



OCCOA

OTSEGO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING



Submitted by
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*We Help.
We Care*

120 Grandview Blvd., Gaylord, Michigan 49735



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PASTOR DANIEL BOWMAN OF UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LOOKS FORWARD TO VIDEO STREAMING SERVICES AND ENGAGING PARISHIONERS IN INNOVATIVE WAYS

In addition, 14 organizations were recently selected to become community partners within the BeBloomin Community! These organizations, which represent a broad spectrum of services and support across the community, were announced at a March 11th meeting that was held at the University Center at Gaylord.

Representing faith based organizations are: Diocese of Gaylord, E-Free Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Gaylord (in partnership with sister church Mt. Hope in Grayling). Gaylord Community Funeral Home and Cremation Service and Nelson Funeral Home and Cremation Service will be joining the BeBloomin Community, as well as the Michigan Insurance Agency, the OCCOA, Otsego County Historical Society, Otsego County Public Library, Otsego County United Way, RSVP, and the University Center at Gaylord.

Partner organizations share their intended use of BeBloomin!

Since the March meeting, the fourteen partner organizations have been hard at work preparing to join the BeBloomin community and to begin providing various services and support. The churches look forward to live streaming their services to members who are homebound or away from home. Pastors also look forward to using BeBloomin's two-way video calling feature to conduct virtual visits with their homebound members.

Jenny Boyce, from the First Presbyterian Church in Gaylord, shared her excitement about the potential benefits of BeBloomin. "We are a small church. BeBloomin's two-way video call feature will make it possible for our pastor to visit virtually with our homebound members when 'in-person' visits aren't possible. BeBloomin will also make it possible for our 'snow birds,' service men and women, and college students to be present at our services through the live video streaming." She recounted, "We recently had a request from a bride and groom to live stream their wedding so that their family and friends in Australia could be present. Unfortunately, we couldn't help them. Now, through BeBloomin, we look forward to honoring these kinds of requests!"



PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN JACKIE SKINNER, FROM THE OTSEGO COUNTY LIBRARY, INSPECTS ONE OF THE BEBLOOMIN LIVE STREAMING CAMERAS

Fourteen BeBloomin Community Partnerships Announced!

Since my last update in March, the momentum for the community partnership program between BeBloomin and the Otsego County Commission on Aging (OCCOA) has been growing. The latest buzz is that there are now 299 users representing 75 zip codes who have signed up for a free-for-life BeBloomin account!

Both funeral homes intend to offer live video streaming of funeral visitations and services. Joe Messenger, owner/operator of Gaylord Community Funeral Home and Cremation Service, adds that BeBloomin will be helpful for funeral preplanning through the two-way video call feature. Pat Carroll, from Nelson Funeral Home and Cremation Service notes, "This feature will also help faraway family members be present for funeral arrangements."

The University Center at Gaylord is interested in making it possible for students to virtually attend classes through BeBloomin's live video streaming feature. Communications Director Candy Neff, from the Diocese of Gaylord, shares that the diocese is looking into live streaming its educational classes, as well as offering "Ask the Bishop" sessions. She notes, "BeBloomin has the potential to help the parish nurse in our Health Ministry program by enabling her to have virtual visits with our homebound parishioners."

Through BeBloomin, the Otsego County Library looks forward to giving its patrons broader access to materials, expanding its circulation, and live streaming events. RSVP Director Judy Koronka looks forward to visiting live with their volunteers and developing e-volunteering opportunities.

Live streaming of meetings that are held in the United Way building's community room will now be possible. The Otsego County Historical Museum looks forward to sharing its exhibits with the BeBloomin community, and Michigan Insurance Agency looks forward to using two-way video calling to enhance customer service and increase sales. OCCOA Executive Director Dona Wishart shares that the OCCOA is excited to test two-way video calling, soon, via the agency's website.



RSVP DIRECTOR JUDY KORONKA LOOKS FORWARD TO TWO-WAY VIDEO CALLS WITH THEIR VOLUNTEERS

Equipment installation is underway!

Wishart also shares that with the selection process of the free community partnership accounts now complete, a strong effort has been under way since the March meeting to get them all up and running in the BeBloomin community. Partner organizations that plan on utilizing BeBloomin's live streaming feature have the option to install up to three BeBloomin-funded cameras in their facilities.

Wishart notes that OCCOA Computer Club Volunteer Leader Jack Udebrock, and Stellar Communications President Bob Erat have been hard at work installing cameras at their church, Trinity Lutheran in Gaylord. With Trinity's work well under way, Udebrock notes that both he and Erat have been helping other community partners who are in need of assistance with their cameras and have come up with installation plans for each one.

Meanwhile, OCCOA Advocacy Coordinator and Computer Club Program Coordinator John Panci, continues to facilitate monthly user trainings and OCCOA Computer Club trainings, as well as to support the peer tutors who are involved with BeBloomin trainings. Speaking of which - the next user training meeting is planned for Tuesday, May 26th, from 10 a.m. to noon at the University Center at Gaylord. All are welcome to attend and registration, beforehand, is suggested.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE BEBLOOMIN COMMUNITY AND REGISTER FOR A FREE-FOR-LIFE BEBLOOMIN ACCOUNT. JUST VISIT BEBLOOMIN.COM BY JUNE 30, 2015 AND ENTER "OCCOA" IN THE AUTHORIZATION CODE BOX. FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER FOR THE NEXT USER TRAINING, PLEASE CONTACT THE OTSEGO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING AT (989) 732-1122 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT OTSEGOCOUNTYCOA.ORG.

989.732.1122 • www.OtsegoCountyCOA.org • Advocacy 989.732.9977

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Fax: 989-731-2739 • occoa@occoaonline.org • Weekdays 8:30 am to Noon and 1:00 to 3:30 pm

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