

Director's Report

July 2026

Programming Board Report

Meals served June 1- June 30, 2026, 2026:

Breakfast: 54; Lunch: 1,043

January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026: 6,061

Breakfast: 268; Lunch: 5,793

Volunteer Hours: June 1 – June 30, 2026

- Volunteer Driving: 171.25
- SHIP: 0
- Servers: 108.5
- World Horizon: 160
- Programming Volunteers: 2.5
- Kitchen Volunteer: 6.25 Hours

Social: June 1 – June 30, 2026

- Exercise Participants: 221
- Social: 312
- Art & Culture: 12

Programming Update:

- The center hosted the Annual Asparagus Festival Quilt Show that was put on by the Friendship Ring Quilt Guild. Many of the participants come to the center for Wednesday Quilting Day each week and go on a monthly Quilt Shop Hop with Mary, which is planned through the center.
- Mary took a group Mini Golfing in Silver Lake in June, as well as a group to Mac Woods for a dune ride.
- On June 25th, the Outdoor Discovery Center visited both Our Friends House and the main center with a variety of Michigan wildlife and reptiles. These events were made possible by a generous donation in memory of Mike and Susan Castor.
- The last Friday of June, OCCOA hosted a Strawberry Social out under the porch. It was a fun afternoon with friends and families.
- The OCCOA garden looks amazing. We cannot wait to share the garden's bounty with OCCOA guests. This year, we have an amazing group of volunteers who work tirelessly in the garden.
- The Biltmore bus trip will be going this October; space is filling quickly with 34 individuals signed up. Those interested should contact Mary or Bradley for more information.
- This spring, Bradley was contacted by Michigan State University Extension Health & Nutrition to see if he would be available for an interview as a Community Champion. This short video interview is the final follow-up to last year's video on our garden project. When the final video is finished, it will be shared at the next Board Meeting. Last year's video is also available if anyone has not seen it yet.
- Bradley was asked by the Pentwater Service Club to speak at one of their upcoming monthly meetings.
- Bradley received an email from MASC, Michigan Association of Senior Centers, and was asked to be on an Industry Experts Q&A Panel at this year's November MASC conference.

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- Bradley has started the process of becoming a Certified Senior Center Program Manager through MASC.
- Through a generous donation in Memory of Mike and Susan Castor, Bradley has signed up for a Facilitator Training Course with Opening Minds through Art. Opening Minds through Art is an award-winning, evidence-based, intergenerational art-making program for people living with dementia. When finished, Bradley will not only be able to present classes to individuals with dementia, but also train others interested in the program.

Senior Care Services Update:

Our Friends House (Adult Day Services)

June 2026 OFH Totals

- **Client Hours:** 295.25
- **Meals Served:** 62
- **OCCOA Rides (OFH Clients):** 66

Activities and Program Highlights

Life at Our Friends House has been filled with laughter, friendship, and plenty of memorable moments! ❤️

One of our favorite pastimes has been simply enjoying each other's company while watching the birds and squirrels put on their daily acrobatic performances right outside our windows. It's amazing how much happiness the simple things in life can bring.

This month has also been full of fun activities! Our Friends were over the moon creating homemade pizzas with all of their favorite toppings—a delicious activity that quickly became one of the highlights of the month. We also welcomed some very special "Friends" from the animal kingdom. While some of us couldn't wait to cuddle our furry and scaly visitors, others showed incredible bravery as they faced their fears. It was a wonderful experience that brought smiles, laughter, and a few unforgettable memories!

We're also excited to be enjoying our new projector, made possible through a grant from the Great Lakes Energy People Fund and the incredible generosity of one community member who recognizes the extraordinary impact Our Friends House has on the lives of local seniors and their families. This new addition has already created even more opportunities for engaging activities, entertainment, and shared experiences.

We are deeply grateful for the continued love and support of this invaluable program. Seeing the smiles on our Friends' faces, hearing their laughter, and receiving heartfelt appreciation from their families reminds us every day why Our Friends House is such a special place. Thank you to everyone who believes in our mission and helps us continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of seniors throughout our community. We couldn't do it without you! ❤️

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Community Living Support

June 2026 CLS Totals

- **Client Hours:** 412.25

Community Living Support continues to experience a strong demand for services. As new referrals are received, clients may be placed on a waitlist while we work to match them with available staff and appropriate service schedules. The waitlist is actively managed and reviewed on a regular basis to ensure individuals receive services as quickly as possible.

Senior Care Services remains committed to connecting seniors with the support they need. While awaiting services through OCCOA's Community Living Support program, individuals are provided with information and referrals to other available resources within the community. This may include private caregivers, local service agencies, and other supportive programs that can help meet immediate needs.

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Our goal is to ensure that every senior seeking assistance has access to appropriate care and resources, whether through OCCOA services or trusted community partners. Staff continue to work diligently to process referrals, expand service availability, and reduce wait times whenever possible.

Bathing Program

The Bathing Program continues to remain steady with our current client base, providing consistent support and personal care services to seniors in the community. Participants continue to benefit from regular bathing assistance in a safe, comfortable, and respectful environment. Staff remain committed to maintaining high-quality care while ensuring clients' dignity, comfort, and well-being. We appreciate the continued trust our clients and families place in this valuable program.

- **Spa appointments in June 2026: 25**

SHIP Medicare Counseling

There is nothing significant to report regarding SHIP Medicare Counseling at this time, as service demand has remained relatively steady following the conclusion of the annual Open Enrollment Period. During this slower season, staff continue to provide assistance to beneficiaries as needed while preparing for the increased demand that accompany the upcoming Open Enrollment Period beginning in October.

Preparation efforts will include reviewing program updates, ensuring resources are current, and coordinating schedules to meet the anticipated increase in counseling appointments. As always, our goal is to provide accurate, timely, and individualized Medicare assistance to community members navigating their healthcare options.

We continue to be grateful for our dedicated SHIP volunteer, whose knowledge, time, and commitment remain invaluable to the success of the program and the individuals we serve.

Loan Closet

Requests for the loan closet have remained consistent, reflecting the ongoing need for durable medical equipment (DME) within the community.

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Transportation Update:

	JUNE 2025	JUNE 2026	YTD 2025	YTD 2026
BUS MILES	7,430	9,566	45,575	49,658
NON-SENIOR TRIPS	17	34	82	117
SENIOR TRIPS	217	222	1,378	1,487
NON-SENIOR DISABLED TRIPS	178	217	1,172	1,229
SENIOR DISABLED TRIPS	444	376	2,546	2,127
TOTAL TRIPS	856	849	5,178	4,960
PARATRANSIT MILES	1,395	947	4,402	3,527
TOTAL TRIPS	50	30	131	187
VOLUNTEER MILES	4,481	5,448	27,205	15,640
TOTAL TRIPS	109	123	613	328

1. Transit Vehicle Maintenance Workshop Highlights

- **Workforce & Training:** Focused on strategic frameworks for driver/staff retention, sustainable training workflows, and practical hands-on transit techniques.
- **Vendor & Manufacturer Meetings:**
 - **Forest River:** Shared fleet issues and feedback directly with representatives; received current production and build updates.
 - **Flooring Repair:** Completed hands-on training on repairing rips, tears, and seam damage to extend vehicle interior life.
- **Braun Lift Safety & Operational Enhancements:**
 - Reviewed upcoming design updates and re-emphasized that the manual release pump is strictly for emergency *lowering* during power loss.
 - **Action Taken:** Added center striping to all lifts upon return and issued a memo to drivers detailing both the new center line and the safety limitations of the manual release pump.
- **MIOSHA Hazard Recognition:** Completed safety training and currently coordinating with Gwen to review findings, update risk protocols, and establish updated safety protocols for our facilities.
- **Small Bus Forum:** Participated in roundtable discussions with our Hoekstra Transportation sales representative and the Forest River representative along with all other transit agencies in attendance.

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2. Operational & Emergency Preparedness Updates

- **County-Wide Emergency Management:** Fully configured and updated emergency management contacts in our system in preparation for a practice deployment test scheduled for later this summer.

The first half of 2026 highlights a powerful story of independence and mobility for Oceana County seniors. Behind OCCOA mileage and trip numbers are real stories of older adults accessing vital medical care, maintaining social connections, and receiving specialized support.

1. In-County Door-to-Door Bus Operations

OCCOA's core in-county fleet services continue to show consistent utility and stable operational volume, maintaining high daily mileage and steady trip counts to serve standard local transit needs. This serves as the daily backbone of senior mobility within the community.:

- **Daily Average Mileage:** 415.5 miles / day
- **Daily Average Passenger Trips:** 41 trips / day

2. Out-of-County Specialized Paratransit Services

For non-ambulatory seniors requiring advanced mobility support, our wheelchair-accessible paratransit program provides long-distance logistics to specialized regional medical facilities and essential out-of-county medical services. This program is a crucial lifeline for non-ambulatory seniors who rely on wheelchairs.:

- **Monthly Average Mileage:** 746 miles / month
- **Monthly Average Trips:** 8 trips / month

3. Out-of-County Volunteer Driver Program

Ambulatory seniors requiring out-of-county travel are accommodated through our dedicated volunteer network.:

- **Monthly Average Mileage:** 2,607 miles / month
- **Monthly Average Trips:** 57 trips / month
- **Average Active Service Days Operated:** 14 days / month

4. Volunteer Logistics & Capacity Impact Analysis

Our volunteer personnel operate under an intense workload, averaging **57 distinct trips** and traveling **2,607 miles** across an average of only **14 active days** each month.

While our active roster includes **12 registered volunteer drivers (our local heroes)**, personnel availability fluctuates dynamically due to personal schedules or seasonal absences. We average **2 or more unavailable drivers** at any given point. Managing this structural restriction requires continuous scheduling optimization to safeguard long-distance service reliability.

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Director's Update:

- The annual OCCOA Pie Auction was a great success, with 102.7 WMOM on site to provide a live broadcast of the event, which thus far has totaled close to \$1,900.00 and counting. The funds will be used in our Unmet Needs program, which helps provide emergency needs for area seniors in need. Front page coverage was provided in the July 23rd edition of the Oceana Herald Journal.
 - A recent example of how unmet needs funds get utilized:
 - A gentleman came into OCCOA to speak with Jaccie regarding insurance. He had a lapse and his new insurance would not be kicking in for another day or two; meanwhile he needed to pick up his prescription, which was vital and could not wait. The problem was that the cost was significant and he did not have the means to pay out of pocket. With Jaccie's quick thinking, calls were made and funds from OCCOA's unmet needs were able to be used to purchase this lifesaving medication, ensuring a major medical crisis was evaded.
- The OCCOA garden continues to grow, both in produce as well as in space! The 4-H kids have been a huge help. A very big "THANK YOU" to Doug Bacon, Lew Bancroft, and Mark Butcher for their contributions.
- OCCOA received a grant KidsGardening.org and Miracle-Gro called the Growing the Future Intergenerational Garden Grant, an award that supports projects bringing youth and older adults together through gardening. The grant will help purchase gardening tools, knee pads, raised beds, seeds, soil and other supplies to keep our garden thriving and accessible for volunteers of all ages.
- Donations continue to come in from individuals and groups and are used to offset the cost of programs and equipment, etc.
- Stephanie and Lisa will be attending the MDOT's Michigan Public Transit Association (MPTA) conference August 17-19.
- Stephanie continues to work closely with Senior Resources, the Area Agency on Aging which covers Oceana, Muskegon, and Ottawa Counties, ensuring the highest quality services are provided to our area seniors.
- Stephanie attended Michigan Association of Senior Centers meeting on July 23.
- OCCOA continues to partner with Senior Resources and their Caregiver Support Program. After a pause, the support group will be reconvening fourth Friday of every month at 10:30 a.m.

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- OCCOA is partnered with a mental health professional who is offering counseling services at OCCOA for older adults. According to the World Health Organization:
Approximately 15% of adults aged 70 and over live with a mental disorder, with depression and anxiety being the most common. Additionally, about 4% of older adults aged 70 and over specifically experience depression, highlighting the importance of mental health awareness and treatment in this age group.
Access to mental health support can be very limited in rural areas and by providing access at OCCOA, barriers such vital services are significantly reduced.
- OCCOA is working with Senior Smiles, providing head, neck, and oral cancer screenings, dental referrals, professional consultations, all provided by registered dental hygienists. Free sonic toothbrushes and other giveaways were provided to attendees. This program is funded by Health Department of Northern Michigan and Oceana Community Foundation and is free to the senior community.
- Outreach:
 - Michigan Township Association, Oceana Chapter quarterly meeting June 4
 - Pentwater Library Open House June 8
 - OCCOA hosted the Music on the Commons June 25
 - New Era Farmer's Market July 2
 - Hart Sparks (booth) July 2
 - West Michigan Resource Center Meeting July 21
 - New Era Farmer's Market July 28
- The Older Americans Act (OAA) was reauthorized by the Senate on July 14, 2026, ensuring funding through 2030. The bill now awaits consideration in the House.
The last authorization was for FY 2020-2024, meaning the last reauthorization happened in 2020. Once the House votes, full authorization will be in play through 2030.

The Older Americans Act (OAA), first enacted in 1965, remains a major funding source for programs serving older adults. It supports essential services such as meals, caregiver assistance, and transportation. OCCOA receives OAA funding through grants from organizations including Senior Resources and AgeWell Services.

With 10,000 US citizens turning 65 every day through 2027, this is a vital step in ensuring funding not only continues but is increased to help support the needs of the country's growing older adult population.