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*Making longer lives, better lives.*

August 3, 2020

Dear Senior Center Current and Ethical Discussion Group Members:

I hope this letter finds you well and free from all things COVID. Since early March, the Senior Center has had to reorganize and rethink everything we do for seniors in Grand Traverse County. It's been a challenge, to say the least. Our first concern has been the well-being of our over 5,000 members. Social isolation is no joke and knowing that so many of our members have no family or have no way to communicate using virtual technology, has been heartbreaking. Working with the Commission on Aging, over 8,000 calls have been made to seniors in the community. We've been checking to make sure people have what they need and give assurances that there are resources to help when help is needed.

Now, as our county begins to open up, the senior center has been in daily conversations about how we can do this responsibly. Since March, we have been handing out meals weekly at four locations, managing exercise, music and yoga classes virtually with community television and making telephone assurance calls. Now, it's time to look at group activity. The first activities we are working on resuming are those that can be held outside or held inside with a one on one appointment.

This brings us to **the Current and Ethical Discussion Group**: Deni Scudato has stepped up to assist Gerry Greene with facilitating this group as Gerry manages some other matters. We discussed holding a virtual meeting, but as long as the weather is good, opted to try an outside gathering. Due to COVID 19, we have adopted the following guidelines:

#### **Discussion Group**

1. Participants must be Senior Center members. No guests and no exceptions.
2. A Health screening questionnaire will be required within 24 hours of EVERY session. May be found on the website or use the link provided below.
3. A COVID waiver will be required to be signed. (ONE TIME SIGNATURE) May be found on the website or use the link provided below. The county is requiring this of all users.
4. Reservations are required for every session.
5. Face coverings are preferred unless directed by a health care provider otherwise.
6. Participants are expected to maintain at least six feet of distancing from non-household members during session.
7. Volunteers will facilitate the session and assure all protocol is followed and report non-compliance to senior center management.
8. **BY ALL MEANS PLEASE DO NOT COME IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL!!! Call and let us know if you are not coming.**
9. **Please refrain from entering the building if at all possible.** There are outdoor restrooms for your convenience. The building is open, but by appointment only. Please call 231-922-4911 and we will come to you or use our RING doorbell for assistance. We are doing our best to minimize contact or exposure for both yours and our safety. THANK YOU!

801 E. Front Street  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
Phone: 231-922-4911



E-mail and Website:  
lwells@grandtraverse.org  
www.grandtraverse.org/scn

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Reservations can be made by calling the Senior Center at 231-922-4911.

Please [Click Here](#) to be directed to our website for the required **COVID Waiver and COVID Health Screening Questionnaire**. The waiver is only required to be signed, once. The Health Screening Questionnaire is required within 24 hours of EVERY activity you participate in at the Senior Center.

It is preferred that these be completed online, prior to arriving at the senior center, to minimize contact exposure for everyone. Paper copies will be available if needed.

**NOTES:**

Discussion Group will resume **Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.** OUTSIDE at the Senior Center park.

Please plan for the weather and dress appropriately. Consider sunscreen, sunglasses and outerwear.

Hand sanitizer will be available for your use.

Discussion Group will be cancelled by 9:00 a.m. if weather is questionable.

Picnic tables are available for your use. We have a limited supply of chairs (15) for your use. If you'd like to use our chairs, we ask that you assist us with sanitizing them when you are done using them.

Be safe and Be Well!

Lori Wells  
Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network Manager