



Newcomers News

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(Antrim - Benzie - Grand Traverse - Kalkaska - Leelanau)

January
2009

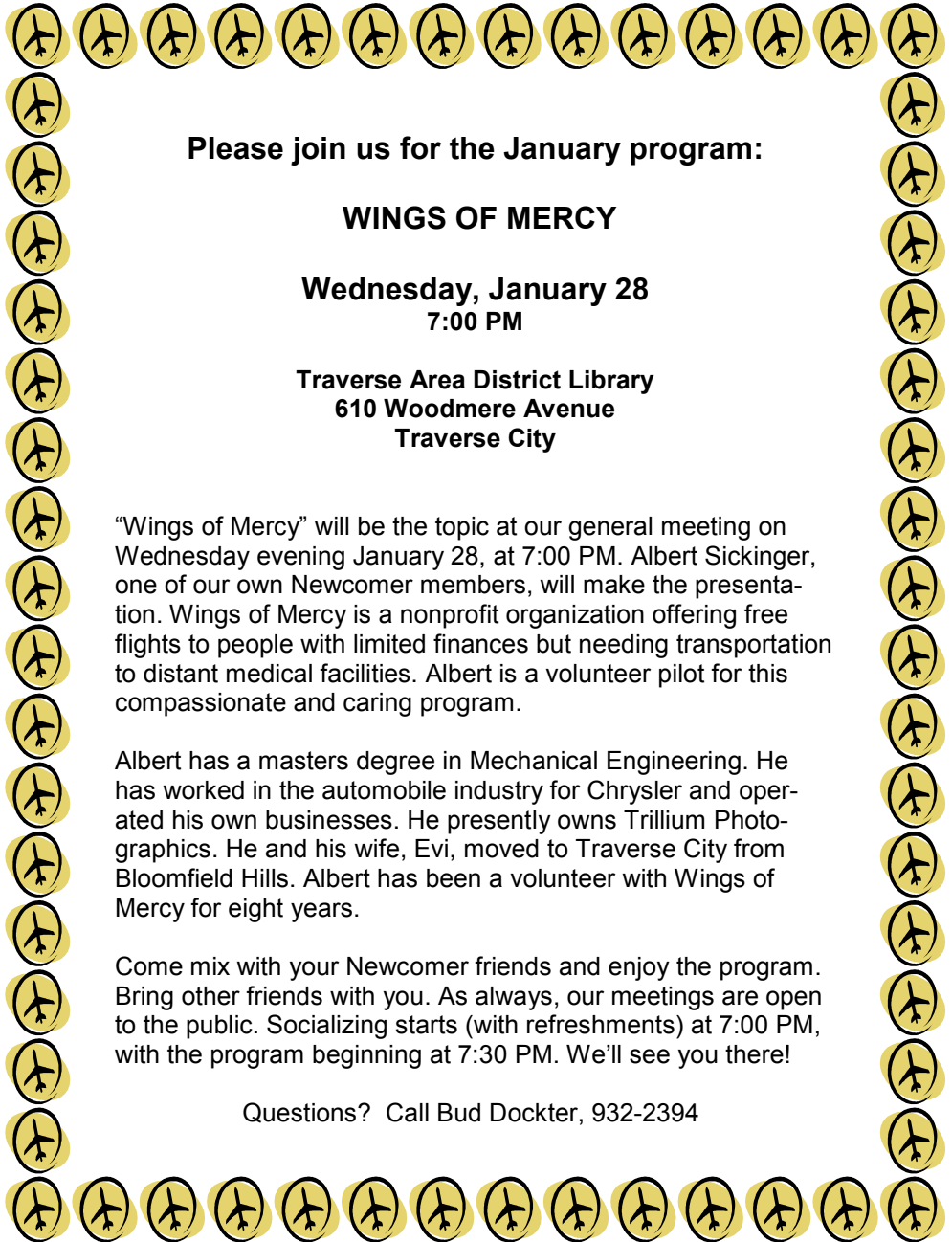
DATES TO REMEMBER

January Program
Wednesday, January 28

- BOARD MEETING**
January 12
- BOOK CLUB**
January 6
- BRIDGE**
Various, see p. 4
- DINNER OUT**
January 18
- EUCHRE**
Various, see p. 4
- FILM GROUP**
January 8
- FISHING**
TBA, see p. 4
- MEN'S BOOK CLUB**
January 26
- MEN'S BREAKFAST**
January 14
- OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH**
January 14
- POKER**
January 6
- QUILTING**
January 13
- SNOWSHOE/CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING**
January 10
January 24
- SOLOS**
January 12
January 18
- VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATER**
TBA, see p.7

Please visit us on
the web at
gtnewcomers.org

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Please join us for the January program:

WINGS OF MERCY

Wednesday, January 28
7:00 PM

Traverse Area District Library
610 Woodmere Avenue
Traverse City

"Wings of Mercy" will be the topic at our general meeting on Wednesday evening January 28, at 7:00 PM. Albert Sickinger, one of our own Newcomer members, will make the presentation. Wings of Mercy is a nonprofit organization offering free flights to people with limited finances but needing transportation to distant medical facilities. Albert is a volunteer pilot for this compassionate and caring program.

Albert has a masters degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has worked in the automobile industry for Chrysler and operated his own businesses. He presently owns Trillium Photographics. He and his wife, Evi, moved to Traverse City from Bloomfield Hills. Albert has been a volunteer with Wings of Mercy for eight years.

Come mix with your Newcomer friends and enjoy the program. Bring other friends with you. As always, our meetings are open to the public. Socializing starts (with refreshments) at 7:00 PM, with the program beginning at 7:30 PM. We'll see you there!

Questions? Call Bud Dockter, 932-2394

MISSION STATEMENT

The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse is a social and civic organization whose purpose is to extend a welcoming hand to people living in the Grand Traverse area. The Newcomers Club also provides opportunities to meet and to socialize with other relocated people, sharing common interests.

PRESIDENTS' NOTE

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January 2009



Lori Brickman &
Bob Pelto

Have you settled into 2009 yet? All the company gone or you are back home again? Did you finish the gift returns and after Christmas sale shopping? Well, the Newcomers Club is here to help you adjust to the New Year and keep some of those New Year's resolutions.

For those of you who promised to exercise more, we suggest that you sign up for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Lots of fresh air and healthy movement await you. We'll bet some have decided to expand their minds (no not Timothy Leary) in 2009. Why not check out the book clubs or the movie group? Yep, we said the movie group. They saw the French film, *A Christmas Tale*, in December and are still discussing various nuances and meaning in the plot.

Ok for you dieters, the Lunch Bunch and Dining Out are great opportunities to share a salad with friends. Men's Breakfast members may even skip the hash browns this month. If you are hosting any Newcomer activity, include a plate of carrots to help our dieters meet their goals.

Cabin fever gets to all of us at one time or another during the winter months. The more involved and active we are, the lower the fever. So join the quilters, play poker, sub for euchre or bridge or learn how to play mahjonnng. You get out of the house, meet friends and have fun. That's a great prescription for the winter doldrums.

We may need some help for the Garden Group. It is too late to for them to work in the yard and too early to receive the flower catalogs. So, if you know a garden group member, invite them to another activity and get them out of the house.

Lest we forget, there are numerous volunteer opportunities within and outside the Club. Our Newcomer members were very generous with their time and money in 2008. Auction sales hit a new record and the December Dinner Dance attendees donated generously to the Northwest Food Bank. We also know that some of you are already giving of your time and talents to various community organizations.

However, the newest of our membership may be unfamiliar with the community groups that need our help. For example, do you volunteer at Munson Hospital? Are you a greeter or an escort? Is someone an usher at Interlochen or the State Theatre? Who works with the Leelanau Conservancy and what do you do?

We would like to include a volunteer forum in upcoming newsletters that describe the various organizations and what opportunities may be available for our members. So call or e-mail Bob at RobertPelto@charter.net or Lori at rbrickman@yahoo.com and let us know what's out there. We will include the information in future columns. Volunteering gets us out of the house and makes us feel good, too. That's like losing 20 pounds on a chocolate diet. It is a perfect way to start the New Year off right.

Bob and Lori

Mark your Calendars for an Upcoming Event:

On Tuesday, February 24, Jacquie Thomas of The Radish will present "The Confessions of a Restaurant Entrepreneur" at the Traverse Area District Library.

Mark your calendars. Look for more details in the February newsletter. This promises to be another "don't miss" program!



Book Exchange

Back in November at our monthly program, we started a very casual book exchange. It was a success and all of the books happily disappeared. So, we are going to offer the exchange again this month.

Bring your fireside reads and literary wonders to the program and put them on the back table. Look around at the other donations and take whatever you want. At the end of the evening, check the table again. If any of your books are still there, take them home. We don't want anyone to be responsible for storing or recycling them at future meeting.

Now isn't that easy?

NEW MEMBER CORNER

Bill & Robbin Stott
Midland, MI

Ed & Linda Sutton
Naperville, IL

Dave & Michele Richard
Downstate & Florida

Kurt & Jo-Ann Henle
St. Louis, MO

Pat Murray
Anaheim Hills, CA

Jim & Karen Carlson
Fenton, MI

Barbara Thomas
Delton, MI

Roland & Darla Lickus
Lisle, IL

Blaine & Camille Campbell
Anchorage, AK

Notes, Updates & Newcomers in the News

Congratulations to Newcomer Lou Ricord and his daughter Bonnie who were recently featured in articles in the Traverse City Record-Eagle and the Leelanau Enterprise. Bonnie, a sophomore at Glen Lake High School, and her dad Lou were given the 2008 Parent/Athlete Fitness Award at Glen Lake.

Members of the Glen Lake varsity cross country team were challenged to involve their parents in the fourth annual competition that awards points for running (one point per mile) and other aerobic activities like hiking, ski walking, biking and swimming. The contest started on August 11 and ended on November 8.

Way to go, Lou!



Merry Christmas to all our friends in the Newcomers Club! We miss you! It's warm here in Surprise AZ—so unlike the Christmases we were used to and we DO miss family and friends and even SNOW—but, we will get over the snow part REAL soon.

There are so many of you that we have not met—but we WANT to meet you! To you—and to all our dear friends that we DO have in Traverse City—We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Fantastic New Year!!

Love, Rich and Marcia Morse

ACTIVITY GROUPS

BIKING GROUP

The Biking Group had its first outing on November 1. There were 10 of us who enjoyed a day of riding. The group is now done until spring. Anyone interested should contact Don Eastway, cadillac2154@yahoo.com or 231-884-1106.

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, January 6, 10:00 AM

The Book Club meets in the lower level of Horizon Books on Front Street in Traverse City. This month's selection is *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. Judy Albert will lead this discussion.

If you have questions or need a book list, please contact Letha Cairns at 271-6831 or gcairns@chartermi.net.

BRIDGE

TEAM BRIDGE:

First Friday of each month (except June-Aug.), 7:00 PM at Cedar Creek Commons. Bring a snack to share. New members are always welcome (bring a partner). Call Georgia Stoeber, 938-5846.

WOMEN'S BRIDGE:

2nd Thursday of each month, 11:30 AM, at Scott's Harbor Grille. Hostess duties will be rotated among the group.
4th Thursday of each month, 11:30 AM., at G's, 1500 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City.

Call Judy Owen, 922-9619.

MIXED PARTY BRIDGE:

3rd Friday of the month, 7:00 PM. All skill levels welcome. Different hosts each month.
Contact Rick and Kathy Bodette, 271-7524 or richardbodette@cs.com.

DINNER OUT

Sunday, January 18, 6:00 PM

It's a new year and a new Dinner Out experience. Please join fellow Newcomers for dining and conversation at Scott's Harbor Grille, located at M-22 and Cherry Bend Road.

Please contact Susanne Bonner for reservations no later than **January 14**. susannebonner@aol.com or 932-0943.

EUCHRE

Couples Euchre Groups meet once a month in each other's homes. It is an evening of fun and friendship. The only prerequisite is knowing how to play Euchre and a will-

ingness to laugh, snack and sip. Our five euchre groups are often looking for subs. If you are a couple and would like to begin a new group or sub in one of the other groups contact Karen Coquillard.

Contact Karen Coquillard, Couples Euchre coordinator, at karenmary32@hotmail.com.

FILM GROUP

Thursday, January 8

This is a casual, fun group made up of people who love going to the movies. We will continue to attend movies at different theaters throughout the season and go out for discussion, food and libations afterwards.

Our next outing will be on Thursday, January 8. Watch your email or check the website for specifics. I may occasionally add an extra film date during any given month if a film looks interesting and may not still be playing at the time of the regular scheduled gathering.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Judy Pelto at jpelto1@charter.net or call 668-6490.

FISHING

The Fishing Group includes Newcomers who are interested in fishing activities of any kind. The group is new and is evolving according to the interests of its participants. Currently we sponsor spring lake trout and late summer salmon charter fishing trips on the Grand Traverse Bays. Group members are encouraged to contact each other to organize outings and to share information.

Contact Pete Albers, phalbers99@gmail.com, 922-7289 for more information.



MEN'S BOOK CLUB

Monday, January 26, 10:00 AM

Everyone is welcome. We meet on the 4th Monday of the

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ACTIVITY GROUPS

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month in the lower level of Horizon Books on Front Street in Traverse City.

January 26: *Team of Rivals* by Doris Kearns Goodwin
February 23: *The Creature From Jekyll Island: A Second Look at the Federal Reserve* by G. Edward Griffin

Contact Brad Spencer at spencercs@charter.net or 946-3365.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Wednesday, January 14, 9:00 AM

This group meets at the **Omelette Shoppe next to the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Campus Plaza** every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM. We meet all year around and always meet regardless of the weather. Bring all the testosterone you can muster.

Contact George Kobernus: gkobernus@chartermi.net or 933-9321.

OUT-TO-LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, January 14, 1:00 PM

The OTL Bunch meets the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM at a selected restaurant in Traverse City and the surrounding area.

Please join us for lunch at the Fresh Water Lodge, 13690 S West Bayshore, Traverse City.

Contact **Gloria Brown** at 947-5318 or gloriowski@charter.net for reservations and directions **by Monday, January 12.**

POKER

Tuesday, January 6, 1:30 PM

The poker group meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, with winter hours of 1:30 PM—4:30 PM and summer hours of 6:30 PM—9:30 PM. The group meets on a rotating basis at each member's home. The game is small stakes (5¢, 10¢, 25¢) to keep the game and conversation fun and friendly. The host merely has to provide home and setup, while members bring snacks and drinks.

The January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 6 from 1:30—4:30 PM. Arnie Taddia will be hosting. Arnie's phone is 929-0841 and email is ataddia0805@aol.com. **Please call or email Arnie if you plan to attend.**

The poker group coordinator is Mike Huffman. Phone is 517-655-3374. Email is wdcspike@yahoo.com.

QUILTING/SEWING

Tuesday, January 13, 1:00 PM—3:00 PM

Our group will meet at Miki Connell's home, 8221 Maple Leaf Dr., Traverse City. At this meeting, we will be learning the "basics of quilting" which includes tools of the trade and rotary cutting. Demonstrations of a quilted purse and wine gift bags will also be included. (Note: this is a "reschedule" of the December meeting, which was snowed out.)

Please RSVP to **Pauline Watt, 231-929-1107 or jwatt1107@charter.net** (patterns will be available for those attending). We welcome anyone interested in this creative activity.

SNOWSHOE/CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Mark your calendars for the following dates. Contact Joe Harris at grizharris@charter.net or 223-9844 to be placed on the contact list, if you are not now on it and wish to be. Being on the list is not required to participate, but any short term updates will be facilitated between newsletters.

The locations selected for these winter sports are suitable for both cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The skiers and the snowshoers meet at the same site, but often use different trails and then go to lunch together.

Please contact **Don Eastway to let him know you are planning to come on January 10 and/or 24**, so he knows who to expect. Don Eastway, cadillac2154@yahoo.com or 231-884-1106.

Saturday, January 10, 2009, 11AM at Muncie Lakes Pathway

Follow Hammond Road North to High Lake Rd. Right on High Lake to Supply Rd. Left on Supply Rd. to Rennie Lake Rd.; follow Rennie until it T's, turn left and the trail-head parking lot is on the left about a mile.

Saturday, January 24, 2009, 11AM at Lost Lake Pathway

Take US #31 west just beyond Interlochen Golf Course, turn north (right) on Gonder Rd. and follow the signs, the trail-head parking lot is within the first couple miles on the left hand side of the road.

Saturday, February 7, 2009, 11AM at Sand Lakes Quiet Area

Follow M 72 east, past Turtle Creek Casino to Broomhead Rd. (first road after Ginop Sales), turn south (right) go approximately 3.5 miles through 2 curves to

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THE PLAN

By Tom Custance

At the time of this writing the tsunami of requests for holiday help for the less fortunate is swelling on the horizon. They are all worthy projects but this year I decided to do something different. As a deer hunter I know that I am allowed to harvest up to five deer on private land and I thought donating fresh meat would be a good thing.

I called Father Fred's to see if they would accept venison. They assured me that processed meat would be acceptable. I guess dumping a carcass in the driveway was not. A call to Burritt's Market gave me the answer to having the deer processed (they only charge half price) so my plan was made. I loaded up the Jeep with all the proper paraphernalia and headed South (you read that right) to a friend's farm near Marshall.

Day One: I awoke before the alarm sounded, began donning multiple layers of clothes (do I really need camo underwear?) but was interrupted by the sounds of rain pelting the house, pushed by 25 mph winds. Undaunted, I fortified myself with a cup of coffee and a one pound donut and headed out to the perfect spot.

Three hours later, after not seeing anything but standing corn, I was back in the house clinging to a hot cup of coffee hoping the warmth would penetrate my fingers and allow them to function again. I decided that if the deer weren't going to come to me I would go looking for them. I spent the next 6 hours stalking through the corn in an unsuccessful effort to fill my limit, but thinking that my cardiologist would be proud of the exercise.

Day Two: I once again arose before the alarm and, not hearing the patter of raindrops, began the layered look again. It was then that I looked out the window to see the snow slanting sideways accompanied by that darned wind. That's okay, I brought plenty of warm clothes. Another cup of coffee and a one pound donut and the hunt was on.



Three hours later, my frozen fingers were once again caressing my favorite cup. The next decision was...do I stay inside to watch the Detroit Lions football game or return to the hunt? The Lions? On went the hunting gear, out I went to the cornfields but...same strategy, same results (now I sound like the Lion's coach).

Day Three: One last attempt. Up early...just coffee this time (my stomach finally told me enough is enough) and went to a new spot to await the unsuspecting deer. By this time the deer had figured out that staying in the area was detrimental to their health, so they either disguised themselves as cornstalks or headed to a safer place.

Although what I thought sounded like a sure-fire way of helping others just didn't work this time, I still think that any of us who are sportsmen (sportspeople?) should consider sharing what we harvest with those in need, regardless of the time of year. Whether it's fish, fowl or game, it can be put to good use. Consider it.

Editor's Note: Tom Custance is the past Co-President of the Newcomers Club.

'Helping Hands' Request

The Newcomers Club
'Helping Hands' Coordinator
attempts to acknowledge happy and sad times in our
members' lives.

Please notify
Patti Custance at 935-4805 or
patticustance@yahoo.com
if you know of any of these

PLEASE HELP RECRUIT MEMBERS!

Know someone who has
just moved to the area?

Contact Sharon Finch, City Hostess,
with their names and she will do the rest.
947-8403, hsfinch@charter.net

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trailhead parking lot on left hand side of road (watch for sign).

SOLOS

We are a group for singles or those who wish to participate in activities without their partner.

Monday, January 12

We will have an early dinner and then see the 6:00 PM movie "Aleksandra" at The Bay Theatre in Suttons Bay. Call Judy Owen 922-9619 for further information.

Sunday, January 18, 1:00 PM

There will be a pot luck at the home of Gini LeClaire. Bring a dish to share and a story to tell. Call Gini at 941-8440 to sign up and get directions.

We look forward to hearing from you!



VOLUNTEER AT THE STATE THEATER

Join us as we work in the concession area, sweep floors, sell tickets, usher, run errands, and sometimes even get to see the movie.

The new schedule will be in the next newsletter.

Questions for January: contact Jody Bennett, bennettjj@charter.net or 932-9249.

PLEASE

Send news, articles, photos, letters, or ads to the newsletter editor:

mikiconnel@aol.com
or
929-1049

The deadline for the February 2009 newsletter is January 15.

Thanks!

Congratulations to all our members who attended our annual Holiday Dinner/Dance and so generously contributed both non-perishable food items and cash to the Northwest Food Coalition. This year's food donation was well in excess of prior years' contributions, in addition to the \$165.00 in cash donations.

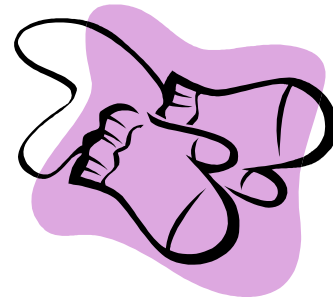
The Northwest Food Coalition is the only charitable organization that our club supports on a year-by-year basis and they were thrilled to receive your donations. Thanks again to all.

Free Dog or Cat Exam

Companion Animal Hospital donated a certificate for a free new patient exam, worth \$59.00 for the Newcomers auction in November. No one bid on this item and it would be a shame for it to go unused.

Companion Animal Hospital is a great place with a caring staff. Our cat, who is going on 19 years old, most likely would not have made it through this past year if not for the care she received from our vet. Companion Animal Hospital is located at 1885 Chartwell Drive, Traverse City. The gift certificate expires on 2/12/09.

Anyone interested in this *free gift certificate* should call Bob or Judy Pelto at 231-668-6490 or email: robertpelto@charter.net



Attention Cribbage Players: Dave and Michele Richard, brand new members of Newcomers, are looking for folks who are interested in putting a cribbage group together.

Contact Michele at marichard43@yahoo.com or call her at 933-0359 if you are interested.

Patronize our sponsors

Associates in Family Dentistry

Joseph M. Stayman, D.D.S.
4020 W. Royal Dr., TC
946-9644

R. W. Baird & Co. Investments

1001 Bay St., TC, 933-6050

Banfield Pet Hospital

2544 Crossing Circle (next to
Pet Smart), TC 922-9844

BATA- Public Transportation

3233 Cass Rd., TC 941-2324

Bellisimo Travel Services

Priscilla, 946-4313, TC
13685 SW Bayshore, Ste. 114

Benjamin Franklin —The

Punctual Plumber

929-9999

Bob's Furnace Services

2282 Cass Rd., TC 941-4064

Brian N Feeny, DDS PC

Family Dentistry

Copper Ridge, Bldg. A, TC
946-2497

Chemical Bank

10691 E. Carter Rd., TC
941-4578

The Copy Shop - Printers

713 E. 8th St., TC 947-2080

The Dance Center

225 E. 14th St., TC 947-6820

Dennis, Gartland & Niergerth Business and Financial Advisors

415 Munson Ave
Traverse City, MI 49686
231-946-1722
www.dgncpa.com

Dennos Museum Center

1701 E. Front St., TC
995-1055

Eastland Apothecary Shoppe

1217 E. Front St., TC
947-9825

Ecowater Systems of TC

1-800-599-0311 or
ecowater.com

EXCEL Rehabilitation Services

3 locations: 2 in Traverse City,
1 in Suttons Bay
929-0303

Farm Bureau Insurance

Jeff Needham 947-9452
540 S. Garfield Ave., TC

Gaudette & Co CPAs

1107 East 8th St., TC
946-8930

Goodyear Auto Service Center

436 W. Front St., TC
922-2600

Grace—A Salon of Inspiration

Union St. at 9th St.
(531 S. Union, TC)
941-1973

G.T. Ophthalmology Clinic, PC

929 Business Park Dr., TC
947-6246

Grand Traverse Bay YMCA

3000 Racquet Ball Dr., TC
933-9622

Grand Traverse Heritage Center

322 Sixth St., TC
995-0313

Grand Traverse Resort & Spa

231-534-6750, 1-888-437-2772

Grand Traverse Children's Clinic

3537 W. Front St., Ste. G
Traverse City
935-8822

Health is Wealth-Chiropractic

Dr. Sherry Weir
Dr. Kim Anderson
3409 Veterans Dr. TC
946-5816

Interlochen Center for the Arts

4000 S. M-137 Hwy.
Interlochen, MI
231-276-7200

Kids Creek Children's Clinic

5024 North Royal, TC
935-0555

Legacy Financial Svcs.

Kelly Rowe 933-0631
13919 S.W. Bay Shore Dr., TC

Mary Kay Cosmetics

Pat Westbrook 929-1830

Merrill Lynch

Briant Sikorski, 231-922-6831
333 W. Grandview Pkwy, TC

Munson Healthcare Regional

Foundation

935-6482

Music House Museum

U.S. 31 North, Acme
938-9300

Oakwood Veterinary Hospital

924 Hastings, TC 941-7241

Oleson's Food Stores

New store: Hammond Rd./3 Mi.
3850 N. Long Lake Rd. TC
947-6510

Old Town Playhouse

148 E. Eighth St., TC
947-2210, ext. 3

Oryana Nat. Foods Coop Mkt.

260 East Tenth, TC

Pizza Hut

3030 US 31 South, TC
947-2077

Recycle Smart

www.recyclesmart.info
Recycle Hotline 941-5555

Reynolds-Jonkhoff

Funeral Home

305 6th St., TC 947-6347

Sheren Plumbing and Heating

Energy Services, Design, Build
943-7916

State Farm Insurance

Mark Newhouse
933-5400

Stone Mountain Carpets

Charlie Stiehl
800-786-6333

Traverse City Record Eagle

Newspaper

946-2000

Traverse Magazine

148 E. Front St., TC
941-8174



The Newcomers Club of Grand Traverse
C/O Karen Spencer - Membership
8165 S. Bingham Ridge Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49684
kspencertc@charter.net

Quick Tip! If you change your email address please notify us at kspencertc@charter.net.
Email is the best way to get information to members between publications of the Newcomer News.