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**BRENNAN SENIOR CENTER** × 1301 Pingree Ave. Flint, MI 48503 810.766.7238 × Brennanseniorcorporation@gmail.com

# Senior Reflections

Happy New Year!

#### We welcome 2023 with hope and joyful expectation!

Perhaps you know of Janus—the Roman mythological and religious god representing beginnings, gates, transitions, time, duality, doorways, passages, frames, and endings. The month of January is named for Janus. Images of Janus represent him with two faces, one that looks back and the other looking forward.

Looking back, there are pleasurable memories we will hold on to while there are others best left in the rear view. There are people who were with us not long ago, but, sadly, are gone away. One such person is Bryant Nolden. You likely know that BB, as he was affectionately known, served the Flint community as an educator, City Councilman, Commissioner, Board member of civic organizations, and tireless executive director of the Berston Field House. BB was also a very good friend to Flint seniors and our Flint senior centers. BB wore many hats and served countless people before his life was cut short by a heart attack at the age of 57 years. This unexpected event, which claimed one whose own life overflowed in service to others, urges us to bring attention to our own lives and the lives of those we love. Within this newsletter will be found an informative article regarding stress and the heart. We ask that you read it with your heart in mind.

Looking forward toward a 2023 filled with hope and joyful expectation, we invite you mark your calendar now for the Senior Winter Games! Registration ends soon! The Senior Winter Games are a great way to start the new year with fun activities and new friends. See you soon~

Brennan Senior Center Staff

The mission of the Brennan Senior Center is to provide Senior Citizens with a wide variety of programs, activities, and services, including but not limited to: health, recreation, socialization, education, transportation, and pertinent information and services that might enable them to maintain dignity and independence.



Staff

Adrianne Nance, Administrative Assistant

Deborah Holmes, Director

Natelete Hill, Maintenance

Richard Flynn, Van Driver

Heinitsh Woodson, Alt-Van Driver

#### Center Hours\*

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

9am—5pm 9am—5pm 9am—5pm 9am—5pm 9am—5pm

CLOSED: January 2 and 16 \*Hours subject to change.

## **Advisory Board**

Tom King, Chairperson
Archie LeFlore, Treasurer
Mavis Pitts, Trustee
Nancy Bush, Trustee
Gary Simon, Trustee
Tommy Gist, Trustee
Mark Evans, Trustee
George Bowden, Trustee
Mildred Bowen, Recording Secretary

This program and/or service is fully- or partially-funded by

Genesee County Senior Millage funds.



Your tax dollars are at work.

## Want to Get Your Business Noticed? Advertise!

#### \*Ad rates (monthly)

Full-page	\$85	Half-page	\$45	Quarter-page	\$25
Eighth-page	\$10	<b>Business card</b>	\$10	Patronage (Full name)	\$5

\*Discounted rate available for quarterly advertisement period. Contact Deborah Holmes at 810.766.7238.

Senior Reflections newsletter is a monthly publication of Brennan Senior Center. Senior Reflections is produced and edited by JanMarie Arbor. Forward inquires to: JanMariebscorp@gmail.com

## **Upcoming Events**

Veteran Services Date: Tuesday, January 3

Legal Services of Eastern Michigan Date: Friday, January 13

**Catholic Charities' Group Talk with Brittany J. Date:** Tuesdays **Call to make an appointment Time:** 10:00am—11:00am

**Call to make an appointment Time:** 9:30am—11:00am

**Open Invitation Time:** 11:30am—12:30pm

#### Service Provider Announcement

Michigan Community Services, Inc. SENIOR ADULT DAYCARE & RESPITE CARE

MCSI Senior Programs 3131 S. Vassar Rd Davison, MI 48423

MCSI's trained staff facilitates planned activities in its center and within the community that are appropriate for each person's abilities. Assistance with personal care is provided, as needed. In-home care is provided by trained staff matched

to each senior's needs. Staff provides companionship and assists with personal care. Other duties can be requested. Insurance, private pay arrangements, and eligibility for Senior Millage funds are



assessed and accepted. To schedule a tour or an assessment, please call: 810.407.9132.

This program and/or service is funded in whole or in part by Genesee County Senior Millage funds. Your tax dollars are at work.

How to Solve Sudoku	
A Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9 × 9– square grid subdivided into nine 3 × 3 boxes. Some of the squares contain numbers.	
The object is to fill in the remaining squares so that every row, every column, and every 3 × 3 box contains each of the numbers from 1 to 9 exactly once.	
Puzzle solution on back cover.	
Get more puzzles online: http://www.puzzles.ca/sudoku.html	

1					7	9		
7	3			2	6 8	9 5 1		
	3 5		9		8	1		
	7	5				3		
	1						6	
6	8					2		1
					9			3
	2							
						7		8



## January Activities Calendar

	Juilland Juilles Salenaal								
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday					
2	3	4	5	6					
Stability - SS 10a-11a Computer 1:1 10a-12p Chair Yoga CLOSEID2p	Cell Phone 1:1 11a-1p Exercise 11a-1p	Cell Phone 1:1 11a-1p Chair Yoga 1p-2p	Computer 1:1 10a-11a Basic Sewing 10:30a-12:30p <i>Bingo!</i> 1p-2p	Arthritis Exercise - SS 11a-12p Movie Day 11a-2p Hustle Dance 1p-2:30p					
9	10	11	12	13					
Stability - SS 10a-11a Computer 1:1 10a-12p Chair Yoga 1p-2p Classes labeled SS are via Zoom	Cell Phone 1:1 11a-1p Exercise 11a-1p Appt reg'd for cell & computer classe	Cell Phone 1:1 11a-1p Chair Yoga 1p-2p	Computer 1:1 10a-11a Basic Sewing 10:30a-12:30p Bingo! 1p-2p	Arthritis Exercise - SS 11a-12p Movie Day 11a-2p Hustle Dance 1p-2:30p					
16	17	18	19	20					
Stability - SS 10a-11a Computer 1:1 10a-12p Chair Yoga CLOSTAD Volunteer Meeting 11:00am	Cell Phone 1:1 11a-1p Exercise 11a-1p	Cell Phone 1:1 11a-1p Chair Yoga 1p-2p	Computer 1:1 10a-11a Basic Sewing 10:30a-12:30p <i>Bingo!</i> 1p-2p	Arthritis Exercise - SS 11a-12p Movie Day 11a-2p Hustle Dance 1p-2:30p					
23	24	25	26	27					
Stability - SS 10a-11a Computer 1:1 10a-12p Chair Yoga 1p-2p	Cell Phone 1:1 11a-1p Exercise 11a-1p	Cell Phone 1:1 11a-1p Chair Yoga 1p-2p	Computer 1:1 10a-11a Basic Sewing 10:30a-12:30p <i>Bingo!</i> 1p-2p	Arthritis Exercise - SS 11a-12p Movie Day 11a-2p Hustle Dance 1p-2:30p					
30	31								
Stability - SS 10a-11a Computer 1:1 10a-12p Chair Yoga 1p-2p	Cell Phone 1:1 11a-1p Exercise 11a-1p								

## Kindly check-in at the kiosk for all activities and services. *Thank you!*





#### Vol 16, No 1

HONDAY	January 2	Senior Nutrition 023 —Congregat Subject to change WEDNESDAY	te Menu*	RIDAY
2 20225 HAPPY NEW YEAF	3 Chicken Cacciatore Mixed Greens Spaghetti Diced Pears Corn Bread Margarine 100% Fruit Juice	4 Homemade Liver+Onions w/Gravy Mashed Potatoes Sweet Peas Biscuit Applesauce Margarine Milk	5 Pork Chops w/Mushrooms Sugar Snap Peas Roasted Potatoes Sliced Wheat Bread Fresh Apple Margarine 100% Fruit Juice	6 B-B-Q Chicken Tenders Spinach Yams & Apples Whole Wheat Roll Fresh Orange Margarine Milk
Homemade Sweet+Sour Meatballs Brown Rice Green Beans Mixed Vegetables Flatbread Pineapple Tidbits Margarine Milk	Chicken Caesar Wrap w/Romaine & Parmesan Cucumber Slices w/dip Fruit Cocktail Tortilla Wrap Caesar Salad Dressing 100% Fruit Juice	Open-Faced Pot Roast Sweet Peas Mashed Potatoes Texas Toast Half Diced Peaches Margarine Milk	Homemade Chili Whole Kernel Corn Sliced Potatoes Fresh Pear Buttermilk Biscuit w/Honey Margarine 100% Fruit Juice	Grilled Chicken Breast w/Cream Sauce Chopped Broccoli Glazed Carrots Mixed Fruit Potato Roll Margarine Milk
MARTIN LUTHER	17 Homemade Mexican Chicken and Rice Soup Vegetable Blend Lima Beans Applesauce Corn Muffin Margarine 100% Fruit Juice	18 Creole Steak European Veggies Sliced Beets Tropical Fruit Salad Potato Roll Margarine Milk	Beef Fajitas w/Peppers+Onions Mexican Rice Corn Tortilla Shell Fruit Cocktail Cookie of the Month 100% Fruit Juice	20 Crispy Fish Taco w/Fresh Corn Salsa Au Gratin Potatoes Cole Slaw Pineapples Tortilla Shell Milk
23 Ham, Bacon & Cheese Frittata w/Peppers & Onions Roasted Redskin Potatoes Warm Cinnamon Apples Mini Muffin Milk	24 Homemade Chicken Salad on Croissant Fresh Homemade Cucumber Salad Fresh Broccoli Bites Golden Apple 100% Fruit Juice	25 Roasted Chicken Breast Italian Veggie Blend Roasted Potatoes Fresh Pear Hawaiian Roll Margarine Milk	26 Turkey Burger w/Cheese Potato Wedges Vegetable Blend Diced Pears Multi-Grain Bun Ketchup & Mustard Birthday Cake 100 % Fruit Juice	47 Homemade Mac and Cheese French Cut Green Beans Sliced Carrots Wheat Roll Mandarin Oranges Margarine Milk
30 Homemade Coulash Spinach Baby Carrots Fresh Apple Corn Bread Margarine Milk	Homemade Sloppy Joes Garden Pasta Veggie Blend Broccoli Florets Golden Apple Whole Grain Bun Margarine 100% Fruit Juice	Community Tection Resource	Reference Scratter	Valley Area Agency On Aging Auswers, Action, & Advocay for All Things Senior!
	Qualifications: screening quest	gan Food Bank Age 60 or older; me ionnaire and enrolln <b>X pickup: M</b> o oxes are to be pic	et income requirem nent form <b>onday, 1/9, 1</b>	ent; complete pre– 1am—1pm



## **GAMES:** FEBRUARY 6 — MARCH 6

**REGISTER Today thru Thursday, January 12, 2023.** 

To Register, stop by the Brennan Senior Center or call 810.766.7238.

FEE: \$12.00 includes: • T-Shirt • Unlimited Events • Closing Ceremony Banquet

Participants must reside in Genesee County or belong to a Genesee County Senior Center and be at least age 50 by January 12, 2023. Birth date is required for registration purposes.

## **2023 EVENTS**

Arts & Crafts	Free Throw	Pool (8-ball)
Baking	Frisbee Toss	Senior Grand Prix
Bean Bag Toss	Hand Knee & Foot	Shuffleboard
Bocce Ball	Jigsaw Puzzle	Soccer (free kick)
Bowling	Ladder Golf	Softball Toss
Cribbage	Line Dancing	Spades
Darts	Miniature Golf	Spelling Bee
Dominoes (Mexican Train)	Name That Song	Table Tennis
Euchre	Pickleball	Sudoku
Fitness Walk	Pinochle (single deck)	Yahtzee

The 2023 Senior Winter Games is sponsored by: Genesee County Senior Millage, UAW Region 1-D, Martha Markley Charitable Trust administered by Huntington Bank, Valley Area Agency on Aging, HAP, Genesee County Commission on Aging, and Oak Street Health.

Community Partners include: John Davis, Richfield Bowl, Sharky's Sports Bar, Soccer Zone, VG's Grocery, St. John's Parish Hall, Senior Centers, and the Genesee County Senior Millage. Thank you!



These events have been partially funded by the Genesee County Senior Millage. Your tax dollars are at work.



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#### Education

#### STRESS and the HEART

When it comes to activities that affect the heart, there's the good (a healthy lifestyle), the bad (unhealthy risk factors), and the ugly (hidden influences). Excessive stress is often found among the "ugly." Behind the scenes, stress can work persistently to damage the heart, eventually leading to heart attack, abnormal heart rhythms, heart failure, or stroke. Yet, even then, an affected person may be completely unaware that stress is an underlying cause of his or her heart issues.

#### **POWERFUL HORMONES**

Research shows a relationship between chronic stress and abnormal production of the stress hormones epinephrine (adrenaline), cortisol, and norepinephrine. The body releases these same hormones when dealing with an episode of *acute* stress—for example a situation that occurs within an instant, like when you narrowly avoid a car accident. But when the body experiences *chronic* stress—day after day, for an extended period of time—these hormones can start to have a detrimental effect on heart health. In play together, these hormones may trigger a higher demand for oxygen in the body, spasms in the heart's blood vessels, and an interruption in electrical impulses, resulting in irregular heartbeats/heart palpitations, chest pain, and/or shortness of breath.

Other prolonged effects of chronic cardiovascular stress can include high blood pressure, increased heart rate, elevated blood sugar, blood vessel damage and inflammation. And the physiological impact of stress can include damage not only to the heart, but to the overall health of the body, including weight gain, sleeplessness, irritability, headaches, or anxiety.

#### **BROKEN HEART SYNDROME**

More technically known as stress-induced cardiomyopathy, Broken Heart Syndrome is an interesting medical condition. The heart may be physically overcome by intense emotions (grief, fear, or intense anger) or overwhelming stressful situations, causing a gush of stress hormones in the body and leading to symptoms and signs that mimic a heart attack or heart failure. Although usually temporary and treatable, it can be fatal.

#### INFLAMMATION and CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH

High stress can also affect the heart and cardiovascular system by spurring inflammation in the arteries, a risk factor for atherosclerosis/hardening of the arteries. As stress hormone levels rise in the bloodstream, blood sugar levels increase too. If those sugar levels exceed the body's needs, they can trigger an inflammatory response within the walls of the blood vessels. When this inflammation occurs, cholesterol-rich plaque can build in the arteries, potentially bringing about heart attack or stroke.

#### **CYCLES of STRESS**

Everyone reacts differently to long-term physical or emotional tension, and it can be more damaging to some than to others. For instance, some may eat more and the increased weight may raise blood pressure and trigger the risks inherent in diabetes. Lack of sleep due to worry increases cortisol, and the excess cortisol has been tied to high blood sugar and increased body weight. These factors are detrimental to the condition of the heart. Lifestyle choices such as smoking or alcohol abuse also intensify stress on the cardiovascular system.

A particularly ugly aspect of chronic tension is that we frequently don't recognize its effect on us. It's important to recognize the negative role that chronic stress can play. The crucial role of screening for heart-related conditions and being proactive about our health cannot be overemphasized.

#### **AVOIDING STRESS**

Stress is a mechanism that affects your body. Anxiety is a symptom that you're under stress. Even if a person takes medication to lessen their anxiety, it doesn't mean that the root of the problem—chronic stress—is being addressed. Obviously, it's not realistic to avoid stress entirely. However, to reduce the effects of persistent tension on the heart, it is very beneficial to find stress-busting approaches that work for you, such as exercise, deep breathing, praying, meditation or mindfulness, yoga, or massage, to name a few.

*Actively* reduce stress factors and follow a heart-healthy lifestyle: Quit smoking. Manage diabetes. Eat healthy. Consider intermittent fasting. Stay active.

#### This Month's Recipe

## FELIZ NAVIDAD STEW

Slow cooker cooking time: 6 hours, 15 minutes Serves 6

#### Ingredients

- 1 pound beef stew meat (1 1/4-inch pieces)
- 3/4 pound potatoes, cut into 3/4-inch cubes
- 2 cups frozen corn, thawed
- 2 medium carrots, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 cups beef stock
- 1 (10-ounce) can diced tomatoes and green chiles, undrained
- sour cream, optional, to taste
- tortilla chips, optional, to taste



#### Directions

- Step 1 In a 5- or 6-quart slow cooker, combine the first 12 ingredients.
- Step 2 Cook, covered, on low until the meat is tender, about 6-8 minutes.
- Step 3 Serve with the sour cream and tortilla chips.

#### Source: EasierEats.com

Senior Hotlines		City of Flint	
Alzheimer's Association	1.800.272.3900	Mayor's Office	810.766.7346
American Cancer Society	1.800.277.2345	Community Policing	810.237.6853
American Diabetes Society	1.800.232.3472	Dumping Hotline	810.237.2432
American Parkinson's Association	1.800.223.2732	Leaves and Snow	810.766.7343
Arthritis Foundation	1.800.283.7800	Weeds and Tall Grass	810.766.7450
Citizens for Better Care	1.800.284.0046	Water	810.766.7202
County Commissioners	810.257.3020	Sewer	810.766.7079
Dept of Veterans Services	810.257.3068	Parks and Recreation	810.766.7463
Energy Assistance	1.800.292.5650	Customer Service	810.766.7015
Legal Hotline for Seniors	1.800.347.5297	Priority Waste	1.855.927.8365
Legal Services of Eastern MI	810.234.2621	City Council Gen'l #, then x	810.766.7418
Meals-on-Wheels	810.239.7671	1st Ward - Eric Mays	x3160
Medicare Appeals & Inquiry	1.800.633.4227	2nd Ward - Ladel Lewis	x3162
Medicare/Medicaid Assistance	1.800.803.7174	3rd Ward - Quincy Murphy	x3161
MI Offices of Services to the Aging	1.517.373.8230	4th Ward - Judy Priestley	x3164
Sheriff's Office of Elder Abuse	810.257.3460	5th Ward - Jerri Winfrey-Carter	x3167
Social Security	1.800.772.1213	6th Ward - Tonya Burns	x3165
Utilities (Public Service)	1.800.292.9555	7th Ward - Allie Herkenroder	x3163
Valley Area Agency on Aging	810.239.7671	8th Ward - Dennis Pfeiffer	x3159
Veteran's Assistance	1.800.827.1000	9th Ward - Eva Worthing	x3158

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1	6	8	5	4	7	9	3	2
7	3	9	1	2	6	5	8	4
4	5	2	9	3	8	1	7	6
2	7	5	8	6	1	3	4	9
9	1	4	3	5	2	8	6	7
6	8	3	7	9	4	2	5	1
5	4	7	2	8	9	6	1	3
8	2	1	6	7	3	4	9	5
3	9	6	4	1	5	7	2	8

In Rememberance



Bryant Nolden, 1965-2022

A noble man of service and example of good will to all of Flint... Thank you, BB, for your work and for your example.