



Seniors Alliance Of Platte Canyon

June 2020

Newsletter

We hope this newsletter finds you safe and well.

In February, the Seniors Alliance of Platte Canyon (SAPC) was busy working on census outreach, creating a resource directory, and getting ready to open our new office in the Bailey Community Center on Main Street, Bailey. Then the pandemic hit. Board members proactively cancelled all public events and suspended work on the office to care for our loved ones and ourselves.

Though staying safe at home slowed us down a bit, we continued to work remotely, meet via teleconference, collaborate with the Park County COVID hotline response team, procure durable medical equipment for our nurse lending closet, and conduct business via emails and phone calls. Here are some updates.

VOLUNTEERS – The ability of the SAPC to conduct the organization's mission of senior advocacy, education, socialization, and resources, is dependent upon its volunteers. If you are interested in becoming involved in helping area seniors, please contact the office at **720-385-8300**.

ADVOCACY – Last month we successfully advocated for the Widow's Oil food pantry that was cut from a larger food bank distribution route after being designated as "non-essential" during the pandemic. The SAPC was able to communicate the need to the provider and food is once again available to the Widow's Oil food pantry. In the past two months we have referred seniors looking for

transportation to medical appointments, medical insurance after their employment was terminated, and find legal counsel. We also advocated on a state and local level for testing and masks for rural Park County.

NEW BOARD MEMBER! Debbie Solko has followed the SAPC, attended meetings, and applied to be a board member. Debbie is a trained Reverse Mortgage Originator and works full time. In her application she wrote, "I am passionate about helping and being an advocate for our seniors. I know there is a need for education – and I am in a position to provide. (I feel) I could really make a difference if I got involved." Welcome Debbie!

OFFICE – Recognizing that the office belongs to the people, especially those who worked these past few years to gain a senior advocacy presence in the Platte Canyon area, the SAPC Board asked a committee of community members to complete the office set up and décor. We think you will really like what they "have done with the place". We are excited to show the office to the public when it is safe to do so. It may be a while,



but we plan to have a big party celebrating you and your office!

RESOURCE DIRECTORY – The resource directory has been written and is in the final edit and formatting phase before printing. The directory includes resources known to serve the Platte Canyon area. Plans for distribution include the SAPC office and local places of business and worship. A virtual list of resources may be found on our website. Click on the appropriate place on the “wheel” to be linked to these.

NURSE LENDING CLOSET – The SAPC has established a nurse lending closet with funds from a grant from Colorado Community Health Alliance. The lending closet contains medical equipment commonly used after surgery or lower body orthopedic injuries/surgeries. These include wheelchairs, walkers, canes, raised toilet seats, shower transfer seats, etc. We utilize strict



cleaning protocols from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in all lending and returns. We are awaiting final guidance from the CDC and permission from Park County/State of Colorado Covid rules before opening the lending closet to the public. Once we can do so, please call the SAPC at 720-385-8300 to schedule an appointment for lending.

CENSUS – The SAPC has been highly active in the Census count. You may have seen our grant funded census road signs, fliers, or grocery tote bags in the Platte Canyon area and Park County. Completing the census allows critical funds for senior resources to be disbursed back to our area from the federal government. We get this chance to be counted once every ten years. Let's make these next years count! If you have completed your census, thank you! If you have not completed your census, please call the **US Census at 1-844-330-2020** and a census worker will guide you through the process.

STAY CONNECTED – Plans have been developed to connect with you via videos and virtual meetings. We now have a video account that allows us up to 100 participants. You will be able to attend our meetings virtually. A link will be sent to the email membership list to attend the June 16th meeting. This month we resume our educational guest speakers following our board meetings. We invite you to tune in via zoom at 4 PM June 16th as the Park County Human Services Department gives us an update regarding services they provide during the pandemic and a Q+A session where they will answer your questions. In the meantime, check our website for the **Got 5?** – your list of 5 people you can contact if you need support. Coming soon-short education videos on a variety of topics for Platte Canyon seniors.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU! – What types of information or services are you looking for? How may we help you stay connected and healthy? What would you like to see the SAPC do? How would you like to be involved?

DONATIONS – Our ability to fundraise has been greatly impacted by the pandemic. If you would like to donate to the Seniors Alliance of Platte Canyon, please call the office or visit the web page. Thank you for your support!

Seniors Alliance of Platte Canyon

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