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**MID AMERICA**



**FOODS**  
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The Mid-America Food Program is a volume buyer that helps you stretch your food budget dollars with high quality restaurant food that is low in sodium and low in cost.

There are no membership fees, no qualifications, no purchase limits, and anyone may purchase. Customers pay in advance with cash, major credit or debit cards, or EBT bridge cards.

Online ordering is available at [www.midamericafoods.com](http://www.midamericafoods.com) or by calling (231) 730-3642. You may also call the Fruitport Christian Reformed Church at (231) 865-6548, Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Food distribution is usually the last Friday of the month from 3 to 5 p.m., and the last Saturday of the month from 9 to 10 a.m. Order times and dates will always be on each monthly menu.

Food distribution is at the Fruitport Christian Reformed Church, 3520 Pontaluna Road in Fruitport.

## Volunteers needed to drive seniors and dialysis patients

(Submitted by the American Red Cross)

The American Red Cross serving Muskegon, Oceana and Newaygo counties is in critical need of volunteer drivers. Volunteers are needed to transport Muskegon County patients to dialysis appointments and seniors to medical appointments. Volunteers use Red Cross vehicles and are given complete training to do the job.

Over 1500 rides are provided monthly through this vital Red Cross transportation program. Muskegon area seniors and dialysis patients depend on this service to get to their lifesaving dialysis treatments, chemotherapy, and doctor appointments. The service provides rides to those who have no other means to get to their appointments. As with all Red Cross services to the community, the program relies on the generosity of volunteers who give their time.

To be a driver for the Red Cross, you must be at least 21 years old, have a good driving record, enjoy working with people, and be willing to volunteer one morning or afternoon a week.

For early birds, driving opportunities are also available from 5 a.m. until noon.

"The Red Cross needs more volunteer drivers," said Lois Brinks, senior transportation director. "The demand for rides to medical appointments is great in Muskegon County and has increased the need for more volunteer drivers. Seven Red Cross vehicles are currently filled to capacity providing transportation to those who need it most. This is an excellent opportunity to help make a difference in others' lives by getting up early and volunteering to drive once a week."

To learn more about how you can volunteer at the American Red Cross, contact Penny or Denise at (231) 726-3555 or visit the website at [www.arcmon.org](http://www.arcmon.org).

## Noah Project to host open house

By Mary Weimer

Noah Project, 5205 Airline Road, will host its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual open house on Saturday, May 21 from noon to 4 p.m.

The open house will include presentation of the Kane Award, refreshments, facility tours, raffles, giveaways and face painting for the kids.

Noah Project welcomes your donations of pet toys, treats, etc. as well as financial donations. Plan to visit the facility on May 21 and bring along a toy or a treat for the animals.

## Pet Pantry of Michigan in dire need of supplies

By Mary Weimer

The Pet Pantry of Michigan is a non-profit organization in our area dedicated to providing pet products to assist low-income residents. Without their help, many families would have to give up their pets. The pantry operates on an "as available" basis, providing food and other pet products free of charge. Right now, those donated items are getting very scarce.

The economic situation for each of us requires re-adjustment of our daily lives, but for those families already struggling, pets can provide comfort and solace IF the family can keep taking care of them.

The Pet Pantry is listed on Walmart's Wishlist (under the name of Jennifer Stiles), and donations are accepted online through Paypal at [www.petpantrymi.org](http://www.petpantrymi.org).

Currently, the pantry desperately needs dry dog food, dry cat food and kitty litter. They will accept slightly outdated or open bags as long as they have been taped tightly closed.

Additionally, there are monthly expenses that they need to cover, so financial donations will help. Monthly sponsorship is also a suggestion.

Locally, you can drop off donations of pet food supplies at the Pet Pantry, 1202 Shettler Road in Muskegon. Other drop off sites include Glenpark Animal Hospital, 1550 W. Sherman in Muskegon; Must Love Dogs, 211 Washington in Grand Haven; and Pompa Do's, 4441 Grand Haven Road in Muskegon. Additional drop off sites are listed on the pantry website.

Once the immediate emergency food needs are met, the Pet Pantry will also continue to accept donations of any new or gently used pet items like feeding dishes, collars, toys, leashes, blankets, and bedding. Shampoos, treats, and dips are also accepted.

The pantry is located at 1202 Shettler Road and is open Monday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, noon to 5 p.m.



## Calvary Church to offer food pantry

(Submitted by Calvary Church)

Calvary Church of Fruitport, 5873 Kendra, has recently teamed with Love, INC. of Muskegon to provide a food pantry. The pantry is not only for the Calvary Church family, but for anyone in the community who needs a helping hand.

If you are interested in visiting the food pantry at Calvary, please contact Love, INC. at (231) 777-3905 and they will schedule an appointment for you.

None of us knows when we may need a little extra help, but sometimes a little extra help is all we need. We look forward to being that "little extra" you may need.



In addition, donations to the food pantry are always welcome. If you would be interested in donating to the food pantry, please call the church at (231) 865-1259, extension 140. Or e-mail at [foodpantry@calvarymuskegon.org](mailto:foodpantry@calvarymuskegon.org). Items may be brought to the church on Sundays or to the school office during the week, Monday through Friday. For specific donation suggestions, please visit the church website, [calvarymuskegon.org/#/serving/food-pantry](http://calvarymuskegon.org/#/serving/food-pantry).

## Open-air performance stages available to all

(Submitted by Downtown Muskegon Now)

The curtain has been pulled back on what was once just an idea for downtown Muskegon's public space design, and is now calling for community attention. The Olthoff Street Stage and Alcoa Square located on the Third Street promenade between Morris and Clay avenues, are open-air performance stages available for a variety of uses. Lunchtime lectures, free outdoor concerts, street performers, artist sessions, and support rallies are just a few of the suggested uses of this unique outdoor space. "We want to encourage the broadest possible range of acts and users. This is for the entire community," said Andrew Haan, director of Downtown Muskegon Now.

The performance stages, funded by benefactors Mike and Kay Olthoff, owners of Nichols Paper & Supply; and the Alcoa Foundation respectively, promote community involvement, expression, art, culture, and entertainment. These venues also contribute to a more walk-able and people-friendly downtown. Non-profit organizations are encouraged to reserve a stage to guarantee its availability through Downtown Muskegon Now. If a stage is not in use, anyone is welcome to use it.

Use of the stages is free of charge. If one wants to guarantee their availability, a reservation form should be submitted, along with a \$100 refundable deposit. Forms are available at the Downtown Muskegon Now office located in the Hines Building at 380 W. Western Avenue on the corner of Third Street and Western Avenue. The Olthoff Street Stage and Alcoa Square have power available on site, however, performers must provide their own equipment and public address system if needed. The stages are available from 8 a.m. to dusk any day of the week. For more information or to reserve a stage, please contact Andrew Haan at (231) 724-3180.



As many of you may have noticed, the swans have made their nest adjacent to the boat launch this year. (Photo by Harry & Heidi Wojahn.)