

*Happy Birthday
Fred, Gina and
Patty!*

*In institutional
environments
birthdays are
celebrated at the
end of the month
with cake and
bingo.*

*NOT AT CROSAIRES,
as individual
birthdays are
celebrated with
class and meaning
with everyone
receiving gifts that
are meaningful!*

*Just ask Fred, Gina
and Patty!*

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CROSAIRES

"Where Care and Community Intersect"

FEBRUARY 2016

From the "Desk of Todd"

February, the month to celebrate St. Valentine's Day and even though around the world we use this holiday to purchase elaborate cards, chocolates flowers, singing telegrams and many other items to entertain those we love, how many of us really know who St. Valentine was and where the holiday came from which is celebrated on different dates throughout the globe.

During the medieval period, St. Valentine from Rome was imprisoned for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry and for ministering to Christians who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. According to legend, during his imprisonment, he healed the daughter of his jailor, Asterius. An embellishment to this story states that before his execution he wrote her a letter signed, "YOUR VALENTINE!" as a farewell.

There, a little educational component to this romantic day. This month I challenge our readers to not only share this day with those closest to them and shrouding them in loving affection, but to reflect on other things we love as well. What are the things that truly make you happy, bring you joy, that you find meaning and purpose in doing. Maybe it is a hobby, artistic ability, songwriter and or musician, etc. It is these things that we truly enjoy participating in and sharing with others. This month I challenge you to step out of your comfort zone and give us a call at Crosaires to share your passion with the elders living in this great "home!"

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!!

Why I Like Working at Crosaires

As you are aware, for the past few months I have been sharing comments from team members when asked with so many different career paths and jobs out there for individuals, why they chose Crosaires as their place of employment and what their reasons were. This month, here is the latest comment shared:

"I love the trust and encouragement I receive professionally. There have been times where Todd has yielded to my knowledge of the situation instead of exerting his authority. I was stunned and deeply empowered. Those times have in turn made me want to handle myself better by knowing that I not only could, but that it was expected of me. I truly feel that I and all the staff are part of a great team. We need each other to always be present and contributing. I have gained a lot in terms of confidence while working at Crosaires!"

Snowball Fight Anyone?

Ok, so for many elders the thought of bundling up from head to toe and heading outside for an actual snowball fight may no longer sound appealing like it did in our youth but this does not mean this sensation is lost forever!

Just look at the photos from our "indoor snowball fight" which took place on Friday, January 15th. A creative way to incorporate exercise, laughter and reminisce about past days!



"Rachel's Review"

My first two weeks at Crosaires have been a wonderful experience. I have loved getting to know all of the Crosaires "family." Even though it has only been a short time I feel like I am part of a team. Everyone is so welcoming; the staff, elders and family members. With each experience, memories are made. Playing "Who Am I?" ended in all of us laughing for the rest of the day. Making fresh squeezed orange juice resulted with juice all over the kitchen

and smiles on all faces. These past few weeks I've learned that it's not the task or game you are playing but about the people you are with. Squeezing oranges alone would have been a tedious task, but doing it with my wonderful new friends made it the best part of my week. I am so excited to get to know everyone better and make more memories throughout the semester.



A Trip Back to the Saper Gallery

The morning of January 5th may have been cold and winter-like but this did not stop interested elders to head back to the Saper Gallery in East Lansing to view and hear more about their fascinating Hebron Glass exhibit.

A special thank you to the wonderful staff at the Saper Gallery who always welcome us warmly and take the time to actually talk to us about what we are seeing. There is no rush, we are always there to learn, and be in awe.

Not only did we walk away that morning with our minds full of information, but we also purchased a small Hebron vase to add beauty to our home. This is a permanent exhibit at the Saper Gallery, one you do not want to miss!



PATRICK BALL- “CELTIC HARP-SPOKEN WORD” CONCERTS

The Crosaires Foundation, in partnership with the Meridian Senior Center, are bringing nationally known Celtic musician, Patrick Ball to mid-Michigan for two performances in May.

Patrick will be performing his Celtic-Harp-Spoken Word concerts on Saturday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Chippewa Middle School in Okemos and again on Sunday, May 15th at 2:00 p.m. at the McGoff Auditorium in Williamston.

Ticket prices are \$15.00 per ticket and or a 20% reduction for group sales of 10 or more. Ticket sales can be purchased through the Meridian Senior Center (706-5045), Crosaires (898-1715) or online through the Ticket River website, <https://www.ticketriver.com/>

It is the goal that through these two performances the Crosaires Foundation will raise monies to purchase the Trishaw Bicycle it began raising monies for in 2015 and then to pave nature

trails on the property, while the Meridian Senior Center is looking to help raise additional funds for their activities department.

The planning committee is actively recruiting sponsorships for the color program that will be available at each concert. The three tiers of sponsorship available include:

Bronze—\$100.00

Silver—\$250.00

Gold—\$500.00



To learn more about what each level of sponsorship will include, please call 517-898-1715.

For more information on Patrick Ball and his musical talents, visit his website at <http://www.patrickball.com/>

For now, save the dates, purchase your tickets and spread the word!! THANK YOU!!!!

Crosaires Foundation Capital Campaign Updates...

As stated in last month's newsletter, the 2015 end of the year capital campaign drew to a close with the Crosaires Foundation raising \$1,550.00 towards its \$6,000.00 goal.

Knowing that not only does the Foundation want to reach its goal but so did the other generous individuals who generously donated towards its cause. With that said, board member Julie Banks assisted in setting up a "Go Fund Me" Account with the hopes that this campaign goal will be reached. A Go Fund Me account is an electronic tool which allows anyone to donate towards a cause.

The Crosaires Foundation is hoping that not only will you give what you can, but ask that you forward this information to all of your

friends and family via email and through Facebook, Twitter, etc. Personally, I have contributed to several causes through a Go Fund Me Account and have been blown away at how fast a goal can be reached through small donations. So give what you can and are able and help spread the word as we would love to be able to purchase the new Trishaw bicycle this Spring/Summer.



CROSAIRES

**An “Aging in Community”
Residence.**

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Patrick Ball—Celtic Harp-Spoken Word Concerts

Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15th

Chippewa Middle School and McGoff Auditorium

“This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land!”

Last month Crosaires introduced our readers to our theme for 2016, “This Land is Your Land, This Land is Your Land” where we are very excited to continue our progress towards creating a community garden run by Matthew Romans, a local farmer who has begun his relationship with the elders and staff in early January. It is the long range goal that Matthew will cultivate and create an acre sized garden which will operate like a Community Shared Agriculture (CSA) model. A CSA an alternative, locally based economic model of agriculture and food distribution. A CSA model refers to a particular network or association of individuals who have pledged to support one or more local farms (Crosaires)), with growers (Mathew Romans) and consumers sharing the risks and benefits of food production. Over a growing season, a paid shareholder receives his/her share of the anticipated harvest.

At our initial meeting in January, team member and visionary behind this idea, Jon Hunt, Matthew Romans and Todd Walter met at the property to begin brainstorming all of the ways in which both organizations missions could be fulfilled. The thoughts and ideas were endless on how elders would be given countless opportunities to be involved, if they desire, in every aspect of this magnificent idea and project. Each month be looking for updates and soon how you can support this cause by being a shareholder yourself. For now, it’s time to plant onion seeds!!