

Club 55 Senior Center

By Carol Burrows Club 55 Correspondent

I never cease to be surprised when someone that I least expect says that they read our Club 55 newsletter. Of course, I am pleased that they wonder what is happening and what activities are offered, but it also clarifies for me the need to feel connected to community. Beside the negative aspects of Covid-19 we have learned that we need to look out for each other. We hear over and over that we are all in this together, together to weather the storm.

Lake Mills has been my home since I was in fifth grade. It was a big change for me as we moved in the middle of December which was also in the middle of the school year. Not only did it seem that the kids had friends, but they all seemed to 'fit in'. Of course, as an adult and retired teacher, I can look back and see that was normal thinking for a 10-year old. I was the new kid and most of my classmates had known each other since they started school. I had moved from a one room country school that did not have as many kids in the entire school that I now had in my class.

This background is what I look back on when I am asked why I think that Lake Mills needs a community center. Just looking at the word community defines the goal of a community center. It offers fellowship, a feeling of joint ownership, an identity, similar goals, and a feeling of belonging. In non-pandemic times it is our 'bubble'. I also look at neighboring communities that have a gathering place for all ages and see the advantage it offers.

My efforts to get a senior center started was an urgent need in 2016 when the group that had been together with a common purpose suddenly did not have a home. It seemed the reversal of my experience as a 10-year old. These older adults had been together for years volunteering for the community and suddenly did not have a gathering place. I went to the Lake Mills City Council with a search for a place to hold a senior center. From that, a resolution establishing an Ad Hoc Committee known as the Multipurpose Facility Committee was formed which included Ben Dayton from the Recreation Department. Ben has worked hard to establish a collaborative plan for a community center at the RLAC building on Fremont Street. Stay tuned for future updates.

We had a good turnout for our Bingo in the park last Wednesday. It seems that Joe had the lucky card or maybe he is just a lucky guy. It was great weather and sitting on the benches gave us a place for the bingo cards too. Thanks to Dan Hundt for setting up the sound system so we were all able to hear. Weather permitting, we will have bingo again in the park on Wednesday, August 19 from 1:00 -2:30. Come and join us for free bingo and a fun afternoon. Please social distance and wear a mask.

Deb is coming for foot care on **Tuesday...tomorrow...August 11**. She will be at Club 55 at RLAC, 229 Fremont Street, from 12:30-2:00. There are still appointments left if your feet need attention. Foot Care is considered an essential service and we are lucky to have such a knowledgeable RN provide this wonderful service once a month. You may schedule an appointment by calling Carol at 920-918-3176. Bring your own towel, wear a mask, social distance provided, \$15.

Diane led our exercise in Commons Park again on Thursday at 10:00. We all agreed it was the perfect spot for stretching and strengthening our pandemic bodies. Fresh air and movement with benches for support. Feel free to come and observe if you want to see if this activity is a good one for you. We will meet again this Thursday at 10am for this class. Please wear a mask.

Thursdays at 10:30: Conversation in Commons is a gathering of anyone who wants to social distance yet be able to visit with old and new friends. We usually gather from 10:30-11:30 in the park shelter if it is available or near the band stand on picnic tables. It provides an outlet for the cabin fever that we have all had for months. Wear a mask...bring your beverage and enjoy.

Please help spread the word that Club 55/LMRD has two new opportunities for those that enjoy being active and joining others while being outdoors.

The Biking Group meets at 9:00am on Mondays at RLAC. You choose the length of your ride so it fits all needs and abilities.

The Kayak Group has had perfect weather for their outings on the lake the last two Fridays. They meet at the Mills Pond behind the fire station at 9:00 am to launch their kayak and then venture out to the lake. Let Jane know if you would like to try this but do not have a kayak as you can rent one from Carolyn Gosdeck

for a small fee and she will deliver it to the fire station launch. Jane's email at the Rec. Dept is jane.riedl@lakemills.k12.wi.us

This week's Contest: Submit the best gift you have ever received for your birthday. Tell us about your gift and why it was so special. Maybe it is a memory from childhood or a loved one. Send a picture if you want or just tell us why it stays in your mind as something memorable. You will be entered into a drawing for \$5 Chamber Bucks. Submit your entry by midnight on Monday, August 17, for the drawing on Tuesday, August 18. Submit your entry to jane.riedl@lakemills.k12.wi.us