



The MariElders

6923 Madisonville Rd Cincinnati OH 45227

513-271-5588

marielders@yahoo.com

marielders.org

February 2026

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From the Director's Desk

February is a month of renewal and connection. As winter begins to soften, it's a perfect time to refresh our routines, try something new, and reconnect with one another. Whether it's joining a favorite class, sharing a warm cup of coffee with friends, or welcoming someone new into our community, every small moment of connection matters.

This month reminds us that staying engaged physically, socially, and emotionally helps us feel energized and supported. We invite you to take part in our February activities, reach out to a neighbor, and continue building the strong, caring community that makes MariElders such a special place. Stay vibrant, be engaged: Connect with MariElders.



Thank you for your generosity!



Judy Kagrise

Fearghal Reid

Carol Calkins

Jed and Barbie O'Connell

Sandra Garland

Jackie Vontz

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AARP tax preparation is back Tuesdays this year! This is a free service for individual tax returns. Thank you to Fairfax Recreation for hosting again! Call MariElders to schedule an appointment.

Check your calendar for updates

February 5-10 the lower level of MariElders will be getting a backwater preventer installed. MariElders will reach out with changes via email.

Croswell Tour

Members are encouraged to consider going on a Croswell Tour. The catalog is at MariElders and online. It would be great to have a group!



February BIRTHDAYS



Kathy Wyer	Feb 3	Sally Coombs	Feb 16
Kathy Seitz	Feb 3	Frances Stafford	Feb 18
Vina Shah	Feb 4	Judy Smalley	Feb 25
Linda Leichman	Feb 5	John Graham	Feb 25
Stephanie Schaefer	Feb 6	Mona Shaw	Feb 25
Jimmy Crabb	Feb 9	Syd Sabo	Feb 26
Kathy Tomain	Feb 10	Elsie White	Feb 27
Rosalind Moir	Feb 10	Dennis Buchanan	Feb 28



Cheryl Jeffers | Senior Care Advocate

P: 513-712.4849 | C: 513-448.6590 | F: 513-436.1498

E: cherylj@amadaseniorcare.com | Web: www.AmadaCincinnati.com



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Mondays

*Balance and Strength w/Diane

11:00am; MariElders or Fairfax Rec Ctr

Improve your agility and reduce your risk of falls in these fabulous classes with our world-renowned instructor, Diane Sabo! Handheld weights and balls will be used to supplement a variety of exercises that target your leg, core, and upper body muscles. As with all our fitness classes, the first class is always free. **Cost:** \$5 per class

*Duplicate Bridge

12:30pm; MariElders

If you are interested in playing Duplicate Bridge, please contact Monica Walker at (434) 282-4963 or email her at andoverconsultants@gmail.com.

*Canasta

1pm; first floor of MariElders

If you are interested in playing Canasta but don't remember how or would like to learn, the group would be happy to share their experience and expertise!

***NOTE: MariElders will be closed for President's Day on Monday, February 16.**

Tuesdays

Chair Yoga with Helene

12pm; MariElders or Fairfax Rec Center

This class, led by certified instructor Helene Everhart, is open for all abilities.

Cost: \$5 per class; first class is free.

Mah Jongg

1pm; first floor of MariElders

If you're interested in playing or learning this fun, ancient game of strategy, contact Kelly Pharmer at (513) 831-7309. Call ahead of time to schedule lessons.

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Wednesdays

Chair Volleyball

10am; RG Cribbet Recreation Center

5903 Hawthorne Ave., Fairfax, OH 45227

Chair Volleyball is the best kind of physical activity--competition with lots of laughs! It is played similarly to volleyball, with the differences being that the game is played with a beach ball on a smaller court, and you only need to get out of your chair to chase down stray balls!

Balance and Strength with Diane

11:30am; MariElders or Fairfax Rec Ctr

Improving our balance is an important tool in helping prevent falls. Rest assured that this class is not a biology lab! It is an energizing workout that manages to combine exercise and laughter.

Cost: \$5 per class

Mexican Train Dominoes

1pm; first floor of MariElders

The object is for a player to play all the tiles from their hand onto one or more "trains" emanating from a central hub or "station".

Hand and Foot

1pm; first floor of MariElders

Any week you are planning to play, please contact Helen Whitling at (513) 646-3349 so we know how many tables to set up. And if you need a refresher on how to play, this group would be happy to help!

Movies at MariElders

1pm, lower level of MariElders

February 4: *La La Land*

128 minutes

A jazz pianist and an aspiring actress meet and fall in love in Los Angeles despite the differences in their lives.

February 11: *P.S. I Love You*

126 minutes

When Gerry (Gerard Butler), the husband of Holly Kennedy (Hilary Swank), dies from an illness, she loses the love of her life. Knowing how hard Holly will take his death, Gerry plans ahead. Beginning on her 30th birthday, she receives the first in a series of letters written by him, designed to ease her grief and encourage her to move forward to a new life.

February 18: *Harry Brown*

104 minutes

Neighbors John Gustafson and Max Goldman are elderly curmudgeons whose long-running feud becomes an all-out rivalry when an attractive widow moves in across the street.

February 25: *Raising Arizona*

94 minutes

An ex-con and a police officer decide to get married and start a family but discover that they can neither have nor adopt children. Desperate, they kidnap one of the newborn quintuplets of a wealthy Arizona family. But their attempt at living a normal life is complicated by neurotic co-workers, two fugitives, and a bounty hunter.

Thursdays***Bingo****10am; MariElders**

This energetic game is led by our very own Kent State Broadcasting legend Linda Swensson. Don't forget to bring your quarters!

Chair Yoga with Helene**12pm; MariElders or Fairfax Rec Ctr**

Cost: \$5 per class

Five Crowns**1:00pm; first floor of MariElders**

In this card game, similar to rummy, players try to get the lowest score after 11 rounds.

****British Murder Mystery****1:30 pm; lower level of MariElders**

Come improve your sleuthing skills while you watch a murder mystery!

***NOTE 1: In the first week of February, Bingo will take place on Friday instead of Thursday. See calendar for date and time.**

****NOTE 2: There will be no Murder Mystery on Thursday, February 5**



Melissa M. Bales

Providing Insurance Products for Seniors

513-733-9090 (office)

513-733-0130 (fax)

email: melissa@balesins.com

Fridays***Party Bridge****12 pm; first floor of MariElders**

If you enjoy Bridge and just want to play for fun, please contact Barb Hampton at (513) 403-3110.

Competitive Bridge*12:30pm; MariElders**

If you enjoy Bridge and take it a bit more seriously, please contact Barb Smith at (513) 546-6015.

***NOTE: There will be no Party or Competitive Bridge on February 13 due to the Valentine's party.**

Lunch Bunch**Fridays at 1pm**

Join members as we sample some newer restaurants and visit old favorites! Unless otherwise indicated on the monthly calendar, we leave MariElders at 12:30 pm. Please sign up by the Wednesday before each lunch so we have time to finalize our reservations and plan transportation.

*February 6: Wandering Monsters

February 13: Valentine's Day party

February 20: Oriental Wok

February 27: Pennyflower Bistro

***Lunch Out is combined with an offsite activity.**

You may sign up for these activities starting on Tuesday, January 20.
Spots are limited on some events so don't delay!

Tuesday, February 3

Book Club

10:00 am; first floor of MariElders

Mandi Beecroft will be here to lead a group discussion about *The Listeners* by New York Times bestselling novelist Maggie Stiefvater. This work of historical fiction is set in a West Virginia luxury hotel during WWII where the manager, June Hudson, must host detained Axis diplomats, creating tension with her staff and an FBI agent investigating the hotel's mysterious, magical waters.

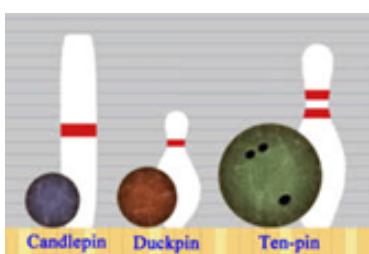
Friday, February 6

Lunch Out & Duckpin Bowling

1:00 pm; Wandering Monsters

Join us for a fun afternoon of food and fun! We will start with lunch, then work off the calories with some duckpin bowling, which uses smaller balls and pins than normal bowling.

Cost: \$11 per person per game + lunch



Wednesday, February 11

Snacks and a Speaker

11:30 am; first floor of MariElders

Diane Shields will captivate us with the accomplishments and endeavors of Theodore Roosevelt, fondly known as "Teddy", who was the 26th U.S. President.

Friday, February 13

Members' Meeting

10:30 am; first floor of MariElders

Come hear a summary of how we did in 2025 and our plans for 2026!

Valentine's Day Party

12:00 pm; MariElders

We will celebrate this heartwarming holiday with a delicious lunch, games, treats, and a special activity!

Cost: \$10 per person



Monday, February 16



You may sign up for these activities starting on Tuesday, January 20.
Spots are limited on some events so don't delay!

Tuesday, February 17

Newsletter Packing Party

9:15 am; first floor of MariElders

Help us sort, stuff and stamp our newsletters while being one of the first to see what is planned for the month of March.

Thursday, February 19

Armchair Travels: Italy

11:00 am; lower level of MariElders

We will experience many of the amazing sites of Italy using the wonders of modern technology. Then we'll enjoy traditional Italian appetizers & desserts, as beautiful Italian music plays in the background!

Cost: \$10



Tuesday, February 24

Muffins with the Mayor

10:30 am; first floor of MariElders

It's been a while since we had Mayor Bill Brown here for breakfast, so we are sure you all have a lot of inquire about, Come with your questions and sweet tooth!



Thursday, February 26

Neusole Glassworks

12:30 pm; leaving ME at 1:00pm

We will watch one of their glassblowers create a production item from start to finish. Then we will each make our own item, with the option to choose between a flower, paperweight, or suncatcher.

Cost: transportation plus \$25 - \$45, depending on which item you create.



Heating Assistance Available
Application Deadline: May 31, 2026



The Ohio Department of Development and MariElders want to remind older Ohioans that assistance is available to help with their home energy bills. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps Ohioans at or below 175% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of up to eight members and 60% of State Median Income for a household of nine or more members to pay their heating bills.

Applied directly to the customer's utility or bulk fuel bill, the benefit can help manage heating costs.

Older Ohioans may go to their local Area Agency on Aging office for help with assembling the required documents and completing their HEAP application. They may also visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov to apply online or to download a copy of the application.

When applying, individuals need to have copies of the following documents:

- Most recent utility bills.
- A list of all household members (including birth dates and Social Security numbers).
- Proof of income for the past 30 days for all household members (12 months for certain income types).
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or legal residency for all household members.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).

HEAP benefits are applied to an individual's energy bill after Jan. 1. Applications for the HEAP program must be received by May 31, 2026.

For more information or assistance with applying for a HEAP benefit, contact Erin (513) 271-5588.

To be connected to your local Energy Assistance Provider, call (800) 282-0880 (hearing impaired clients may dial 711 for assistance) or visit www.energyhelp.ohio.gov.