

Week of activities for ages 50 and over

BY LINDSAY VANHULLE

Record-Eagle staff writer

Adults 50 years of age and older will find several new events created specifically for them at this year's National Cherry Festival, which kicks off July 2.

Running from Tuesday, July 5 through Friday, July 8, is the new Cherry Classic Film Festival, to be held in Milliken Auditorium in the Dennos Museum, said Patti DeAgostino, director of senior events for the Cherry Festival.

The senior events are sponsored by Grand Traverse Pavilions, Traverse City Light and Power and the Traverse City Record-Eagle.

The film festival will show films that deal with agriculture, one of which being the musical "Oklahoma," DeAgostino said.

"The film festival is something that I've always wanted to do," she said. "I'm a real fan of classic movies, as I know a lot of boomers and older adults are."

A new golf event, the Senior Golf Scramble, will be held at 9 a.m. July 6 at Bay Meadows Golf Course. Golfers can either play individually or in teams of four, DeAgostino said.

A golf clinic, which begins at 9 a.m. Tuesday, July 5 at Bay Meadows Golf Course, and tournament will continue this year as well.

Red Hat, Red Hot Glow Bowling will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday, July 7, at Timber Lanes. Forty lanes will be available for teams of four, and prizes will be awarded for the best cherry-themed cap, visor, sweatband and other forms of hats, DeAgostino said.

"It just adds on things to do at the festival," said Mike Mohrhardt, owner of Timber Lanes. "Not everyone has the chance to go downtown."

Cherry Pins & Pizza is not new this year, but will be held at Timber Lanes, from 1-5 p.m. Tuesday, July 5.

"Rain or shine, we have something for just about everyone," DeAgostino said. "It's going to be a busy week, but one that I believe will be unforgettable."

A historical tour of Traverse City on July 8 will include the Wellington Inn in its list of sites, and the senior events will wrap up July 9 with Sand and Sounds in front of the Traverse City Senior Center, DeAgostino said.

Part of the focus on senior events this year will be to make them intergenerational — that is, creating an event for all members of a family to enjoy, she said.

One such event is Grandparents' Choice, a storytelling session featuring books read by local authors, including "Hidden Cherries," the first official book of the National Cherry Festival.

The event will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 6 at Horizon Books in Traverse City.

"Basically, it was just thinking of ways in which generations can come together and experience the best of what Traverse City has to offer," DeAgostino said. "To see the young people interact with our older adults, it's hard to describe. You can see the expressions in both of their faces."

Still, it's important to maintain events specifically for adults 50 years of age and older, she said, adding that as more events have begun to cater specifically to a younger population, a similar trend has happened with senior events.

That approach is something that the Traverse City Senior Center is taking, said Lori Wells, director of the center.



R-E file photo/Douglas Tesner

"It's important for seniors to have a place to be with their peers," Wells said.

But grandparents today are younger than they were in the past, which lends itself well to the intergenerational activities in the Cherry Festival, she said.

"They're not content to just be a spectator on the sidelines," Wells said. "They're there to get their hands dirty and engage in an activity with their grandchildren."

Clara McManus looks back at a distinguished year

BY LINDSAY VANHULLE

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Nearly 15 years ago, Clara McManus began raising money for several new programs at the Grand Traverse Pavilions.

For her work, McManus was named the 2004 Distinguished Senior Citizen at the National Cherry Festival.

One year later, she says the honor is special to those who devote years to volunteering but don't necessarily always get the credit.

"There are so many people that spend all their time volunteering, and they do it quietly," said McManus, a Traverse City native. "You don't talk about it. And they should be recognized."

The 2005 Distinguished Senior Citizen will be announced at the Very Cherry Distinguished Senior Breakfast at 9 a.m. Tuesday, July 5 at the Elks Club in Traverse City.

In order to qualify, individuals must complete service work in the community.

"Community involvement is very important, and not just for a few years but a record of life-long service to community," said Patti DeAgostino, director of senior events for the Cherry Festival. "And then any extraordinary

achievements that individuals have experienced throughout that course of career."

The distinguished senior receives a tribute from Gov. Jennifer Granholm, recognition from the festival and the opportunity to ride in both the Heritage and the Cherry Royale parades, DeAgostino said.

"It's been very close," she said. "The decisions have come to a matter of a few points."

When she began her fundraising efforts, nursing home building at the time was wearing down, McManus said, adding that she became part of a group that passed a millage to build a new nursing home, called the Pavilions.

In 1991, she began work to create an endowment that would strengthen and expand some of the facility's programs, McManus said.

"I donated some money to start this endowment and then I asked people to match my gift," she said. "There was a real need for that kind of help."

The endowment is now more than \$500,000 strong. It has been used to start a temporary residency program, a physical therapy unit and renovation of three cottages from the old state hospital into assisted-living apartments on the Pavilions grounds, she said.

McManus said it is less expensive to live in assisted living apartments than to live in the Pavilions nursing home itself, but assisted living is not covered by federal aid like the main facility is, she said.

"If patients go to the Pavilions but can not afford to pay, they are covered by Medicaid," McManus said. "But that's not so for assisted living."

As a result, she started a scholarship fund for people who could not afford all of it on their own, McManus said.

Her broad support from the community helped McManus stand out, said Georgia Durga, director of the Grand Traverse County Commission on Aging, who helped judge last year.

"It wasn't just one thing that she supported," Durga said. "She supported lots of different things."

When she judges, Durga said she looks for a nominee's background, number of years of service and passion for the work.

McManus said she thinks it was staff members at the Pavilions that nominated her, but she doesn't know for sure.

"I had been nominated once before and I saw



Clara and George McManus.

the caliber of people that were nominated, and I thought, 'I have no chance,'" she said. "I just happened to be in a position where I could see a serious need, and so it seemed like a worthwhile thing for me to do."