

# Winter 2025 Neighborhood News

## *Giving*

### Gifts of Clothing

Make sure to get all clothing gifts labeled prior to sending them to laundry. You may find it helpful to have them labeled prior to wrapping them. Contact your social worker for assistance.

### Gifts of Food

During the holidays, many food items are given as gifts. If there is any question about allergies, food restrictions, refrigeration or storage please check with the nursing staff.

### Donated Resident Gifts

Any donated resident gifts need to be wrapped, tagged and dropped off in the Main Lobby by December 19th. The tag should indicate ~ gift item, for male or female, and your name if you choose. These gifts will be distributed by our staff. Please see Resident Christmas Wishlist on the next page.



A Christmas Message from Our CEO

Dear Residents, Families, and Friends,

As the Christmas season fills Northern Michigan with light and warmth, I find myself reflecting on the incredible spirit that defines Grand Traverse Pavilions. Though I'm still new to *this* community, it's already clear to me that what makes this place so special is not just our beautiful campus—it's the people who bring our mission to life every single day.

Our dedicated team members have worked tirelessly throughout the year to enrich the lives of our residents. Whether it's through a kind word, a warm smile, or the compassionate care they provide, their commitment shines brightly in every corner of our organization. They embody what it means to serve others with dignity, respect, and love—and I couldn't be more proud to lead such an extraordinary group of individuals.

Together, we are fulfilling the mission of Grand Traverse Pavilions: to provide accessible, trusted, and compassionate care that enhances the quality of life for those we serve. Every act of service, every moment of joy, and every connection shared between staff and residents reflects the true meaning of the holiday season.

To our residents and families—thank you for allowing us the privilege of caring for you and your loved ones. To our staff and volunteers—thank you for your unwavering dedication and for making this community feel like home. And to all who support our mission through the Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation—your generosity helps ensure that our legacy of care continues for generations to come.

May this Christmas bring peace, joy, and gratitude to your hearts and homes, and may the New Year ahead be filled with hope and continued blessings.

With heartfelt appreciation,  
Darrell Lavender  
Chief Executive Officer  
Grand Traverse Pavilions

# Resident Christmas Wishlist

*If you would like to donate a gift to brighten the Christmas holiday for seniors who reside on the Grand Traverse Pavilions campus, below is a list of some ideas.*

1. Twin size quilts, comforters & warm fleece blankets
2. Unscented body washes & lotions for women
3. Men's body washes, cologne & aftershave
4. Thick fuzzy/fleece grippy socks
5. Jewelry - Necklaces, bracelets, pins, clip-on earrings
6. Bags of individually wrapped candy - regular & sugar free
7. Large print word search books
8. Women's headbands & hair clips
9. Sweatshirts or cardigans
10. Framed Artwork - flowers, nature scenes & animals
11. Slipper shoes with thick soles - wide widths
12. Shopping gift cards to Walmart & Meijer
13. Meal gift cards to Bob Evans, Cracker Barrel & Flap Jack Shack
14. Stuffed animals



*Any donated gifts need to be wrapped and tagged whether it is for a man or woman and what the gift is. It can be placed under the Christmas tree in the Main Lobby by **December 19th**. (If you wish, the tag can say who is donating the gift.) These gifts will be distributed by our staff. If you need more information please contact **Samantha Mahon** Recreational Therapist at 231-932-3053.*

## Employee Appreciation

During this holiday season when constituents and families wish to express appreciation to Organization staff by a small gift, please keep in mind the following which is in accordance with the Organization's Code of Conduct standards:

- **Employees may accept individual gifts of nominal value, (under \$15.00).**
- **Employees may never accept cash or cash equivalents, such as gift certificates.**
- **Perishable or consumable gifts given to a department or group are not subject to any specific limitation.**

The Organization very much appreciates the desire to acknowledge our employees, but requests that your generosity comply with our Code of Conduct standards.



## Help Us Spread Holiday Cheer at Grand Traverse Pavilions!

The holiday season is right around the corner, and Grand Traverse Pavilions is gearing up to transform our campus into a warm, festive wonderland for residents, families, and visitors. To make the magic happen, **we're looking for volunteers** who are eager to share their time, creativity, and holiday spirit!

Whether you love, crafting, or simply want to help brighten someone's day, we would be grateful to have you on our team. Volunteer opportunities will be available throughout the season, with flexible days and times to accommodate your schedule.

### How you can help:

- Helping with craft prep or activity support for residents
- General holiday cheer-spreading!

Your support makes a meaningful difference in creating a joyful, home-like environment for our residents. If you'd like to join us, please contact Clayton Wagatha at 231-932-3019 or

[crwagatha@gt pavilions.org](mailto:crwagatha@gt pavilions.org) to sign up or learn more about year-round activities, outings and events to volunteer for.

Thank you for helping make this season merry and bright at Grand Traverse Pavilions!



# Let's Celebrate!



Looking for space to celebrate your loved one's birthday or have a family gathering? There are several areas that may be reserved for these special events.

Contact your Social Worker or Life Enrichment Coordinator in advance to plan your event.



## Get all Winter Clothes Labeled!

You may let the assigned CNA on your loved ones Pavilion know that you have brought in new clothing and the items will be placed in a clean bag. A form with their information will then be filled out with the resident's name, room number and clothing description. It will then get labeled by our Laundry Department and returned within 24 hours.



## Wall Of Honor

Interested in having your Veteran displayed on our Wall of Honor? Our Life Enrichment Team continues to gather information specific to your loved ones' time of military service. We will create a frame that will be displayed proudly along Main Street and at the Cottages.

For more information on this opportunity please contact your Life Enrichment Coordinator.

**Sam Mahon..... 932-3053**  
**Hanna Wooters.....932-3054**  
**Susan Eldred..... 932-3055**  
**Sarah Backlund.....932-3650**



## Leave of Absence Medication

If you are planning a Leave of Absence (LOA) at any time, please make your request for medications 72 hours in advance of the LOA. The nurses will be happy to package your medications and have them ready for pick up prior to your departure.

If you have any questions please contact your Pavilions ADON or Cottage Nurse.

## WIFI

The current password is: pavilions254

On January 1st it will be: pavilions261



A friendly reminder that we encourage decorations for the holiday seasons but no live trees or wreaths are allowed in any area of our buildings. All electronic decorations must be U.L. approved and inspected by the Environmental Services Dept. Due to the state fire code and our policies, we do not allow any extension cords, outlet adapters or heating devices in resident rooms. For personal electronics, one hospital grade power strip may be used in resident rooms. If a hospital grade power strip is purchased, it must be inspected and installed by our Maintenance dept. We appreciate your assistance in providing a safe environment for your loved one.





## Longevity

### Longevity Health- It's more than a health plan.

Grand Traverse Pavilions is proud to continue its partnership with Longevity Health Plan, a National Institutional Special Needs Plan (ISNP) dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for nursing homes residents.

It's more than a Medicare Advantage health plan - it's about connection, comfort, and care. Members enjoy 1:1 companion visits, access to a complimentary shopping catalog, beauty shop benefits, and ongoing personal support- all at no cost.

Longevity's on-site medical professionals provide a coordinated, personalized healthcare experience, managing care directly within the facility, collaborating with staff, and working to improve health outcomes while reducing hospital visits.

For more information, contact Tony Holstine at 989-821-8635.



Winter is going to be here for a while. We ask that you exercise caution when entering and exiting our buildings. The Environmental Services department does a wonderful job of keeping our parking lots plowed and they shovel snow from the walks and steps multiple times throughout the day.

When it snows, every effort is made to get the shoveling done before the first visitors or activities of the day begin. Please do not hesitate to contact any staff member, or Environmental Services at (231) 932-3131, if you have concerns about snow or ice.

## NEW SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY!

**What:** Group meeting to provide support to family members who have loved ones with Dementia / Alzheimer's

**When:** Twice a month on Thursdays from 9:30-10:30am

**Location:** Conference Room A

Coffee & Water Provided

**Upcoming Dates:** December 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>



Make sure to bundle up this time of year. With temperatures dropping and weather below freezing, it can be very dangerous for our residents. We recommend wearing layers to keep warm, especially when going outside. Donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated.



### **Main Lobby Business Hours**

Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Weekends

10:00 am - 3:00pm



A friendly reminder: **the front door remains unlocked daily 8:00am to 6:25pm.** If you arrive **outside business hours**, please use the phone in the vestibule to dial the Pavilion you wish to visit. A staff member will be happy to assist and open the door for you.

**Please note:** The alarm system is active **before 8 am** and **after 6:25pm.** Attempting to open the door during these times will trigger the alarm.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

### **Residential Services Contacts**

**Ann McMann**

*Residential Services Director*

231-932-3045

**Natalia Johnson**

*Residential Services Nurse*

231-932-3641

**Jeff Valentine**

*Residential Services Coordinator*

231-932-3601

**Sarah Backlund**

*Life Enrichment Coordinator*

231-932-3621

### **Cottage Main Lines**

**Evergreen Cottage**

231-932-3600

**Hawthorn Cottage**

231-932-3620

**Willow Cottage**

231-932-3640



**Grand Traverse Pavilions**

A COMMUNITY CARING FOR GENERATIONS

### **Social Workers**

Aspen.....932-3107

Birch.....932-3207

Cherry.....932-3307

Dogwood.....932-3407

Elm.....932-3307

Maple Rehab.....932-3727

Main Building - 1000 Pavilions Circle Traverse City, MI 49684 (231) 932-3000

Evergreen Cottage - 521 Cottageview Drive (231) 932-3600

Hawthorn Cottage - 523 Cottage Arbor Lane (231) 932-3620

Willow Cottage - 525 Cottage Arbor Lane (231) 932-3640

Grand Traverse Pavilions Foundation Office (231) 932-3019

Website - [www.gtpavilions.org](http://www.gtpavilions.org)



## Holiday Dinner Announcement

We are excited to host another dinner this year for our families and residents. Please join us in celebrating the holiday with your loved one. This event is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and share the holiday spirit with everyone.

We will be hosting two separate evening parties to accommodate our guests. Following are the dates, units and times:

**Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 5-7 PM: Aspen, Dogwood, Elm, Maple Rehab and Willow**

**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 5-7 PM: Birch, Cherry, Hawthorn and Evergreen**

We will be serving honey glazed ham, fresh green beans, scalloped potatoes, warm dinner rolls, assorted desserts and drinks.

The price for families will be **\$10 per person**.

Cash or checks made out to Grand Traverse Pavilions are the preferred method of payment.

To ensure that we prepare adequately for everyone we ask that you RSVP by Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know the number of guests attending from your family so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

You can either call Clayton Wagatha at **231-932-3019** or email **[crwagatha@gtpavilions.org](mailto:crwagatha@gtpavilions.org)** to RSVP and confirm the number of attendees.

We look forward to celebrating with you and making this holiday dinner a memorable occasion for all.

Warm regards and Happy Holidays!

Darrell Lavender  
CEO  
Grand Traverse Pavilions