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

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.

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

May 2026 - Volume V

From the President...

Hello all:

Just a little update, I have had 4 sessions of chemotherapy for my kidneys and preliminary test show positive results. Three more months of treatments and I will know!

On another subject we have a BBQ Saturday, May 16. Burgers, hotdogs, chips and a soda. *I will be looking for help serving and collecting money.* This is open to the public as a fund raising event. Cost will be eight dollars.

Maintenance committee will soon be ordering a new flag pole from American flagpole company! A veteran owned company! It will look much nicer than the one we have and have all the pulleys and hardware.

Sincerely, your President,
Joseph Gelinas

As the new year begins, so does the membership at Santa's Senior Center. After your first year, membership fees are due at the beginning of each year. Membership fees are $30 for individuals and $40 for a couple, per year. Your contributions and participation at the center are very much appreciated. We look forward to seeing you throughout the coming year.

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 May 13th at 1pm.
The Meeting Minutes can be found on our website:
www.santaseniors.com

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Highlights from the April Board Meeting:

- The board is looking into having businesses become members of the Santa Senior Center either as a sustaining member or as a business member. This would allow us to be more fully integrated into the North Pole community. The points of contact for this initiative are Pat Belcher and Tammie Wilson.
- The North Pole City Council member, Jeff Tewkes, dropped off a flyer asking for community input for renovation of the North Pole park. If you are interested, the flyer is posted on the board in the main room of the Center. As a point of reference, the North Pole park is the one on Santa Claus Lane. The park on 5th Ave is a borough park.
- Jo Small will be leaving the state and as such she will no longer be able to head the Audit Committee. The Senior Center Board will be looking for an individual to head the Audit Committee. Please contact Joe Gelinas or Ruthie Sevy if you are interested in this type of work.
- There will be a military ball on the first Friday of May at the 8 Star Event Center from 6-8pm. It is the annual Military Appreciation Dinner. This event honors the military community award recipients for the year. See https://www.downtownfairbanks.com/downtown-event/military-appreciation-banquet/ for more.

May 2026

Birthdays: (* =80+ Years)

Day	Name
16	Bruce Hartford
2	David Hastings
1	Doneva Cheeseman
8	Jim Hunter
27	John Olson
23	John Spitzberg
4	Kim Cook
18	Louise Smith

Anniversaries:

Yrs	Name
51	Richard and Christina Foytich
15	Randy and Linn Vander Molen

May Birthday Lunch Menu:
Chicken Enchiladas
by *Cindy Stageman*

Guest Speaker:
Jennifer Willeford
Outreach & Education Specialist
Alzheimer's Resource Alaska

Please join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month to celebrate birthdays. Lunch is just $10.

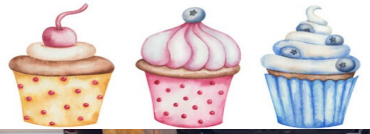
April's Super Stars… Happy Birthday to you all.

We celebrate all whose birthday is this month, but some of us got to celebrate it personally with (Left to Right) **Jo Small, Betty Schleich, Ellie Herrera, Agnes Beavers**

April Birthday Lunch:

April 50/50 Drawing Winner:
Lamie Ellsworth

April Speaker: **Lisa Mackey**
Asst Director •Fbks Senior Center
Thank you Lisa. Very informative. Hope to see you back soon...



April Free Lunch Ticket Winner:
Sharon Green

April Free Lunch Drawing Winner:
Ellie Herrera

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.

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 *-239 days until Christmas-* 4/30/2026

I returned to the ***land of the living*** this month! I am able to use a walker, so came to exercise class at the Center three times this month. It was so good to see all the friendly Seniors, that I have missed terribly. Thanks to Sharon Corbett for the delicious lunches on the Fridays. Looking forward to Debbie Rodriguez's new additions to our menu, while Sharon is out of town.

I had a chat with Joe Gelinas while at the Center. He is doing well, and looks good, on the new protocol they have him on, and is hopeful they have found the answer for him. Ask him to tell the tale of his medivac landing in Anchorage on an icy airfield. Quite an experience! Joe has been an excellent Senior Center President, in spite of all the medical issues he has endured. He praises Ruthy Sevy for filling in, in his absences.

Christy Foytich fractured the tip of her right fibula (ankle) after tripping on a pair of Richard's shoes at the bottom of the two steps into her garage. She is healing well and is able to walk, in a walking boot after 6 weeks of scooting around on a knee scooter. Richard will be issued a medal for taking care of all the household chores and attending to all her needs. She is happy to be back exercising at the Center.

Marj Moberly called to check-up on me, while I was "home bound". She related the fun trip she took to Washington state to celebrate her brother's 90th Birthday, in an old wooden lodge. Her sister informed her they need to do it again next year, for the sister's 90th. Marj has to wait another 4 years for that celebration for herself. It was good talking to her.

Don't forget… **The Strong Memory Discussion Group** will resume meeting monthly on the last Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. We are starting again on May 27th at the Center. Please text or call, if you plan on attending, or just show up, if you don't know in advance. (907) 378-3624

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

Santa's Senior Center ☆☆☆☆

Annual Chili Cook Off Contest & Bake Sale

These are our Chili Cook Off winners held on April 18th at the Santa's Senior Center.

From left to right:
First Place, **Greg Corbett**;
Second Place, **Christy Foytich**;
Third Place **Wanda Weatherby**.

Congratulations! We received a total of $526 ($220 for Chili Cook Off and $306 for Bake Sale). Thank you everyone who participated and those who came out to support us in this event, and of course, our awesome bakers! *-Ruthie Sevy*

May Calendar removed for email pdf file- Calendar emailed separately

May Calendar re-moved for email pdf file- Calendar emailed separately

CALENDAR IN A NUTSHELL:

Sunday:

May 10:	**Mothers Day**

Monday:

May 4, 11, 18	10am Strong Seniors Exercise 11:15am Parks & Rec Exercise 12pm Potluck Lunch 12:30pm Games: Farkle 1pm Games: Scrabble
May 25	**Memorial Day**: Office and Gift Shop—CLOSED 10am Strong Seniors Exercise 11am Potluck Lunch 12:30pm Games: Farkle

Tuesday:

May 5, 12, 26	10am Crafting
May 5, 12, 19, 26:	12pm Games: Shanghai Rummy

Wednesday:

May 6:	2pm Book Club
May 13:	1pm Board of Directors Meeting
May 20:	11am Birthday Lunch
May 27:	1pm Strong Memory Discussion Group

Thursday:

May 7:	**Senior Recognition Day**: Office and Gift Shop CLOSED
May 21:	10am Crafting 5:30pm Alzheimer's Art Link

Friday:

May 8:	(Health Fair)
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29:	10am Strong Seniors Exercise 11:15am Parks & Rec Exercise 12pm Lunch 12:30pm Games: Farkle 1pm Games: Scrabble

Saturday:

May 2:	[*First Saturday BINGO*] 11am Misc. Games 12pm Potluck Lunch 12:30pm BINGO
May 16:	11am BBQ Fundraiser, Burgers / Dogs, Bake Sale

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

FROM the KITCHEN:
Friday Lunches for 2026

I want to thank Debbie Rodriquez for stepping up to take on cooking on Friday's for the Summer! Make sure you keep signing up! Debbie will still pull the signup sheet down on Wednesdays like I have done.
-*Sharon Corbett*

Tentative May Lunch Menu

May 1: *Potato Soup, w/ Grilled Ham & Cheese*
May 8:
May 15: *BBQ Pork Sandwich, Potato Salad, Pork & Beans, and Corn Bread*
May 22: *Chicken Taco's, Spanish Rice, and Refried Beans*
May 29: *Halibut Weaver, Rice Pilof, and Green Beans*

Senior Recognition Day: May 7th

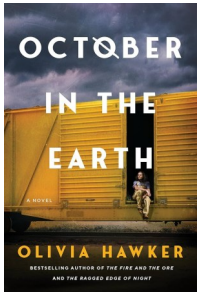
The Fairbanks at 50+ summit will open with the **Fairbanks North Star Borough Senior Recognition Day Luncheon on Thursday, May 7th and continue through Friday, May 8th** with a wide variety of exhibitors and activities.

Santa's Senior Center will have a table at this event.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets at 2pm the first Wednesday of each month from September to May.

May 6th: *October in the Earth* by Olivia Hawker



Mrs. Wensley is a proper preacher's wife living in Harlan County, Kentucky in 1931. Life has always been hard in coal country but it became even more difficult after the Great Crash of 1929. Is it blasphemy that Adella questions her life in the largest home within 100 miles any direction, her difficulty becoming pregnant after 8 years of marriage, and her role as the preacher's wife? Is it wrong that she disagrees with him in how to respond to the homeless folks passing through?

We will also be discussing 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, so that you can publish it in the September newsletter.

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

PERSONAL NOTE from a Friend:

"Hi there, just wanted to let you know that Doug and I no longer live in Alaska. While we were there we enjoyed coming to the senior center. Also, we purchased some lunches and didn't use them so please give the lunches to someone who needs them. We are now in California and the sun is shining. I understand that you still have snow on the ground. Enjoy the rest of your day." - *Judy Ely*

Recognition and Thanks to this months Birthday Crew: Cooks, prep, and serving volunteer staff

April Birthday Lunch Volunteers:

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pam Hughes

Lorie Buzby

And Member Volunteer's:

Rochelle Renner

June Cloyd

Agnes Beavers

I'm trying something new this month, based on a suggestion I received early on. I'm compiling a book of poems I've written over the last 50+ years, each introduced with a backstory to give substance to the pieces that follow. The spiritual tone of this selection aligns with Alaska Native cultural history. If you would prefer having the puzzles in every issue of the newsletter instead, please let me know. (This version has been shortened to fit.) I hope you like it…

The Promise of the Raven

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Alaska is unlike any other place in the world; vast, wild, and breathtaking in ways that photographs never quite capture. People sometimes compare it to Minnesota, northern Canada, or any other region that reaches into the far latitudes of our globe, but those comparisons only skim the surface. The true uniqueness of Alaska isn't found solely in its mountains or its winters; it lives in its languages, its cultures, its stories, and the people who have called this land home since time immemorial.

Among the most enduring and influential threads in Alaska's cultural tapestry are the Native peoples of the North; the Iñupiat, Yup'ik, Cup'ik, Athabascan, Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, and others whose traditions remain deeply rooted despite centuries of change. Even with the arrival of new populations, new customs, and new languages, Alaska Native communities have preserved their heritage through storytelling, ceremony, subsistence practices, and the continued teaching of their ancestral languages. Many villages across the state remain strongholds of cultural continuity, where elders pass down knowledge and younger generations carry it forward with pride. And even in Alaska's larger cities, where modern life dominates, many non-Native residents have come to respect, value, and even adopt aspects of Native tradition, recognizing the wisdom and beauty woven into them.

One of the most profound cultural symbols shared across several Alaska Native groups; though expressed differently in each tradition, is the Raven. To many, Raven is not merely a bird but a being of immense spiritual significance. In Tlingit and Haida cultures, Raven is the great transformer, the bringer of light, the one who shaped the world through cunning and curiosity. In some Yup'ik and Iñupiat stories, Raven is a messenger, a trickster, a teacher, or a guide between the seen and unseen worlds. And for many Alaska Native families, the raven that appears near a home or follows along a trail is believed to be more than coincidence; it may be an ancestor, an elder spirit watching over loved ones, offering guidance, or simply reminding the living that they are not alone.

This belief isn't just symbolic; it is lived. People speak softly to ravens, leave small offerings, or acknowledge them with respect. A raven's sudden call can be interpreted as a warning, a blessing, or a sign that someone who has passed is near. In this way, the land, the people, and the spirit world remain intertwined.

The raven becomes a bridge between generations, a reminder that the past is never truly gone, and that the wisdom of those who came before still moves through the world; sometimes on black wings glinting in the northern sun.

As the stories of Raven echo across the North, they remind us that the boundary between the physical world and the spirit world is not a wall but a veil; thin, shifting, and alive. In many Alaska Native traditions, the land itself listens, the sky remembers, and the animals carry messages older than memory. Raven, especially, moves between these realms with ease. He is the wanderer who sees what humans cannot, the interpreter of signs, the keeper of secrets whispered long before our time.

To watch a raven in flight is to witness a living thread of continuity. His wings carve through the cold air with a confidence born of centuries. His voice, sometimes harsh, sometimes startlingly soft, can feel like a reminder, a warning, or a blessing. Many elders say that when a raven lingers near a home, circles overhead, or calls out at just the right moment, it is not coincidence. It is connection. It is lineage. It is someone who once loved you, returning in a form that the world still recognizes.

And so, in the North, people look up. They pause. They listen. Because the raven is not merely a bird; he is a witness to all that has been and all that will be. He carries the weight of generations in the beat of his wings. He is the storyteller who never forgets.

It is from this deep well of meaning; this blend of myth, memory, and lived experience; that has ignited creativity that rises up within us to touch a higher place. There is this inherent reverence, and the same understanding that the raven is more than a creature of feather and bone.

He rose up onto the dark unsettled sky,
Across the squinted peer of the sun's sleepy gaze.
Just a silhouette, and then gone in the shadows.
This brazen warrior of winters shortened days.

What crafty skill, this northern native,
Who hunts his meals from much of man's waste.
Transmitting voices from loved ones now gone,
And speaking in tongues with prophetic grace.

He lives beneath ribbons of the great northern lights,
And he brings to earth, all the past generations.
He is the product of trials, the concentrate of life,
Perched on high in the towering aspens.

He is the diplomat of all those in flight,
Sharing his wisdom with those with less sight.
The guardian and sword from Orion's lofty belt,
The hunter, the talker, and the survivor of night.

So befitting, herein, that I tell you this tale,
For he is the promise and your vision of flight.
Fly now with wings made through Gods loving grace,
And soar slowly through life with heavens lofty sight.

First Saturday BINGO
Saturday, **May 2nd** @12:30pm

Book Club
Wednesday, **May 6th** @ 2pm

Board of Director's Meeting
Wednesday, **May 13th** @ 1pm

BBQ Fundraiser / Bake Sale
Saturday, **May 14th** @ 11pm
[No one under 19 allowed]

Monthly Birthday Lunch
Wednesday, **May 20th** @ 11am

Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska
Art Link
Thursday, **May 21st** @ 5:30pm

Strong Memory Discussion Group

Wednesday, **May 27th** @ 1:00pm

MB Law Office of Mamie S. Brown, LLC

Thursday,
September 24th @ 1:30pm

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