

PUBLISHED BY
ALEXANDRIA SENIOR CENTER

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ALEXANDRIA
SENIOR CENTER
Healthy, Active Living

MARCH 2021
VOL. 30, NO. 2

News

ST. PATRICK'S DAY MUSIC WITH MIKKO AND CHUCK

Join us at the Alexandria Senior Center on Thursday, March 18 at 2:00 pm for some live music by Mikko Cowdery and Chuck Wencil. Please call ahead to reserve your spot. Audience size is limited due to social distancing.



*(Front Row L to R):
Carol Jensen (CJ),
Dianna Anderson
(2nd Row) Yvonne
Solvie and Mary
Ellen Grossman
(Back Row) Sharon
Vanderweyst and
Pat Heldt.*

STOP BY AND SAY "HELLO" TO OUR FRONT DESK VOLUNTEERS

The first person you see when you enter the doors of the Alexandria Senior Center is one of our Front Desk Volunteers. These volunteers keep the wheels on the bus moving. Each of our Front Desk Volunteers spends 6 hours at the front desk at least one day per week or about 312 hours per year.

Dianna Anderson, who has been volunteering at the front desk for 5 years, is at the Center on Mondays. Sharon Vanderweyst, who has volunteered at the front desk since 2014 (taking just 1 year off in those 7 years) is behind the front desk on Tuesdays. Mary Ellen Grossman has been greeting everyone on Wednesdays for 4 months now and Pat Heldt is behind the desk on Thursdays. "It is a pleasure to help everyone that comes to the Senior Center," noted Heldt, who has been a volunteer at the front desk for 5 years. Carol Jensen (CJ) is at the desk on Fridays and is our newest front desk volunteer. Yvonne Solvie volunteers at the front desk when we need her. She has been doing it for 2 years. "I enjoy the activity that goes on here," Solvie said.

The Alexandria Senior Center cares about our members and cares about customer service! Our front desk volunteers give their full attention when you approach the front desk. They care deeply for the Center and the people it serves and each one is genuinely warm, professional and polite both on the phone and in-person.

With National Volunteer Month approaching, the Senior Center Board of Directors and staff would like to take the opportunity to thank these AWESOME FRONT DESK VOLUNTEERS. Each of them is what keeps the Alexandria Senior Center running smoothly and we could not do it without them!

WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS

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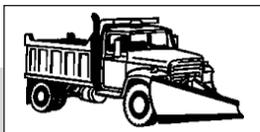
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NEXT FOOT CLINIC IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 29TH

The next Foot Care Clinic is scheduled for Monday, March 29th between 8:30 AM and 2:00 PM. Please call the Center now to schedule your appointment as they are filling up fast. The \$25 fee, made payable to the nurse, will be collected at the appointment. If you have to cancel an appointment, please let us know as soon as possible.

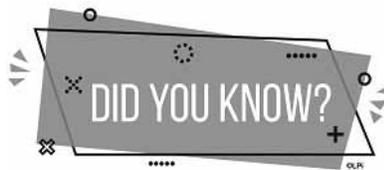
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Have a look at our Ad/Sponsor page in this newsletter! These businesses generously support us each year with the purchases of ads. Their ads help defray the costs of printing the newsletters that keep you informed of our programs and activities. When needing products and services, please consider giving your business to them and let them know you value their support of the Senior Center. We truly appreciate all that each of these businesses/organizations provide to this community. Thank you!



INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

The Senior Center will be closed whenever the Alexandria Schools are closed due to inclement weather. Be sure to check your school closings, social media, our website and/or listen to KXRA radio if the weather is questionable. We want everyone to be safe!



If you want to be among the first to know what's going on at the Senior Center during these changing times, the best way is to share your email address with us. We will send out email "blasts" to everyone on our email list as soon as any important changes are made. If you don't have access to email, then check our website (or have someone do it for you) at:

www.alexsrctr.org



COMPUTER COURSE



COMPUTER BASICS

March 12th 11am-12pm

This course is designed to teach basic computer skills and knowledge. Computers will be available for participants. Class size is limited. Must register to attend.

This Project is funded with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education using federal funding, Library Services and Technology Act.



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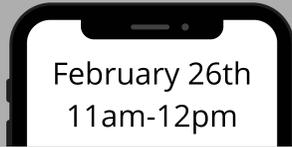
COMPUTER BASICS CLASS

There will be a Computer Basics class held at the Senior Center on Friday, March 12th at 11:00 AM for anyone that wishes to learn basic computer skills and knowledge. April Ristau, Reference Librarian for the Douglas County Library will be teaching the class.

Computers will be available for the class participants to use. The class is free to everyone. Please register early as class size is limited because of COVID guidelines. This course is funded with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education using federal funding, Library Services and Technology Act.

This Project is funded with a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education using federal funding, Library Services and Technology Act.

Smartphone Tidbits



**February 26th
11am-12pm**

Bring your iPhones, Android phones, and other devices, and learn the best tricks, tips, and tweaks.

Class size is limited.

Registration is required.

*Limited number of ipads will be available if needed.



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ANOTHER SMARTPHONE TIDBITS CLASS IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 5TH

The February 26th Smartphone Tidbits class filled up so quickly, we added another class scheduled for 1:00 PM on Friday, March 5th. Please call ahead to reserve your spot. Class size is limited due to social distancing.

SOLES 4 SOULS IS A HUGE SUCCESS

The Alexandria Evening Lions organization recently held a "Soles 4 Souls" shoe collection program. Shoes collected by the organization are distributed throughout the world to fight poverty. This year, 3,675 pairs of new and used shoes and boots were collected.

"The Alexandria Area High School Key Club, the Alexandria Senior Center, KXRA Radio Station, and various retailers helped out with our collections," said Lions Bob and Patti Dahlheimer.

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00 Billiards 1:00 Fun Bingo 3:30 TOPS #36	2 9:00 Billiards	3 9:00 Billiards	4 9:00 Billiards 1:30-3:30 Open Studio (Lorsung Art Studio)	5 8:00 TOPS #775 9:00 Billiards 9:30 Quilt & Sew 1:00 Smartphone Tidbits Class	6
7	8 9:00 Billiards 12:30 Katy's Swingband Practice 1:00 Fun Bingo 3:30 TOPS #36	9 9:00 Billiards	10 9:00 Billiards 9:30 ASC Board Mtg	11 9:00 Billiards	12 8:00 TOPS #775 9:00 Billiards 11:00 Computer Basics	13
14	15 9:00 Billiards 12:30 Katy's Swingband Practice 1:00 Fun Bingo 3:30 TOPS #36	16 9:00 Billiards	17 9:00 Billiards	18 9:00 Billiards 1:30-3:30 Open Studio (Lorsung Art Studio) 2:00 St. Patrick's Day MUSIC with Mikko & Chuck	19 8:00 TOPS #775 9:00 Billiards 9:30 Quilt & Sew 	20
21	22 9:00 Billiards 12:30 Katy's Swingband Practice 1:00 Fun Bingo 3:30 TOPS #36	23 9:00 Billiards	24 9:00 Billiards	25 9:00 Billiards	26 8:00 TOPS #775 9:00 Billiards	27
28	29 8:30 Foot Care  9:00 Billiards 12:30 Katy's Swingband Practice 1:00 Fun Bingo 3:30 TOPS #36	30 9:00 Billiards	31 9:00 Billiards	Notes: Senior Center Open 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Monday through Friday 9:00 am Billiards Monday through Friday NSI/Meals on Wheels 320-762-4280 Open Studio time should be registered at the Senior Center		

Lersung Art Studio

WHAT'S NEW FOR THIS SPRING?



We are very excited to collaborate with the Douglas County Library and Viking Library System. Starting the beginning of March and going through May, the Senior Center will have a supply of "Take and Make" craft kits. Call the Center and reserve a free kit that you can stop in and pick up! The kits include supplies and instructions and we will try to have a finished example available for you to look at when you pick up the kit. Here is a sample of one of the first kits.

This kit involves painting foam cubes and applying decorative paper and letters. This is a sample with the word HOME, however, we'll have kits that have other words as well. You may need a paint brush of your own, however, everything else is included!

This program is sponsored by Douglas County Library and Viking Library System. This Project is funded in part or in whole with monies from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

Art Studio – Open Studio

March 4th and 18th
1:30 – 2:30 pm

\$5 per hour

Have you taken an art class at the Studio in the past? Is there a project you are working on and need some studio time to finish it? Register by calling the Center to attend an Open Studio time! Please register in advance by calling the Senior Center. We look forward to seeing you there!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

March. Will it come in as a Lion or a Lamb? By the time you read this, we will know. No one could have predicted March 2020. It's been a year since we heard of the Coronavirus, China virus, COVID-19, whatever you name it, 2020 was a rough year we never want to repeat. We hope to keep the doors open for all of 2021, and look forward to many events with a full house. We hope that soon the calendar will again be full of card playing, bingo, music, quilting, foot care, birthdays, speakers, dinners, classes and so much more. Thank you to Nancy and many volunteers as we made it through this past year. Here's to a bright and sunny spring!



President Debbie Shea

LOOKING TO JOIN A BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP?

Looking for a new and fun way to meet with friends? The Senior Center has added a new activity – a book discussion group will be meeting beginning Tuesday, March 16th from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM. We will meet once each month. Mary Nitti will lead the discussions and provide the books. The first meeting will be an organizational meeting. We will be using book kits from the library. At the first meeting you will receive a list of books available, a list of questions that will help generate a discussion and a book to take home to read and prepare for the next meeting. You will bring the book back to the next meeting and be given a new book to read for the next session. You can join by calling Mary Nitti at 218-205-9646 or the Senior Center at 320-762-2087.

AARP TAX ASSISTANCE BEGINS

By Carol Strong

Our tax assistance has started, later and slower than in prior years due to COVID. With remote preparations and only two preparers doing filings, we are limited to the number of clients we can serve. We encourage taxpayers with more complex returns to seek another provider. We are serving renters first as they have all of their records for completing all their tax filings. Homeowners will be scheduled later, once property tax statements for 2021 have been received. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



DO YOU WANT TO BE A DRIVER FOR HOME DELIVERED MEALS IN MARCH?

Nutrition Services, Inc. is looking for additional volunteers to help deliver meals during the month of March. There are a significant number of the regular volunteer drivers that will be on vacation during the month of March and there's a need for substitute drivers. If you are interested, please call Meals on Wheels at 320-762-4280.

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

You are SO generous! The Annual Giving Campaign thus far is \$9,870. Remarkable campaign for such a crazy year. Thank you for your ongoing support!



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