

Altrusa Announcer



President's Message

I am so impressed with all of you and what you have accomplished this year! Four new members initiated in September, support of the Coldwater soccer teams through our donation of prizes, 345 books given away as our support of literacy at Apple Fest, 100 letters written to our soldiers serving in Germany as participation in the "A Soldier's Hands: Mail Call for All" project, shoes provided to Branch County students through our Happy Feet program, as well as the Astra Committee starting their work in the schools. What an awesome job you are all doing to help others in the community!!! These are only some of the things our members have been doing to make Branch County better.

Anita is hard at work on updating our yearbook, the newsletter committee has met and assigned preparation to its committee members, Diamond Raffle committee is organized and handed out our tickets October 6th, so sell-sell-sell!!!!

The programs committee has a great line up of interesting programs for us, and let's not forget the literacy committee once again working on our calendar project. Finally, the community service committee has met and sent out the community service funds request forms which are due by October 29th to Alicia Cole.

We are a very busy and visible group. Keep up the great work and thank you for your support!!!!

Mary Guthrie

PS I have the sign from our flower beds stored in my garage.



*Our thanks to this month's
newsletter contributors:
Jan Storrs, Carrie Stout,
Mary Guthrie, Connie
Winbigler, Tiffany Edwards,
Julie Stratos*

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Lunch Set up/Clean up

Set out food on table (unless done by the caterer)

Set out tableware, silverware, and napkins that are stored in Altrusa cabinet at the Elks.

Set out bottled water and money container that are stored in Altrusa cabinet at the Elks on a separate table.

Be sure there is a trash bag in the trash can. (bag should be on the counter behind our sign in table)

If not Mary Guthrie has one with her.

After the meeting determine what to do with any leftover food and donate or throw away. Determine who will take it if it is donated.

Be sure there is no trash on the tables and throw any away into the trash can.

Take the trash bag to the dumpster outside on the east side of the Elks.

Return any unused tableware, water, and money container to Altrusa storage cabinet. If we are getting low please let Mary Guthrie know. Give the money for water sales to Alicia Cole.

Clean all tables with the cleaning supplies provided by the Elks. They are on the counter behind our sign in table.

2021-2022 Board

- President - Mary Guthrie
- President Elect - DeAnne Hawley
- Past President - Jan Storrs
- Vice President - Tiffany Edwards
- Secretary - Karmen Case
- Treasurer - Alicia Cole
- Director One - Susan Merkle
- Director Two - Mary Jo Johnson

Happy Feet

Connie Winbigler reports the Happy Feet Committee has mailed out its annual evaluation to all users. Once the returns are tabulated they will report the findings back to the club. She and Pat Myers are working on the follow up evaluation required by International for receiving the \$4000 grant a year ago.

New Member Info.

Meggie Segura		Chris Hill-Melton	
200 E. Garfield Avenue, Lot 226		618 Woodchuck Pt.	
Coldwater, MI 49036		Coldwater, MI 49036	
11/11	Birthday	8/24	
Joel Segura	Spouse	Jim Melton	
269-830-0540		517-414-9540	
Meggie.Segura@ProMedica.org		cahillmelt@hotmail.com	
ProMedica Hospital	Employer	Retired	
Carrie Stout, Kristen Smith	Sponsors	Julie Stratos, Jan Storrs	
Kimberly K. Dwyer		Michelle Scheetz	
66 Seeley Street		230 Pelton	
Coldwater, MI 49036		Coldwater, MI 49036	
12/22	Birthday	5/25	
517-677-6949		517-317-2691	
kdwyer@sturgisbank.com		mmscheetz25@gmail.com	
Sturgis Bank & Trust	Employer	Vested Risk Strategies	
Kristen Smith, Rhonda Ives	Sponsors	Janelle Warner, Karmen Case	



Teen S.H.A.R.E.



Teen SHARE currently has two boys and one girl. According to Kim Hemker they are getting more calls right now but many are ineligible due to issues including not in school or not willing to agree to the rules. Kim thanked the club to the donation which helped purchase the sign. Note Altrusa is recognized on the sign.

Kim also mentioned she has an intern working on a possible plan to renovate the two barns on site so they are not quite the eyesore that they are right

now. Likely a project for next year. She hopes to create a place where kids can hang out... with some good supervision.

Innocence Project Success Story

Altrusan Rhonda Ives recently achieved one of those heart-warming accomplishments that reaffirm a career choice. Tonia Miller, who served 18 years in prison, wrongfully, has finally been released and exonerated. The prevailing evidence at the time of her jury trial was difficult to overcome; her defense was that someone else must have 'shaken the baby.' She was found guilty at trial and sentenced to prison.

After closer review and further medical examination, defense experts conclude the baby did not die of any type of abuse but died of pneumonia.

When the U of M innocence Project filed a motion to grant her a new trial, Rhonda agreed to be her new trial lawyer after review of the medical evidence on behalf of her defense. She was ultimately granted a new trial and Attorney Chartier of Lansing agreed to jump on board with Rhonda. After months of waiting for reports and case evidence, which never came, the prosecution finally folded and dismissed the case against her altogether.

Rhonda says, "I am proud to be her attorney and thankful that a wrong was finally righted." She added, "The REAL credit goes to the U of M law students, who year after year picked up the ball and carried it one more yard." The article regarding Tonia Miller's case is linked [here](#).

Congratulations, Rhonda!



Meeting Schedule

October 20

Business Meeting

Elks, Noon

Greeters: Dola Gleeson

& Evelyn Grimes

Lunch Set up: Janelle

Warner & Michelle

Scheetz

November 3

Program Meeting

Aim High Meds Mike

Neely

Elks, Noon

Greeters: DeAnne

Hawley & Carol

Hodson

Lunch Set up: Mary Jo

Johnson & Pat Sampsel

November 10

Board Meeting

To Be Announced

Noon

November 17

Business Meeting

Elks, Noon

Greeters: Anita Hoyt

& Rhonda Ives

Lunch Set up: Carol

Hodson & Pat Meyers

December 1

Program Meeting

Diamond Ring Raffle

Elks, Noon

Lunch Set up: Janelle

Warner & Michelle

Scheetz

If you know you have a conflict on a date you're scheduled to greet, please call Sue Crabtree

New Member Chris Hill-Melton



Chris Hill-Melton is a retired Psychologist who practiced in Coldwater for many years. She is a Council Director (Board Chairperson) for Girls on the Run. Born in Hamtramck, MI she grew up speaking Polish and had to learn English to go to school. She is a middle child with two sisters and two brothers. Interestingly, she was a Dental Hygienist before she went back to school to become a Psychologist. She earned her bachelor's degree and her Master's/Doctorate from WMU. She has been a resident of Branch County since 1978.

Chris recently celebrated her fortieth anniversary with her husband Jim. They have one daughter, Stefanie, and two grandchildren, Kane (3) and Kingston (6).

She likes to garden, cook, and read. If she could meet anyone in the world, she would like to meet Kate Middleton and if she had a totally free day, she would spend time gardening and being with her grandsons. Her favorite vacation spot is "Up North," particularly the Petoskey/Harbor Springs area. What she likes best about Altrusa is that it is a group of women who serve the community. She looks forward to being involved in our "hands on" projects. Chris was sponsored by Julie Stratos and Jan Storrs. She is a former Altrusan.

New Member Meggie Segura

Meggie Segura is the RN Clinical Manager of the ProMedica Pain Management at ProMedica Coldwater Regional Hospital. She received her RN associate's degree from Kellogg Community College in 2012 and is pursuing her BSN online at Trine University. Meggie began her nursing career at Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo and worked on the Neurovascular unit. The very first day on the job, her father Terry, had a stroke at that very hospital while receiving dialysis. It takes a special person to work so closely in that field when one's closest family member is affected. Once her daughter was born, to work closer to home, she accepted a job with the Community Health Center working on the Medical floor. She worked at the Branch County Health Dept. while working on the Medical Floor and in the Covid Unit throughout 2020. She was hired to run the Covid Testing Unit until she was recommended for the Pain Management position.



Meggie, the daughter of Altrusan Carrie Welsh-Stout, is married to Joel Segura. They have two children, Addison a 3rd grader at Pansophia Academy and Liam a preschooler at Tot Spot. When Meggie isn't working or studying, she enjoys kayaking, camping with friends, and hanging out with her family. Meggie has a compassionate soul, destined to be a nurse. She is always eager and willing to help with any project that comes her way. Born into the Coldwater community, she has supported her mother by actively working on community service projects for both the Exchange Club and Altrusa. Her love of her community and mission to give back has brought Meggie to now becomes an Altrusan.

Meggie is sponsored by Carrie Welsh-Stout and Kristen Smith. We look forward to getting to know her better and have her help with Community Projects.

New Member Michelle Sheets



Michelle Scheetz is a Coldwater native who works as an Insurance Agent at Vested Risk Strategies (formerly Dean Insurance). She is a coach for Girls on the Run and her step-grandmother, Emeritus Member JoAnn Dean was a charter member of Altrusa. Michelle is a native of Coldwater and a graduate of Coldwater High School and Branch Area Career Center. She has one brother and two sisters. Michelle has two children, Riley who is 13 and Madison, who is 22.

Her favorite books are “FireFly Lane” by Kristin Hannah and Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling. She appreciated the relationships the two girls in the book had with Harry Potter – Need we say more? Her hobbies include crocheting, scrapbooking, reading, and running. Her best vacations are the annual family vacations to

St. Pete Beach, Florida.

If Michelle could meet anyone in the world, living or deceased, it would be Bobby Flay because the creativity he has with food fascinates her. If she has a totally free day with absolutely no obligations, and nothing on her “To Do” list, she would spend her time at the beach with her family. When asked to tell us about something that happened to her that made a difference in her life, Michelle explained that working alongside her family (Jeff Dean) was a blessing that most don’t get to experience. The time, the bond, and relationship built over the years is immeasurable.

Michelle was sponsored by Janelle Warner, Karmen Case. We welcome her to the club and look forward to her involvement.

New Member Kim Dwyer

Kim Dwyer has worked for 25 years Sturgis Bank and Trust, where as Vice President/ Mortgage Originator she is responsible for bringing many services to Branch County.

Kim is a lifelong resident of Branch County. She graduated from Bronson High School and attended Jackson Community College. She is single and looking! Kim is an oldest child, having a sister and a brother. She has four children....Ashley (32), Stephanie (20), Lance (28), and Anna Kate (18). She also has a four-year-old granddaughter, Ava, and is anxiously awaiting a little boy in February. Her hobbies include kayaking, baking, and spending time with friends and family. She also enjoys wine tasting and wine tours and really likes to travel.



Kim’s favorite movie is “Serendipity” because it shows the meaning of fortunate happenings. A favorite vacation was just recently when she and Kristin Smith took their daughters to Punta Cana. Kim says she rarely has free days, but if she did, in the summer, she would probably spend time by her pool relaxing and reading. In the fall, she would enjoy baking.

Kim is a former Altrusan and is well known for her “service heart.” She feels Altrusa is a great group of ladies who do much for the community. Kim will be a welcome addition to our Altrusan family. She was sponsored by Kristen Smith and Rhonda Ives.



Following Facebook



Our Coldwater

David Woodham posted · 16h · 🌐

2021 Apple Fest & Craft Show in Coldwater, MI:

Visit historic Downtown Coldwater on Saturday, September 18th for apples, apple items, craft vendors, fresh baked goods, unique artwork, food vendors, and a kids zone.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 AT 9 AM EDT – 3 PM EDT

Downtown Coldwater



Altrusa was there in front of the Museum Gallery giving out FREE books to kids.

A fun day for all. And.....approximately 400 books were given away. Altrusans supporting "Literacy for All by Putting Book in Hands." Can't wait until next year!!!



It was a busy downtown today with hundreds of people enjoying AppleFest. Altrusans Mary Guthrie, Carole Hodson, Julie Stratos, Susan Merkle, Tiffany Edwards and Jan Storrs spent the day giving out almost 400 FREE books to kids and adults. In their effort to support "Literacy for All", it was their goal to put "Books in Hands." The "gently used" books were collected by club members. The visitors to the table were very enthused about getting books for free...even the adults!!!

There were also two raffle baskets that were won by Carla Hathaway and Michelle Welch. Besides the books kids were treated with apple stickers and apple flavored tootsie pops.

It was such a success, we might just be back next year!!!



Altrusan Jan Storrs delivered raffle prizes won by Michelle Welch and Carla Hathaway at AppleFest this past Saturday. Congratulations ladies!!!

Altrusa took this opportunity to give out approximately 400 gently used books to kids and adults, promoting their belief that **"better literacy for all is accomplished by putting books in hands."**



Following acebook

Altrusans we're entertained and enlightened recently about **Two Bandits Brewing Co.**, which is scheduled to open very soon in the old Kerr Hardware Bldg. just north of the Tibbits Opera House. Mark and Bob, as they identify themselves, are the Brains and the Brewmaster. They told us that they are looking forward to being a part of the community that invited and welcomed them in.

After learning about their history and their successes in many locations, they fielded a myriad of questions about the brews, the menu, the hours and their community commitment. They ended the meeting with an invitation to come over for a tour right after the meeting, which some of the members were able to take advantage of. **Welcome Mark and Bob.** We are all looking forward to becoming great friends!!!



Altrusans Karmen Case and Jan Storrs want to give a shout out to Courtney Dirschell, 2nd Story Marketing, and her wonderful committee for a very well planned, well executed, and professionally produced event at the Tibbits. It was all that it was promised to be.

CRAVE was both inspirational and entertaining. Besides the wonderful speakers, participants enjoyed cupcakes and muffins for breakfast, a tasty lunch box, popcorn to snack on and mimosas throughout the day.

There were incredible gifts for sale in the Tibbits lower level gallery made by women area crafters. To top that off, we were also all given swag bags filled with more incredible gifts. Can't wait for the second annual.

Thanks to the many sponsors including, our own Altrusan Karmen Case of Sherry Haylett Homes (thanks for the mimosas), and of course, to Altrusa for sponsoring a SWAG bag.

Be sure to check out the CRAVE FB page for more pictures.



**Following
Facebook**

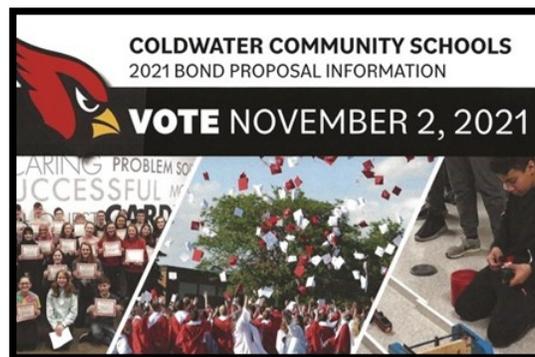
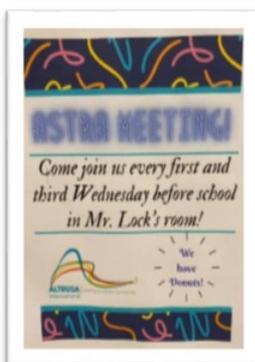


A day of celebration as Altrusa initiated four new members into the club at their recent business meeting. Meet Meggie Segura, Chris Hill-Melton, Michelle Scheetz and Kim Dwyer.. **Welcome ladies.**

Thanks to Carol Hodson for leading the ceremony and to committee members Caroline Austin, Ginger Kesler, and Jan Storrs.



*Great to see
CHS ASTRA
together again.
Looking
forward to lots
of great things
this year.
Welcome
Mr. Lock!*



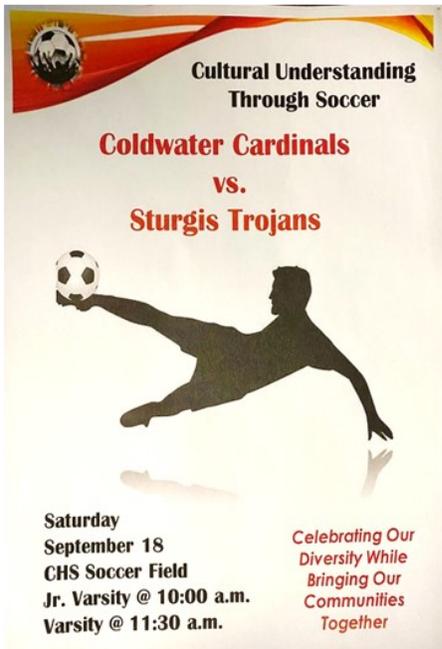
**BREAKING NEWS: Altrusa will again auction off a dinner.
Watch for more information soon!!!**



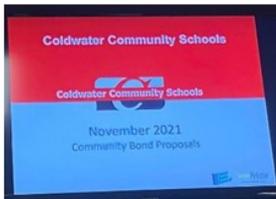
Reminder: They are still taking donations!!!!

Following facebook

Be sure to show your support for the soccer players from CHS and Sturgis as they play and celebrate Cultural Understanding through Soccer. Celebrating diversity brings communities together. Altrusa celebrates you!!! Go team!!!



(Altrusa provided little trinkets and gifts for the players and fans.)



Altrusans recently learned about the upcoming bond vote on two school issues. The first is for a renovation of the current high school that was built in the 1950's. This proposal would cost the voters no additional millage.

The other is a separate proposal for a new 900 seat auditorium which, if it passes, would cost voters, who have a home with a taxable value of \$100,000, approximately \$39 per year.

Dave Pierce, campaign chairman, introduced Terry Whelan, Superintendent of Coldwater Schools, to explain the specifics of the proposals. He reminded us all that CHS was built when Dwight D. Eisenhower was President.

The election is Nov. 2. For more information, go to the school website coldwaterschools.org



AN EVENING WITH THE BRANCH COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Celebrating 30 years

OF COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

PLEASE JOIN US
 SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
 5PM-7PM
 THE PONDS
 368 S. JEFFERSON ST
 COLDWATER, MI
 49036

(THERE IS A SHORT WALK FROM THE PARKING LOT TO THE VENUE, BUT A GOLF CART SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE)

Congratulations Erica!!!



September 11....a date emblazoned in our minds forever. There are no words of comfort today. We just know we will never forget the men and women who perished. We will never forget those who risked and lost their lives to save the lives of strangers. Americans at their best.





It's that time of year when Altrusa gives back to the community all the money they have raised during the past year through their Annual Diamond Raffle and Annual Golf Outing. If you have any needs, please consider filling out the attached Community Service Funds Request Form and return it by October 29

Altrusa International of Branch County, Inc.

Community Service Funds Request Form

Date of Application: _____

Organization Name: _____

Annual Operating Budget: _____

Executive Director: _____ phone: _____

Email to Contact: _____

Address: _____

Project Name: _____

Project Purpose and Area Served: _____

Amount Requested: _____ Total Project Cost: _____

How Has Covid 19 impacted your organization? _____

Project Goals:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Deadline to submit for consideration: October 29, 2021

Signatures: _____ **President / Board Chair**

I certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the information contained in this proposal is accurate. If funds cannot be used within a year of the grant or cannot be used in the way that they have been requested, they will be returned to Altrusa International Inc. of Branch County. Please return form by email to: aliciacole@trustcentury.com

Mail to: Altrusa of Branch County, P.O. Box 631, Coldwater Mi 49036 to receive by October 29, 2021

MISSION STATEMENT

To improve our community by providing service, developing leadership, fostering understanding, and encouraging fellowship through a network of dedicated volunteers.