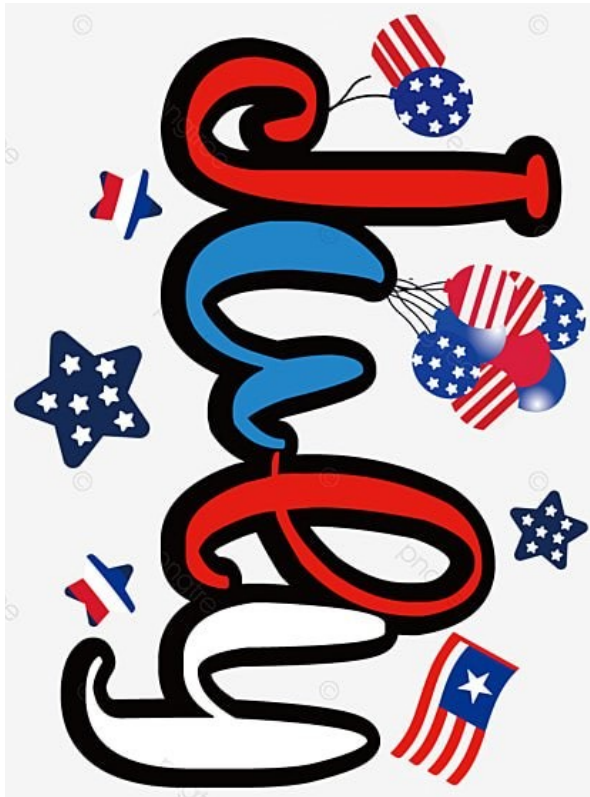


Our mission is to create inviting and enjoyable programs that encourage older adults to utilize their skills, develop their potential, and remain engaged in the community.



Santa's Senior Center Corporation Inc.
101 E. 5th Avenue
North Pole, Alaska 99705

Office & Gift Shop Hours: Monday - Friday 11am - 3pm

Santa's Senior Center



Phone: (907) 488-4663
Fax: (907) 488-4683



www.santaseniors.com
santaseniors@alaska.net

July 2026 - Volume VII

From the President...

Hello all,

Gregg, Thor, Tyra, and I put up our new flag pole Thursday, June 18th. I hope all of you will enjoy this gift, and sign of our freedom.

On another note, we are still trying to get quotes for the roofing job. Nothing yet.

We will be having another BBQ on the 18th of July, 11:00am to 1:00pm. Let all your friends and family know. It will be just like the previous BBQ. I will need people to help serve, take orders, help in the kitchen, and I will need people to donate lettuce, tomatoes, onions, buns for the hotdogs and the burgers.

Thank you for helping out.

Sincerely your president, *Joseph Gelinas*
Joseph Gelinas



Highlights from the June Board Meeting:

- The new flagpole has been installed. Be on the lookout for the announcement of a ceremony for the new flagpole.
- We will need to have the roof replaced. It is not leaking yet, but we are getting bids and will be raising money to replace the roof.

(Continued on Page 3)

**Santa's Senior Center Corporation, Inc.
2026 Board of Directors:**

Joe Gelinas (2026) 907-347-1774
 Ruthie Sevy (2026) 907-322-6433
 Lamie Ellsworth (2026) 503-568-9666
 Cora Williams (2027) 907-388-3577
 Tammie Wilson (2027) 907-590-7602
 Patty Belcher (2027) 916-996-6462
 Kathy Hamby (2027) 907-799-1051



The Board of Directors Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

The next meeting will be July 8th at 1pm.

The Meeting Minutes can be found on our website:

www.santaseniors.com

(Continued from Page 2)

- The Outreach Committee is reaching out to various North Pole businesses to take advantage of joining the Santa Senior Center. They have also raised the idea about having a 'donate' here button on our website. This would make donating easier for the general public.
- Administration: Mr. James Menaker will be attending the July board meeting he will be working with the Board on the CAP funding we receive. Bob Page, our administrative person, will be taking the month of July off. Please be kind to the people who are filling in for Bob during his vacation.
- Facility Usage Agreement - The Board has approved raising the Facility Usage Fees from \$75 to \$100. We will also be working to advertise the Center as a place which can be utilized for events. We remind everyone we are open to usage by all groups.
- Santa's Senior Center will have a booth at the Vintage Fair in October at Shoppers Forum on Airport Way in Fairbanks. Wanda Weatherby is the coordinator for this fund-raising event.

Board Secretary... *Kathy Hamby*

July 2026

July Birthdays: (* =80+)

Name		Day
Erich Hoffmann	*	3
Marie Reed	*	3
Mary Jenkins	*	4
Valliere Forrest	*	7
Calvin Stageman Jr		8
Curt Forpenberry		12
Cindy Stageman		12
Lynda Page		13
Teri Helmers		15
Jean Erickson	*	16
Tami Busch		17
Cora Williams		18
Larry Hoelman	*	19
Helen Bernstein		21
Button Bodiker		21
Virginia Bell	*	22
Sherry Barrett	*	24
Jean Schmitz	*	25
Irene Silvers	*	25
Susan Eickermann		26
Christina Foytich		27
Wally Takao		27
Jed Grover	*	28
Jo A Havens	*	30



July Birthday Lunch Menu:

Mac and Cheese

by *Ruthie Sevy*

July's Guest Speaker:

Annette Reed

Golden Solutions Senior Services

July Anniversaries:

Names	Yrs
Lawrence & Maria Terch	17
Thor & Wanda Weatherby	18
Don & Kim Cook	47
Wally & Karen Takao	49
J.N. & Sharron Hunter	54
Dwayne & Daphne Hofschulte	60
Frank & Ida Rhines	70

Please join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month to celebrate birthdays.



June Birthday Lunch:



Happy Birthday To All Our Birthday Members...
 This month we celebrated with (From left to right) **Joe Gelinas, Tyra Gelinas & Sharon Corbett**



Carlo & Bonnie Zanazzo
 Celebrating their 65th Wedding Anniversary!



June Speaker:
Kat Betters
 Weatherization Works



June 50/50 Drawing Winner:
Betty Schleich



June Free Lunch Ticket Winner:
Carol Calogie



Volunteer of the Month:
Betty Schleich

Sunshine Committee:



The Sunshine Committee was formed to spread sunshine and greetings, as well as comfort and support when needed. The Committee sends out birthday and anniversary cards each month. They also send cards when someone is sick, hurt or just down and out.

The Sunshine Committee has been busy; they have a box of cards that have been sorted by occasion. You are welcome to take a card if you need one. Thanks to the Sunshine Committee for providing this resource for our members.

If you know someone who needs some cheer, please let one of the committee members know so they can send a card. The committee also visits and calls members to check up on them. If you would like to be a part of the Sunshine Committee, please contact Judi Hastings.

Committee Members: *Judi Hastings, Chairperson
 Lamie Ellsworth Betty Schleich Lynda House*

This And That From Seniors:

By Goldie Southwood -178 days until Christmas- 6/30/2026

We were saddened to hear of the loss of a dear friend and Santa Senior member, **JoAnn Perkins**. JoAnn and her husband were visiting a son in Arizona when she became ill. I even got a get well card from her, while she was there. Our time is precious, for now she is gone.

Thanks to **Wanda Weatherby** for taking over the Vintage Jewelry sales from me. I understand she did quite well during the recent Rumage Sale at the Center.

The Birthday Luncheon in June was a delicious Spaghetti dinner. Thanks to **Summit Church** for a great meal! And Thanks to **Safeway** for their usual tasty Birthday Cake.

After the luncheon I spoke to **Lamie Elsworth**. **Lamie** left her birthplace Heeg, in the Province of Friesland, Holland to go to X Ray school in Groningen, Holland.

In 1964 she went to England to work in a hospital in Croydon. In England she met her husband-to-be, **Mike** who was in the US Air Force. They were married in 1966. Then began their Air Force life, moving from base to base, finally arriving in Alaska in 1978 for the rest of their life together. Since **Mike's** death in 2021, she has wintered from time to time in Portland, Oregon.

Lamie was in Portland with her son **Mark**, her travelling companion on a recent trip to Holland and Germany. They flew to Holland from Portland, on KLM. In Amsterdam they attended Lamie's family reunion.

(Continued from Page 6)

Then **Mark** drove them in a rental car along the “Romantic Road”, through Bavaria for 4 1/2 days. (See the “Romantic Road” map.) Along the way, there were quaint villages, and countless castles. One was Neuschwanstein Castle, that Disney used as an inspiration for Cinderella’s Castle in Disneyland. They stayed at hotels along the way.

Then they drove back to Holland where **Lamie** visited more of her friends and relatives before returning home. A lovely but tiring 2 1/2 week trip, including the 9 hour flight back to Portland. ~**Goldie**

Don't forget... **The Strong Memory Discussion Group** on the last Wednesday, July 29th, at the Center. Text or call if you plan on attending (Or just show up, if you don't know in advance). We are thankful for family and friends. Please call, text or e-mail, letting us know how you are doing.

Call or text (907) 378-3624 or e-mail: goldtops@msn.com



The Romantic Road

July Calendar removed for email pdf file- Calendar emailed separately

FROM the KITCHEN: Friday Lunches for 2026

I want to thank you for letting me cook for you all. It's been fun cooking again. Make sure to keep signing up and remember that I pull the count sheet on Wednesdays. Thank you to Country Café, Subway, and Betty S. for your donations and support!

Our Cook...

Debbie
Rodriquez



Tentative July Lunch Menu

July 3: [To Be Announced]

July 10: Baked Cat Fish, Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Cucumber Salad, & Garlic Bread

July 17: Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tomato soup, & Crackers

July 24: Baked Salmon, Rice, Veggies, Side Salad, & Roll

July 31: Goulash, Veggies, Side Salad, & Roll

July Calendar removed
for email pdf file- Cal-
endar emailed sepa-
rately

CALENDAR IN A NUTSHELL:

Sunday:

Monday:

July 6, 13, 20, 27: 10am Strong Seniors Exercise
11:15am Parks & Rec Exercise
12pm Potluck Lunch
12:30pm Games: Farkle
1pm Games: Scrabble

Tuesday:

July 7, 21, 28: 10am Crafting
July 7, 14, 21, 28: 12pm Games: Shanghai Rummy

Wednesday:

July 8: 1pm Board of Directors Meeting
July 15: 11am Birthday Lunch
July 29: 1pm Strong Memory Discussion Group

Thursday:

July 16: 10am Crafting
5:30pm Alzheimer's Art Link

Friday:

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 10am Strong Seniors Exercise
12pm Lunch
12:30pm Games: Farkle
1pm Games: Scrabble
July 10, 17, 24, 31 11:15am Parks & Rec Exercise

Saturday:

July 4: 8-10am Pancake Feed
9:30-? pm Root Beer Floats
July 18: 11am-1pm BBQ Fundraiser & Bake Sale

Please Sign up for Friday lunches by *Wednesday* of that same week.

Rummage Sale Report

June 12th & 13th were our annual Rummage and Bake sale and this time we added the Jewelry sale which was handled by **Wanda Weatherby** with the help of her mom, Jenny Bell. Considering this is the first time to have the jewelry sale included in this fundraiser event, Wanda managed to sell a total of \$230 of this and that jewelry. Normally our jewelry sale is at the October Vintage sale at the Shoppers Forum. Not bad for this time of the year. Now for the Rummage and Bake sale, I am happy to announce that we received **\$668 from the bake sale** and **\$1,270.49 for the rummage sale**, with a **total of \$1,938.49!** The **Grand total is \$2168.49!** This will help pay for one fuel delivery or help towards getting a new roof for our building.

The bakers all came through with outstanding desserts, which at the last minute before closing, **Jeff Jacobson** came in and said I will take all remaining desserts as I am having a BBQ this evening at my house.

Now for all the volunteers that came to set up and box all the remaining items not sold. I worked these ladies hard and want to give them a big **THANK YOU** for coming and helping me for those 2 days. Thank you **Lisi Marshall, Carol Suchland, June Cloyd, Wanda Weatherby, Rena Clark, and Joyce Outten**. Without your help this fundraiser event wouldn't have been this successful.

~Ruthie Sevy

Just a Note from Mamie S. Brown

Embracing Your Purpose: An Interactive Senior Experience...

Join us for an uplifting, interactive gathering designed for seniors who want to embrace purposeful aging. Through engaging activities, meaningful conversations, and shared laughter, we'll explore how each chapter of life brings unique opportunities for growth, contribution, and fulfillment. Come connect, be inspired, and celebrate the beauty of living fully, together.

Attorney at Law, *Mamie S. Brown*

Mamie's next gathering will be on Thursday, September 24th at 1:30pm. As this date approaches, look for an RSVP signup sheet on the Office bulletin board. Please provide your name and contact number.

BOOK CLUB



The Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month from September through May. We will meet at the Center at 2:00 pm.

Our last meeting was on May 6. We discussed *October in the Earth* by Olivia Hawker, a novel set in Depression era rural Kentucky about a woman who flees a failing marriage to ride the rails.

We also discussed our reading selections for the upcoming year as well as suggestions for summer reading. In August we will send you a list of the titles we are reading for the coming year.

We are always happy to welcome new book lovers to our Book Club.

June Volunteer of the Month:

I would like to recognize Betty Schleich for June Volunteer of the Month. Betty is on the Sunshine Committee, which recognizes people's birthdays, anniversaries, sickness, injuries, and calling seniors to see how they are doing.



Betty Schleich
Thank you!

This committee is led by Judi Hastings. Back in April Judi was busy taking care of her husband David, who fell and broke his left shoulder and later needed cochlear implant surgery.

With all this happening in the Hastings household, Betty took it upon herself to step in and take over the chairperson's duties during the months of April and May. While doing that Betty also managed to make time to reorganize all the donated cards and place them in a lovely, decorated shoe box that her daughter made. Congratulations Betty for a job well done!

Recognition and Thanks to this May's Birthday Crew: Cooks, prep, and serving staff

Here are some of the June Birthday Lunch Volunteers:

SUMMIT CHURCH LADIES (AND GUYS)



Eileen Brando



Steven Langer



Bobbie Langer



Teresa Ward

Thank You!



And Member Volunteer's:



Kathy Hamby



Ruthy Sevy



Sharon Corbett



Cindy Stageman

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I have written a long prologue for this poem, painting a back story of family relationships, histories, peer pressures, and social media; all of which were a foundation for this poem that is to follow. But... it is far too long for this publication and the issues are far more encompassing than just with our youth, although it was a very talented young person that shook my very core. I've been trying to find the right way to write about youth; about how fragile and powerful those early years are. About how confusing the world can be when you've only lived in it for a short time. About how overwhelming emotions can feel when you're sensitive to others' pain, when empathy becomes both a gift and a burden. And then there is the world our young people inherit today: social media cruelty, political firestorms, public shaming, and pressures that didn't exist to the degree they do now when I was growing up.

This may have been part of Delilah's story. A brilliant young girl with immense talent who wrote and played music until she couldn't anymore. I don't know the full story, and I won't pretend to. But I do know she loved her family deeply. I believe she would have spared them this pain if she had been able to see another way. I believe sometimes a young person, maybe any person, just becomes overwhelmed at some point, unable to find the right questions, unable to find answers, unable to see a path forward...

I had to write something to quiet the 'why's' that were persistently banging around in my head, and to deal with the emptiness that follows the loss of someone so young. It's strange how losing a child, any child, even one you barely knew, can leave a deeper ache than almost anything else. She visited her sister and brother afterwards, when each one was alone, to assure them that all would be fine. She was like that...

In a place where shadows seem to dance and twist,
I met a man, in a fleeting mist.
He stood there, silent, where our paths entwined,
and gave me a look, so strange yet divine.

"Do you know where I am?" I dared to ask,
He just smiled; This riddle wrapped in a mask.
With a gesture, he beckoned,
"Were you going this way, or that?"
You seem quite lost, in this place where you're at."

"I think I need answers," I whispered, "to be perfectly fair."
He pondered my quest, with a very thoughtful stare.
"It's not an easy road," he gently replied,
"When you lack understanding and someone special has died."

"How could you know", I said, "that this is my quest?"
"It's because I just left her; She is one of our best."
"We see those who wander, confused, and can't sleep,"
"Because they can resolve nothing, other than to weep."

"I come to be with you and help you get by."
"You are one of so many, that needs to know why"
"She has visited the most vulnerable, since leaving on that day."
"To assure them they are loved in the most special way."

"So, stay on your path, eventually it will be clear."
"That in life there are no answers for the loss of someone dear."
"I think your wounds may heal, but there will always be a scar,"

A Mammoth Welcome Back to our Quilter, Sue Eickermann

The Tuesday Quilt Group was recently surprised by a mammoth dinosaur to welcoming **Sue Eickermann** back to the fold. Hidden deep inside of the dinosaur was Diana Crawford. Thanks, Diana for livening up our day.

Dianna Crawford,
disguised in her di-
nosaur costume



Sue Eickermann,
disguised in her Sue
Eickermann costume



KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE...

BBQ Kitchen Manager: In the June 10th Board meeting, Debbie Rogriguez was asked to be our BBQ Fundraiser Kitchen Manager to coordinate everything food oriented, keep food hot, and in general do what she does so well.

Donations And Events: — A mystery donor gave us (2) 48qt ice chests for our Fundraising events. They will be stenciled with our Centers information. Thank you for your donations.

— We have begun to advertise with the Chamber, soon on the Website, and soon at KJNP, as well as use our street signs as usual.

— Wanda Weatherby is asking to have a Jewelry table at the Vintage fair at Shoppers Forum. This was approved by the Board.

— Octoberfest needs to have a TAMS person and paperwork filed with the North Pole Police in order for the Center to have an event which serves alcohol.



Pancake Feed & Root beer Floats

Saturday, July 4th @ 8am



Board of Director's Meeting

Wednesday, July 8th @ 1pm



Monthly Birthday Lunch

Wednesday, July 15th @ 11am



Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska Art Link

Thursday, July 16th @ 5:30pm



BBQ Fundraiser / Bake Sale

Saturday, July 18th @ 11am-1pm



Strong Memory Discussion Group

Wednesday, July 29th @ 1:00pm



Law Office of
Mamie S. Brown, LLC

Thursday,
September 24th @ 1:30pm

'Four Stages of Ageing' & 'What Is Your Purpose?'

