



The Upside of Aging

VOL. 9 ISSUE 12

A Message From Us

As the year draws to a close, we're reflecting on the many ways we've connected with you. Thousands of visits across health care, respite, housecleaning, foot care, and outdoor services. Countless conversations. Quiet moments, shared laughter, and the everyday kindness that makes this work meaningful.

Thank you for the trust and respect you show our staff. It's a privilege to serve this community, and we don't take it for granted.

Here's to a new year.

Holiday Scheduling

A quick note as we approach the holidays: appointments that fall on GTCOA-observed holidays are not rescheduled or made up. With the number of clients we serve and the limited staffing around those dates, shifting those appointments isn't feasible. Services simply pause for the holiday and resume on the next scheduled visit.

HOLIDAY MEALS

**Salvation Army Christmas
Community Meal**
Tuesday, December 23rd,
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
The Salvation Army
1239 Barlow Street
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 946-4644

**Trinity Lutheran
Christmas Meal**
Thursday, December
25th, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
1003 South Maple Street
Traverse City, MI 49684
(231) 946-2720

"May your days be merry and bright" - Irving Berlin

**THE COMMISSION ON AGING WILL BE CLOSED ON
12/24, 12/25, 12/31 AND 1/1.**

Winter Weather & Snow Removal Updates

With winter in full swing, here's a brief reminder of our snow removal procedures:

- Plowing begins once 4+ inches have accumulated.
 - Most snow events take at least two days to complete routes; this service is not on-demand.
 - Crews clear each driveway once before returning for additional cleanup.
 - Plowing pauses during heavy snowfall and resumes when conditions improve.
- For area-specific updates, call the Outdoor Services Hotline: 231-922-4688, Option 1.

If you have a snow vendor for services, please contact them directly with questions.

To help us serve everyone efficiently, please limit snow-related calls to the main office during active weather events. Thank you for your cooperation this winter.

Free Tax Preparation for Seniors

Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency (NMCAA) offers free, IRS-certified tax preparation for community members with incomes of \$100,000 or less. Volunteers can help with federal and state returns, tax credits, and accuracy checks.

To schedule an appointment or learn more, call the Traverse City office at (231) 947-3780 or visit www.nmcaa.net/free-tax-help/.

Scam Awareness Reminder

This time of year often brings an increase in phone and mail scams targeting older adults. If someone asks for personal information, payment, or gift cards, hang up and contact a trusted family member or the non-emergency sheriff's line for guidance. When in doubt, don't respond.

A Note About Pets

Per the Client Rights & Responsibilities agreement, clients are responsible for cleaning up after their pets. This includes litter boxes, pet waste, and food and water areas. COA staff do not provide pet care or pet-related cleaning. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe workspace.

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OPEN 8 AM - 5 PM *CLOSED FROM NOON-1 PM*
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