

Altrusa Announcer



President's Message



I just cannot believe this is my last message to you as your president; it has truly been an honor. I'm so thankful for the guidance the board has offered me through this time especially DeAnne as our past president. I will always look back at my time as president as a positive experience and one I'm thank-

ful for. There is no way better to learn about all our club does than to be president.

We all must come together to make sure things run smoothly and being on the board really makes you realize just how much work it takes from everyone to make sure we continue to support the community the way we do. Some of our committees and members work more behind the scenes. I want to take a moment to personally thank some of them. Alicia Kulpinski was not only our treasure but organized our amazing lunches, was the chair of our Community Service Disbursement committee (which organizing all our check presentations in a timely manner is no small feat), she is also chair of our Golf Scramble that is coming up in May. Julie Stratos took on the huge job of getting our Yearbook completed and did a lovely job. Jan Storrs keeps our Facebook page current which I feel has greatly helped our presence in Branch County. Mary Jo Johnson agreed to chair Recruitment and Retention again this year and once again did a fabulous job. With her guidance the committee has changed the onboarding process for new members to be easier while helping them understand Altrusa and our club. Lastly I just want to thank EVERYONE, everyone has a part to play in our club and we as a group would not be the same without your contribution.

Alicia

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President:
Alicia Johansen

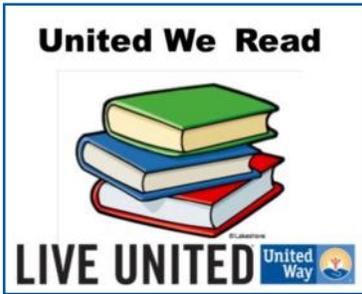
Editors:
- Kate Frederick
- Kelsey Waller
- Christine Delaney
- Liza Graham

Our thanks to our contributors:
Pat Myers, Alicia Kulpinski, Mary Jo Johnson,
Pat Myers, Carrie Stout,
Connie Winbigler
and Alicia Johansen

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March is Reading Month



In support of Literacy and Branch County United Way's United We Read effort, Altrusans

Jan Storrs, Christine Delaney, DeAnne Hawley, Erica Heminger, Liza Graham, Erica Pelfrey and Julie Stratos **joined** others to read in area schools. They read in Kindergarten through 4th grade classrooms at Pansophia, Jefferson, Lakeland, Max Larsen and Anderson.



New Member - Julie Outlaw

Julie was born in Coldwater and has lived in Ohio and Michigan. She attended Central Michigan University, Wright State University, and Wright School of Professional Psychology, located in Dayton OH. Julie is retired from the United States Air Force Civil Service. She experienced much traveling during her career which she is grateful for.



Julie keeps very involved during retirement, including family activities, United Methodist Church pursuits, music (keyboard and bells,) walking with her dog and reading a whole lot. She enjoys the company of two stepchildren and six grandchildren. Something interesting to know that is not common knowledge about Julie; she has rescued seven basset hounds, three labs, and two Jack Russell Terriers, so far, over several years.

The greatest vacation Julie has experienced has been a road trip and the adventure took two weeks by car. The journey began in Michigan with many stops along the way, traveling a northern route to California. The return voyage was a southern route with new scenery. She enjoyed this time with a sister, parents and maternal grandparents in 1965.

Julie is an avid reader, and cannot possibly choose a favorite book. She admires Eleanor Roosevelt, and her four great grandmothers, who, in their prime, could have taught Julie many of life's lessons. She also admires Franklin D. Roosevelt, a historical figure Julie truly believes while facing many adversities, helped many people.

A day on the shore of Lake Superior, observing, listening and relaxing, while recording her thoughts and experiences felt and seen, would be a perfect day well spent by Julie. She says, comparing this sort of day with a productive one is a great balance and certainly a privilege when retired.

Altrusa members look forward to Julie's upcoming contributions to Branch County. Some of her many skills to contribute include teamwork, communicating, and working with various ethnic/racial groups of people. She looks forward to making new friends, empowering women, problem solving, and having lots of fun. Julie's lifetime experiences will be a great addition to our club, enriching lives and continuously learning from others.

26th Annual Golf Outing - Friday, May 24

Show your support

Put together a Team! ✦ Sponsor a Hole! ✦ Become a Tee Sponsor!

Event Sponsors: **Sekisui Voltek, Keiss Jewelry, Southern Michigan Bank & Trust, Rhonda B. Ives, Burr Machine Management, LLC and Frederick Family Dental.**

Format: Everyone welcome ✦ 4-Person team ✦ Cash & Door prizes ✦ Lunch

8AM Registration ✦ 9AM Shotgun start ✦ \$125 Entry fee per person green fees, cart,

Statue for Altrusa Park

Altrusa given permission to install bench sculpture in northwest part of 4 Corners



By Jim Measel

COLDWATER, MI (WTVB) – The Coldwater City Council gave their permission on Monday night for Altrusa International of Branch County to add a bench sculpture in the northwest part of the downtown Four Corners Park.

Carrie Stout from Altrusa International said in addition to the flowers planted and maintained every year by club members, and with its focus on literacy, Altrusa has raised funds to purchase a bench sculpture entitled “Reading Buddies” which celebrates reading. The sculpture costs \$19,000 and it is has been fully funded by Altrusa.

It’s being presented to the people of Coldwater as a symbol of Altrusa’s commitment to the community and its improvement.

The sculpture is made of bronze which will assure it will be around for generations to come.

Altrusa International of Branch County members have been maintaining the northwest corner of the Four Corners Park for 50 years.

Altrusa sculpture OK'd for Four Corners Park



This is the design selected by Altrusa for the northwest section of Four Corners Park from the Yonkers sculpture studio of Randolph Rose. PROVIDED BY RANDOLPH ROSE

Don Reid
Coldwater Daily Reporter (USA TODAY NETWORK) - 483/2434

COLDWATER – Altrusa will erect a sculpture in the northwest quadrant of Four Corners Park without the controversy that befell plans for another sculpture in the southeast quadrant last fall.

The Coldwater City Council approved the installation on March 25 of the classic Randolph Rose bronze sculpture “Reading Buddies.”

According to past president Carrie Stout, the 47

current local members of Coldwater Altrusa International raised \$19,000 for the art piece featuring a boy and a girl reading at each end of a bench with space in between for people to sit.

Stout said, “It seems to me an incredibly durable material that withstands all sorts of weather conditions, and it serves as the sculpture will be around for generations.”

Altrusa presented the sculpture to the city to

See SCULPTURE, Page 1A

The Daily REPORTER.com

THE DAILY NEWSPAPER FOR BRANCH COUNTY, COVERING COLDWATER, BRONSON, QUINCY, UNION CITY AND TEKONSHA

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024 | THEDAILYREPORTER.COM

A huge thank you to the Altrusa committee Carrie Stout, Julie Stratos, Karmen Case, Erica Hemminger and Melissa Austin for their accomplishment in developing the concept and gaining approval to proceed with the statue in Altrusa Park. Kudos also to the club members who have donated or pledged to the cost of the project.

Altrusa’s #1 focus is on Literacy. The statue is titled “Reading Buddies.” This bronze life-sized children’s statue presents a captivating tribute to the enchanting world of literature and the power of imagination. This statue was originally commissioned with the Randolph Rose Company, by a gentleman in Las Vegas, whose wife was a teacher. The sculpture serves as a constant reminder of her dedication and inspires all to give in service to others and make reading a priority in our homes and communities. The Randolph Rose Company is a family owned/run business since 1972. They are located in Yonkers New York.

Sculpture

Continued from Page 1A

encourage literacy. The group got the sculpture, “As a symbol of our commitment to the community and to its improvement, both through continued beautification of our Four Corners Park.”

The group adopted that corner of Four Corners Park in 1974 and maintains flowers there.

The corner is also home to the Farmer’s Market for 13 weeks during the summer.

Another sculpture proposed for the park’s southeast quadrant did not receive a similar enthusiastic welcome last November.

Councilman John Pettko and his two daughters provided seed money for the fountain to honor his late wife and their mother, councilwoman Margaret Pettko.

The family suggested, with City Manager Keith Baker, a stylistic modern 35-foot sculpture by FINE Green from the 2023 Grand Rapids Art Walk.

Social media and communications with council members raised concerns that the sculpture was “too modern” and did not fit the historic nature of the neighborhood library.



Former Altrusa president Carrie Stout told the Coldwater City Council the Randolph Rose sculpture was to promote continued beautification of Four Corners Park. DON REID/COLDWATER DAILY REPORTER

Two weeks after the proposal, Mayor Tom Kramer suggested, “We were all a little surprised by the lack of support for that project. I think everybody’s rethinking.”

Coldwater’s recreational architect, Pam Blough,

who is working on the master parks plan, told council members at a Feb. 19 work session that she designed a fountain for that area.

Blough said the fountain, “Would have programmable lighting and spray, which you can choose in a variety of shapes or sizes.” The shadow pool, similar to the city’s Splash Park, would be designed not to collect leaves or litter.

Culms would change, even turning green for St. Patrick’s Day.

The light and water units are modular. The presentation is similar to the Bellagio Hotel fountain in Las Vegas but on a much smaller scale.

Blough envisioned a 20-foot-diameter fountain, the size of the grass circle there now. She designed four planting areas by the fountain.

The architect said if the city wanted a sculpture, the design could add a small pool in the center with a pedestal.

Water could bubble down or be part of a 30-foot sculpture. The water system would run only during the warmer months.

That fountain is not ready for construction. The council set its first goal of developing Rotary Parks along both sides of the Coldwater River starting this summer.

Contact Don Reid at 483-4343/Gannett.com

Happy Feet - Gifts Received

Altrusa Happy Feet Program received a generous gift of \$1000 for the second consecutive year from the daughter and son-in-law of Pat Sampsel. Pat and Connie Winbigler met at Hauska Farm & Home to celebrate the gift. While there they checked inventory in preparation for the spring.

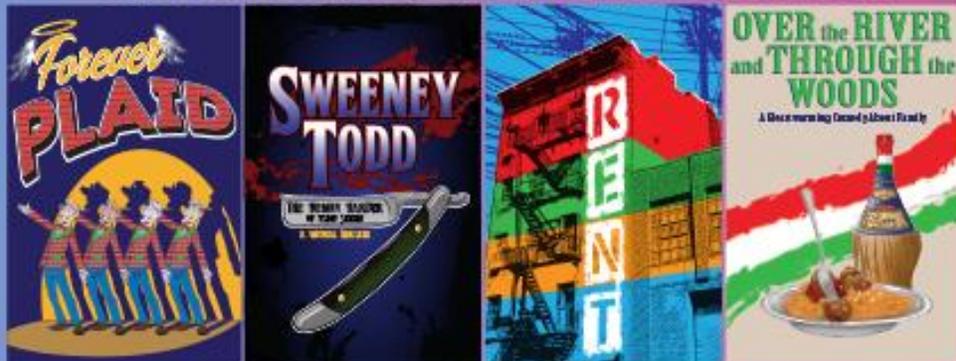


Coldwater Elks Lodge 1023 donated \$3000 from the Elks National Foundation. Lodge Secretary Penny Geishert presented the check to Pat Sampsel, Connie Winbigler and Mary Jo Johnson. Also represented for the Elks, Mark McKitterick, Terry Modert and Elks Exalted Ruler Kathy Modert.



TIBBITS

PROFESSIONAL SUMMER THEATRE 2024 SEASON



In Memory of Barbara Faulkner

Former Altrusan Barbara Faulkner, died peacefully on February 23, 2024 at the Vineyard Assisted Living Community in Kalamazoo at the age of 83. A woman of grace, intelligence, and boundless love, she leaves behind a legacy that resonates with warmth, kindness, and a steadfast dedication to family and community.

Born September 6, 1940 in Coldwater, Barb's childhood was shaped by the love of her family and the lessons learned from her parents. Her father served as a bank examiner, while her mother was a pioneering entrepreneur who owned and started the beloved women's clothing store, Woodward's Specialty Shop. Barb's upbringing was enriched by the memories of her grandmother's farm in Bronson, where she spent countless hours around the kitchen table, learning valuable lessons and forging cherished bonds.



Barb with her children Jack and Jill

Graduating from Coldwater High School in 1957, Barb attended Michigan State University before moving to Detroit where she embarked on a career as a department store model and bank employee. It was during this time that she met the love of her life, Jack Faulkner.

Marrying and settling in Coldwater, they built a life centered around their family and community. Jack's career as an educator and administrator complemented Barb's role as a devoted mother and businesswoman. Together, they raised two children, Jack and Jill, instilling in them the values of hard work, integrity, and compassion.

Barb's entrepreneurial spirit flourished as she joined her mother in running the family store, later purchasing and renaming it Woodward's. A pillar of the Coldwater community, Barb's dedication to small business and civic engagement earned her recognition as a Downtown Business Woman of the Year and President of Altrusa. Her commitment to her town and its residents was unwavering, reflecting her belief in the power of community and service.

Throughout her life, Barb found solace in literature, music, and community engagement. An avid reader and fierce bridge player, she cherished moments spent with loved ones, whether attending musicals at the Tibbits Opera House or hosting gatherings at their farm and later their retirement home on Coldwater Lake.

Barb embraced retirement with the same enthusiasm and zest for life that defined her earlier years. Despite health challenges, she remained a beacon of positivity and laughter, finding joy in the company of her family and friends. She leaves behind a legacy of love, kindness, and service. Her life serves as a testament to the power of resilience, love, and community. Her spirit lives on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her, inspiring us to live each day with compassion, grace, and unwavering determination.

Visit Barb's webpage at BetzlerLifeStory.com to archive favorite memories, photos and sign her guestbook. Memorial contributions may be made to: Tibbits Opera House, Centrica Care Navigators (Hospice care of SW Michigan) or ProMedica Coldwater Cancer Center.

In Memory of Sandy Mancino



Sandra Gayle Mancino, passed away peacefully Tuesday, March 5 2024, at Rose Arbor Hospice Residence in Kalamazoo surrounded by her loving family. She was 79.

Sandra was born November 21, 1944, in New Britain, Connecticut and married Joseph Mancino on May 18, 1967, in Hartford, Connecticut.

Sandra and Joe began their careers in the restaurant business in Oregon before coming to Coldwater in 1978, where they opened their first Mancino's. They operated the restaurant for 8 years, then expanded into a nationwide franchising operation known as Bellacino's, where Sandra was the CEO/president for many years.

Sandra was a member of Altrusa, Coldwater Elks Club, Coldwater Golf Club, and the Coldwater First Baptist Church. She enjoyed playing golf, going to the casino, spending time in Florida with her friends and family, and spoiling her grandchildren, whom she loved more than anything in this world.

Memorials may be directed to Altrusa International of Branch County, the ProMedica Coldwater Cancer Center or the Coldwater First Baptist Church.

Teen SHARE Frozen Food Collection

The Teen SHARE Committee—Connie Winbigler, Kelsey Waller, Felicia Landis, Mary Feller, Tammy Huntley, Kelli Stempien and Pat Myers—would like to thank everyone who donated money or frozen food for our Teen SHARE frozen food drive. The amount of money donated was \$275, along with multiple frozen food items for both Teen SHARE homes. Felicia and Pat filled a grocery cart with frozen food using the monetary donation.



Felicia, Tammy and Pat delivered the frozen food to the Teen SHARE home on March 20th.