

FIFTYFIVE *forward*



Spring, 2018

Fifth Annual Heartland Games Set For May 5

Senior Services will host the fifth annual Heartland Games on Saturday, May 5.

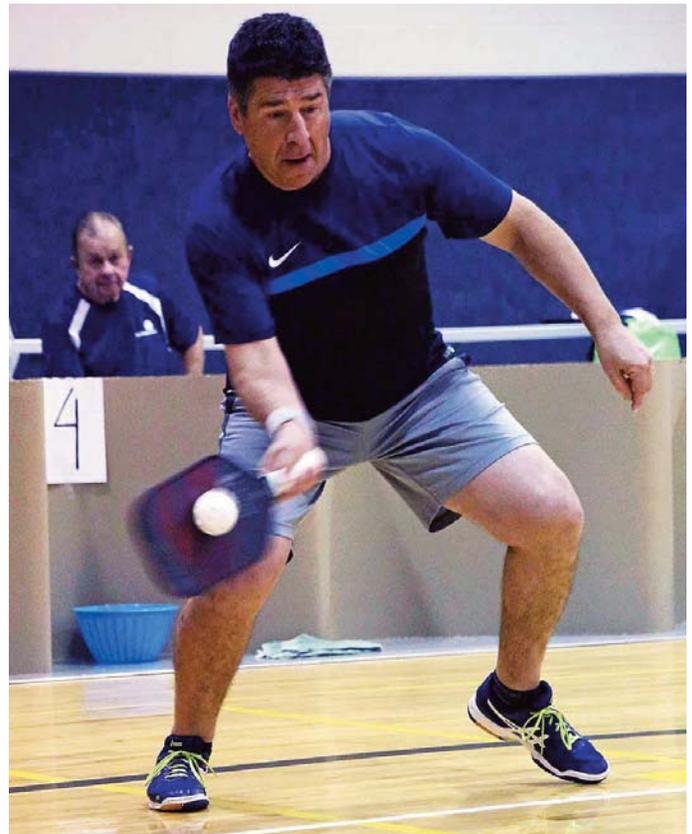
Friends University will be the site for the track and field events, which were new in 2016 and drew an enthusiastic response. The 2018 competition will include: shot put, discus, weight throw, softball throw, javelin, high jump, pole vault, standing long jump, triple jump and running events.

The ever-popular pickleball tournaments will be at The Family Life Center, 1415 South Topeka.

The event is being sponsored by Grene Vision, United Healthcare, Sedgwick County Department on Aging, Friends University, and Senior Services, with other sponsorships pending.

Registration for events begins at 8 a.m. on the 5th. Participation cost is \$35 per person in advance for pickleball and \$40 for track (price includes access to the games, a t-shirt and lunch). Medals will be awarded to the top three finalists in each age division the day of the games.

To pick up a registration form, visit any of the four senior centers. For more information, call (316) 267-0302.



Senior Employment Helping Older Workers Return To Jobs

Becky Gray spent most of her adult life working. She and her husband owned several small businesses so she learned to be a “jill” of all trades. “I did everything from shipping to cleaning toilets,” she laughs.

Years later, after moving to Wichita, she held a succession of jobs including executive assistant, facility and event manager and office manager. In addition, she keeps the books for her daughter, who owns her own business.

After retiring, Becky decided she wanted to return to work, at least part-time. Her search for a job quickly turned into frustration as she discovered most employers were looking for someone younger.

A friend told her about the Senior Employment Program at Senior Services, so she came in, signed up for the program and shortly afterward received a call that they had a full-time job and a part-time job. She chose the one that was three days a week and went for an interview. They liked her and she liked them, and she started work as the receptionist at ComfortCare Homes in February. A short time later, ComfortCare decided to expand the position to five days a week and Becky has been there full-time since then.

“I like the atmosphere,” she says. “I feel comfortable. I appreciate the group I work with - they are kind, team players, and we are doing a lot of good.”

For his part, Doug Stark, owner/CEO of ComfortCare Homes, says they are delighted to have Becky on their team. “She has a wealth of knowledge. In our business, we work with a lot of children in their 60’s and spouses in their 80’s, and she is very sweet and methodical. It has worked out fabulously.”

Becky says she is thrilled the construction project will expand the Senior Employment Program and give it front door access for job seekers, another win-win for the programs housed at the Downtown Senior Center and the people they serve.

To find out more about the Senior Employment Program at Senior Services, the services they offer and their success in placing hundreds of seniors in jobs each year, call 267-1771.



Doug Stark, CEO of ComfortCare Homes, goes over a project with Becky Gray, receptionist.

Spring Job Fair Set

The Senior Employment Program at Senior Services, Inc. of Wichita has scheduled its semi-annual Senior Employment Fair from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 21, at Workforce, 21st and Amidon.

Job seekers must apply at the Senior Employment Program and complete a two-hour orientation prior to the fair.

The Senior Employment Program offers help preparing a resume, interview strategies, computer training and quality job leads, in addition to sponsoring the weekly job club and job fair.

For more information, call 267-1771 or visit seniorservicesofwichita.org.



Building For The Boomers...And Beyond Campaign Continues

Efforts to raise the last \$2.4 million of the \$6 million goal to completely renovate the Downtown Senior Center are still ongoing. Recent donations have elevated the total raised to \$3.6 million.

“We are at a critical juncture,” says Laurel Alkire, executive director. “Without the last \$2 million, we will be unable to complete the Downtown Senior Center.”

Construction has been divided into three phases: phase one remodeled the second floor of the Downtown Senior Center, demolished the old administration building, constructed the new Meals on Wheels kitchen and offices and renovated the first floor of the DSC building; phase two adds a new small event auditorium and additional square footage to enable expansion of the center’s programs and services, a larger computer space and a new façade on the front of the building; phase three calls for the addition of another large auditorium which can be used for pickleball courts and large group meetings. Having only one large meeting space means big events cannot currently be scheduled at a time concurrent to the pickleball games.

“Boomers are just now entering the doors of Senior Services and they bring with them vastly different needs and expectations,” Alkire explains. “We want to expand services that assist people as they age to remain independent. We know the boomers will seek out more opportunities for successful aging. Senior Services is poised to meet that demand by developing more innovative programs and



Work on the new Meals on Wheels kitchen and office area is nearing completion.

forming new partnerships in our community.”

To find out more about Senior Services or to help with the campaign, call 316.267.0302.



Senior Services made and presented some pies to the Davis Moore group to thank them for their commitment to Senior Services and especially for delivering Meals on Wheels.

Leave A Legacy

A gift given in memory of a loved one is a lasting tribute to the special relationship you shared. Making a contribution to Senior Services is a fitting way of honoring this person and, at the same time, making a difference in the lives of those we serve. Memorial gifts give thanks for the past and help establish a vision for the future.

Gifts to Senior Services are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Campaign To Name Downtown Senior Center For Charley Stark



Entrepreneur, innovator and philanthroper, Charley Stark made a huge impact not only on Wichita, but to nonprofits and seniors as well.

After successfully launching Wichita's first TV and stereo shop in 1956 known as Stark Suburban Sound, he opened and owned the popcorn, snack bar, and record departments in the three David's stores, as well as the record departments at Jenkins Music stores. He and a partner brought the Maverick Steak House here in the early '60's along with developing land that he leased to McDonald's restaurants. He and another partner built the first seven Burger Kings in Tulsa, along with becoming a Ken's and Mazzio's Pizza franchisee with restaurants all over central and western Kansas. In 1988 he and his son Doug brought Little Caesar's to

Wichita.

After caring for Charley's parents with Alzheimer's for years, he founded the first residential care home in the state. That company, ComfortCare Homes, is now the largest provider of dementia services in Wichita.

He and his wife, Mary Lou, also raised four sons and a daughter.

Years later, he founded Grumpy Old Men, starting with six members. Members each put in \$1,000 three times a year for a gala event, then donate the extra funds to area nonprofits. In the 10 years since then, the members have grown to 110+, donating \$225,000 to charities in Sedgwick County each year. The group recently passed the \$1.5 million mark in total donations and is still going strong.

To honor Charley's legacy, efforts are now underway to raise \$1 million to rename the newly-remodeled Downtown Senior Center in his honor. To contribute to this tribute, please contact Chris Heiman at 316.267.0302.