



## A CHRISTMAS MUSIC SPECIAL ON KOOL TV

Our own big band had a special concert at the Andria Theatre on November 28 to launch the Holiday Music. The entire performance of Katy's Swing Band was taped and will be replayed on Kool TV for your holiday listening pleasure.

The date is not definite as yet, but we will alert you by email when set. The theatre was given free of charge for our benefit and the Band performed to raise funds to assist with Center expenses in appreciation of meeting here each Monday.

Our Big Band represents the Senior Center at the county fair and on July 4 in concert on the Court House Lawn.



## HOLIDAY TABLES KICKS OFF THE SEASON

Our Christmas season starter, Holiday Tables, will be on the first Saturday in December. That is December 4 on your calendar!

Doors open at 11:00 for all ticket holders to view the tables and vote on the best decorated one. That table will receive a prize!

Then at noon Chef Janet and helper elves will serve a gourmet luncheon and the High School Carolers will entertain us with Christmas carols. This special way of sharing the holiday spirit with friends amid the beauty of beautiful table settings has become a tradition.

There will be games, door prizes and a Silent Auction. To add to your entertainment, this year will feature a bake sale of ethnic holiday foods. No

one can make them better than the seniors.

Curt Lind will be here to assist the Mistress of Ceremony, Deb Shea, with the auction and games. There is a hint that an entire table service will be an auction item. Mandy Wencl, who has won the "best table" status two years in a row, will also have a new décor.

Waiters are men of distinction! They love to wait on us and there will be Elves to assist them.

All of this fun and holiday spirit for a \$20 dollar ticket. Tickets are available at the Front Desk through December 1. If donating baked goods please have here on Friday, December 3. Profits of all will go to the Senior Center.

# ANNUAL FUND

Our Annual Appeal letter has gone out to our members and sponsors. We thank all who have already generously responded.

Your support makes it possible for the Center to provide:

- home delivered meals
- tax assistance and driver safety classes
- technology support
- foot care, balance classes, Medicare information
- wide variety of recreation and social activities
- a place to meet for visually impaired and service organizations

We look forward to serving our members and broader community in the coming year. THANK YOU for the many gifts of your time, talent and treasures.



## NEXT FOOT CLINICS ARE SCHEDULED FOR DEC 3RD, JAN 28TH & FEB 25TH

The next Foot Clinics are scheduled for December 3, January 28, February 25th – 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Please call the Center now to schedule your appointment as they fill up fast. The \$25 fee, made payable to the nurse, will be collected at the time of your appointment. If you have to cancel an appointment, please let us know as soon as possible by calling **320-762-2087**.

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC OF ALEXANDRIA INVITES YOU TO SHARE A CHRISTMAS DINNER!

Like so many wonderful traditional events the procedures have had to change. This year they can't invite you to come in and socialize as there is not enough room for spacing. However, dinners will be available via the drive through procedure we have become accustomed to. On Christmas Day from 11am to 1 pm you may enter the alley on the east side of the Church and receive a meal filled with love and best wishes. The Church is located at 721 West 7th Ave. across from the Sheriff's Department. This traditional celebration has been offered for almost 30 years. The menu is the same as offered in previous years. It is just the delivery method that has changed. There will be Ham, Meatballs, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, Dinner Roll and Christmas cookies.

Reservations are encouraged. They help us with the planning. Call 320-763-3341 or go to the Church website: [firstcongregationaluccalex.com](http://firstcongregationaluccalex.com). Volunteers of all ages will be watching for you. So, plan to celebrate Christ's birthday with a friend who might be alone otherwise.

## AARP DRIVER SAFETY CLASSES UPDATE

On January 3, 2022, AARP will end the nationwide closure of in-person events such as, Driver Safety Classes, and begin making decisions about where events are held based on local criteria. One of the local criteria will be Douglas County's COVID Transmission rate. The County must be considered either Low or Moderate transmission on the CDC's County Tracker before classes can resume. As of this writing only 10% of counties in the USA meet that requirement. Douglas County currently has a Community Transmission rate of High. This is a serious infectious rate. Hopefully, we will move into the Moderate or Low range by the end of the year. AARP will keep us posted as to when Driver Safety classes can resume.

Dick Telander – AARP Zone Coordinator



## A SPECIAL GIFT!

This gift is given year round, but December seems like a great month to acknowledge it. KXRA gives us an hour of Open Line each month to tell about services available to Seniors. It is targeted particularly to listeners who are not computer users. Seniors do listen to Open Line and the second Monday of each month at 9AM is ours. There are so many opportunities to enrich our lives if we just know about them. Local nonprofits are creating them. Make it a goal in 2022 to get familiar with them.

Thank you, KXRA!

Echo Press also gives us special space regularly for this purpose.





**Our Coffee Station Sponsor  
for the Month of December  
is Elden's Fresh Foods.**

**We want to thank everyone at Elden's  
for their kind contribution.**



## **GOING AWAY FOR THE WINTER?**

We want you to stay informed and involved with the Center. If you call us at 320-762-2087 or send us your winter address to 414 Hawthorne, Alexandria, MN 56308, we will see that you get the newsletter while you are gone. If you are roaming and don't have a winter address, please call us and cancel your newsletter for the time you are gone. On top of the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter to you, we would have to pay more if your newsletter is returned to us, undeliverable. Please help us save those dollars!

## **DINARA DYKEMA, NEW COUNTY COORDINATOR ON AGING**



The County has appointed Dinara Dykema to serve as Coordinator of Senior Services. We are looking forward to working with her on services for seniors throughout Douglas County.

Dinara is an Osakis native. While attending college for a degree in Social Work she worked at the Galeon there and decided that she wanted to work exclusively with seniors. Dinara worked at a nursing home in Fergus Falls after graduation and when hearing of the opening for this position decided she wanted to work with the seniors in Douglas County as it's home to her and many family members.

Her office is located in the Social Services lower lot next to the Veterans Office and the Library. Her phone number is 762-3047. Since her major area of effort is Medicare, the open enrollment period until Dec. 7 is truly keeping her busy. However, she is in charge of three other areas as well: County Committee of Aging, the NAPS food program and Senior Companions. She is looking forward to getting to know more seniors and to working with us.

Feel free to call her for an appointment or to stop by after December 7 to share personal concerns or needs/concerns of the seniors living in our rural area.

## **THANK YOU! MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS**

Reflecting on this year, we want to give special recognition for all you do. We honor and thank our many volunteers serving at the information desk, leaders of activities, fundraiser helpers, crafters and donors, home delivered meals staff and drivers, local food shelf/grocers & bakery, instructors and service providers and our many sponsors and supporters.

Together, you all make the Center a warm, welcoming and vital resource for our seniors and those who care and support them. We truly appreciate you!

## **CORNERCOPIA AT VIKING MALL**



Come visit our gift shop at the Mall. From December 11-18, we will be offering beautiful, handcrafted and special items ready for your gift giving.

This is a repeat of last year when we were given space at the Mall. Pauline Semerad, our Cornercopia gift shop chairperson and Carol Strong had such a successful and fun time for two days, they say, "Let's go to the Mall again." Because we plan to have a greater presence at the Mall, we are asking for volunteers to help for a few hours during the eight days. Call the Center at 320-762-2087 to let us know when you are available.

# Lorsung Art Studio

## DECEMBER CLASSES

### Art Studio – “Gnomes Gone Wild”

Tuesday, December 14

5:00 – 7:00 pm \$15

Offered Again by Popular Demand

Oh, how fun are these Gnomes! This class is instructed by the creator of the copper gnomes and wow, are there options for crafting little (2-3” tall) characters that will bring you joy or some mischief! Want a garden or tree gnome or maybe you need a librarian gnome on your book shelf. An angel or santa gnome for the upcoming holidays would be fun too! They can have twisty beards or curly hair and accessories like a broom! The copper, wire, tools and instruction are provided in this class. Reserve your spot in class by calling the Center at (320) 762-2087.



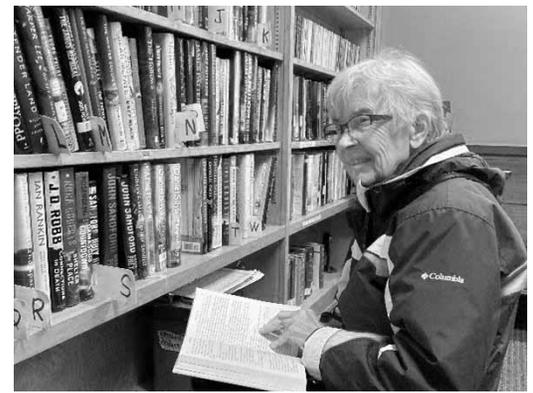
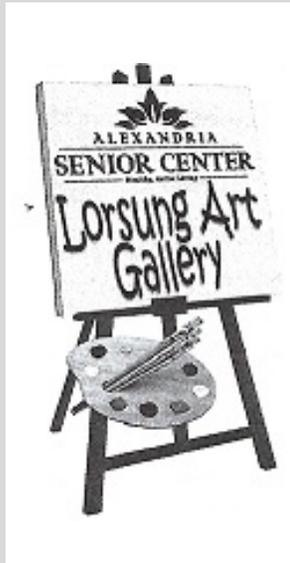
### Art Studio – Open Studio

Tuesday, December 7 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Thursday, December 16 5:00 – 7:00 pm

\$5 per hour per session you attend

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? Perhaps you started metalworking and want to work on the piece of jewelry you started! Register by calling the Center to attend an Open Studio time! We look forward to seeing you there!



## LIBRARY REPORT

Hi everyone. There are approximately 1200 books in our library including paperback, hardback, trades, westerns, romance and LARGE PRINT. Thanks to all who have donated books and keep up the good work. Book donations are always welcome.

The annual book sale on October 22nd went very well thanks to some great volunteers who helped setup, sell and take down books: Gary Zavadil, Ray Kallstrom, Marlene Ritlinger, Dotty & Rod Tabor, Dianna Anderson, Barb & Ron Sczublewski, Arlys Hendrickson, Jan Dzubay, Pat Katzmarek, Deb Shea, Mary Olson and Diane Lokken. Thanks also to Scott Quitmeyer and Dave Dilly for helping me take all of the unsold books to the public library. A special thanks goes to Carol Strong for her guidance and expertise throughout the entire process. We had well over 2000 books in the sale. We took in \$520.25. This was the best since we started the book sale back in 2002.

Come in and browse our library. You don't have to be a member of the Center to check out books (but think about it)! You will find the book sign-out sheet on the table in the library. PLEASE sign books out and back in. Try to return books within 30 days if you can.

Dianna Anderson and Pat Katzmarek will be taking care of the library while I am gone this winter. Thanks much to both of you!

Happy reading. See you in May,  
Bob Ritlinger

# DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-Noon Whist A-DRE 12:30-3:30 Bridge B-DRW 12:30-3:30 500 B-CR 12:30-3:30 Mahjong-DRE	<b>2</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-11:30 Golden K-MR 12:30-3 Bridge C-DRW 1-3 Scrabble-DRE	<b>3</b> 8-9 TOPS #775-MR 8:30-2:30 Foot Care-CR 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30 Holiday Setup-DR 9-Noon Quilting-MR 1-3 Hand & Foot B-DRE 1-3 Cribbage-DRW	<b>4</b> 11-3 Holiday Tables-DR 9:30-12:30 Whist-CR 12-5 Priv. Party-MR
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 12:30-2 Big Band-DR 1-3 Bingo-MR 1-4 Mens Bridge-CR 3:30-4:30 TOPS #36-MR	<b>7</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-11:30 Balance-MR 9:30-Noon Whist A-DRE 11-3 Bridge A-CR 1-3 Hand & Foot A-DRE 1:30-3:30 Open St-LAS	<b>8</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-11:30 SC Bd Mig-CR 9:30-Noon Whist B-DRE 12:30-3:30 500 B-CR 12:30-3:30 Bridge B-DRW 12:30-3:30 Mahjong-DRE	<b>9</b> 8-9 Golden K Bd Mig-DR 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-11:30 Golden K-MR 12:30-3 Bridge C-DRW 1-3 Scrabble-DRE	<b>10</b> 8-9 TOPS #775-MR 9-Noon Billiards-PR 1-3 Hand & Foot B-DRE 1-3 Cribbage-DRW	<b>11</b> 9:30-12:30 Whist C-DR
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 12:30-2 Big Band-DR 1-3 Bingo-MR 1-4 Mens Bridge-CR 3:30-4:30 TOPS #36-MR	<b>14</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-11:30 Balance-MR 9:30-Noon Whist A-DRE 11-3 Bridge A-CR 1-3 Hand & Foot A-DRE 5-7 Gnomes Class-LAS 6-8 N Door Jam-DR	<b>15</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-Noon Whist B-DRE 12:30-3:30 Bridge B-DRW 12:30-3:30 500 B-CR 12:30-3:30 Mahjong-DRE	<b>16</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-11:30 Golden K-MR 12:30-3 Bridge C-DRW 1-3 Scrabble-DRE 5-7 Open Studio-LAS	<b>17</b> 8-9 TOPS #775-MR 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9-Noon Quilting-MR 1-3 Hand & Foot B-DRE 1-3 Cribbage-DRW	<b>18</b> 9:30-12:30 Whist C-DR
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 12:30-2 Big Band-DR 1-3 Bingo-MR 1-4 Mens Bridge-CR 3:30-4:30 TOPS #36-MR	<b>21 Dec. Solstice (G)</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-Noon Bridge F-DRW 9:30-Noon Whist A-DRE 11-3 Bridge A-CR 1-3 Hand & Foot A-DRE 1:30-3:30 VIPs-MR	<b>22</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-Noon Whist B-DRE 10-Noon Exec Bd-CR 12:30-3:30 500 B-CR 12:30-3:30 Bridge B-DRW 12:30-3:30 Mahjong-DRE	<b>23</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 12:30-3 Bridge C-DRW 1-3 Scrabble-DRE 1-	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> Senior Center Closed	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> Senior Center Closed
<b>26 Kwanzaa begins</b>	<b>27</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 12:30-2 Big Band-DR 1-3 Bingo-MR 1-4 Mens Bridge-CR 3:30-4:30 TOPS #36-MR	<b>28</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-Noon Whist A-DRE 11-3 Bridge A-CR 1-2:30 Book Club-MR 1-3 Hand & Foot A-DRE 6-8 N Door Jam-DR	<b>29</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-Noon Whist B-DRE 12:30-3:30 Bridge B-DRW 12:30-3:30 500 B-CR 1-3:30 Mahjong-DRE	<b>30</b> 9-Noon Billiards-PR 9:30-11:30 Golden K-MR 12:30-3 Bridge C-DRW 1-3 Scrabble-DRE	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> Senior Center Closed	
		Meeting Room-MR Pool Room-PR Craft Room-CR Dining Room East-DRE	Dining Room West-DRW Dining Room-DR Green Room-GR		<b>Notes:</b> NSI Meals on Wheels 320-762-4280	

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# CARDS AND GAMES CURRENTLY OFFERED AT THE CENTER

<b>Billiards</b>	Monday thru Friday at 9:00 am
<b>Big Band</b>	Practice Mondays at 12:30 pm
<b>Bingo</b>	Mondays at 1:00 pm
<b>Book Club</b>	4th Tuesday at 1:00 pm
<b>Bridge A</b>	Tuesdays at 11:00 am
<b>B</b>	Wednesdays at 12:30 pm
<b>C</b>	Thursdays at 12:30 pm
<b>D</b>	2nd & 4th Wednesday at 1:00 (Closed)
<b>F</b>	3rd Tuesday at 9:30 am
<b>Cribbage</b>	Fridays at 1:00 pm
<b>Hand &amp; Foot</b>	Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:00 pm
<b>MahJong</b>	Wednesdays at 12:30 pm
<b>Quilt &amp; Sew</b>	1st, 3rd & 5th Fridays at 9:30 am
<b>Scrabble</b>	Thursdays at 1:00 pm
<b>Whist</b>	Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9:30 am

## CORNHOLE, ANYONE??

We have added a new game in our pool room. -- bean bag toss, aka Cornhole. This game may be familiar to you. It is typically a team activity or can simply be enjoyed as you practice and build your skill. The pool room is available for Cornhole every afternoon. If you would like to organize a group give us a call to get started. Stop by, give it a try.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December is here, the last month of the year and the beginning of winter. By the time you read this, our Holiday Swing event at the Andria has happened. If you missed it you will be able to enjoy it on KOOL TV in December. Watch for the dates and times to be announced. Our very special annual Holiday Tables luncheon is Saturday, December 4 beginning at 11AM. With this event we are adding a bake sale and silent auction. Hope you are able to join us.



President Debbie Shea

The Cornecopia gift shop is brimming over with items! Many new Christmas items too! Come do your shopping!! We will have a spot at the Mall to sell items the week of December 11th to 18th. We are again blessed to have many volunteers to make these events successful. Thank you to everyone!

I am pleased to announce and welcome our two new board members, Curt Funkhouser and Dave Dilly, who were elected at our annual meeting on November 18. They officially begin their 3-year terms in January.

We are on the road to seeking a new director!! Applications have been received and interviews will be scheduled. As we look forward to the process, board members have been updating the job description as well as other "HR" policies.

As we look to the end of the year, we are thankful for every one of you. Thankful you stuck with us, and are back with us. We wish you the Merriest of Christmas, and a Happy New Year. See you in 2022!!

President Debbie Shea





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**SENIOR CENTER HOURS  
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9:00-3:30 PM**

**THE CENTER WILL BE  
CLOSED DEC 24, 25 & 31**

## - ALEXANDRIA SENIOR CENTER 2021 BOARD MEMBERS -

President - Deb Shea • Vice President - Mary Nitti • Treasurer - Carol Strong • Secretary - Toni Tebben  
Denise Strand • Carol Erickson • Bob Ritlinger • Scott Quitmeyer • Carole Barlage  
Interim Director - Carol Strong

### MISSION STATEMENT

*To support healthy, active living for people over 50 by providing social, educational, nutritional and informational services.*



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