Just What is CSSC’s Development Department?

When Laurie Miedema introduces herself as CSSC’s Development Director, people often look at her puzzled and comment, “What is it you do?” She explains, she is a fundraiser for Colonie Senior Service Centers (CSSC) and her role is to raise money to help keep CSSC programs and activities running. With the end of the year soon approaching, we thought we would take this opportunity to explain more about CSSC’s Development Department.

Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc. (CSSC) is a forty year old not-for-profit organization located in Colonie. People often think CSSC is part of the Town of Colonie but we are not. So as an independent business, CSSC needs to pay for our staff salaries and benefits, utilities, maintenance of our buildings, office and program supplies, buses, vans and gas along with many other things to keep our business functioning and providing seniors programs and services. This is where the Development Department comes in as they help raise monies to keep CSSC running. This is done by raising funds through special events, grants, corporate sponsorships for programs, advertising on our buses, annual appeals, and working with individuals and families on planned giving.

Development work requires building relationships with business and community leaders as well as members of our community who wish to participate and support CSSC. Through a variety of methods, we tell the story of what CSSC accomplishes every day for seniors, whether it is in one of our three apartment buildings, in our programs and activities, or in the community as a whole. We meet with people one-on-one, publicize CSSC programs and services through local media, social media outlets and email blasts, and find ways for people and companies to be involved. Very importantly, we find the right fit for our supporters to participate and be recognized for their donation. Some sponsors will gravitate towards a particular event, activity or service, while others prefer naming rights on a CSSC structure or building element. Many often wish to be a member of a certain honorary committee while some donors chose to join our Legacy Circle of Service. The options and opportunities for giving are numerous.

Four well known, annual CSSC fundraising events are coordinated through the Development Department. These include: Warmth of Winter, The Salvatore R. and Anna E. Beltrone Golf Classic, the Founders’ Celebration and our popular Fashion Show and Luncheon. For these events, you will find Laurie Miedema working with an event committee to raise money through corporate sponsorships, honorary committee memberships, ticket sales and securing in-kind donations for live and silent auctions, as well as raffles.

CSSC’s Legacy Circle of Service is made up of members of our community who through planned giving have ensured that future senior programming will continue at CSSC. Legacy Circle donations may include gifts of bequest in a will, life insurance, trusts, IRA rollovers, stock sales and other financial and estate planning tools. The CSSC Development Department will work with an individual and their financial or estate planning professional to coordinate this gift to CSSC. Additionally, many people who pre-plan their funerals will talk with their family members and funeral director to direct memorial gifts to CSSC, such as in lieu of flowers.

Laurie joined the CSSC staff three years ago she said “because I wished my parents had access to the programs and services CSSC offers. They lived outside of Rochester and their lives would have been tremendously enhanced by the resources we provide. My Dad suffered from dementia and the stress and toll of taking care of him for years I am sure shortened my Mom’s life.”

Originally from Rochester, Laurie moved to the Capital Region for a quick stopover that has lasted 35 years. She currently resides in the Village of Colonie with her husband Walter, they have four grown children. When Laurie is not at CSSC, you might find her at the gym, where she loves to swing a kettle bell and practice her jab cross punches on the bag. She also can be found at the golf course, practicing her newly found game of golf. Laurie is also busy sharing her event planning skills with her daughter, as they plan her wedding for next summer.

There are many opportunities for the CSSC Development Department to work with you, “no matter how great or small, CSSC is always so appreciative when individuals and companies support us and our mission,” said Laurie Miedema. If you would like more information please contact Laurie at 518-459-2857 extension 304 or by email at Lmiedema@colonieseniors.org.
Message from the Executive Director

Happy October!
October 1 – World Vegetarian Day
October 8 – National Pierogi Day
October 11 – Columbus Day
October 16 – World Food Day
October 31 – Halloween

I recently woke up in the middle of the night and unable to fall back asleep, I turned on PBS and began watching a documentary entitled “Farmsteaders.”

Filmed over five years, “Farmsteaders” follows a young family as they try to reinvent an organic dairy farm in Ohio. The husband bought his family farm when his grandfather died. Throughout the film, the young couple heroically do all they can to keep the farm afloat while using sustainable methods.

The documentary did not shy away from demonstrating how incredibly hard it is to run a dairy farm. It was amazing to watch through all their sacrifice, entrepreneurial spirit, long hours and tears, they found meaning and happiness in what they were doing. Very matter-of-factly, the wife comments that she tries to find joy in everything she does.

In these trying times, one can easily lose sight of joy, hope and happiness, and when the world feels like it is spiraling out of control, and all semblance of normalcy seems to be lost, holding on to positive feelings can feel like an overwhelming task. To have the ability of finding joy even when things seem bleak is truly a gift.

Please remember that we are here for you. CSSC truly believes in its mission of helping seniors stay active, healthy and independent. We are your senior center where individuals are able to come together and find meaning and joy.

Our Senior Centers bring people of different backgrounds, beliefs and experiences together. Often we create programs that invite individuals to enter a common space and explore a common interest. Through a wide range of programming, CSSC creates informal communities of learning, helping people recognize how much we share, despite our differences, and how much these differences can help us grow and stay positive.

If you are not a member of THE CENTER, please consider joining. In these trying times, CSSC can help remind you of our shared history, our commitment and hopes for the future.

Happy Halloween!
– Diane Conroy-LaCivita

Local Bounty Holiday Baskets will be available starting Friday, October 15

Filled with an abundance of local product and produce, CSSC’s beautifully decorated Local Bounty Holiday Baskets will start at $35 (plus tax). Give your friends, colleagues and family a unique gift for the holidays featuring the best of New York!

To order call 518-459-2857 ext. 305.

October’s CSSC Community Drive-Through Dinner

Please join CSSC and Mazzone Hospitality on Friday, October 8, 2021 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. as we celebrate Octoberfest with a beautiful Community Drive-Through Dinner. The menu will include: Harvest Vegetable-Lentil Soup, Marinated Beet Salad with Red Onions and Greens, Wurst Sampler with Sauerkraut, Red Cabbage and Potato Pancakes, and Apple Strudel.

The cost is $13 a meal. Reservations are required. Please call 518-459-2857 ext. 303.
**CSSC’s International Diners Club: For the Love of Food – December’s Outing**

Born in Nigeria and a resident of several regions of the country, Kelechi Nwagboso moved to America a decade ago to join her husband, a chemical engineer. Kelechi is her family’s eldest daughter and started cooking for them and assisting her mother, who ran the cafeteria at a local cement factory, when she was eight years old. She opened Keobi, the Capital Region’s first restaurant dedicated to the flavors of West Africa, on April 8, 2020 to rave reviews.

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, gaining its independence in 1960 after centuries of European rule. The legacy of Nigerian culinary practices ripple through Black communities, as food traditionally thought apart of Black culture in America is built on the foundational techniques of West African cooking. Flavors and ideas from Nigeria can be found in the way a soul food or Caribbean restaurant prepares rice, beans and stewed greens among other dishes.

Get ready for December’s dining opportunity as we visit Keobi, 189 Lark Street, Albany on Monday, December 6 at 4:00 PM. The cost of the meal is $39. Space is limited and registration is required. CSSC Transportation Services are available for those who are unable to drive themselves. Please call Diane at 518-459-2857 ext. 305 for additional information and to reserve your spot.

**Defensive Driving Classes at The Beltrone Living Center**

Roger Dames, CSSC’s Driver Fitness Coordinator, will conduct Defensive Driving Classes in October as follows:

**Thursday, October 7, 2021,**
from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Thursday, October 21, 2021,**
from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Classes will be held at The Beltrone Living Center, 6 Winners Circle, Albany, NY. Cost is $25 per person, due before day of class. To reserve your seat, call 518-459-2857, ext. 303.

**Let’s Have a Conversation – Older Women Leading Extraordinary Lives**

With tremendous support from Humanities New York, CSSC will tape a thirty-minute personal interview twice a month with area women representing all walks of life. Their perspectives are real. We will delve into their life story. Some may talk about a long successful career while others may speak on a new exciting hobby or interest. Our aim is to provide hope to women who are aging to show side effects for growth for such things as love, compassion, bravery, humility and creativity.

October’s Conversations are as follows:

**Thursday, October 7** – Dr. Rosa Mondragon, Obstetrician and gynecologist

**Thursday, October 21** – Libby Post, Advocate and Local Political Commentator

These conversations may be viewed on CSSC’s YouTube channel any time after 2 p.m. on the day of the event.

As we end our series of interviews with so many incredible women, we want to say “Thank you” to our interviewees for having a conversation and allowing us to get to know them better. Their stories have been inspirational.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

Please join us on Thursday, November 4th from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. as we host a small reception (both in-person and virtually) entitled Pillars of Strength at The Beltrone Living Center to formally thank all our interviewees.

**According to Jess**

I am Jess Flynn, CSSC’s Community Relations Director. My role here is acting as a liaison between the residents of our three beautiful apartment buildings and the vast array of community services and resources available. Every day, I am privileged to witness the wonderful sense of community The Beltrone Living Center, King Thiel Senior Community and Sheehy Manor alike provide for our residents. From birthday parties to live entertainment and delicious lunches, there is an air of camaraderie and a feeling of home when you walk these hallways. What amazing places to call home!

**Join Us at Rivers Casino**

Please join CSSC as we travel to Rivers Casino in Schenectady on Monday, October 11.

Shuttle will leave King Thiel Senior Community at 10:15 a.m. and The Beltrone Living Center at 10:30 a.m. returning at approximately 3:30 p.m. Prepayment of a non-refundable fee of $20 is required. To make a reservation, please call Sharon at 518-459-2857, ext. 302.
Congratulations to Bright Horizons!
The New York State Caregiving & Respite Coalition, in partnership with the NYS Office for the Aging offered a recent round of grants to organizations interested in developing or expanding volunteer respite programs in New York. Colonie Seniors Services Centers’ Bright Horizons Adult Day Program applied and was awarded $25,000 for an initiative entitled “Bridge to Respite Program” which will serve seniors in Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady counties. If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering for this program, please call Sue Napierski at 518-459-2857 ext. 322.

Bring Out the Best of America!
We are so excited to host a Fall Volunteer Opportunity Fair on Wednesday October 13th, from 10:00 a.m., until 1:00 p.m. in the Lakeview Room at The Beltrone Living Center.
Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc. has been the sponsor of RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) since 2014. We connect senior volunteers with nonprofit organizations in Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties.
This Volunteer Opportunity Fair will give you the chance to speak directly with dozens of volunteer recruiters from area nonprofit organizations, like Albany Stratton VA Medical Center, Altamont Programs, Inc., The Irish American Heritage Museum, LifePath, Sunnyview Hospital and The Joan Nicole Prince Home to name a few. So if you are age 55 and over, reserve your spot by calling me, Jim Kelly, at 518-459-2857 ext. 308 or you can email me at jkelly@colonieseniors.org.
Hope to see you there!

Open House at Sheehy Manor
Tuesday, October 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Consider living in one of the Capital Regions premier independent communities for seniors with limited income (62 years of age and up). It is our pleasure to invite you to visit Sheehy Manor.
Sheehy Manor is located close to shopping, restaurants, and places of worship. Amenities include:
- Bright, spacious one-bedroom apartment
- Maintenance free lifestyle
- Pet friendly and smoke free
- Twenty-four-hour security intercom system
- Emergency call buttons in each apartment
- Transportation services
- Lunch served three times a week
- Free membership to THE CENTER at CSSC

For information call Aimee Richardson, Sheehy Manor Site Manager at 518-429-6292.

Free Public Harvest Concert
Please join CSSC on Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. for a wonderful outdoor concert. Concert will be held out at the south end gazebo at The Beltrone Living Center with “Band of Gold” performing favorites from many different eras. In the event of rain, the performance will take place inside The Beltrone’s Lakeview Room.

Costume contest at 2 p.m. with prizes for; Most Creative, Scariest Costume and Funniest Costume. Enjoy pumpkin painting and refreshments.
This free concert is made possible by the generous assistance and support of

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1981 – 2021
4th ANNIVERSARY
Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc. celebrates forty years of providing programs and services to seniors in our community.

January 1981 – the first Board of Directors meeting was held. Ann Marie Sheehy was selected as the first CSSC Board President. Ms. Sheehy served from 1981 to 1994.

February 25, 1985 – Bright Horizons at Goodrich School Latham opens

March 18, 1982 – First Senior Meal
September 1, 1983 – First Health and Recreation Program
January 15, 1984 – First ride Transportation Services
November 1, 1986 – Bright Horizons at Carondelet Latham opens

May 17, 1994 – First Volunteer Dinner
September 26, 1994 – First Golf Classic
March 1, 1998 – Sheehy Manor Senior Housing opens
May 7, 1999 – First Fashion Show Luncheon
October 1, 1999 – The Beltrone Living Center opens
October 25, 1999 – Bright Horizons Colonie opens
Forever Young Singers Audition
Calling All Singers ... Update
Forever Young Singers Musical Director David Van Deusen will begin to hold one-on-one auditions the end of October with individuals (ages 55+) who are interested in being part of this wonderful new musical group. We now have an accompanist who will be assisting the group as it takes formation. Prior singing experience is helpful (church choir, school choruses, singing in the shower etc.). We respectfully request that all interested parties who would like to audition be vaccinated for COVID. If you would like to receive an application to audition, please call Diane at (518) 459-2857 ext. 305. We are cautiously optimistic that we can begin to rehearse as a small group later this year at The Beltrone Living Center.

CSSC’s 40th Anniversary Party
Special Anniversary Party Lunch, Friday October 8 at noon.
Join us to celebrate our 40th Anniversary!
The 40th Anniversary is celebrated with rubies, so we’ll be giving out sweet ruby-red velvet cupcakes. Come for lunch or just to hear the music and have a cupcake. Reservations required. Call 518-459-2857, ext. 303.
With music from Tony Schettino – all your favorite tunes!
Lunch will be salmon cakes, roasted potatoes, sautéed squash and a red velvet cupcake.

Forever Young Singers is sponsored by
HIGHMARK
NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

Decorating Ideas for Autumn from Umbrella of Colonie
Take a ride on a beautiful autumn day to your local farm stand. Gather up Gourds, hay bales, mums and pumpkins. Use the fresh beautiful autumn harvest and the crisp air as your decorating inspiration. All the treasures that you find will carry you through the Thanksgiving Season.
Happy Autumn,
- Sharon Herald, Umbrella of Colonie Coordinator

As we reflect on the past forty years, we are grateful to the Executive Directors, Board of Directors and staff who have come before us for their foresight in developing programs and services for the seniors in our community.
As Executive Director, I know our current Board of Directors and staff are committed to continuing this proud legacy of service to seniors.
–Diane Conroy-LaCivita

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–Diane Conroy-LaCivita
Sit down and get moving!
By Kevin B. Costello, M.D.

For the better part of the 20th century the rocking chair was a cultural metaphor for retirement, often denoting the departure of a politician or celebrity from the world stage. Indeed when I fondly picture my elderly relatives in my mind, it is often an image of them seated in a rocker in their living room or on their front porch. In that era President John F. Kennedy had been renowned to favor a good rocking chair, perhaps giving this quintessentially American 18th-century invention some renewed chic. When I juxtapose my memories of those days with those of the homebound elders that I encounter now, it strikes me that it is far more likely that I will find them in a recliner or an armchair or sofa, often with feet on the floor, their legs dependent and sometimes swollen. Indeed, the vast majority of Americans spend most of the day in such a position whether at home or work. But there can be a difference between sitting and being sedentary.

Physical inactivity is associated with a host of ills, including increased musculoskeletal pain, constipation, obesity, risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease, pneumonia, blood clots, and even dementia. In the extreme, it leads to skin breakdown and frailty, a vicious spiral of reduced activity, reduced appetite and nutrition, reduced energy, reduced muscle mass and strength, reduced activity, and so on. For those who suffer from imposed immobility, whether due to injury or disease, or occupation, increasing activity level can seem out of reach. However, even in the workplace biophysicists are exploring and designing chairs that increase seated mobility and support to prevent and relieve discomfort, improve blood flow, and even provide a bit of exercise with either a neutral or beneficial effect on alertness and productivity. But at home, sweet home, it may be hard to improve on a model that emerged when someone first thought to shorten the legs of a chair and affix rockers to them. For those hobbled with arthritis or other conditions that put full weight-bearing exercise out of reach, spending some time swaying back and forth in a rocker may be just what the doctor ordered.


The Tool Box is a program of Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc., a non-profit organization serving the largest population of seniors in the Capital Region.

Dr. Costello also serves on the Board of Directors of Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc.

REFERENCES:


Senior Dining Program

October meals and events at Colonie Seniors

Join us for a hot meal at The Beltrone Living Center Monday – Friday at noon. This program is funded in part by the Albany County Dept. for Aging, NYS Office for the Aging, Administration for Community Living, Town of Colonie and participant contributions.

Lunch and Learns:
October 14: The popular Father Jim Kane returns to share his knowledge of world religions. Come learn about Mormonism and Joseph Smith, who founded the religion and who is considered a prophet. Lunch will be Chile Con Carne, Caesar Salad, Oranges and a cookie.

October 26: Living with arthritis: Nearly a quarter of all Americans struggle with arthritis. If you are one of them, join us as we discuss the signs, symptoms and natural and medical treatment methods. Lunch will be Stuffed Pepper, Honey Carrots and Apple Crisp.

Special Events:
Special Lunch, October 8: Come hear Tony Schettino play your favorites! Lunch will be salmon cakes, roasted potatoes, squash and cookies.

September 2021 Menu

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Menu Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>Fall Harvest Salad</td>
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<td>10/4</td>
<td>Chicken Cacciatore</td>
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<td>10/5</td>
<td>Beef Tips w/ Gravy</td>
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<td>10/6</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL DAY: French Cassoulet, Whipped Potatoes</td>
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<td>10/7</td>
<td>Macaroni &amp; Cheese</td>
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<td>Salmon Cakes</td>
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<td>Stuffed Acorn Squash</td>
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<td>Veggie Pizza</td>
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<td>Chile Con Carne</td>
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<td>Shrimp Scampi</td>
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<td>Pot Roast w/ Veg</td>
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<td>10/21</td>
<td>Spinach, Tomato, Cheese Quiche</td>
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<td>10/22</td>
<td>Meat Lasagna</td>
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<td>10/25</td>
<td>Parmesan Crusted Chicken</td>
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<td>Stuffed Pepper</td>
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<td>10/27</td>
<td>Chicken &amp; Broccoli Alfredo</td>
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<td>10/28</td>
<td>Homemade Fish Sticks</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/29</td>
<td>Pasta Fagioli &amp; Spinach Salad</td>
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Special Dinner, October 18: Brandon Malowski is coming to play the your favorite Rat Pack tunes on our grand piano. Dinner is chicken Parmesan, Caesar salad, oranges, and a chocolate ice cream sundae.

Senior Dining program is an equal opportunity provider. Suggested donation of $3, and registration and reservations are required. Call 518-459-2857 ext. 303.

Founder’s Celebration

Thursday, October 28th from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. The Lakeview Room in The Beltrone Living Center on Facebook Live!

Please join us for the 20th Annual Founders’ Celebration Dinner, taking place on Thursday, October 28 from 5:30 – 8:30 pm, at The Beltrone Living Center, in Colonie, New York. This year’s Founders Celebration will mark CSSC’s 40th anniversary and we will once again honor local businesses and community leaders with the Colonie Senior Spirit Award.

The Colonie Senior Spirit Award honors individuals and businesses that have made a significant and positive impact on the lives of seniors in our community and who reflect the commitment, vision and leadership exemplified by CSSC’s Founders.

If you would like to join us for this year’s Founders Celebration or would like more information please contact Laurie Miedema, CSSC’s Development Director at 518-459-2857 ext. 304 or at Lmiedema@colonieseniors.org. You may also visit our website at www.colonieseniors.org/event

Croquet Tournament

Friday, October 15th from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Meet at the Crossings of Colonie for lunch and a “learn to play” demonstration with tournament play to follow.

A Tournament Celebration will be held with food, refreshments, and entertainment following tournament play.

Proceeds from this event will benefit CSSC’s Bright Horizons Adult Day Services Program. $100 for a team of 2 players.

To make a reservation, call 518-459-2857 ext. 302.

Veterans Recognition Luncheon

Lakeview Room, Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc. Monday, November 8, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join Colonie Senior Service Centers and the members of the American Legion Joseph E. Zaloga Post #1520 as we honor Veterans from all branches of the Armed Services. Nearly 300 individuals attend; with over half of the attendees being veterans.

To make a reservation, call 518-459-2857 ext. 305.

A special thank you to our generous sponsors (as of September 2, 2021)

BBL Construction Services

The Salvatore and Anna Beltrone Family Foundation

Woodward Connor Gilles Selfman Architects

Merrill A Bank of America Company

Rossetti Properties

CAPITAL BANK

The Beltrone Living Center
CESC Mission Statement
The mission of Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc. (CSSC) is to provide comprehensive services to those in our community who are in or approaching their mature years, and to provide support and services to their families and caregivers. Through these services, CSSC strives to ensure the physical, mental, emotional and financial well-being of our participants, improve the quality of life, and to enhance the structure and stability of our community as a whole.

Directory
Executive Director
Diane Conroy-LaCivita
dconroylacivita@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2857, ext. 305
Administrative Operations and HR
Carol Ripley, Director
cripley@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2857, ext. 310
Bright Horizons
Susan Napierski, Director
snapierski@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2857, ext. 322
Colonie 518-459-7967
Community Relations
Jessica Flynn, Director
jflynn@colonieseniors.org
518-704-4267
Development
Laurie Miedema, Director
lmiedema@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2857, ext. 304
Driver Fitness Center
Roger Dames, Coordinator
rdames@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2857, ext. 326
Finance
Andrew C. Koenig, CPA, Director
akoenig@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2857, ext. 306
Lifelong Wellness
Caroline Barrett, Director
cbarrett@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2857, ext. 308
RSVP and Volunteer Coordinator
James Kelly, Director
jkelly@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2857, ext. 308
Tool Box
Leonard G. St. Gelais, Coordinator
lstgelais@colonieseniors.org
518-608-4758
Transportation Services
Danette Groat, Director
dgroat@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2857, ext. 301
To Schedule a Ride: 518-459-6064
Umbrella of Colonie
Sharon Herald, Coordinator
sherald@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2857, ext. 311
The Beltrone Living Center
Debbie McClune, Site Manager
dmcclune@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2731
King Thiel Senior Community and Sheehy Manor
Aimee Richardson, Site Manager
arichardson@colonieseniors.org
King Thiel: 518-429-6292
Sheehy Manor: 518-782-2350
Media and Communications
Michael DiGiuseppe, Specialist
mdigitpepe@colonieseniors.org
518-459-2857, ext. 337

Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc.
6 Winners Circle
Albany, NY 12205

Friday, November 19, 2021
from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Lakeview Room,
Colonie Senior Service Centers, Inc.

Seating will be limited.
Join in this fun-filled event and see the latest fashions for this holiday season!
To make a reservation, call 518-459-2857 ext. 305.