

The Mussell Messenger

Published by the Santa Maria Valley Senior Citizens Club (SMVSCC)

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April 2021



Carolyn
Cabrera

President's Message ~

We are making progress, even though sometimes it does not feel like it. We **will** get back together. We need to keep looking ahead ...

"The Longest Day" is the day with the most light – summer solstice.

On June 20, people from across the world will fight the darkness of Alzheimer's through a fundraising activity of their choice. The Board is looking for ideas to raise money from our Senior Club to donate to the Alzheimer's Association. **Any and all ideas are welcome.** Even activities you are doing in your homes could be a source of revenue toward the Longest Day. Please give it some thought and share your ideas with any board member. Hopefully, the Riptide Big Band will be playing at the Center that day, and donations will be accepted at that time.

On another note, getting vaccinated for the COVID-19 virus will help defeat the progress of the disease. Hopefully, you are all getting your shots taken care of, but if not – simply dial 211 for help! They can direct you a source of information that works best for you.

Always remember that I am here to help if anyone needs to talk. Stay safe while looking towards a strong future!



RECREATION & PARKS DEPT. REPORT

I thought I would share some of the frequently asked questions we are hearing at the Mussell Center. Perhaps these answers will be helpful to you.

1. When is the Mussell Center going to fully reopen?

We have not determined when the Mussell Center can re-open. The City is working closely with County officials to make sure all COVID-19 requirements are followed, including safe indoor use of the facility.

2. Why are the fitness classes still held outside, even when the weather is cold?

The only fitness classes allowed at this time are outdoor fitness classes with no more than ten participants. Classes are held unless we must close due to inclement weather.

3. Can I still get free help for my income taxes?

The City of Santa Maria has made it possible for United Way to offer the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance in a drive-through format at the Mussell Center. Call 805-922-0329 to check on availability of appointments. AARP is offering free tax assistance in Lompoc by calling 805-430-9448. Santa Maria residents are eligible to be served in Lompoc through this program. **Please Note: City staff members can not accept or distribute tax paperwork.**

4. I want to enroll in the Take and Make Craft project and/or exercise classes, but I do not know how to register online. What are my options?

To register by phone, please call 805-925-0951 ext. 2260 and pay using a debit/credit card.

[continued on page 4]



2021 Officers & Committee Chairpersons

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Travel:	Kathy Doty	805-937-0314	dudoty@comcast.net
Recreation Coordinator:	Barbara Wiley	925-0951, ext. 2264	bwiley@cityofsantamaria.org

April Birthdays!

H	Norma Aagesen	3	H
A	Donna Lamphier	3	A
P	Myriam Boucheneb	4	P
P	Marie Miranda	5	P
Y	Donna Kuzminski	6	Y
	Alejandro Ahumada	9	
B	Connie Holdredge	14	B
I	Fina Imperato	15	I
R	Phil Park	15	R
T	Linda Dutart	16	T
H	Ed Gutierrez	17	H
D	Kathy Nicholson	21	D
A	Jerrie Carey	23	A
Y	Clark Bushnell	25	Y

Belated Happy Birthday to one of our newest members, Deb Prestridge, on March 28!

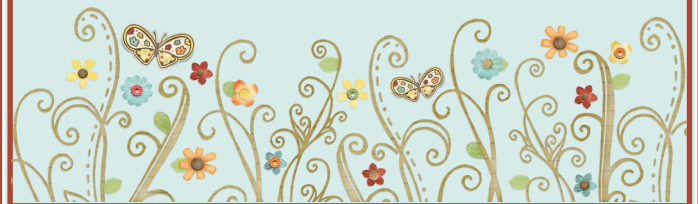
April Anniversaries!

♥	Ron & Mary Johnson	5	♥
♥	Art & Carol Thaler	5	♥
♥	Jerry & Donna Lamphier	20	♥
♥	Edward & Helen Canales	23	♥
♥	Les & Ruth Christiansen	24	♥
♥	Harold & Loretta Marsh	28	♥

If any dates are incorrect or missing, please contact Laura Selken at either 805-406-9989 or laura.selken@gmail.com.

**Sadly, there will be
no virtual program
in the month of April.**

**It will probably still be some time
before we can safely meet in person,
so if you have any virtual program suggestions,
please contact Laura Selken (see info above).**



The Sunshine Corner

*If you are aware of any club members who need a bit of "sunshine" ~ not feeling well, hospitalized, going through a difficult time, or have suffered the loss of a loved one, **PLEASE call Simone** at 805-925-6267. Leave your name & number in case she needs to contact you.*

County-wide free rides literally give seniors a shot-in-the-arm



Community Partners in Caring is stepping up to increase vaccinations for older seniors and those living with debilitating health conditions. The nonprofit organization, which provides volunteer support services for Santa Barbara County seniors in need, has launched **mission::vaccinate** to provide free rides to get those in need aged 62+ to their vaccination appointments.

Through a combination of volunteer drivers, taxi company drivers, and other private-pay providers, **free rides** will be given to vaccination sites for seniors. The program is just a call away through May 31, 2021 or until project funds are exhausted.

“Homebound dependent seniors have always faced challenges to sustain daily living. The pandemic exacerbated those challenges,” said Vilma Contreras, Community Partners in Caring’s Executive Director. “We are rising to the challenge with this unique approach. We want nothing to stand in the way of a senior in need getting to their vaccination appointment.”

To be eligible for a **mission::vaccinate** ride, people must be at least 62 years of age, unable to drive, and must be able to walk without the assistance of their driver. Canes and walkers will be placed in the vehicle during the ride.

Those eligible in Santa Barbara County who are interested in a free ride to and from their appointment must first schedule their vaccination. Once scheduled, they must call the Community Partners in Caring office at 805-925-8000 for staff to arrange their ride (and to ensure they are in a region of the county served by this program). A two-day advance notice is required, and the vaccination location must be within 10 miles of the senior. Drivers and passengers must wear a face mask and follow COVID safety protocols.

Community Partners in Caring’s volunteers also offer an array of other free helpful programs to area seniors, including grocery pick-up/delivery, free food delivery, rides to medical appointments, yard work, & “friendly calls” to break up the day and reduce isolation. Volunteers are needed, as well! Call the number above for more information!



AGES 50+

REC & PARKS

DRIVE-IN BINGO

APRIL 16TH
10:00-11:30 AM
ELWIN MUSSELL CENTER
510 E. PARK AVENUE

FREE! **PRIZES!**

CITY OF SANTA MARIA RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Active Aging
 Committee
“Changing the Way You Age”

Join us for a fun filled morning of Drive-In Bingo!

Bingo will be held in the Elwin Mussell Center parking lot to allow for adults 50 years and older to participate from the safety of their own car.

Bingo cards are provided. Non-cash prizes will be awarded for each game. Bingo games will be transmitted and announced over your car radio. Participants are asked to remain in their car at all times.

Call now to reserve your space at
(805) 925-0951 ext. 2260.

Please be sure to leave a message with your name, phone number, and the number of players.

RSVP only accepted by phone.

Only registrants that RSVP in advance will be allowed to enter.



For more information call the City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department at (805) 925-0951 ext. 2260



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Santa Maria Valley Senior Citizens Club Newsletter

RECREATION & PARKS DEPT. REPORT

[continued from page 1]

For technical assistance, the California Telephone Access Program offers free classes in using smart phone and online services. To learn more about their virtual training sessions, call 800-806-1191.

5. Is it OK for me drop by the free fitness classes on Tuesday and Thursday and see if there is space to attend?

Sometimes there are unexpected openings in the fitness classes when a registered participant does not attend. If you want to drop by on Tuesday or Thursday morning to see if there is an opening, please arrive early and wait near the check-in table until we confirm there is a space for you.

6. If I have completed my COVID-19 vaccination regime, may I visit the Mussell Center and not wear a mask?

Until the mask mandate is lifted, all people at the Mussell Center must wear a face covering over **the nose and mouth** while on the premises.

Happy April Birthday to Wendy Hudson, one of our team members who has been working diligently to offer a new variety of programs during the pandemic. Her creative and innovative ideas have helped keep our programs going during the lockdown. Thank you, Wendy for all your efforts!

Senior Bingo for April is from 10-11:30 a.m. on Friday, April 16, 2021. Please RSVP by calling 805-925-0951 ext. 2260. Coming soon ... a fun garden-theme "Take & Make" Craft class project.

Happy Spring Everyone!

~ Barbara Wiley, Recreation Coordinator • 805-925-0951 ext. 2264 • bwiley@cityofsantamaria.org