

Improve Flexibility & Range of Motion 4 Help for Caregivers

8 February is a Resolution Reset

#### Cass County COA Board of Directors

# **President**Jim Beebe

## Vice President Sue Heinrich

# **Treasurer**Ronald Lofts

#### **Secretary** Tom Buszek

#### **Board Members**

Duane Adams
Frank Butts
Michael Casey
Dan Dahmen
Marilu Franks
Mary Geminder
Dolores McNeary
Carl Moraw
Nancy Pallas
John Seculoff
Walter Swann

#### The Messenger,

Volume 32 Issue 2, published monthly by the

Cass COA, P.O. Box 5, Cassopolis MI 49031

#### Messenger Staff

Director of Community Development Kelli Casey

Communications Assistant Terina Miller

© 2023 Cass County COA. Reprinting in whole or in part of any article or photo appearing in The Messenger is not allowed without express written permission.

Some of the images used are from freepik.com

Anyone attending programs and events associated with the Cass County COA may be photographed and/or video recorded. These items may be used in The Messenger or for other promotional purposes. Those wishing not to consent must kindly notify a COA staff member.



# IMPROVE FLEXIBILITY & RANGE OF MOTION

by TAYLOR LEE

Certified COA Fitness Trainer

When it comes to health and wellness, cardio and strength training are very important, but stretching should not to be overlooked. Increasing flexibility can have several benefits such as helping to potentially avoid injuries, staving off arthritis and other chronic issues, increasing your range of motion, and improving posture and balance. As an added bonus, you don't have to twist yourself like a pretzel to see improvements.

There are different types of stretching, with the most common being dynamic and static. When most people think of stretching, they think of static stretching. Static stretching is when you stand, sit, or lie still and hold a single position for period of time. Dynamic stretching involves active movements where joints and muscles go through a full range of motion. Both have their benefits depending on the goal. Dynamic stretching primes the joints and muscles for movement by lubricating the joints and warming up the muscles, making it an excellent start for a workout or similar activity. Static stretching improves flexibility and range of motion by relaxing and elongating the muscles. This sort of stretching is best when the muscles are already warmed up, such as after physical activity.

It's not a stretch to say improving flexibility and range of motion are important. Regular stretching, both dynamic and static, are excellent additions to any fitness routine. Even if you struggle with stiffness in general, improvements can be made with consistent stretching, making it well worth the effort. Here at the COA we have several classes that address flexibility and range of motion including Yoga, Range of Motion, S.E.A.T., and Balance, Stretch, & Stability classes. There's something for everybody.

# 3 BASIC STATIC STRETCHES FOR BEGINNERS

For these stretches, find a sturdy chair such as a dining chair, preferably one without arms. With all these stretches, hold the position at the point where you feel a gentle pull and not at the point where it becomes painful. If any of these stretches cause discomfort or pain, discontinue. With practice you may be able to go deeper with each stretch.

#### **Hamstring Stretch**

Seated at the edge of your chair, extend your right leg out straight with your heal on the floor and your toes pointing up at the ceiling. Your left leg should be bent at 90 degrees with your foot flat on the floor. Keeping your back as straight as possible, lean forward



until you feel a gentle pull in the back of your right leg. Hold this position for 30-45 seconds. Repeat this stretch on the left side.



#### **Quad Stretch**

Seated at the edge of your chair, turn to the right so your left leg is completely off the edge of the chair. Holding onto the seatback with your right hand for support, place your left foot behind you as far as comfortably possible. You should feel this stretch through the front of your left thigh. Hold for 30-45 seconds. Repeat this process on the opposite leg.

#### **Thoracic Stretch**

Standing behind a chair, place both hands on the seat back and walk backwards hinging at the hips. Be sure to keep your neck, back, and shoulders relaxed. If you feel the chair pulling towards you, you may be standing to far back. You will feel this stretch in



your upper back and shoulders. If your hamstrings are particularly tight, you may feel this stretch in your hamstrings as well. Hold this position for 30-45 seconds.

#### Cover Image

Alice Kerber finished painting her piece during Ceramics that meets every Thursday at the Lowe Center. Be sure to check out future Messengers for Ceramics coming to Front Street Crossing or if you are interested in other great activates like this one, check out pages 12-21.

# Cass County COA Staff Contacts

**CEO** Marty Heirty

Adult Day Service
Laura Jepkema

Care Services / Support Groups Cindy Ledger, RN

Charitable Giving

Kelli Casey

Food Service Michael Garcia

Front Street Crossing Kelli Casey

Human Resources / Volunteers Danielle Dilts

Leisure Activities /
Fitness /
Facilities Rental
Kelli Casev

Leslie Vargo

Meals on Wheels / In-Home Care / Medicare Medicaid Assistance

Adrienne Glover

**Operations**Danielle Dilts

The COA is proud to partner with...



by KERYL CONKRIGHT

Savvy Caregiver Trainer/Instructor

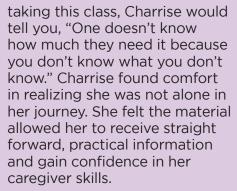
Charrise McCorey and her family had just moved to Cass County. She had been caring for her mother Patty Sharkey in their home for many years and was in desperate need of services. She began the journey of seeking information. In her previous area of residence, she had sought help but kept coming to a dead end with road block after road block. Upon arriving here in Cass County, she called the COA to ask about services.

Charrise was met with support as she asked what services were available. Upon hearing about Adult Day Services (ADS), she scheduled a trial visit. Charrise was so impressed by the intake process as it was truly all about her mom and her mom's needs. She said it felt like a giant group hug then and still does every day. Her mom attends the ADS Monday through Friday and loves it. Charrise finally found a place where her mom's need for socialization, activity, and involvement are met by staff that really love her and include her.

It wasn't long after discovering ADS that Charrise heard about the Caregiver Class which was to begin in a few days. Her desire to attend the class was to gain knowledge of facts of dementia and to obtain practical tools to use in daily life. After completing the class, not only did she gain knowledge and acquire tools, but she is better able

to understand the disease and its progression. She also feels that she received factual information and tools to help her through her journey of caregiving.

For those who are thinking about



There are many more people out there like Charrise who can benefit from these great resources. It could be you, a friend, or a loved one. The COA not only offers ADS, but will again partner with Region IV Area Agency on Aging to provide the Savvy Caregiver® Class at the Lowe Center in Cassopolis. This free six-week class will be conducted on Mondays, March 20 - April 24 from 1 - 3 p.m. All sessions are taught by Keryl Conkright, Savvy Caregiver® Trainer/ Instructor.

This family caregiver class is for family members caring for an individual in the home setting who lives with any type of memory loss, such



Charrise McCorey & Patty Sharkey

as dementia. It is said that caregiving is one of the most difficult jobs one may do in their lifetime. This class will not only offer information regarding memory loss, as well as dementia and its effects on the brain, but will also include other aspects such as managing behaviors, improving caregiving skills, and how to handle everyday activities more easily. Another important component involves the discussion of making sure to take care of yourself as the caregiver in order to better care for your loved one.

Free respite care is offered while one attends the class. Information is available at the time of registration. To register, call or email Tracy at (269) 982-7731 or tracymanning@ areaagencyonaging.org.

If you are caring for someone who lives with a memory loss issue, please call and sign up for this class. The information and resources you gain will help you as you make your way through the caregiving journey.

#### **Volunteers**

Duane Adams Ruthann Adams Joanne Anderson Betty Ash Candy Azevedo Carol Bailev Rita Baker Shirley Barks Joanne Bata Paul Bata Jim Beebe Vicky Beebe Diane Bonczynski Joyce Borton Richard Borton Rebecca Bowers John Bradke Camille Briegel Linda Brossman Judy Brown Marie Brueamann Frank Butts Marsha Butts Becky Caldwell Linda Campbell Robert Campbell Lonnie Carlisle Ginger Carlisle Michael Casey Chris Cettinski **Bob Cochrane** Anne Colgan Joe Colgan Keryl Conkright Judy Coon Dan Dahmen Max Davis Sue Decker

Kay Diehl Carol Dierickx Jeff Downing David Dunlap Sue Dunlap Robin Emenaker Larry Emrick Anna Eubank Marilu Franks Elizabeth French Mary Geminder Barb Green Joyce Greenwood Cheryl Groner Floyd Groner Jim Grubbs Melody Grubbs Shirley Guilford Joyce Hamilton Janet Hamilton-Merckx Brooke Hari Marcus Hari Kimberly Hartman Sue Heinrich Jim Hershberger Marshall Higginbotham Jason Hill **Deborah Howes** Richard Howes Mary Jones Linda Keeler Mike Klute Gwendolyn Klyce Penny Knepple Stephanie Knepple

David Kring Luci Lafontant-Lee Marcia Lofts Ronald Lofts Sharon Macdonald Richard Macleod Frank Maley Carol Manning Elaine McKeough Kathleen Mcmahon **Dolores McNeary** Cindra Mikel Delores Minisee Barb Monroe Pamela Moore Carl Moraw Nancy Pallas Diane Palmer Susan Parker Karen Pellow Phyllis Peterson Michael Peterson Ray Phillips George Purlee Jannette Rafferty Sandra Randle Carol Rauch Jennifer Ray Terry Ray Jovce Rentfrow Melvin Reynolds Helga Richards John Seculoff Fred Shank Nicolette Shea Erma Skipper Jessica Slough

Beverly Smith Bonita Smith Eileen Smith John Smith Irmgard Stanage Julie Stebbin Kawanna Stoker Walter Swann Diane Tiser Karen Visser Ralph Vosburgh Pam Welling Debbie Wiggins Susan Wilder Anne Wilkinson Chuck Wilson Kathleen Wishart Linda Wolfe Clarawayne Wolford Roberta Woodruff Tom Yarger Fran Yeager Katherine Yoder Carol Young Beverly Youngberg Richard Zander

Volunteers listed are for the month of December, during which we had 138 active volunteers who contributed 1824 hours of work. This would be equal to more than 11 full time staff positions.



269-445-3801

23770 Hospital St. Cassopolis, MI 49031

www.ccmcf.org



Virginia Kraft

### **Upcoming Bus Trip**

#### **MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY**

Tuesday, April 11

Marie Slough

Travel back in time to the city forever preserved in the temporary exhibit of Pompeii: The Exhibition. Then finish the day exploring one of the largest science museums in the world.

Cost: \$90 (Nonrefundable)

Call (269) 445-8110 to register.





Watch ice, timber, and wood carvers, as they create works of art before your eyes at the Dowagiac Ice Time Festival on Saturday, February 4.

Gather around the campfire for warm and chocolatey S'mores and be sure to stop into Front Street Crossing during the chili crawl for the opportunity to taste COA Chef Garcia's chili from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. During

this time, you will get to taste and vote for your favorite award-winning chili as you make

your way through town to various participating businesses.





#### Now accepting applications.

Community room with fireplace and full kitchen, library, craft and fitness rooms.

Spacious one- and two-bedroom apartments are loaded with every amenity:

- · Stunning water and wood views
- · Intercom-entry building
- · Emergency pull cords
- Elevator
- · Professional on-site staff
- Barrier-free apartments available
- Seniors 62 years or older or disabled (regardless of age)
- Rent based on income if qualified assistance available



Please call (269) 445-3333 TDD (800) 649-3777 for more information.





# Tax Preparation at the COA

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax assistance to anyone free of charge with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50. Tax-Aide volunteers are located nationwide and are trained and IRS-certified every year.

The Cass County Council on Aging is proud to partner with the AARP Foundation to provide this free service. Each year our local Tax Team of Volunteers spends hundreds of hours preparing individual tax returns for our community's seniors.

Once again, the COA will be partnering with local AARP Tax Volunteers to provide this service. Customers will bring their tax information to the COA and go through an intake screening. Their information will be left with the volunteers to prepare the tax return. Once completed, the customer will be contacted when the return is ready to be picked up and filed.

A limited number of appointments will be available. To schedule an appointment, call (269) 445-8110 beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, February 6. February is a Resolution Reset

by DANIELLE DILTS Human Resources Manager

With one month into the new year, hopefully you set some goals for yourself and are still working on obtaining them. The good news is, here at the COA we offer plenty to do.

If your resolution was to get in shape, we have wonderful Fitness Centers and dedicated fitness instructors to assist you with reaching your goals.

Another resolution you might have made involves giving back to the community and helping others. When the weather gets worse, the need for home delivered meals is on the rise. It is extremely difficult to find volunteers willing to deliver meals, especially during the winter with all the added snow and slick conditions. We have been lucky to add some

wonderful people to our volunteer team post covid and I am verv grateful for them. however we still are struggling.



Many of our volunteers move away during the winter months, leaving us searching to fill the positions. Volunteers have a set schedule to drive one day per week on the same route. This helps both the volunteer and the recipient to familiarize themselves with one

more special because a smiling

volunteer checks in on them daily.



another, making it a greater experience for both.

It isn't too late to keep working on that resolution or to even start a new one. So whether your intent is in getting fit or giving back, the COA has something for you. If you are interested in joining our volunteer team, please reach out to Danielle at (269) 445-8110 and find out more of what it takes to become a Meals on Wheels volunteer.

Make this the year you keep that resolution by volunteering today.

#### Volunteer Spotlight

Dick and Joyce Borton began volunteering in our Lowe Center Dining Room spring of 2019. Since then, they have been a lifesaver for us, filling in on many occasions when we were short on volunteers for the day. When asked



if they would take over a meal delivery route, they stepped right up and agreed without hesitation.

You can usually find them on Mondays delivering meals throughout the community all while sharing their smiles. Kudos to our AMAZING volunteers!

# Employee Spotlight

Sadie Watson has been a Home Care Aide since June 2016. She is

a dedicated. hard worker who cares deeply about the clients she serves. If any issues or concerns arise, she is quick to report them. We are very



happy to have her as part of the COA team.

# Black History Month Celebration

The Minority Coalition of Cass County is proud to announce the celebration of Black History Month with their annual breakfast on Tuesday, February 28 at the Cass County COA in Cassopolis from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. This year's theme is "We All Have a Dream." The guest speaker will be the author, Paula Matthews. Breakfast is free and open to the public. Registration is required by calling (269) 445-8110.



Paula Matthews, Author & Speaker





#### Annual Campaign

Clara Anderson Shirley Andrews Walter Archer Sandra Bakeman

Jan Ball

Faith Beaupre Lawrence Bienick

Steven Blair Nancy Bowman Sharon Bradlev Richard Bruno Thomas Buszek Sandra Butte

Robert and Linda Campbell

Keryl Conkright Gregory Connelly **Donald Cooper** 

Ida Corbit Betty Cripe Richard Darr Don Duck William Eustice Anne Felton Margo Foreman Mary Fosdick Jayne Fox Michael Fox Linda Frisbie Glenda Gibson John Gould

Larry Hartsell Jacquelyn Hotrum

Barbara Green

Melody Grubbs

Shirley Guilford

Juanita Hagan

Christine Hughes Earline Jones Karen Judd David Kane Byron Kephart Mary Kinnison Fred Kirsch

Jim and Andrea Klett

Ledger Krupp Edward Kwilosz Patricia Laporte Ivan Lawson Frederick Leet Dale Lyons

Michael Machalleck

Karen Mack Michael Malonev Thomas Marosz Jerry Mcintyre William Mitchell Jane Mooneyham Carl and Jane Moraw

Shirley Morlan Eddie Mose Al Mott Mary Myrkle Barbara Norton Patrick Parenti Phyllis Peterson Richard Peterson Betty Phillips William Potter Karen Randall Elsie Randles Claude Richardson

Louise Rigoni

Mike Rockwell Harvey Ross Janet Ross Stanley Sarabyn Doug Savles

Richard Scheibelhut Jr

Jerry Schley Gary Shanafelt Mike Sheffieck Ann Simmons John Simpson Jr Sandra Smith James Snow

Bruce and Ada Springsteen

Starks Family

**Funeral Homes** Svlvia Stull

Doris Tastula Jeri Taylor Patsy Taylor Richard Temple G. Toms Yarger Susan Toth Michael Turnev Sandra Wallace Dewanda Washburn James Wilson Georgianna Wixson Kenneth Wolfe William Woodill Marny Wyant Georgia Yarbrough

James Zimmer

Zimmv's Tavern

Includes donations received between December 11, 2022 - January 10, 2023. Donations received after that date will be acknowledged in the next edition of the Messenger.

#### **Greatest Need**

John Adams Stanley Sarabyn Michael Sutherland

#### **Meals on Wheels**

Orval Allison Susan White

#### In Memory of **Donna Adams**

Michael Fox Sheree Adams Scott Peters Nancy Wolf

#### In Memory of Elaine Katovsich

Thomas Katovsich

#### In Memory of **Bruce Mather**

Donna Dodd Pat Mather

#### In Memory of Ruth McDonald

Robert and Linda Campbell Toni and David Janssen Bonnie Latourette James Snow Betty Taggart

#### **Nutrition Program**

Karen Current

#### Seniors in Cass County Need Your Support

Your gift is extremely important, particularly in today's climate, because it offers immediate resources that are directed to the current needs of local seniors like Meals on Wheels, In Home Care, Adult Day Service and the Handy Helpers program that builds wheelchair accessible ramps for Cass County seniors at no cost. Your donation is helping to make our community's seniors happier and healthier. Right here. Right now.

Please consider making a gift today.

- Online: www.CassCOA.org
- Phone: (269) 445-8110
- Mail: Cass County COA, P.O. Box 5, Cassopolis, MI 49031

# FEBRUARY 2023 Front Street Crossing

									Do	wagiac
Monday		Tu	Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		riday	Saturday
					1		2		3	4
						1:00 pm 1:30 pm Off Site	Brain & Body Euchre Marcellus Moves (8:30 am)	10:00 am	Cardio Challenge Balance, Stretch, Stability Acoustic Guitar Lessons Range of Motion & Mobility FSC Musicians Tai Chi	11:00 am lce Time Festival
9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	Cardio Challenge Balance, Stretch, Stability Chess Range of Motion & Mobility Tai Chi Bingo	9:00 am 1:00 pm 1:00 pm 1:00 pm Off Site	Hearing Clinic America's National Parks Brain & Body Hand & Foot Marcellus Moves (8:30 am)	10:00 am	Cardio Challenge Balance, Stretch, Stability Range of Motion & Mobility Scrabble Spill the Beans Tai Chi Bingo Valentine Heart Wreath Class	1:00 pm 1:30 pm Off Site	Brain & Body Euchre Marcellus Moves (8:30 am)	10:00 am	Cardio Challenge Balance, Stretch, Stability Acoustic Guitar Lessons Range of Motion & Mobility FSC Musicians Tai Chi	11
9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Cardio Challenge Balance, Stretch, Stability Chess Range of Motion & Mobility Tai Chi Bingo	11:30 am 1:00 pm 1:00 pm 1:00 pm Off Site	14 Valentine's Party America's National Parks Brain & Body Hand & Foot Marcellus Moves (8:30 am)	10:00 am		1:00 pm 1:30 pm Off Site	Harin & Body Euchre  Marcellus Moves (8:30 am)	10:00 am	Cardio Challenge Balance, Stretch, Stability Acoustic Guitar Lessons Range of Motion & Mobility FSC Musicians Tai Chi	18
in h	20 OSED onor of sidents Day		Mardi Gras America's National Parks Brain & Body Hand & Foot Marcellus Moves (8:30 am)	9:00 am 10:00 am		1:00 pm 1:30 pm Off Site	Brain & Body Euchre Marcellus Moves (8:30 am)	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am	24 Cardio Challenge Balance, Stretch, Stability Acoustic Guitar Lessons Range of Motion & Mobility FSC Musicians Tai Chi	25
9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am		1:00 pm 1:00 pm 1:00 pm Off Site	America's National Parks Brain & Body Hand & Foot Marcellus Moves (8:30 am)							Front Street Crossing  Monday - Friday 7 am - 4 pm  227 S. Front St. Dowagiac, MI  All Programs / Events REQUIRE Registration



	Cassopolis					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1	2	3	4	
		1:00 pm Pinochle 1:30 pm Bingo 1:30 pm Fit 30 5:00 pm Lawless Jam Session	9:00 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 9:00 am 9:0	9:00 am	9:00 am Yoga	
6	9:00 am S.E.A.T./ <b>7</b>	8	9	7:30 am Breakfast Buffet 10	11	
10:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm America's National Parks 1:00 pm Mah Jongg 5:45 pm Yoga	Streich.  9:30 am Writer's Society  10:00 am Strong & Stable  10:30 am Chess  11:00 am Balance, Stretch, Stability  1:00 pm Book Club  1:00 pm Stroke Support  1:00 pm Visual Arts Class  1:30 pm Line Dance	10:00 am Valentine Heart Wreath Class 1:00 pm Caregivers Support Group 1:00 pm Pinochle 1:30 pm Bingo 1:30 pm Fit 30 5:00 pm Lawless Jam Session	9:00 am 9:00 am Yoga 10:00 am Strong & Stable Balance, Stretch, Stability 12:30 pm Grief Support Group  St.E.A.T./Stretch Yoga Strong & Stable Balance, Stretch, Stability Ceramics Grief Support Group  Off Site Shopping	9:00 am 10:30 am 1:00 pm 1:30 pm 1:30 pm 1:30 pm Fit 30	9:00 am Yoga	
13	9:00 am Hearing Clinic 14	15	16	17	18	
9:00 am Foot Clinic 12:00 pm Color Your World (Watercolor) 1:00 pm America's National Parks 1:00 pm Mah Jongg 5:45 pm Yoga	9:00 am S.E.A.T./Stretch 10:00 am Strong & Stable 10:30 am Chess 11:00 am Balance, Stretch, Stability 11:30 am Valentine's Party 1:00 pm Parkinson's Support Group 1:00 pm Visual Arts Class 1:30 pm Euchre 3:00 pm Line Dance	1:00 pm Get Your Estate in Order 1:00 pm Pinochle 1:30 pm Bingo 1:30 pm Fit 30 5:00 pm Lawless Jam Session	9:00 am S.E.A.T./Stretch Yoga 10:00 am Strong & Stable Balance, Stretch, Stability 12:30 pm Ceramics 2:30 pm Woodcarvers	9:00 am Knitting / Crochet 10:30 am Sing-A-Long Hand & Foot 1:30 pm Bingo Fit 30	9:00 am Yoga	
20	21	7:30 am Breakfast Buffet 22	23	24	25	
CLOSED in honor of Presidents Day	9:00 am S.E.A.T./Stretch 9:30 am Writer's Society 10:00 am Strong & Stable 10:30 am Chess 11:00 am Balance, Stretch 11:30 am Ms Support Group 1:00 pm Visual Arts Class 1:30 pm Line Dance	1:00 pm Pinochle 1:30 pm Bingo 1:30 pm Fit 30 12:00 pm Conservation Conversations 5:00 pm Lawless Jam Session	9:00 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 9:00 am 9trong & Stable 11:00 am 8tability 12:30 pm Ceramics	9:00 am Knitting / Crochet 10:30 am Sing-A-Long 1:00 pm Hand & Foot 1:30 pm Bingo 1:30 pm Fit 30	·	
9:00 am Foot Clinic 1:00 pm America's National Parks 1:00 pm Mah Jongg 5:45 pm Yoga	7:30 am Black History Month Celebration 9:00 am Hearing Clinic 9:00 am St.A.T./Stretch 10:00 am Strong & Stable Chess 11:00 pm Visual Arts Class 1:30 pm Side Chess 1:30 pm Line Dance		Breakfas Buffet February 10 6 7:30 - 9:00 Cost: \$5	& 22	Lowe Center  Monday - Thursday 7 am - 7 pm Friday 7 am - 4 pm Saturday 7:30 am - 12 pm 60525 Decatur Rd. Cassopolis, MI  All Programs / Events REQUIRE Registration	

# Nhat's

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Pre-register for any event, program or service provided by the COA.

You may register by **Phone:** (269) 445-8110 or

Online: CassCOA.org

#### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

#### CERAMICS MADE EASY

Cost: FREE

Learn and create ceramics. It's easy, fun, and therapeutic. All pieces are provided and you do the painting.

Instructor: Joyce Greenwood

#### **Lowe Center**

Thursdays 12:30 - 2:30 pm



#### COLOR YOUR WORLD (Watercolor Class)

Cost: \$18

Registration is required one week in advance.

Get vour chance to create your very own watercolor masterpiece as you follow simple stepby-step instructions and demonstrations.

February's watercolor is "BFFs."

Instructor: Roy Hruska

#### **Lowe Center**

Monday, Feb. 13 12 - 3 pm



#### FRUIT BELT **WOODCARVERS**

All types of wood crafters are welcome. The group loves to share their knowledge. Those new to the craft are welcome.

#### **Lowe Center**

Thursdays, Feb. 2 & 16 2:30 - 5 pm

#### KNIΠING & **CROCHETING**

This wonderful and social group creates lots of things from yarn, and they donate many items to local charities. They will also teach newcomers. Yarn donations are welcome.

#### **Lowe Center**

Fridavs 9 am - 12 pm

#### **QUILTING**

All auilters and learners are welcome to join. The group creates and teaches.

#### **Lowe Center**

Monday, Feb. 6 10 am - 4 pm



In lieu of the normal Hollywood feature, this month we are highlighting the National Parks. Check out page 18 for dates and times.



#### C VALENTINE HEART **WREATH CLASS**

Cost: \$15 per heart Registration is required

Join us to create your own Valentine Heart Wreath just in time for Valentine's Day. This lovely wreath is made with soft cozy chenille varn and a multi ribbon bow on a wire frame.

Instructor: Leslie Vargo

#### **Lowe Center**

Wednesday, Feb. 8 10 am

#### Front Street Crossing

Wednesday, Feb. 8 1pm













#### VISUAL ARTS CLASS

Cost: \$15 (Per Class) Please bring a pencil and paper. A supply list will be provided.

Every class begins with an art history lesson and a discussion, followed by a project.

Students work at their own pace using various media.

Mediums Used: Pencil. Charcoal. Acrylic Paint, Pastel, (any water based medium)

Instructor: Sharron Ott

#### **Lowe Center**

Tuesdays 1 - 3 pm

# COMPUTERS & TECHNOLOGY



FSC Several publicuse computers are available for use during normal business hours. Please check in at the front desk prior to accessing.

#### **Lowe Center**

Mondays - Fridays 8 am - 5 pm

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Mondays - Fridays 8 am - 4 pm

#### FITNESS & EXERCISE

#### FITNESS CENTER

FSC The Cass County COA offers two great fitness center options close to home. Each center offers a variety of cardiovascular fitness machines, weight training equipment, as well as qualified instructors who can help you achieve and maintain your goals.

#### **Lowe Center**

Mondays - Thursdays 7 am - 7 pm

Fridavs 7 am - 4 pm

Saturdavs

7:30 am - 12 pm

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Mondays - Fridays 7 am - 4 pm

#### **Membership Prices**

1 year

\$140 (60+)

\$165

**3 months** \$55 (60+)

\$65

1 month

\$35 (60+)

\$45

\$5 Walk-in



#### **Renew Active**

COA is a SliverSneaker & Renew Active location

#### **Class Prices**

M/W/F

\$25 (Monthly)

T/Th

\$20 (Monthly)

All Class \$40 (Monthly)

Bundle

(Excludes Yoga)

Class price allows you access to in-person, online, or both.



#### BALANCE, STRETCH, **AND STABILITY**



Cost: \$25 (M/W/F - Monthly) **\$20** (T/Th - Monthly)

#### Registration is required

Most people have natural imbalances due to the way we move throughout the day, causing wear, tear, damage, and pain on joints. This class will help improve functional mobility and balance with purposeful exercises performed to increase aspects of balance, muscular strength, and flexibility.

Instructors: Ky'sha Johnson (M/W/F) & Taylor Lee (T/Th)

Please call to get Zoom access to this class. (Contact the COA if vou need help.)

#### Lowe Center & Online / Zoom

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11 - 11:45 am

#### Front Street Crossing & Online / Zoom

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9 - 9:45 am

#### SC BRAIN & BODY

Cost: FREE

Don't miss your chance to revitalize your mind and body with this 30 minute fitness experience that will help keep your mind and body connected to maximize your everyday living experience.

Instructor: Kv'sha Johnson

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1 - 1:30 pm

# Lowe Center

60525 Decatur Rd. Cassopolis, MI

Mon. - Thurs. 7 am - 7 pm

Fri. 7 am - 4 pm

Sat. 7:30 am - 12 pm

#### Front Street Crossing

227 S. Front St. Dowagiac, MI

Mon. - Fri. 7 am - 4 pm

# LC

Lowe Center







#### FITNESS & EXERCISE

#### **CARDIO CHALLENGE**



Cost: \$25 (Monthly)

Registration is required

Challenge your entire body with a low-impact, high-energy combination of cardio, strength training, balance, and mat exercises.

Instructor: Ky'sha Johnson

Please call to get Zoom access to this class. (Contact the COA if you need help.)

#### Front Street Crossing & Online / Zoom

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 8 - 8:45 am



Cost: Free

Build strength, improve mobility, and work up a sweat all in just 30 minutes! A variety of beginner friendly routines and upbeat music ensure you'll never get bored.

Instructor: Taylor Lee

#### **Lowe Center**

Wednesdays & Fridays 1:30 - 2 pm

#### LINE DANCE

Cost: FRFF

Step your way to fun with vour favorite music. Learn and practice new and old moves all while getting some exercise.

Instructor: Fran Yeager

#### **Lowe Center**

Tuesdays 3 pm

#### MARCELLUS MOVES

Cost: \$20 (Monthly) \$5 (Per Class)

#### Registration is required

This class brings the Cass County COA to Marcellus to provide a workout closer to home with a variety of cardio activities combined with balance and strength moves.

Instructor: Rosemary Gillam

#### In Your Neighborhood

United Methodist Church 197 W. Main St. Marcellus, MI Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:30 - 9:15 am

#### **RANGE OF MOTION & MOBILITY CLASS**



#### Registration is required

Formerly the S.E.A.T. Class, this class is designed for those with limited functional mobility and range of motion. Movements can be done in a seated position or by holding on to a chair/ rail for support. Focus is on functional exercises to improve & maintain activities of everyday living.

Instructor: Ky'sha Johnson

Please call to get Zoom access to this class. (Contact the COA if vou need help.)

#### Front Street Crossing & Online / Zoom

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10 - 10:45 am



Cost: \$20 (Monthly)

#### Registration is required

This class that allows you to exercise seated and around a chair. It will keep you moving, improve your fitness level, stretch your muscles and work on balance and range of motion to improve mobility.

Instructor: Taylor Lee

Please call to get Zoom access to this class. (Contact the COA if vou need help.)

#### Lowe Center & Online / Zoom

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 - 9:45 am

#### **STRONG & STABLE**



Cost: \$20 (Monthly) Registration is required

Take your balance and stability

to the next

level with this challenging vet low impact class. Exercises will include hand weights, body weight, and kettlebells to focus on developing strength and stability.

Instructor: Taylor Lee

Please call to get Zoom access to this class. (Contact the COA if you need help.)

#### Lowe Center & Online / Zoom

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 - 10:45 am



#### SC TAI CHI



Cost: \$25 (Monthly)

#### Registration is required

Add a little more flow and balance to your day with access to Tai Chi in the morninas.

Improve your posture, strength of hips, thighs and core with this gentle mind body exercise. Good for arthritis, blood pressure and sense of well-being.

Instructor: Glenda Gibson

Please call to get Zoom access to this class. (Contact the COA if you need help.)

#### Front Street Crossing & Online / Zoom

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 11 am - 12 pm

#### **IC** YOGA



Cost: \$8 (Per Class)

#### Registration is required

Find your Zen at the COA. Increase your strength, flexibility and balance all while revitalizing your mind, body, and soul.

Be sure to check out the **NEWLY** added Thursday morning class in Cassopolis.

Instructors: Karen Sommers (M/Th) Amy Crennell (Sa)

Please call to get Zoom access to this class. (Contact the COA if you need help.)

#### Lowe Center & Online / Zoom

Mondays 5:45 - 7 pm

Thursdays 9 - 10:15 am

Saturdays 9 - 10:15 am

#### JUST FOR FUN







Cost: \$1.25 (LC) \$2.25 (FSC)

Follow the lunch hour with this fun and engaging game that provides some healthy competition with a dash of luck. This all-inclusive game is enjoyed by people of all ages and is a great way to spend an afternoon.

If a program is scheduled, Bingo will follow afterward.

#### **Lowe Center**

Wednesday & Fridays 1:30 pm

#### Front Street Crossing

Mondays & Wednesdays 12:45 pm

#### CHESS

Sc Whether you are a rookie or a grandmaster, make your move and join in on the fun that challenges your mind.

#### **Lowe Center**

Tuesdays 10:30 am - 1 pm

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Mondays 10 am - 12 pm

#### **EUCHRE**

sc Try your hand at trumping your opponents with the cards you were dealt in this fun 4 player card game.

If a program is scheduled, Euchre will follow afterward.

#### Lowe Center

**Tuesdays** 1:30 pm

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Thursdays 1:30 pm

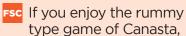
#### FSC MUSICIANS

Do you enjoy playing a musical instrument? Why not join other music enthusiasts and jam with the FSC Musicians.

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Fridays 11 am

#### LC HAND & FOOT



then be sure to come and play this easier popular variation



#### called Hand & Foot. **Lowe Center**

Fridays 1 - 4 pm

#### **Front Street Crossing**

**Tuesdays** 1 - 4 pm

#### Lowe Center

60525 Decatur Rd. Cassopolis, MI

Mon. - Thurs. 7 am - 7 pm

Fri. 7 am - 4 pm

Sat. 7:30 am - 12 pm

#### **Front Street** Crossing

227 S. Front St. Dowagiac, MI

Mon. - Fri. 7 am - 4 pm

# JUST FOR FUN



#### LAWLESS JAM SESSION

Come and share the sounds of old time country and Celtic styles of music. Anyone who plays a tin whistle, banjo, guitar, bass, fiddle, ukulele, autoharp, dulcimer, or any other string instrument is invited to join in on the session. You can be a beginner to an expert.

Even if you don't play an instrument, stop by, listen, and suggest a song or two.

#### **Lowe Center**

Wednesdays 5 - 6:30 pm











#### MAH JONGG

Join the fun that originated in China with this fascinating rummy-like game that uses tiles rather than cards.

#### **Lowe Center**

Mondays 1 - 4 pm

#### **PINOCHLE**

esc Enjoy this trick-taking card game while making friends.

#### **Lowe Center**

Wednesdays 1 - 3 pm



#### FSC SCRABBLE

Spell out your own F-U-N as you enjoy this crossword style board game. Win or lose, you'll have a good time, but don't take our word for it; you'll have to make your own.

#### Front Street Crossing

Wednesdays 10 am

#### SING-A-LONG

Join volunteer leaders George Purlee & Jannette Rafferty for a musical journey down memory lane.

#### **Lowe Center**

Fridays 10:30 am - 12 pm

#### LISTEN & LEARN



#### LC AMERICA'S NATIONAL **PARKS**

Go on a filmmaking docuseries journey of eight of America's most beloved national parks. Experience the breathtaking landscapes and majestic animals on this insightful exploration of some of the U.S.' most beautiful places.

- 1. Olympic National Park in Washington State
- 2. Yosemite National Park
- 3. Everalades
- 4. Gates of the Arctic
- 5. Yellowstone
- 6. Saguaro
- 7. Grand Canyon
- 8. Great Smoky Mountains

This has replaced the Hollywood Treasures movie for this month.

#### **Lowe Center**

Mondays, Feb. 6, 13, & 27 1 pm

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Mondays, Feb. 7, 14, 21, & 28 1pm

# ACOUSTIC GUITAR LESSONS

Do you love music and learning new things? Come and explore your musical side at FSC.

The COA is now offering free beginner guitar lessons, so bring your own guitar and get ready to make music.

Instructor: Max Davis

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Fridays 10 - 11 am



# CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS

Join the conversation about Cass County's wonderful wildlife, lakes, streams, open spaces, and farmlands in this casual meet and greet with Cass County Conservation District staff. Share stories and concerns, ask questions, and help Cass County plan for the future.

Presenter: Cass County Conservation District

#### **Lowe Center**

Wednesday, Feb. 22 12 - 1 pm



# GET YOUR ESTATE IN ORDER

Now is the time to plan ahead and get some of your affairs in order.

Join Attorney Walling as he discusses how Lady Bird Deeds, Wills, Trusts, the two types of Power of Attorney (financial and medical), and Asset Preservation for Nursing Home Care can benefit you.

Presenter: Michael B. Walling, Edler Law & Estate Planning Attorney

#### **Lowe Center**

Wednesday, Feb. 15 1 pm

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Wednesday, Feb. 15 10 am

# SERVICES & SUPPORT

# CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Family members and friends are welcome as we provide education and support for caregivers of any kind.

#### **Lowe Center**

Wednesday, Feb. 8 1 - 3 pm

# C DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP

Please join us as we discuss better strategies for self-care in your life with Diabetes.

#### **Lowe Center**

Friday, Feb. 3 1 - 3 pm

#### **DRUG DROP**

Turn in expired or unwanted pills, capsules, and tablet medications for proper disposal.

Drugs can be dropped off at the Cass County Sheriff's Office at any time.

Please note, no liquids, inhalers or needles can be taken. Drugs are only accepted at the COA during special date and time.

#### **Lowe Center**

Thursday, Feb. 2 10 am - 12 pm



#### **IC** FOOT CLINIC

Cost: \$20
Appointment ONLY

Take good care of your feet – get toe nails trimmed (except for people with diabetes) and a foot massage.

#### **Lowe Center**

Mondays, Feb. 13 & 27 Call for Times

#### Lowe Center

60525 Decatur Rd. Cassopolis, MI

Mon. - Thurs. 7 am - 7 pm

**Fri.** 7 am - 4 pm

**Sat.** 7:30 am - 12 pm

#### Front Street Crossing

227 S. Front St. Dowagiac, MI

**Mon. - Fri.** 7 am - 4 pm

# What's Happening

# SERVICES & SUPPORT



#### GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Open to those who have experienced a loss of any kind.

#### **Lowe Center**

Thursday, Feb. 9 1 - 3 pm

#### LE HEARING CLINIC



Schedule an appointment at either the Lowe Center or Front Street Crossing for a free hearing test and hearing aid cleaning/adjustments.

#### **Lowe Center**

Tuesdays, Feb. 14 & 28 9 am - 4 pm

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Tuesday, Feb. 7 9 am - 4 pm

#### MS SUPPORT GROUP

People with Multiple Sclerosis and their loved ones share support and learning opportunities in this free group.

#### **Lowe Center**

Tuesday, Feb. 21 1 - 3 pm

# PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Parkinson's disease is a complex condition that affects every aspect of life for those diagnosed with it. This group provides support from others who are affected by the disease.

#### **Lowe Center**

Tuesday, Feb. 14 1 - 3 pm

#### **★** SHOPPING

Cost: \$5

#### **Reservations ONLY**

Transit provides transportation to the bank, Shelton's Farm Market, and Super Walmart in Niles.

The Cass
County COA
will sign you
up for the first
trip and Cass
County Transit will handle
any further trips.

Reservations are required at least three days before the trip and due to less seating, will be on a first reserve basis. Transit will space out passengers to allow for social distancing. Masks MUST be worn.

#### In Your Neighborhood

Thursday, Feb. 9

# STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

Both people living with stroke and their loved ones are welcome to attend this support group to share support and learning opportunities.

#### **Lowe Center**

Tuesday, Feb. 7 1 - 3 pm

#### **NETERANS AFFAIRS**

#### Appointment required

Veterans can receive information and counseling about benefits to which they may be entitled such as health care, disability compensation, and burial.

Contact: Karee Krause, Veterans

Service Officer

Phone: 269-445-4472

#### SOCIAL SESSIONS

# READ & SHARE BOOK CLUB

#### Registration is required

The COA has partnered with the Dowagiac District Library to host a monthly Book Club.

Books will be provided by the library. Please preregister so that enough books will be available on club day.

# February's Discussion Book Still Life by Louise Penny

#### March's Discussion Book

The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

Leader: Gina Simoni, Dowagiac District Library

#### **Lowe Center**

Tuesday, Feb. 7 1 - 3 pm













#### FSC SPILL THE BEANS

Want to be the first to know about what's going on in your community?

Each month you will get the chance to enjoy a snack and a cup of coffee as you ask all your needto-know questions during this community coffee chat.

#### February's Bean Spiller

Why is my insurance so expensive?

What kind of insurance do I really need?

What do I need to be insured?

Find out all this and more from Farm Bureau Insurance Agent Jeff Neumann. Specializing in insurance for over 38 years, he is happy to answer all of your questions dealing with personal auto, home, and farm.

#### March's Bean Spiller

Matt Westen,
Director at Dowagiac
District Library

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Wednesday, Feb. 8 10 am

# THE STORMY NIGHT WRITERS SOCIETY

We all have stories to tell.

Come join the group and share your tales. Everyone has a chance to give and receive constructive feedback on the efforts presented.

Discussions cover a wide variety of writing related topics including submissions, editing, genres, audiences, dialogue, settings, characters, conflicts and more.

#### **Lowe Center**

Tuesdays, Feb. 7 & 21 9:30 am - 12 pm

#### SPECIAL EVENTS



#### FSC ICE TIME FESTIVAL

Stop in Front Street Crossing to take a break from the cold during the festival. While you are there, be sure to taste the COA's entry for the chili cook-off and even vote for your favorite.

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Saturday, Feb. 4 11 am - 2 pm



#### MARDI GRAS

FREE (Party)

#### Registration is requested

Celebrate with our New Orleans-style party, complete with music, beads, and king cake.

#### **Lowe Center**

Tuesday, Feb. 21 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Tuesday, Feb. 21 11:30 am - 1:30 pm



#### VALENTINE'S PARTY

FSC (

Cost: \$3 - \$7 (Meal) FREE (Party)

#### Registration is requested

Have a sweet time and feel the love at our Valentine's Day party.

#### **Lowe Center**

Tuesday, Feb. 14 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

#### **Front Street Crossing**

Tuesday, Feb. 14 11:30 am - 1:30 pm

#### **Lowe Center**

60525 Decatur Rd. Cassopolis, MI

Mon. - Thurs. 7 am - 7 pm

**Fri.** 7 am - 4 pm

**Sat.** 7:30 am - 12 pm

#### Front Street Crossing

227 S. Front St. Dowagiac, MI

**Mon. - Fri.** 7 am - 4 pm

21



# Don't Pay More, Call the Best Hearing Store!

Since 2018, we have provided the best of service with the best Hearing Aid products at the best price available to the public. We love to help people hear better and live their <u>Best</u> lives!





Best Hearing Store
269-815-6116
8089 Stadium Dr Kalamazoo MI 49009

Call the Cass COA at 269-445-8110 to schedule an appointment in Cassopolis or Dowagiac.

# FEBRUARY 2023 Menu



		A Company of the Comp			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
Daily Soup Menu at the Lowe Center  Monday Loaded Potato Tuesday Broccoli Cheese Wednesday Chili		Main Entrée* Pulled Chicken on a Bun Maple Roasted Sweet Potatoes Three Bean Salad Cupcake	Main Entrée* Goulash Italian Blend Vegetables Breadstick Pears	Main Entrée* Parmesan Crusted Tilapia Roasted Redskins Peas & Pearl Onions Wheat Bread Fruit Yogurt	
Thursday Steak & Ale Chowder Friday Clam Chowder		Café Entrée Grilled Cheese Café Fresh Salad Tuna Salad	Café Entrée Walking Tacos Café Fresh Salad COA Salad	Café Entrée Turkey Rueben Café Fresh Salad Fruit Salad	
Main Entrée* Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Mixed Vegetables Wheat Roll Strawberry Applesauce	Main Entrée* Pork Chile Verde Rice Roasted Corn & Black Beans Fruit Cookie	Main Entrée* Vegetarian Chili Cornbread Tortilla Chips Cake	Main Entrée* Beef Stew w/ Vegetables Rosemary Redskins Whole Wheat Roll Plum	Main Entrée* Tuna Noodle Casserole Peas & Pearl Onions Wheat Bread Pie	
Café Entrée Patty Melt Café Fresh Salad	Café Entrée Loaded Baked Potato Café Fresh Salad	Café Entrée Loaded Mac & Cheese Café Fresh Salad	Café Entrée Spicy Chicken Sandwich Café Fresh Salad	Café Entrée Gyro Café Fresh Salad	
Veggie Blend Salad	Cottage Cheese w/ Fruit	Cranberry Chicken Salad	Turkey Craisin Salad	Antipasto Salad	
Main Entrée* White Chicken Chili Black Beans Flour Tortilla Peaches	Valentine's Day Meal Main Entrée* Chicken Cordon Bleu Duchess Potatoes Ratatouille Valentine's Dessert	Main Entrée* Turkey à la King Mixed Vegetables Biscuit Jello	Main Entrée* Baked Spaghetti Green Beans Garlic Toast Tropical Fruit	Main Entrée* Dilled Salmon Wild Rice Blend Carrots Fruit Cocktail	
Café Entrée Soup in a Bread Bowl	Café Entrée Club Sandwich	Café Entrée Pulled Pork Nachos	Café Entrée Tamales w/ Refried Beans	Café Entrée Shrimp over Dirty Rice	
Café Fresh Salad COA Salad	Café Fresh Salad Strawberry Chicken Salad	Café Fresh Salad Beef Taco Salad	Café Fresh Salad Garlic Shrimp Salad	Café Fresh Salad Buffalo Chicken Salad	
CLOSED in honor of	Mardi Gras Meal  Main Entrée*  Jambalaya Red Beans & Rice Whipped Sweet Potatoes King Cake	Main Entrée* Chicken Lasagna Italian Breadstick Scandinavian Blend Vegetables Pumpkin Pie	Main Entrée* Enchiladas Mexican Rice Black Beans Tapioca Pudding	Main Entrée* Southern Style Flounder Hush Puppies Broccoli Chocolate Cake or Fruit	
Presidents Day	Café Entrée Popcom Chicken Café Fresh Salad Tuna Salad	Café Entrée Tacos Café Fresh Salad House Salad	Café Entrée Cheeseburger Café Fresh Salad Antipasto Salad	Café Entrée Flatbread Pizza Café Fresh Salad Mediterranean Salad	
Main Entrée* Teriyaki Chicken White Rice Sugar Snap Peas Fortune Cookie Cinnamon Applesauce Café Entrée	Main Entrée* Pork Chop Stuffing Brussels Sprouts Wheat Roll Pears Café Entrée		Lowe Center Hours (LC)	Front Street Crossing (FSC) Lunch** 11:30 a.m 1:30 p.m. (weekdays)	
Salisbury Steak & Redskins  Café Fresh Salad  Fruit Salad	Tuna Melt Café Fresh Salad Cobb Salad		Meals* served dai	ers Apartments ly by reservation only or more information.	
Menu is subject to c	hange without notice.	*	Meals are f	unded in part by	

Menu is subject to change without notice.

\*\*Daily vegetarian lunch option available upon request.



Region IV Area Agency on Aging and are served in partnership with Cass County COA.
(Suggested Donation per Meal: \$4.00)



24

The Messenger | February 2023

The Messenger
Cass County COA
P.O. Box 5
Cassopolis, Michigan 49031

Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Cassopolis, MI 49031 Permit #43

