

O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce
125 South 4th Street
O'Neill, NE 68763
Return Service Requested

US STANDARD
POSTAGE PAID
O'NEILL, NE 68763
PERMIT #4



2026 Happy New Year!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! 2026 HAS ARRIVED! It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. It was another busy year in the chamber office, and that's how I like it. We enjoy serving our members and the community making O'Neill a great place to live, work and play! We have welcomed new businesses and sadly said good-bye to others. We are always working on bringing new ideas, events and businesses to our community. We have hosted events that draw people from all over Nebraska and the surrounding states. We welcome visitors for our celebrations, events, school activities and more as this brings dollars into our businesses!

We are going to paperless billing as of January 1st! Be sure to send me the email address you want your invoices to go to. My email is lauri@oneillchamber.com. Thank you!

As we look forward to 2026, here are some dates for you to mark on your calendars now. The St. Pat's Celebration will be held from Wednesday, March 11th through Saturday, March 14th. The parade will be on the 14th. The Summerfest Celebration will be Thursday, July 16th through Sunday, July 19th and the Bags, Brew & BBQ Rib Cookoff will be held on September 12th at the community center. We are constantly working on all of these events throughout the year.

The St. Pat's Celebration is when we will celebrate the Community Service, Community Ambassador and the Customer Service awards. We are now taking nominations for all three awards. Please send your nomination with a brief explanation as to why this person deserves this award to lauri@oneillchamber.com. The theme for the 2026 St. Patrick's Day Celebration will be 250 Years of Irish Spirit (s), in conjunction with the 250th birthday of the United States. Let's make the 2026 parade the largest we have ever had in O'Neill!

Summerfest will kick off again this year with Joseph Hall, Elvis Tribute Artist on Thursday, July 16th. We had great attendance at the 2025 show and many asked to bring him back for 2026, so we have him booked. This will be a new show, so if you were there in 2025, you'll surely want to be there in 2026! When tickets go on sale, we will let everyone know. Tell your friends about this wonderful show and bring them out for an evening of great music, food and fun! Friday and Saturday nights, there will be Award Winning Rodeo action at the Carroll McKay Arena. The Summerfest Rodeo has won the Mid-States Small Purse Rodeo of the Year ten times! This award is voted on by the Mid-States Rodeo Contestants. We are adding a Summerfest Rodeo Queen Contest this year!

The contest will be held on June 13th so the queen can attend other rodeos representing O'Neill Summerfest. On Saturday night, we are bringing big name entertainment to the Irish Capital! Be watching for the announcement coming very soon! We hope you will all come and see what we have in store. Bring your lawn chairs to the concert and sit back and enjoy the evening!

The Bags, Brew and BBQ Rib Cookoff will be back at the community center in 2026, on Saturday, September 12th. Start working on your rib recipes now so you will be ready to wow the crowd in September. The bean bag tournament will be going on inside the community center with the ribs being cooked out back! The home brewers will be back with their best of brews for people to try and vote for their favorite.

We have another busy fun filled year planned for the community for 2026. We hope to see you out and about enjoying all the festivities! Do you have an idea of something to add to a celebration? Form your committee, do some fundraisers and make it happen! New additions are always welcome!

Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board, Dr. Trent Shoemaker—Revelation Wellness
Treasurer, Joel Steinhauser—Tri County Bank

DIRECTORS

Holly Cole—AseraCare Hospice	Terry Miles—Holt County Independent
Toni Hamik—Twig Flower and Gift	Jana Sobotka—Sobotka Trucking
Megan Heiss—Blush Boutique and Tan and Stracke Realty	
Kyle Sanderson—Pinnacle Bank	Bryan Hoefer—Farmers National Company
Michael Hedlund—Thrivent Financial Services	Scott Poese—KBRX Radio
Lauri Havranek—President/CEO - 125 S. 4th Street—O'Neill, NE 68763	

Phone: (402)-336-2355 Email: lauri@oneillchamber.com

FACEBOOK: O'Neill, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce

www.oneillchamber.com



**O'Neill
Vet**
(402) 336-3883

**January Special
\$12**

VACCINATIONS

RABIES, DHPPV,
BORDETELLA, CVRC

TIME TO BANGS

VACCINATE!!

CALL TO SCHEDULE
AN APPOINTMENT
TODAY



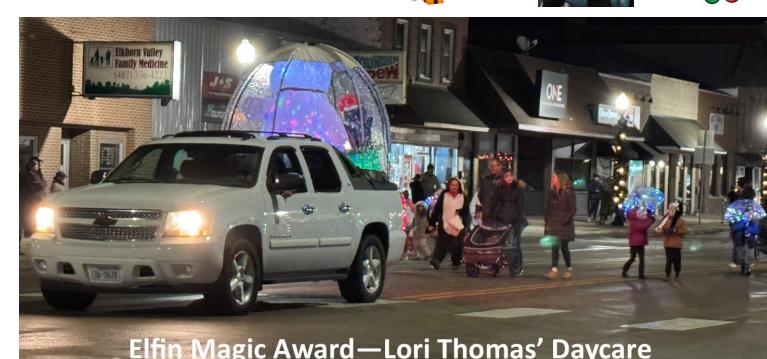
We celebrated our 2025 Hometown Christmas on Friday, December 5th. The weather was nice and so much fun was had by everyone. We had 12 entries in our Lighted Parade, food and fun inside the Dirty Hands Taphouse and Coffee and Santa in the back of the building at Handlebend. Thank you to everyone who had anything to do with the evening. Your help making this a fun family event is much appreciated. I can now say I have taken a reindeer for a walk! Here are some photos from the evening for you to enjoy.



Every year Leonard Management gives back to 4 schools. These are selected by what the Community has to say about their school. We are so very lucky at O'Neill Elementary School to be in a community that cares this much and says such wonderful things about our school. We received \$5000.00 from the Leonards and we couldn't be more excited. Congratulations!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

North Central Nebraska Arts Council *** Eagle Eye Broadcasting *** Creative Advantages
O'Neill Vet Clinic *** Cole Redi Mix *** Gokie Oil Co. *** O'Neill Family Pharmacy *** Cubby's McCarthy Abstract *** The Coin Guy *** Valley Hope *** Biglin's Mortuary *** Pinnacle Bank Juffer Real Estate *** Strope Law PC, LLO *** Great Western Gas *** First Interstate Bank Anson Insurance Services, Inc. *** Galyen Boettcher Baier PC, LLO *** 402 Beef Co. *** Appear Reiser Insurance Group LLC *** North Park Homes Housing Authority *** Wm. Krotter Co. Uptown Cooking Creations *** O'Neill Super Foods *** Edward Jones - Randy Hupp/Julie Regan Agricultural Services *** Kralc Irrigation *** BG&S Transmissions *** Kersenbrock Dental Care Farmers National Company *** Torpins Rodeo Market *** North Central District Health Dept. McDonalds *** Central Valley Ag *** Northeast Community College *** St. Patrick's Catholic Church St. Mary's School *** Elkhorn Valley Family Medicine *** Family Dentistry and Dental Hygiene Rowse Hydraulic Rakes *** Great Plains State Bank **** O'Neill Methodist Church *** North Central Const. Gutshall Kohle Pelster Eyecare *** The Storage Company *** O'Neill Public Schools Holt County Extension Office *** O'Neill Airport Authority *** Fox's Food Plaza/Taco Johns



Elfin Magic Award—Lori Thomas' Daycare



Rudolph's Best Friend Award—Winnetoon BBQ



Tin Soldier Award—Accura Healthcare



1st Place—Homemade Category

Whitney Schaffer of Avera St. Anthony's

2nd Place—Homemade Category

Brittney Davidson of Torpin's Rodeo Market

2nd Place—Store Purchased Category Brian Torpin



1st Place—Store Purchased Category Stacy Dobrovolny

2nd Place—Store Purchased Category Brian Torpin



2026 UGLY
SWEATER CONTEST
WINNERS



JANUARY 2026



January 1—Chamber Office Closed for the New Years Holiday

January 3—9am—Men's Bible Study at Teals Westside Dining—All men of the community are welcome

January 5—6:30pm—City Council Meeting at 401 E. Fremont Street

January 8—9am to 4pm—NCHC Vaccination Clinic at their office at 422 E. Douglas Street

January 8—11am to 1pm—Basic Needs Pantry at the O'Neill Methodist Church

January 9—Noon—Holt County Visitors Committee Meeting at the Holt County Tourism Office

January 11—6:30pm—Teens Bible Study at the O'Neill Methodist Church. All denominations, ages 13 to 19 are welcome!

January 13—16—Goodwill Trailer will be in the Community Center Parking Lot

January 13—8am—O'Neill Visionaries Meeting at Dirty Hands Coffee Shop

January 14—Noon—Chamber Board of Directors Meeting at the Chamber Office

January 15—9am to 4pm—NCHC Vaccination Clinic at their office at 422 E. Douglas Street

January 18—6:30pm—Teens Bible Study at the O'Neill Methodist Church. All denominations, ages 13 to 19 are welcome!

January 22—9am to 4pm—NCHC Vaccination Clinic at their office at 422 E. Douglas Street

January 22—11am to 1pm—Basic Needs Pantry at the O'Neill Methodist Church

January 25—6:30pm—Teens Bible Study at the O'Neill Methodist Church. All denominations, ages 13 to 19 are welcome!

January 27—6:45pm—Christ Lutheran Church is offering a Financial Peace class in their fellowship Hall. This is a Dave Ramsey class. Contact Curt at 402-340-5715 to sign up.

January 28—Noon—Summerfest Rodeo Committee Meeting at the chamber office

January 29—9am to 4pm—NCHC Vaccination Clinic at their office at 422 E. Douglas Street

January 29th and 30th—Lauri will be out of the office attending the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting in Lincoln.

**JOIN MY
FINANCIAL PEACE
UNIVERSITY
CLASS**

SIGN UP TODAY!



Christ Lutheran Church is offering a Financial Peace class starting Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 6:45 PM. The class will meet in the fellowship hall. This is a Dave Ramsey class. Curt Carstens will facilitate the class. You can sign up online at bit.ly/3Klh1iR, use the QR code, or contact Curt at (402)340-5715.

CREATIVE ADVANTAGES

MAXIMIZE YOUR BUSINESS POTENTIAL

- Business & Marketing Consulting
- Web Designs
- Brand Kits
- Graphic Design
- Social Media Management
- Social Media Consulting
- And much more!

JOBBY BIRKEL
Founder
Business & Marketing Consulting Specialist

OLIVIA FOSTER
Web & Graphic Designer
Content Editor
SEO Specialist

HANNAH GREENE-GRETZINGER
Video & Social Media Specialist

ETHAN WIEKAMP
SEO & Marketing Specialist

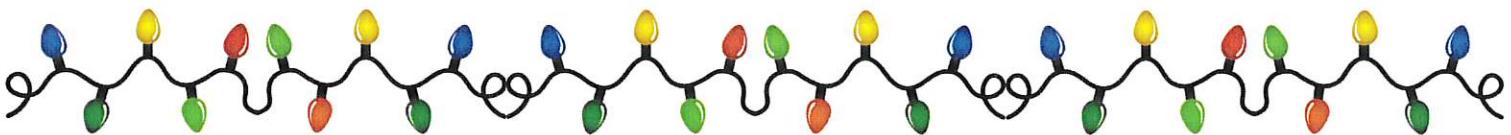
402.340.9681 | creativeadvantages.org

\$\$BUYING\$\$

COINS
Silver & Gold Coins & Bullion
Collector Coins (Pennies to Silver
Dollars, Proof Sets, Tokens, & More!) Gold Watches • Pocket Watches
Paper Money • Foreign Money
Black Hills Gold

JEWELRY
10K-14K-18K Gold Rings
Chains, Pins, Etc. • Dental Gold
Anything Sterling
Sterlingware • Jewelry • Medals • Plates, Etc.
ESTATES PURCHASED
402-336-1240
KEN "The Coin Guy" • O'Neill, NE
MEMBER: O'NEILL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





CONGRATULATIONS!

The winners of the 2025 Home Decorating Contest:

- 1. Ron and Joan Brion at 49124 W. Benton Street**
- 2. Heather and Ben Larsen—86806 Hwy. 281**
- 3. Elroy Thiesen—912 Londonderry Street**

**Thank you to all the people that drove around and voted.
Thank you to Emily Morrow for creating the map for us! We
are already looking forward to next year.**

UGLY SWEATER SCHOOL WINNERS

PRIZES WILL BE TAKEN TO THE SCHOOLS
ONCE THEY RESUME IN JANUARY



CORNERSTONE SCHOOL



O'NEILL ELEMENTARY—MRS. SHOEMAKER'S
CLASS



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY
CAROL WILLIS'S CLASS



Childcare Openings!

- ✓ Infants (6 weeks-18 months) openings immediately
- ✓ Open 7:30am-5:30pm
- ✓ Breakfast, Lunch, Snack following state food program guidelines
- ✓ Southwestern Advantage Curriculum
- ✓ Trained Teachers and Staff
- ✓ Part-time and Full-time Availability

CALL NOW TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

402-961-1369

555 E John St

O'Neill, NE 68763

Find us on facebook at Little Disciples Christian Childcare



TEENS BIBLE STUDY

Every SUNDAY Starting

January 11th

6:30 pm–7:15 pm

O'Neill Methodist Church

404 Cedar St.

With

Pastor Bob Wynn



*All denominations welcome!

*This Bible study will help to answer any questions of faith that you may have!

*Today's questions answered through scripture!

Ages 13 to 19 welcome!

O'NEILL NE
COMMUNITY CENTER PARKING LOT
501 SOUTH 4TH STREET

JANUARY 13 - JANUARY 16, 2025

Community Donation Trailer

O'NEILL NE

Your donated goods not only keep items out of landfills helping to reduce waste and the resell of donated items provide mental health, employment, developmental disability services, and more in local communities!



DONATIONS

Change Lives
Goodwill



WHAT ITEMS
CAN I DONATE?



Visit www.goodwillne.org
to learn more

Trailer will be on site after 12:00 PM on the first day of the drive and will be picked up by 12:00 PM on the last day of the drive.

**DONATION DRIVES
SUSTAIN FUTURES**

Goodwill
Industries of Greater Nebraska, Inc. 



2025
YOU
GOT
ELFED!



NEBRASKA EXTENSION

Upcoming Workshops & Trainings

JANUARY / FEBRUARY



2026 PRIVATE PESTICIDE TRAININGS

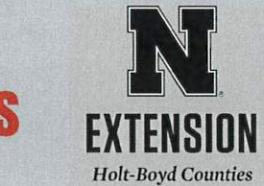
Private Pesticide Training Dates are posted! Training begins in January!

Don't know the drill? Look here to know what training you need and what types of classes are offered > pested.unl.edu

See list of in-person Private Pesticide trainings:
go.unl.edu/pested_dates

Private Pesticide Training - \$60.00

Options for online training - email pested@unl.edu



BEEF PRODUCTION & PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR UPDATE

-Jan 14th – Valentine (Mid-Plains Community College)

Cost:

-Jan 19th – Stuart (Auditorium- Southeast Rm.)

Private Pesticide Training - \$60.00

-Jan 23rd – Brewster (Uncle Buck's)

Beef Quality Assurance - \$20.00

All Trainings - 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Lunch is provided

Beef Topics:

- Herbicide Strategies for Eastern Red Cedar Management
- The Value of Forbs and Plant Diversity in Pasture Management
- Beef Quality Assurance – Initial & Recertification

Private Pesticide Topics:

- Grasshopper population assessment
- Asian Longhorned Tick
- New World Screwworm



Registration: go.unl.edu/beef_pested_update or call 402-336-2760



UNIT COST OF PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

-Jan. 27-28 | Burwell - Legion Hall | 9 am - 4 pm CT

Learn concepts to improve the bottom line of your farm or ranch.

- Projecting cost for next year
- Identify ways to improve profit
- Make management & marketing decisions



Register one week prior to Bethany Johnston at bjohnston3@unl.edu or **402-336-2760**



CALVING COLLEGE

Webinar Series: "Fundamental Knowledge for a Successful Calving Season" on Jan. 19, Jan. 26, and Feb. 2 CT plus hands-on workshops across Nebraska and South Dakota Feb. 9-12.

Learn practical, research-based calving skills from Dr. Becky Funk, DVM, and Dr. Lindsay Waechter-Mead, DVM.

****New this year: BQA continuing education credits!**

Webinar Topics (7:30–8:45 p.m. CT):

- **Jan 19** – Understanding normal labor & when to assist
- **Jan 26** – First 24 hours: cow/calf care, colostrum complications
- **Feb 2** – 48 hours & beyond: nutrition, health concerns, orphan calves

Cost: \$80 for the [webinar series](#) + [one in-person](#) workshop

Register by Jan. 12: go.unl.edu/cc_signup

More info: go.unl.edu/calving_college

Participants receive a resource notebook and webinar recordings. Questions? Contact Dr. Lindsay Waechter-Mead at 402-746-3417 or lindsay.waechter-mead@unl.edu.



In-Person Workshops (6:00 p.m. CST):

- **Feb 9** – Valentine, NE
- **Feb 10** – Winner, SD
- **Feb 11** – Atkinson, NE
- **Feb 12** – Norfolk, NE



CONTROLLING INVASIVE WEEDS & PESTS IN PASTURES

-Feb. 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26 Mondays & Thursdays | 7:30–8:45 p.m. CT / 6:30-7:45 P.M. MT

Speakers from Nebraska Extension and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

Topics include:

- Nebraska pesticide regulations & noxious weed laws
- Invasive broadleaf weeds and herbicide timing
- Cedar and woody plant control in pastures
- Cheatgrass management
- New and emerging weeds
- Grasshopper control

Registration: \$75 per person

Includes mailed reference materials:

- 2025 UNL Guide to Weed Management
- Weeds of the Great Plains
- NebGuides & Extension Circulars on invasive species



Register at: go.unl.edu/PasturePests

Catnips from the ICFF

Happy New Year!!! We finished our 2025 TNR by helping neuter 53 males and spaying 65 females. We have fostered 52 felines (kittens and adults). These are not included in the TNR numbers.

TNR respects life. Behind every cat....a story of compassion. Every feline we trap represents prevention and sometimes life saving care. Every spayed/neutered and released feline is 1 less breeder repopulating our neighborhood streets. Everyone who helps us trap, feed, foster, donates and follows our cause....YOU ARE THE HEROES to the community cats. You choose kindness over cruelty. We wanted to take this moment to thank you for your continued support and believing in our vision to build a community that humanely manages feral and stray cats on our streets. We would also like to take this moment to share with you our 2026 board members. Kendra Jackson, Interim President; Raylene Ertz, Vice President; Shari Klasna, Secretary; Therese Liewer, Treasurer; Anne Duda, Media Coordinator

Ways to Donate

Paypal



Venmo

@icff-oneill36

Amazon



Now Seeking Volunteer Board Member: Fundraising Coordinator

The Holt County Animal Shelter is seeking a dedicated and motivated individual to fill a newly established volunteer (non-paid) Board position as Fundraising Coordinator.

In this role, you will play a vital part in supporting our mission by helping lead fundraising initiatives, cultivating donor relationships, and ensuring the successful planning and execution of fundraising events aligned with our organizational goals.

The Fundraising Coordinator will work closely with the Executive Board and Shelter Manager to create fundraising events.

If you are interested, please contact us for more information.

Email: mgr@holtcountyanimalsheleter.org

MEALS ON WHEELS
JANUARY 2026 MENU

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1

2

SLICED PORK LOIN
HAPPY NEW YEAR MASHED SWEET POT.
HARVARD BEETS
No Meal CORNBREAD MUFFIN
TROPICAL FRUIT

5

6

7

8

9

SAUSAGE PATTY	HOT BEEF SANDWICH	GOULASH	TURKEY & SWISS	TUNA NOODLE CASS.
CREAM GRAVY	MASHED POTATOES	GREEN BEANS	ON RYE	PEAS
FRIED POTATOES	GRILLED VEGGIES	MIXED FRUIT	POTATO SALAD	APRICOTS
BISCUIT	BANANA	LETTUCE SALAD	BROCC. / CAUL. SALAD	VANILLA PUDDING
APPLE	CHOCOLATE CAKE	GARLIC BREAD	PEACHES	
ORANGE				

12

13

14

15

16

PORK FRITTER	SWISS STEAK	CHICKEN STRIPS	HAM	MEATLOAF
ROASTED RED POTATOES	BAKED POTATO	TRI TATOR	SCALLOPED POTATOES	MASHED POTATOES
MIXED VEGGIES	PEAS & CARROTS	WHITE GRAVY	GLAZED CARROTS	STEAMED BROCCOLI
DICED PEARNS	APPLE CRISP	CORN	JELLO W/ FRUIT	APPLESAUCE
		BITSCUIT	COCKTAIL	
		ORANGE	DINNER ROLL	

19

20

21

22

23

HAMBURGER VEG.	Soup ROAST BEEF	REUBEN CASSEROLE	TACO PIE	TURKEY CLUB SANDWICH
CRACKERS	HASH BROWN CASS.	SWEET POTATOES	SANTA FE VEG.	POTATO SALAD
FRUIT COCKTAIL	GREEN BEANS	MIXED VEGGIES	REFRIED BEANS	BROCCOLI / VEG. SALAD
ORANGE	APRICOTS	PINEAPPLE	TROPICAL FRUIT	BLUSHING PEARS
	APPLE PIE SQUARES			

26

27

28

29

30

CHICKEN PARMESAN	PORK ROAST	MEATLOAF	CHICKEN SALAD	CHILI
PASTA	ROASTED SWEET POT.	ROASTED RED POTATOES	CROISSANT	CARROTS & CELERY
BEETS	CALIFORNIA BLEND	GREEN BEANS	MACARONI SALAD	CRACKERS
FRUIT COCKTAIL	APRICOTS	PEARS	TOMATO SLICE	CORNBREAD
	CHOCOLATE CAKE		MANDARIN ORANGES	APPLE

**PLEASE GIVE 24 HOUR NOTICE
FOR RESERVATIONS OR CANCELLATIONS.
(402) 340-5426**

ALL MEALS ARE SERVED WITH MILK, BREAD, AND BUTTER UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.
60+ WE ASK FOR A SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION OF \$6.50. 59 UNDER PRICE IS \$8.50.

January 2026

THE EVERGREEN MEALS ON WHEELS

The Evergreen Meals on Wheels program offers home delivered, to-go, and dine in meal options. We are located at the south entrance on the independent side of the Evergreen at:

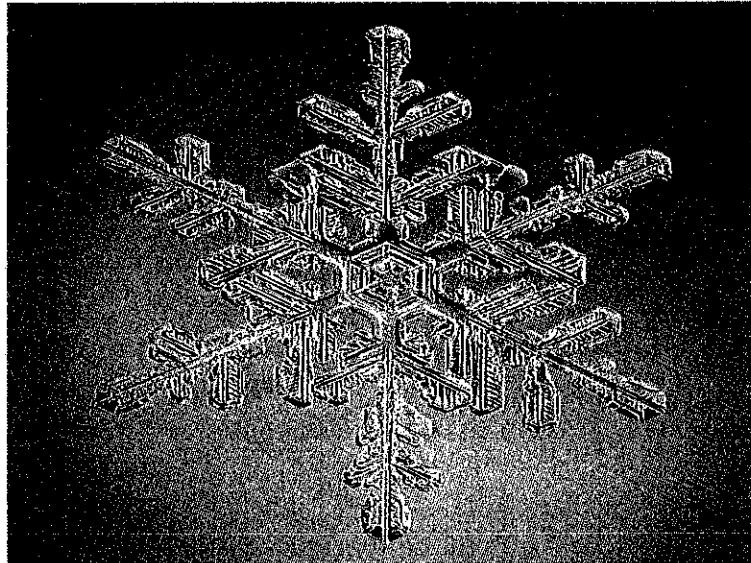
300 Jeanette Way O'Neill, NE

You can reach us by phone at:

(402) 340-5426

Our hours of operation are 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Monday-Friday except major holidays. Meals are delivered between 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Dine in and to go meals are available from 11:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

A 24-hour advance notice is requested for reservations. The suggested contribution amount is \$6.50 for individuals over the age of 60 and meals are \$8.50 for anyone age 59 and under.



Happy New Year! With the cold weather and New Year's resolutions upon us, please feel free to come for a walk in our climate-controlled environment. We will not be serving meals on January 1st in observance of New Year's Day. Wednesday January 21st Emily Pongratz with AseraCare Hospice will be providing a free blood pressure clinic from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the Independent Dining Area.

Interesting Days in January

January 1: New Year's Day NO MEALS WILL BE SERVED

January 3: National Fruitcake Toss Day

January 9: National Apricot Day

January 11: National Milk Day

January 16: National Nothing Day

January 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Emily Pongratz from AseraCare Hospice

January 24: National Compliment Day

January 27: National Chocolate Cake Day

