED 26

WEEK 5

1PM YOUNG AT HEART W/TAYLOR 12P ZUMBA (439 W ELMWOOD) **10:30AM CONVERSATIONAL SPANISH**

FOR BEGINNERS W/GLENN

3PM YOGA (439 W ELMWOOD)







A Christmas Shopping Smorgasbord! The holiday season is upon us. We hope that you haven't completed your Christmas shopping at this point. In fact, we hope that you haven't even started shopping yet! We are not trying to add to holiday stress, but instead invite you to step into the gift shop. We are very confident that you will find those "just perfect" items for nearly everyone on your Christmas list at prices that will please you. Remember that by purchasing at the gift shop, you are also donating to the senior center. That's a win, win, win —for you, for your gift recipient, and for the Center.

This year the gift shop is sporting a new Christmas look thanks to a charitable donation. It features a beautiful white tree trimmed with oversized crimson baubles, bright red holiday boxes and a mini forest of petite white saplings. We want to bring the essence of the season to you. We've set the mood, so come in and enjoy!

Enhance your Christmas with a variety of tree trims crafted by local artists in wood, metal and fabric. Add a couple of Christmas pillows to your couch. Announce the season with holiday wall hangings. Then settle down with a cup of Kobuk's holiday tea (there are several from which to choose at the gift shop). You may even want to choose a beautiful new mug for yourself or someone on your Christmas list. We have just added a huge selection of designs.

Send some holiday cheer to friends and family. This year the gift shop features Cindy Pendleton's collection of Alaskan Christmas cards. Over twenty years ago Pendleton entered a National Diabetes Association Christmas card design competition—and won! Her watercolor design featured a group of Alaskan children "trimming" the antlers of a very patient caribou with Christmas ornaments. The design, sold by NDA in their annual Christmas catalogue garnered nearly \$25,000.00 for research! Pendleton decided that she could do something similar for Alaskan charities. So began her annual Christmas card design and sale. When you send Pendleton's Christmas greeting to those near and dear, you are also supporting a well deserving Alaska charity. This year's recipient is the Salvation Army McKennel House which provides temporary housing for single parent families.

Wanting to keep things small this year? We have a great collection of mini puzzles, coin purses, beautiful, professional business card holders, kitchen must haves including aprons and towels, and artistically rendered dryer balls. And the list goes on—there are beautiful native designed copper bracelets with healing magnets to ward off the pain of arthritis as well as making a beautiful fashion statement. Bracelets also are available in stainless steel. Give the gift of light this Christmas. Night lights provide a thoughtful gift. This year the gift shop has a great collection of whimsical Alaskan designs in rustic metals featuring vintage tractors, bicycles, evergreens and even a moose and bear paddling a canoe!

Of course, our display racks are filled with kuspuks and parkas by Bobbi Lewis. We also have a colorful collection of ruanas in both hooded and hoodless varieties as well as capes, shawls and seasonal hats and scarves. We've even added a unique collection of Native Northwest French terry lined pullover hoodies, so very soft and comfortable.

As always, we have a full selection of both traditional and Christmas jewelry. From watches that play Christmas songs to wire wrapped gemstones, the variety is outstanding, We will even have a Holiday Trunk Jewelry Show by Vicki Randolph of Classy Glass Expressions on December 21st and 22nd, during regular store hours. Don't miss it!



Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10am - 2pm Questions? Call 907-761-5043



Birthdays

Charles Ashley Patricia L Atchison Kevin P Babbitt Katherine L Baker Alan W Banford **Jack Barnes** Catherine R Bates Lavina Beech Michael Bennett Barbara Bishop Linda M Blain Paul R Borghols Richard Bowell Ken M Boze Daniel Brown Katherine A. Burrill Mary Campbell Steven Carner Anita Chace Sandra L Chapman Michael A Conner Belinda Cook Dona L Corev Christine K Cotterall

Cheryl A Couch Christine L Cox Carla E Cunningham Katherine K Damassiotis Claude Davis Linnie M Dean LaDelle A Deckert Yolinda C Delano Linda S Derflinger **Evangeline Dessert Daniel Dewall** Patricia Dishneau Verona A Doyal Kenneth | Duby

Josephine E Ehmann Jennie L Erickson Maria R Evans Brenda J George Patti Gersech Sylvia L Gwaltney Kay Hansen Stephen Heitmeyer Betsy Hilderman Sidney I Hill Kathleen Honeycutt Daniel L Horvath Janine M Jensen Christine C Jones Richard W Jones Jr Heather R Kemp Chung C Kim Janet Kincaid Mary R King Candace Kopperud Florence LaRose Harold Larson Layne A Larson-Collins Laura LeMieux Neena Levan Patrick H Lewis Sidney Lindeke Diane L Lindfors Lucille Magee Saidy Main

Constance R Maxwell-Woolsey

Bryant L McCraw

Rodney Morgan

Michael Morrow

Michael | Naczi

Linda Mendard-Post

Vernon G Neddeau Stacy A Newman Heather J O'Flanagan Carla O'Neill Ernest R Orloff Walter Ortner lames M Patterson William Pellman Billie | Phillips Shannon Phillips Deborah Provo Sid A Richards Michael Scavette Phyllis C Schley Jaqueline A Schmidt Jackie N Shively Janet L Smith Jeannie Snodgrass Edward N Sojka Ir Catherine M Solem Carla L Stahl Deloris A Stevens Bonnie | Stirn Pamela Strickland **Charles Stubbs** John W Switzer Douglas E Theis Jan A Theis Terry C Thoms Cynthia A Wansor Mary J Ward Tod Weiland Mary Welch **Shirley Whitmer** James M Whitey Connie L Woolard



Our seniors (and volunteers) are amazing and we want to let everyone know how grateful we are for them.

This month we thank you ALL!

A special thank you to our volunteers who help everyday around the center. We know who you are, we see your faces each and every day. You are appreciated! Thank you for taking the time to volunteer and support Palmer Senior Citizen's Center, dba Mat-Su Senior Services. We love our volunteers!







Solution 1

6	5	2	3	4	1	8	9	7
9	7		5				1	2
3	1	8	2	7	9	6	5	4
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7	4	6	1	3	8	9	2	5
8	9	3	4	5	2	1	7	6
5	6	9	7	1	4	2	3	8
4	8	7	9	2	3	5	6	1
2	3	1	8	6	5	7	4	9

Solution 2

2	9	5	8	1	3	4	7	6
7	1	6	2	4	5		8	3
8	4	3	7	6	9	2	1	5
4	7	9	5	8	6	3	2	1
6	5	1	3	9	2	8	4	7
3	2	8	4	7	1	6	5	9
9	8	7		3	4	5	6	2
1	3	2	6	5	8	7	9	4
5	6	4	9	2	7	1	3	8



Christmas Friendship Dinner

THE TRADITION GOES ON!

Elsie O'Bryan, Board Member, Christmas Friendship Dinner, Inc.

Yes! There will be a Christmas Friendship Dinner this year! Again, it will be at the Menard Sports Center on Christmas day, serving from 11:00 a.m.to 3:00 p.m.

There is no charge and we do not accept donations at the door!

As always, we offer home-delivered meals to those who have at least one family member who is homebound. Not only will we deliver a meal to the homebound person, we will also provide a meal for your family and guests. (Sadly, we aren't able to honor food preferences). Just let us know if you expect children to join you, so that we can include a family gift. If you prefer a paper copy of the application, see someone in the upstairs Administration office. If you're comfortable on the computer, go to www.christmasfriendshipdinner.com and fill the application out online.

If you have questions about getting a ride, call Linda at 907-631-9776.

In addition to the traditional sit-down dining, we again are offering a drive-through pickup option, for those who aren't yet comfortable in large groups. No application is needed....just come by and drive around the back of the building to get in that line.

As always, we encourage you to join us inside for festive décor, entertainment, Santa and the opportunity to enjoy the meal with old (or new) friends. As you know, getting out and about... especially on traditionally festive days...can go a long way in healing the pain of loss or loneliness.

If you're wondering if you can help...yes, you can! There are many tasks that have to be done to make this wonderful event happen! Go to the same website noted above or call 907-631-9775 to find out what slots are still open. The Volunteer Coordinator will connect you with the lead in that area, so you can decide where your talents and gifts can best be used. There is work to be done in the days leading up to the big event, as well as after. We will need to clean up our mess and put away all the things that were brought out of storage!

In case you wonder what this is about: For over 30 years, a group of everyday people (just like you) have been planning, preparing and serving a festive Christmas meal to any and all within our community on Christmas Day. Although it is a Christian based organization, we welcome all people without discrimination of beliefs, ethnic, racial, income, social or any other standing.





INDEPENDENT SENIOR HOUSING

SAFE & SECURE | NON-SMOKING | 55+ COMMUNITY | PET FRIENDLY (1 PET) | HEAT, WATER & TRASH INCLUDED IN RENT

CHUGACH ESTATES

1102 S. Chugach Street, Palmer



- 3 floors, 31 units
- elevator
- on-site laundry
- in-floor heating
- community room
- additional storage

COLONY ESTATES

920 S. Chugach Street, Palmer

- 1 floor, 24 units
- adult day services facility attached
- on-site laundry
- in-floor heating
- community room
- additional storage













1132 S. Chugach Street, Palmer, AK 99645 907.745.5454 Main | 907.746-5173 Fax | info@matsuseniors.com















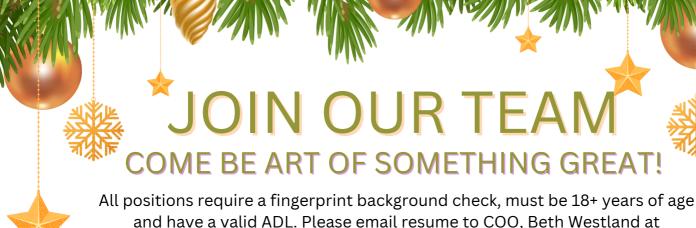












All positions require a fingerprint background check, must be 18+ years of age and have a valid ADL. Please email resume to COO, Beth Westland at bethw@matsuseniors.com, apply on indeed, or come fill out an application in person today! Call 907.745.5454 for more information.

Now Hiring

Chore & Respite Worker Kitchen Worker



Volunteers Opportunities

Gift Shop Kitchen Lunch Desk Class Instructors (arts, exercise) Membership Support

For more information about volunteer opportunities available, or to schedule your volunteer orientation, please contact Lisa Mecham at 907.761.5026

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST ATTEND

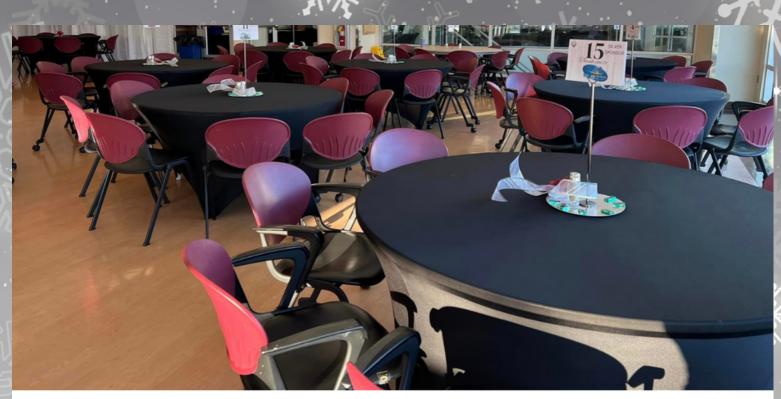
ORIENTATION.



THANK YOU TO OUR

Board Members!

Linda Combs, Sue Welton, Russ Ingram, Elda McCraw, Catherine Hall, Dora Wheeler, Ginger Sweeney, Merle Beeter



Looking for an event space?

Have you seen our beautiful building? Did you know we rent it out?

Weddings | Receptions | Anniversaries | Reunions | Business | Fundraising Events And so much more...





for more information email <u>rentals@matsuseniors.com</u>



1132 S. Chugach Street Palmer, AK 99645

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG U.S. POSTAGE PAID PALMER, ALASKA 99645 PERMIT #99



Are you over 50?
If so, YOU can be a member!

Our next Membership Meeting is Wednesday, December 14th, at 11:30am.