

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:**

**May 25, 2018 Amy Wieland, Executive Director**

 **(231) 237-0103**

 **wielanda@charlevoixcounty.org**

**Charlevoix COA and City of Charlevoix Recreation Department Collaborate to Provide New Opportunities for the Aging Community**

CHARLEVOIX/EAST JORDAN/BOYNE CITY: The Charlevoix County Commission on Aging and the City of Charlevoix Recreation Department are collaborating their efforts to provide new opportunities and programs for the area aging community.

These opportunities, in the form of the “Platinum Golf Club” and the upcoming monthly “Senior Geared” Pickleball, Tennis and Frisbee Golf Introduction Clinics were developed by Amy Wieland, Executive Director of the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging with support of the City Recreation Director, Kent Knorr. Knorr said “The Charlevoix Recreation Department is working hard to increase recreational and programming opportunities to everyone in our community. We are excited to expand our direct involvement with Charlevoix Seniors in offering expanded opportunities for recreation and wellness. I look forward to offering recreational programs that look, sound, and feel different than what we traditionally think of when we talk about programming for seniors.” “We understand that our aging community is not “old” any longer. They have unique needs, are at diverse levels of community participation and interaction, and many are not only young at heart, they are young in mind, body and spirit” said Wieland. “As the needs of the aging community evolve, we to will evolve to make sure we are meeting the “seniors” at all of the needs and service levels.”

The Commission on Aging’s “Platinum Golf Club” is specifically for out 60 years and older community. We are working in collaboration with the historical City of Charlevoix Municipal Golf Course, one of the oldest courses in the North. We invite our area aging to **walk** with the legends each Wednesday, beginning June 6, 2018 until the course closes for the season. To become part of the “Club” is easy, you just need to sign up a at the City of Charlevoix Municipal Golf Course. The “Platinum Golf Club” membership will get you 9 holes of golf for $10.00 with a tee time between 9am-10am which will qualify you for a free meal at any of the Charlevoix County Senior Centers that day. Though the early tee times qualify members for the free meal, the “Club” members can utilize the course at any time that day but are encouraged to schedule tee times. Seniors are also encouraged to schedule and utilize the free transportation by Charlevoix County Transit these days. There will be special incentives to sign up for the “Club” on June 6, but you can become a member at any time during the season. There will also be other periodic bonuses and incentives for regular participation. All ages in the community are welcome to golf with our “Club” members, but they would not be entitled to the “Club” privileges and incentives.

The first monthly senior geared clinic will be the “Introduction to the game of Pickleball” hosted by the City of Charlevoix at the Elm Street Tennis Courts located at 127 Elm Street, Charlevoix. This is a FREE Clinic open to all but geared towards age 60 and above on Friday, June 8, 2018 from 10am-12pm. Pickleball is currently the fastest growing sport/activity in North America, especially with the senior crowd. The demonstration and presentation will be provided by Dave Gallinat from the Little Traverse Bay Area Pickleball Players. All equipment will be provided for your use, free of charge. Please sign up at any of our Senior Centers located in Charlevoix, East Jordan and Boyne City by Wednesday, June 6!

For more information on any of our new recreational programs, please contact Sally Nye at the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging at (231) 237-0103 or nyes@charlevoixcounty.org.