DECEMBER 2025

Active LIVING

Published monthly by the Friends of Isabella Seniors for the Isabella County Commission on Aging Friends of Isabella Seniors - 2200 S. Lincoln Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 - (989) 772-0748 -isabellacounty.org/activeliving-newspaper



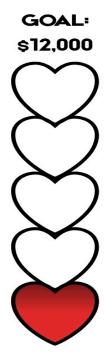
The Commission on Aging and Friends of Isabella Seniors are asking you to share your love and make a donation to the 2026 Have a Heart Project.

Help us fund gift cards, Valentines, and supplies for our annual outreach. Every dollar helps—our goal is to assist 120 older adult residents in Isabella County with the high cost of food, medications, and warm winter clothing. The Have a Heart project depends solely on the generosity of Isabella County residents. There are no federal, state, or local funds used.

If giving isn't possible, sharing this message helps just as much. Together, we can make Valentine's Day feel a little brighter for everyone. THANK YOU for your willingness to help our friends and neighbors!

Yes, I want to help Have a Heart! Donor Information Form Please print clearly and return with your gift.
Name:
Address:
City/State/ZIP:
Gift Amount: \$
My gift is: ☐ In Memory of: ☐ In Honor of:
Please keep my donation <u>Anonymous</u>
Make checks payable to: FOIS - Have a Heart Mail to: Friends of Isabella Seniors ATTN Have a Heart
2200 South Lincoln Road

Mount Pleasant, MI 48858



COA Director's Comments

The holidays are upon us, and I am all in! This season is truly my favorite – I just love everything about it. I love listening to Christmas music (although my husband feels that I do that too early), having our Christmas tree and decorations up, watching Christmas movies, seeing all of the beautiful decorations and lights throughout the community, taking part in all of the gatherings with those near and dear to us, and I love the spirit of giving that is so evident.

While the holidays are typically seen as a time for celebrations, parties, and get-togethers, it can also be a source of the blues, especially for older adults who may think about how quickly time has passed, or miss loved ones more during this time of year. Health conditions or concerns about money can also make it harder to enjoy the holidays. The Health in Aging Foundation offered the following tips to help cope with the holiday blues:

1. Get out and about. Ask family and friends for help traveling to houses of worship, parties or other events. Invite family and friends over. Taking a walk is also a great way to beat the blues – bundle up and come take a walk at the Commission on Aging (COA) – we have a wonderful walking path that surrounds our facility.

2. Volunteer. Helping others is a great mood lifter. There are so many meaningful volunteer opportunities offered through the COA. Contact Kelly or Mary in our Gold Key Volunteer Program to inquire about opportunities.

3. Drink responsibly. It can be easy to overindulge around the holidays, but excessive drinking will only make you feel more depressed.

4. Accept your feelings. There's nothing wrong with not feeling jolly; many people experience sadness and feelings of loss during the holidays. Be kind to yourself, seek support, and even laugh at yourself every now and then.

5. Talk to someone. Don't underestimate the power of friends, family, and neighbors. Talk about your feelings; it can help you understand why you feel the way you do. Making a simple phone call, having a chat over coffee, or writing a nice email, greeting card, or letter can brighten your mood.

There are so many different types of activities and programs here at the Isabella County Commission on Aging – we do our best to try to offer something for everyone. Even if it is just stopping in for lunch or coffee to visit with others, we encourage you to give it a try. We would love to see you here. We also have so many different types of volunteer opportunities available – please reach out to us if you would like to help in any way.

What a great year 2025 has been! We have been so fortunate to welcome new faces and make new friends here at the COA. On behalf of your COA Family, thank you for trusting us to care for you! We wish you all a very Happy and Healthy Holiday Season, and we look forward to continuing to serve you in the New Year!

Mission Moments

It's hard to believe another year is coming to an end! It seems like time moves faster every year that passes, especially now that I have two kids to keep up with! My husband and I started the year off welcoming our second daughter, Kennedy to our family, and while it's been such a blessing watching her learn and grow over the past 11 months, we are in total denial that we will soon be celebrating her first birthday! Our oldest daughter, Harper, started Kindergarten this year and it has been such a joy to watch her learn and grow, though as parents it's always hard to give up those little pieces of our kids!

As far as Commission on Aging, what a fun year we've had! We hosted two dances with the Louisell family, our annual Health Expo, enjoyed an Elvis impersonator and a car show, had our most successful golf outing fundraiser for Friends of Isabella Seniors, took a trip to see the Tigers play and to Turkeyville for a Christmas show, hosted many local professionals to put on free educational seminars, and so much more! Most recently, we had our annual Craft Show, which was a great event, as always. We had many local artisans join us to share their craft and shoppers were able to get a kickstart on their Holiday shopping, while supporting small businesses/craftsman! I can't wait to see what the new year brings!

Marcy Huntoon, Activity Program Manager

We had a great turnout for our Halloween Party on Friday, October 31! Thank you to those who joined us and dressed up! Our costume contest winners were the prisoner, the flapper and the game twister!!



Volume 125 ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2025

COA Caregiver Support Corner

By Brandise Leonard, Caregiver Support Specialist/Trainer at Isabella County Commission on Aging, contact bleonard@isabellacounty.org (989)772-0748

Support Group Is Monday, December 15 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the COA building, 2200 S. Lincoln Rd., Mt. Pleasant.. All caregivers are welcome! No pressure to be on time and feel free to leave early. Support is important to caregivers, please come as you are.

If you would like to attend the support group, but need care for your loved one while you attend the support group, we have the solution for you! You will need to RSVP with Brandise 989-772-0748 and Rick Bole of Asona (989)-621-3159 or (989) 546-4269. COA is allowing Asona to use the COA facility during the support group. COA will provide activities and water. Finding Joy in the Season: A Caregiver's Holiday Reflection

The holidays have a way of stirring up so many emotions—joy, nostalgia, love, and, for many caregivers, a fair amount of stress. Between appointments, daily care routines, and trying to keep up with family traditions, it can start to feel like there just isn't enough of you to go around. I've seen it in so many of the caregivers we work with—and I've felt it myself, too.

If that sounds familiar, please know you're not alone. Caregiving is a beautiful act of love, but it can also be exhausting. During the holidays, the pressure to make everything "perfect" can make that exhaustion even heavier. This year, I encourage you to take a step back and ask: What truly matters most to us this season?

Maybe it's not the big dinner or every decoration in place. Maybe it's sitting together by the tree, listening to music, or sharing a memory from years gone by. One of my favorite things to suggest to caregivers is a memory jar—grab a few slips of paper and each day, write down one special memory, a funny story, or something you're grateful for. By the end of the season, you'll have a collection of love and laughter to revisit whenever you need a smile.

If you care for someone living with dementia or limited mobility, try adapting old traditions into smaller, simpler moments. Bake one batch of cookies instead of four. Take a short drive to see the Christmas lights, or just sit together with cocoa and watch the snow fall. These moments may seem small, but they're often the ones that stay in your heart the longest.

And please, don't forget about yourself. Take a few minutes each day just for you—whether it's a walk, a phone call with a friend, or simply sitting in quiet. Caring for yourself allows you to care more fully for those you love. This holiday season, give yourself the gift of grace. You are doing important, loving work, even when it's hard. The Commission on Aging is here to remind you that you are seen, valued, and supported. From all of us here, we wish you a peaceful holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, and moments of calm joy—one memory at a time.

MEDICARE PART D OPEN ENROLLMENT

Due to the huge volume of calls, we will no longer be taking new Medicare D appointments unless they are an existing client. All other calls for appointments will be referred to MI Options at 1-800-803-7174 or Medicare.gov at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4273). You may also review and enroll in the Medicare prescription drug plans by going to www.medicare.gov. Just a reminder, open enrollment ends December 7th!



Tax Prep Volunteers Needed!

The Gold Key Volunteer Program is looking for tax volunteers!

AARP Tax Aides: Provide income tax return preparation for seniors and low-income taxpayers at various sites in Isabella County during tax season. AARP will provide an IRS certification on how to prepare federal and state income tax forms. Computer skills necessary. Computers are provided. Training will take place during the month of January.

Contact Kelly Lee at the COA to sign up! <u>klee@isabellacounty.org</u> or 989-772-0748.

Events & Classes at COA

Computer/Tech Class at COA

Tuesday, December 2 at 2:00 p.m.

The Veterans Memorial Library IT Department will be at COA on the **first Tuesday of each month** to answer any questions you have about computers or other technology. Feel free to bring your device with you. Sponsored by Veterans Memorial Library

Anyone Can Paint

Wednesday, December 3 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. \$25 per person (supplies included)

Let award winning television artist Steve Wood help develop the "artist" in you to create "Snowmen Decorating." You don't have to be "born with the gift" to be a great painter. Remember "Anyone Can Paint" these pieces of art. Steve's methods are applicable to the beginner as well as the advanced painter. Create an 11" x 14" acrylic landscape painting in class. Contact COA at (989) 772-0748 to register. Money and reservations due by Monday, December 1. Checks made out to COA can be mailed to 2200 S. Lincoln Rd. Mt. Pleasant, 48858.

Next class: Wednesday, April 1

Mahjongg

Join our Mahjongg group on **Mondays at 1:00 p.m.** and make new friends! Bring your 2025 card and Mahjongg set if you have them. Instruction is provided.

Coffee Hour with An Attorney

Cancelled for November due to the Holiday!

Starting again in 2026 (January 28), this group will meet on the 4th Wednesday of ALTERNATE months. We will have an attorney from Sarah's Law Firm available to chat with you about general legal questions you may have. Join us for coffee and light conversation.

Isabella County Historical Society

First Tuesday of the month at the Isabella County Commission on Aging at 7:00 p.m. Programs are free and open to the public. Join us December 2 for a time of sharing. Attendees should bring an item that has special meaning to them. Everyone will share the story behind their special item.

Veterans Support Group at COA

The Veterans Support Group meets on Thursday, December 11 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Veterans can eat lunch FREE on meeting days, please make your lunch reservation at least 24 hours in advance by calling (989) 772-0748.

Ice Cream Social

Join us on Wednesday, December 17 at 12:15 p.m. in Room C for Root Beer Floats

American Red Cross Blood Drive

We will again be partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive on Thursday, December 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. If you are able, please consider donating blood to help save a life!

To schedule an appointment, please log in to RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: ISABELLA. Or call 1-800-RED-CROSS at (1-800-733-2767).

Cookie Decorating and Hot Cocoa Bar

Join CMU Pre PA Club for cookie decorating and a hot cocoa bar on December 1 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in Room C.



FREE Movie and Popcorn at COA NO movie for November or December

Connecting With Cards

On hold until Spring

FREE Fitness Classes

All participants **MUST** have a membership and signed liability form on file **BEFORE** starting classes. For questions, or to sign up for zoom classes, please contact Marcy Huntoon (989) 772-0748 or mjerome@isabellacounty.org

Tai Chi for Arthritis

Tai Chi is a gentle, slow-moving exercise designed to improve balance, flexibility, muscle strength, coordination, energy, and overall wellbeing. Regular practice may also reduce the incidence and fear of falling in the elderly. **No class on Dec. 25**

This program is supported in part by the Administration for Community Living, the Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports and Region VII Area Agency on Aging.

Beginner Tai Chi (Tai Chi for Health and Balance)
Tuesday & Thursday 10:00-11:00 a.m. in Fitness Room. No experience necessary, new participants welcome!

Next Level Tai Chi (Yang 24 and Tai Chi for Energy)
Tuesday & Thursday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Fitness Room.
Some Tai Chi experience recommended.

Instructor: Jim VanderMey, Board Certified Instructor, Tai Chi for Health Programs

Gentle Exercise

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:45-11:30 a.m. in Fitness Room

This class improves movement and flexibility. Many exercises will be done from a chair or standing behind a chair and will also incorporate resistance bands. No class December 24 or 31

Hula Class

Thursday 3:00-4:30 p.m. in Fitness Room No class December 25

Come learn the Hula as well as other Polynesian dances. The music and movements are fun to do. All ages and levels of ability are welcome. Wear comfortable clothing (barefoot optional). *Instructor: Sue Courington*

Video Exercise Group

Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 9:00 a.m. in Fitness Room. Join this group in getting together and working out to different fitness videos on the TV. All are welcome to join! No class December 24 or 31

Yoga

Tuesday 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. In Fitness Room.

Instructor: Catherine Tobin

Aqua Classes: SAC Pool at CMU

When open, participants will be allowed into the Student Activity Center after 8:45 a.m. to get ready for class. Classes occasionally switch days depending on instructor availability instructors will do their best to inform class participants in advance when changes occur.

CMU Pool Closed December 15 - January 12

Water Aerobics

Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9:05-10:05a.m.

Instructor: Mary Alsager

Aqua Zumba

Monday & Friday 9:05-10:05 a.m.

Instructor: Angela McGuirk

Line Dancing

Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Room C.

Are you new to line dancing? Join us to learn the basic line dancing steps on **Tuesdays 9:30-10:00 a.m.**

No class on December 24 or 31

Otaga Exercise Class

Otaga classes are currently on hold due to funding

The Otaga Exercise Program provides a safe and healthy environment where participants work alongside student exercise trainers to improve their balance and reduce their risk of falls. This program is designed to be attended once weekly.

To sign up call or email: CMU College of Medicine Call: (989)774-1350 Email: fallprevention@cmich.edu

CMU DPT MOVE! For Health Exercise

MOVE Class will be on break until Spring Semester - Class resumes on Wednesdays from 4-5p.m. starting January 14!

Zumba Gold - Virtual on Zoom

Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Thursdays 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Enjoy easy-to-follow moves; you'll hardly notice you're exercising. This is an energizing workout that burns calories and tones muscles.

Instructor: Judi Swartz

Isabella County Commission on Aging Durable Medical Equipment Storage Closet

The Commission on Aging has medical equipment available at no cost. These items are available for loan, for those who may be needing adaptive equipment to prevent falls and reduce the risk of injuries. In the event that items are not in stock, a social worker may be able to determine

if grants are available to purchase needed items.

FOR INFORMATION ON EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES, PLEASE CALL: (989) 772-0748

Durable Medical Equipment Available:

- Shower Stool
- Transfer Bench
- Walkers
- Canes
- Grab Bars
- Commode
- High Rise Toilet Seat
- Bedside Rail
- Crutches
- Wheelchairs
- Incontinence Supplies



Dear Valued Contributors,

As a reminder, we have a procedure to help you keep track of your generous, tax-deductible donations. From this point forward, instead of sending you multiple letters for each donation you send throughout the year we will now be able to send you an annual summary at the end of each year upon request. This summary will list each donation you made for the entire calendar year in one document and will prevent you from having to keep track of and file away papers all year long. If you would like for us to mail you this convenient new summary letter, please contact Mallory Fernandez at (989) 772-0748 toward the closing of the year to have one sent to you.

We could never thank you enough for all of the gracious donations you give to help us keep our programs up and running to better serve our communities.

Chippewa Valley Audubon Meeting

The Chippewa Valley Audubon Club will be having Club Sharing Night on Wednesday, 12/10/2025, 7 p.m., at Veterans Memorial Library, 301 S. University St., Mt Pleasant. Club members will share power point photos or other nature displays. Public invited. Refreshments.

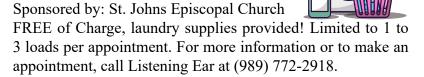
Isabella County Parks 2026 Opening Day for Online Campsite Reservations Set for Tues. Feb 10

Important dates regarding 2026 Isabella County Parks camping reservations are as follows: Online Reservations -Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Phone Reservations – Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. On Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., online reservations will begin for the Isabella County Parks and Recreation 2026 camping season for Coldwater Lake Family Park and Herrick Recreation Area. On this date, and until February 18, reservations can only be made through the online reservation system, which can be accessed through the County Parks isabellacounty.org/parks website directly or isabellacounty.goingtocamp.com. Those who are new to this process are encouraged to visit isabellacounty.org/parks, go to the "Reservations" tab, then "Online Reservations". Read through the posted messages that include policies and procedures. All policies apply to both online and phone call reservations. Finally, click "Reserve Online" at the bottom of the page to create a new account and browse site availability.

Everyone is encouraged to use the online reservation system as this will be the earliest opportunity to make 2026 camping reservations at Coldwater and Herrick campgrounds. Telephone reservations will be taken beginning Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. Reservations made at Coldwater and Herrick parks require a 2-night minimum stay and a 3-night minimum stay is required for holiday weekends. Full payment is due at the time of making a reservation. Those reserving multiple campsites for a group will need the name, address, phone number and email (email optional) of at least one person, 18 years or older, staying overnight on each site. The occupant name must be different for each site reserved. Isabella County Parks campgrounds do not offer groupspecific campsites. Coldwater Lake Family Park and Herrick Recreation Area open for camping on Friday, May 1, 2026. Coldwater closes Sunday, October 4, 2026 and Herrick closes Thursday, October 1, 2026. Deerfield Nature Park is open for rustic, tent-only camping year-round. For any questions regarding camping reservations, please contact the Isabella County Parks Main Office at (989) 317-4083.



Clean & Bright Laundry Services





15TH

Wear red and green



DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PIS

16TH Wear your coziest Christmas pajamas

17TH

DECEMBER WHITE OUT WEDNESDAY Wear your white



DECEMBER

FESTIVE HOLIDAY **SWEATER**

Break out those festive Holiday sweaters!

DECEMBER 19TH

















ART REACH YOUTH CHORUS Winter Concert



6pm Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025 Isabella County Commission on Aging 2200 S Lincoln Rd, Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

Sponsors: Mt. Pleasant Jaycees, Bandit Industries Community Fund, Fabiano Family Fund, and Schafer Community Impact Fund



Senior Companion Program



Provide companionship and socialization for isolated older adults who want to live independently.





COMMISSION ON AGING

Foster Grandparent Program



Mentors & role models for atrisk students to provide academic assistance in school settings.

Qualifications:

- -55 or Better
- -Meet income requirements
- -Commit to 15-20 hours a week -Be in good standing health
- -Pass various background checks
- -Be ready to make a difference

AmeriCorps Seniors

Benefits:

- -Earn a non-tax stipend
- -Mileage reimbursement
- -Pre-service & ongoing training -Holiday & PTO
- -Fulfill a life long purpose

CONTACT US

Isabella County Commission on Aging Brandi, Jodi or Anne (989) 772-0748

Page 8 Monday Tuesday Wednesday

ivionday	Tuesday Wednesday	
9:00 Video Exercise Group 1 10:00 Dulcimer Group 10:00 Quilts of Valor 10:00 Coffee and Conversation 10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Faith Weavers 1:00 Hand Sewing Group 1:00 Cards 1:00 Mahjongg 1:00 Hot Cocoa Bar & Cookie Decorating 5:15 Human Rights Committee 5:30 Broadway Kids 6:30 Mountain Town Family Chorus	9:30 Basic Line Dancing Instruction 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Beginner Tai Chi 11:30 Tai Chi Next Level 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Cards 2:00 Computer/Tech Class 3:00 Yoga 5:00 Board of Commissioners Meeting 5:30 Broadway Kids 5:30 Isabella County Historical Society	9:00 Video Exercise Group 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Chess Club 10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Cards 1:00 Happy Rippers 4:00 CMU DPT Move for Health 4:00 Anyone Can Paint 5:30 Broadway Kids
9:00 Video Exercise Group 10:00 Dulcimer Group 10:00 Coffee and Conversation 10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 12:00 QOV Christmas Party 1:00 Faith Weavers 1:00 Cards 1:00 Mahjongg 5:30 Broadway Kids 6:00 Orchard Glen Homeowners Assoc. 6:30 Mountain Town Family Chorus	9:00 Jerolyn's Sewing Group 9:30 Basic Line Dancing Instruction 10:00 Commissioner Committee Meeting 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Beginner Tai Chi 10:00 Needlecraft 11:30 Tai Chi Next Level 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Cards 2:30 Huntington's Disease Support Group 3:00 Yoga 4:00 League of Women Voters 5:00 PEO 6:00 MMQG 7:00 Mid Michigan Woodcrafters	9:00 Video Exercise Group 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Chess Club 10:00 Heartland Basket Weavers 10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 PEO 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Cards 1:00 Happy Rippers 5:30 Broadway Kids
9:00 Video Exercise Group 10:00 Coffee and Conversation 10:30 Dulcimer Concert 10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Faith Weavers 1:00 Cards 1:00 Mahjongg 1:00 Mt. Pleasant Garden Club 1:00 Caregiver Support Group 2:30 Insurance Committee Meeting 6:30 Mountain Town Family Chorus Wear Red and Green	9:30 Basic Line Dancing Instruction 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Beginner Tai Chi	8:00 Happy Rippers 17 9:00 Video Exercise Group 10:00 Second Sight Artists 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Chess Club 10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 12:15 Root Beer Floats 1:00 Second Hand Book Club 1:00 Cards 5:00 Parkinson's Support Group 6:00 Art Reach Children's Choir Wear White
9:00 Video Exercise Group 10:00 Dulcimer Group 10:00 Coffee and Conversation 10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Faith Weavers 1:00 Cards 1:00 Mahjongg	9:30 Basic Line Dancing Instruction 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Beginner Tai Chi 11:30 Tai Chi Next Level 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 12:15 December Birthdays 1:00 Cards 3:00 Yoga	Closed CHRISTMAS EVE
9:00 Video Exercise Group 10:00 Dulcimer Group 10:00 Coffee and Conversation 10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Faith Weavers 1:00 Cards 1:00 Mahjongg	9:30 Basic Line Dancing Instruction 10:00 Line Dancing 10:00 Commissioner Committee Meeting 10:00 Beginner Tai Chi 11:30 Tai Chi Next Level 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Cards 3:00 Yoga	Closed

Thursday	Friday	Saturday Page 9
10:00 Coffee and Conversation 10:00 Beginner Tai Chi 11:00 Red Cross Blood Drive 11:00 Nutrition Education 11:30 Tai Chi Next Level	8:00 Happy Rippers 9:00 Video Exercise Group 9:00 Collaborative Meeting 10:00 Coffee and Conversation 10:30 Ukulele Concert	9:00 Happy Rippers
11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Cards 3:00 Hula 5:30 Broadway Kids 6:00 Central Michigan Thin Blue Line 6:30 Isabella County Democratic Party	10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Bingo 2:00 Cards	9:00 Happy Rippers 1:30 Broadway Kids
10:00 Coffee and Conversation 1 10:00 Beginner Tai Chi 11:30 Tai Chi Next Level 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Cards 1:00 Veterans Support Group 3:00 Hula 4:00 FGPSCP Advisory Council 4:30 VA Committee Meeting 5:30 Broadway Kids 6:30 Community Cancer Service 7:00 Mt Pleasant Citizens Climate Lobby	9:00 Video Exercise Group 9:30 Jam Session 10:00 Coffee and Conversation 10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Sacred Heart Book Club 1:00 Cards 1:00 Ukulele Group	Reminder: COA Closed December 24, 25, 31 and January 1
9:00 Stitchin' Gals 10:00 Coffee and Conversation 10:00 Beginner Tai Chi 11:00 Christmas Party 11:30 Tai Chi Next Level 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Cards 3:00 Hula	9:00 Video Exercise Group 9:30 Jam Session 10:00 Coffee and Conversation 10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Bingo 1:00 Ukulele Group 2:00 Cards	9:00 Charlene's Quilting Group
Closed Closed CHRISTMAS	9:00 Video Exercise Group 9:30 Jam Session 10:00 Coffee and Conversation 10:45 Gentle Exercise 11:30 Trivia/Word Search 1:00 Cards 1:00 Ukulele Group No Meals!!	27
>0000000000000000000000000000000000000		Food with Friends Lunch Monday thru Friday at 11:45a.m. in Activity Room C See our Menu on page 10

Please direct all meal reservations to the COA main office at 989-772-0748 and ask for the Meals Line. Please indicate which site you are referring to when leaving a message. Please call 24 hours in advance for reservations. All other questions can be directed to the Site Facilitators at the phone number or email address listed for each site.

FWF Eat Smart Menu December 2025

FVVF Lat Silialt IVIE	- 111U	Deceini	Der ZUZU	
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Salisbury Steak Bread Whipped Potatoes Succotash Mixed Fruit	2 Beef Taco Bowl Cilantro lime Rice Corn Apple Crisp	3 Corn Chowder Bread Stick California Blend Strawberries	4 Pizza Casserole Garlic Toast Yellow Beans Fruit Cocktail	5 Italian Herb Chicken Bread Broccoli Scalloped Potatoes Mandarin Oranges
8 Beef & Sweet Peppers Bread Cheesy Potatoes Spinach Applesauce	9 Baked Spaghetti Bread Stick Italian Green Beans Peaches	10 Chicken Broc Cheese Bread Baked Potato Mixed Vegetables Berry Fruit Cup	11 Potato Crunch Fish Bread Au Gratin Potatoes Stewed Tomatoes Pineapple & Oranges	12 BBQ Meatloaf Dinner Roll Peas & Carrots Whipped Potatoes Fruit Cocktail
15 Cabbage Roll Cass Bread Carrots Mandarin Oranges Cookie	16 Macaroni and Cheese Bread Broccoli Strawberry Shortcake	17 White Chicken Chili Bread Stick Capri Vegetable Blend Citrus Fruit	18 Christmas Meal Baked Ham Dinner Roll Hashbrown Casserole Green Beans with Crispy Topping Cranberry Mousse	19 Ham & Cheese Break- fast Casserole Redskin Potatoes Clementine Apple Juice
22 Chinese Pepper Steak Bread Brown Rice Mixed Vegetables Pineapple Tidbits	23 Chicken Burrito Bowl Bread Apple Slices Strawberry Yogurt Cookie	24 Closed No Meals Christmas Eve	25 Closed No Meals Christmas Day	No meals Today
29 BBQ Chicken Breast Bread Harvest Blend Veg. Cinnamon Applesauce Cookie	30 Swedish Meatballs Bread Whipped Potatoes Green Beans Fresh Orange Goldfish Grahams	31 Closed No Meals New Year's Eve	Closed. No Meals	No Meals Today HAPPY NEW YEAR

Menus are Subject to Change Without Notice Reservations are Required 24 Hours in Advance

Milk provided with all meals Suggested Donation: Congregate \$3.00, Home Delivered \$3.50

COA Activity Center

2200 S. Lincoln Rd. Mt. Pleasant

Meals M - F at 11:45am

Rhonda Burke, Site Facilitator 989-772-0748

rburke@isabellacounty.org

COA Building OPEN M-F 8:00am-4:30pm

Winter is Here! Everyone had a wonderful time at our Halloween Party with some great costumes! Thank you to all who came and also to those who dressed for the costume contest! First place winner, Jim Ingersall, Second place, Christine McNight, Third place, Jennah Wolf! Congrats to all!! Our Thanksgiving meal was a great hit! The music was provided by the Holiday Ramblers. They always put on a great show! Hope you all had a blessed and thankful holiday. COA will be closed on December 24, 25, 31, and January 1 for the Holidays! I wish you all a safe and warm holiday! December Events to Remember:

Line Dancing is on Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:00

12/5 Ukelele Concert 10:30 -11:30 Bingo with Megan 1:00

12/11 Veterans Support Group 1:00

12/15 Dulcimer Concert 10:30 -11:30

12/17 Root Beer Floats 12:15

12/18 Christmas Meal 11:45

John Kniffen to DJ 11:00 – 2:00

12/19 Bingo 1:00

12/26 No Meals will be served

COA Closing Information:

Once again, it is that time of year with snow falling and roads becoming snow covered or icy. The Commission on Aging takes our volunteers into consideration during bad weather. As a basic rule, if Mt. Pleasant schools are closed due to weather, our meals will be canceled. We post our closings/cancelations on the following TV stations: ABC 12, NBC 25, CBS WNEM TV5 so please make sure to check there for confirmation.

All meals – congregate and home delivered, as well as all COA sponsored activities, events, and fitness classes will be canceled. We usually post the information as early as possible, however sometimes schools close without much notice or later in the day. If you have any questions about meal delivery, please call our office at (989) 772-0748

WEIDMAN

Library

3453 N. School Rd., Weidman

Meals M, W. F 10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

Sandy Hunter, Site Facilitator

989-644-2538

weidmanfoodwithfriends@gmail.com Weidman December Calendar

Happy Holidays! We are closed for a few days this month. Thank you for all that have helped with the Christmas Cards for Soldiers. They are appreciated and let our soldiers know we care. Have a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year!

- 1 Cards and Dice
- 3 Nutrition Ed with Cookies & Coffee
- 5 Music: Greg Merwin
- 8 Cards and Dice
- 10 Christmas Craft, Gnome Ornaments
- 12 December Birthday Celebration w/ Cake!
- 15 Cards and Dice
- 17 Coffee, Conversation and Muffins
- 19 Christmas Bingo!
- 22 Cards and Dice
- 24 Christmas Eve/Closed
- 26 Closed
- 29 Cards/Dice
- 31 New Year's Eve/Closed

SHEPHERD

United Methodist Church

107 W. Wright Ave., Shepherd

Meals M, W. F 10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

Leann Vanacker, Site Facilitator

989-828-5106

shepherdfoodwithfriends@gmail.com

Shepherd December Calendar

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth". We would love to see you join us for great company, warm food and fun! The Shepherd site has so many activities to offer. We are a great group that loves to chat and brings a true feeling of togetherness at the site! Come check us out!

- 1 11am Exercise 12:30pm Wii Bowling, Nutrition Education, Pie Day
- 3 11am Holiday Movie and December Birthdays
- 5 11am Holiday Trivia 12:15pm Bingo
- 8 11am Exercise 12:30pm Wii Bowling/Crossword Challenge
- 10 11am games 12:15pm Hiram's Christmas Program
- 12 Closed
- 15 11am Chair Exercise, Gingerbread House Making
- 17 11am Holiday Party with Special Musical Guest Justin Judge
- 19 11am Wii bowling 12:15pm Ugly Sweater Day, Bingo
- 22 11am exercise 11:30 Musical Guest Al Bartholemew
- 24 Christmas Eve/Closed
- 26 Closed
- 29 11am Excise, Games
- 31 New Year's Eve/Closed

ROSEBUSH

Village of Rosebush Manor

4210 E. Rosebush Rd. Rosebush

Meals M, W. F 10:00am - 2:00pm

Jennie Brussow, Site Facilitator

989-433-0151

rosebushfoodwithfriends@gmail.com

Rosebush December Calendar

If you need a break from the colder weather and holiday preparations, come enjoy lunch with us and stay for some of our special activities. We guarantee you will have fun! Hope to see you soon.

- 1 Manicures/Nutrition Ed
- 3 Bingo/Prizes, Music: David Smith
- 5 Music TBA
- 8 Make Gingerbread Houses
- 10 Music/Marty Miller
- 12 Music/Mark & Scott/ Ice Cream Social and Birthday Celebration
- 15 Music/Just the 2 of Us
- 17 Music/Mark DeNoyelles
- 19 Music/Jim Gilmore
- 22 Sing-A-Long with Brian
- 24 Christmas Eve/Closed
- 26 Closed
- 29 Music/Kevin Bendele
- 31 New Year's Eve/Closed

WINN

Community Center

2583 W. Blanchard Rd., Winn

Meals M, W. F 10:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

Tammy Foltz, Site Facilitator

989-866-2520

winnfoodwithfriends@gmail.com Winn December Calendar

Ho, Ho, Ho! In December we might see a bit of snow! The holidays bring on great traditions where family and friends come together! Come join us for a busy December full of music and crafts! We have so much fun that they can hear us laughing across the county!

- 1 Making the Grinch Day (Craft) Wear your Grinch-wear (green)
- 3 Music: Midnight Express, Nutrition Education
- 5 Finishing our Grinch projects
- 8 Picture Frame craft
- 10 Entertainment: Puppets! Music: Kevin Bendele
- 12 Closed
- 15 Wood Snowmen and Ribbon Angels
- 17 Holiday Party! Music: Justin Judge with special guest!
- 19 Make up day: Crafts
- 22 Closed
- 24 Christmas Eve/Closed
- 26 Closed
- 29 Paper Angels
- 31 New Year's Eve/Closed

FOOD WITH FRIENDS PUNCH

CARDS! \$15.00 FOR 5

MEALS

\$30.00 FOR 11 MEALS

You can ask your Site Facilitator for more

information!

The punch cards can be purchased at the COA Building

2200 S. Lincoln Rd.

Mt. Pleasant

CCN FOOD PANTRY

Located at the Strickler Center, 1114 W High St., Mt Pleasant

Call 989-863-4449, Option 3

Appointments REQUIRED, No walk-ins

Wednesday, December 3 2 p.m. - 6 p m. Thursday, December 4 9 a.m.1p.m. Saturday, December 8 9 a.m. 12 noon Wednesday, December 10 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Thursday, December 11 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Wednesday, December 17 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Thursday, December 18 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.Saturday, December 20 9 a.m. – 12 noon

MUST LIVE IN ISABELLA COUNTY ZIP CODES WE SERVE:

48617, 48618, 48622, 48632, 48858, 48859, 48878, 48883, 48893, 48896, 49305, 49310, 49340 We are Seeking Volunteers! You Can Sign up at CCNFEEDS.ORG

See Additional Food Pantries and Meal Locations Below:

Weidman Friend of the Month

By: Volunteer, Sue Preuss

Sue Ann Carpenter of Lake, in Coldwater Twp. is the Weidman Senior Activity Center friend of the month. Originally from Union Township, Sue Ann has lived here since September of 2003. She has one son and three grandsons. She's officially retired but has a hobby that keeps her very, very busy. Known in her neighborhood as "The sheep lady", she raises sheep, sheers them, cleans the wool, cards it then spins it into yarn. In addition to spinning the yarn, she also dyes it herself and creates original items such as handwarmers hats, etc. She got her first spinning wheel in 1989 and has been creating yarns ever since. In chatting with this talented lady, I asked how she came to know about the WSAC, she said because of all her visits to the library, she knew that the center was connected and decided to check it out. Senior centers have a special place in her heart as she saw her mom be a very active member of the center in her area, to the point that she drove a number of the friends to and from the center on a regular basis so they could also enjoy all the fun. Sue Ann said she got a very warm welcome here at the WSAC and looks forward to spending time here when she is able to. If you would like to meet Sue Ann and learn more about her hobby, or come and meet the rest of the friends, the center is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10-2. The sit and get fit exercise group meets from 10-11am along with the others that are playing games, working on jigsaw puzzles or just enjoying visiting with each other. If you're interested in coming and having a Food with Friends meal, Call Sandy Hunter at 989 644-2538 the day before to place your order. The menu is available on the COA website. Hope to see you soon.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Isabella County Soup Kitchen 8:30am - 1:00pm Salvation Army 1:00-4:00PM CMU Student Food Pantry Noon-3pm Utile downtowe pastry a first united methodist Charth Upin Japan	2 Isabella County Soup Kitchen 8:30am - 1:00pm Salvation Army 1:00 -4:00PM CMU Student Food Pantry 4pm-7pm Latife diswroom party a first wired restrictle.	3 CMU Student Food Pantry 2pm-Spm CCN Infant Pantry 10:00 am-5:00pm	4 Isabella County Soup Ritchen 8:30am - 1:00pm Salvation Army 1:00-4:00PM CMU Student Food Pantry 2pm-5pm	₅ Little downtown pantry at first united methodist Church 12pm-5pm	6
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Nancy Carey Cancer Support Group

Instead of our monthly meetings, we'll have a Christmas Party at Cheers Neighborhood Grill and Bar (1700 W High Street in Mt. Pleasant.) on **Wednesday, December 3 from 5 to 7 p.m.** For more information, call **989-513-7827**.

Our support group is committed to helping women in our community who are survivors or currently dealing with cancer. Since its inception in 1991, we have shared our experiences, provided friendship, compassion and information with other women touched by cancer. Our meetings are informal and upbeat. All shared information is confidential.

For more information contact: ncarey.cancer.group@gmail.com

Parkinson's Support Group

Meets 4th Wednesday of each month (except December)

December 17 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. at COA 2200 S. Lincoln Rd., Facilitator: Dr, Jamie Haines, PT, DScPT, Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy, CMU.

Phone: 989-415-0418 or email: haine1jj@cmich.edu

Huntington's Support Group

Tuesday, December 9

Time: Gathering time at 2:00 p.m. with meeting starting at 2:30 p.m.

RSVP to Group Leader: Galen Voss

Email: galenvoss@yahoo.com

New Tomorrows - Eight Week Grief Education Series

You are not alone in grief! McLaren Hospice offers a free educational support program for any person who is coping with the death of a loved one. In an emotionally supportive peer group setting, participants are offered opportunities to share and heal and are given tools designed to assist them in navigating through the experiences of grief. When in session, the group meets every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at McLaren Central Michigan: 1221 South Dr. Mt Pleasant, MI 48858.

Call Amy Kaczmarek, McLaren's Bereavement Coordinator and Tomorrows Facilitator, at (989) 233-4613 to register at any time during the series or with questions.

Volume 125 ISSUE 12 DECEMBER 2025

Community Cholesterol Screening

Cholesterol plays a key role in your heart health. A screening test is available that includes information about your;

- Total cholesterol
- LDL cholesterol
- HDL cholesterol
- Triglycerides
- Glucose
- Blood Pressure

Fasting for 10-12 hours before the test is required. Walk-in cholesterol screenings will be offered on Wednesday, December 17 from 7:00-10:00am. Cost \$25 payable the day of the screening. No appointment is necessary.

McLaren Central Michigan, East Entrance, 1221 South Drive, Mt. Pleasant

Free Balance Screenings

One in three adults aged 65 or older will fall each year. A fall can drastically change your quality of life, and balance is the key to your independence. This 20-minute screening will include a fall survey, a balance screening and results counseling with our licensed Physical or Occupational Therapist.

- Have you fallen in the past year or are you afraid of falling?
- Do you have trouble getting around due to weakness or imbalance?
- Do you feel dizzy or unsteady if you move suddenly or if you turn over at night?
- If you answered "Yes" to these questions, this screening is for you!

McLaren Central Michigan Rehabilitation Services 2600 Three Leaves Drive, Mt. Pleasant Call (989) 779-5604 to schedule an appointment.

FREE Mental Health Support Groups

Third Wednesday of each month

• 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Summit Clubhouse 2120 E Remus Rd.

Family Support Group

For family and friends

Connections Support Group

For anyone experiencing mental health challenges.

For more information: please call

989-948-3273

In Memory Of

Lynn Marguetitte Baird

Faye Thering

Esther Baldwin

Randy & Carol Baldwin

Jim Bauer

Nancy Bauer

Dwight R. Carpenter

Nancy Fulton Gladys Shanteau

Martha Carpenter

John J. Hovey Beth Hovey

Ted & Ginger Kjolede Walter Schneider

Katy Kulick Alisa Ellertson

Judy Layfield Mary Pickelman

George W. McClain Jr. Melanie Allen Mrs. Joyce McClain Kerry McClain Beth Ann Nesbitt

Tom McDonald Tom & Mary Lynn Bott

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Norene Pepper & Family

Bernard & Marge Rau Fred & Flo Steffke

Shirley Reed Patricia "Patty" Reed

Betty Schafer Marty Siuda Between The Covers Book Club

Harry Schafer Bernadette Sunderman

Elaine Thering Faye Thering

Rita Vogel Ruth Martin

Dennis White Nancy Bauer

> **Active Living Derek Caldwell** Pegg Caldwell

Larry Cotter Karolyn Cotter

Charles Dodge Sharon Dodge

Bill Ervin Bill & Karen Swetz

Ruth Fransted Nancy O'Brien

Arthur Peterson

Cassandra Tucker Nancy O'Brien

In Memory Of Continued

Food with Friends Jessie Baderschneider

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Active LIVING *Really* **Needs Your Support**

Thank you to everyone who donates to Active LIVING. As of November 8, we have received \$15,962.50. We are still a long way from our needed goal of \$28,000.00.

To keep Active LIVING a part of our communities, we need your support. Please consider donating to Active LIVING. You may use the donation form below. The suggested annual donation amount needed is \$25.00. We deeply appreciate your support.

Enclosed is my Donation for				
\$				
Please make check payable to:				
Friends of Isabella Seniors				
Mail to: Friends of Isabella Seniors 2200 S. Lincoln Rd. Mt. Pleasant,MI 48858				
Please designate my gift to:				
□ Active LIVING				
□ COA Activity Center				
□ Food With Friends				
☐ Foster Grandparent / Senior				
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Thank You for your Support

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Temporarily Away

Active LIVING is not "forwarded". If newspapers are returned, we remove the individual from our mailing list. To get back on the mailing list, you must contact our office with your current address. If you are planning an extended vacation or are moving, please call our office (989) 772-0748 or use the form on the back page.

Active LIVING Deadline

Each issue of Active *LIVING* is printed and mailed to our readers before the first day of each month. In order to complete the entire process, we need to receive information for submission by the sixth day of the prior month. Please understand all articles submitted are subject to editing for content and space restrictions.

Isabella County Commission on Aging Mission Statement

The mission of the Isabella County Commission on Aging (COA) is to promote the health, independence and fulfillment of Older Adults through the coordination and provision of diverse services and opportunities. COA is a leading multi-service agency that provides a community focal point for the needs of our Older Adult population.

The following programs focus on assisting individuals who are sixty years of age and older and live within our geographical service areas:

In Home Services Program

- Case Management
- Caregiver Training
- Information and Referral
- Homemaking
- Medicare/Medicaid Assistance
- Personal Care
- Respite Care

Food with Friends Program

- Congregate Meals
- Home Delivered Meals

Foster Grandparent Program Senior Companion Program

Activity Center Program

- Activities
- Travel Opportunities
- Fitness

Gold Key Volunteer Program

- Volunteer Opportunities
- Transportation

Donations or fees for all programs and services are requested. If we can assist you or someone you know, please call COA at (989) 772-0748 Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Funding Sources include client donations, memorials, planned estate gifts, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, Isabella County Senior Millage and Federal, State and Isabella County Appropriations.



PRACTICE AREAS

Simple Wills **Powers of Attorneys Ladybird Deeds** Fair Housing and Reasonable Accommodations **Consumer Rights Public Benefits Eviction Defense** Assistance with Other Critical Legal Needs Affecting Seniors

SERVING

Sanilac / Tuscola

Bay / Clare / Gladwin / Gratiot / Huron / Isabella Midland / Saginaw

CALL FOR HELP TODAY

1-800-322-4512

Between 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday

INSIDE DECEMBER 2025 Issue

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2200 South Lincoln Road, Mount Pleasant, MI 48858 Friends of Isabella Seniors

Permit No. 52 Mt. Pleasant,MI48858

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Send to: Friends of Isabella Seniors(COA)

2200 S. Lincoln Rd. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 Please make checks payable to: Friends of Isabella Seniors

The Friends of Isabella Seniors organization is operated exclusively for charitable purposes, within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code to encourage and assist with the provision of programs and services for older adults in Isabella County operated in cooperation with the Isabella County Commission on Aging.

Suggested contribution to Active LIVING: \$25 per year helps to cover the costs of producing and mailing the paper. A great way to remember when to send your donation is to send it on your birthday each year.

Address Change: Active LIVING is mailed under a nonprofit automated mail rate and will not be forwarded with a notice to the post office.

Please notify the COA office using the delivery form to the left each time you request a change to assure we record changes correctly.