

tions.

religion, and their effects on contemporary culture, will not be avoided, as these are valid issues that give life its depth and meaning. A focus will be placed on the development of critical reasoning skills and an examination of pre-conceived biases effecting personal objectivity.

Session is free sign up in the lobby.

#### Session is FREE and for anyone 60 & over caring for another or someone caring for a person 60 & over.

you can open up and express your feelings and frustra-

tions and receive non-judgmental advice and sugges-

In Memory Albert Song	CENTER STAFF		
Arline Powell Sister Rita Wasilewski	Center Phone number 203~452~2815 Kim Cassia - Director, <i>ext. 4</i>		
Artine Powell Sister 2010 Musice Wiski	Ainsley Panza - Administrative Assistant, ext. 1		
Agnes Lazor Shirley McMenamey	Amy LaChioma - Elderly Services Coordinator, ext. 3		
e la sua ana ana ana ana ana ana ana ana ana a	John Williams - Transportation Coordinator, ext. 2 Evana Falzone - Office Assistant, ext. 0		
<b>Commission for the Aging Commissioners</b> Chair ~ Susan Bannay	Drivers - Rosemarie Syarto, John Delfino, Joe		
Vice Chair ~ Leslie Gosselin	Lombardo, Don Florentino, Mike Pfalzgraf <b>Bob Scopoletti</b> - Custodian		
Secretary ~ Jeanne Nicolett	-		
Kathleen Sochacki, Sam Tucci, Vivian Capoccitti	COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF Mary Ann Kalm - Social Services Coordinator		
The next meeting is Wednesday, June 4 <sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in Program Room 1	203-452-2813		
0	Eddie Lui - Food Pantry Coordinator 203-452-2817		
The Commission shall study continuously the condi- tions and needs of elderly persons in the community in	<b>BRAIN GAMES</b> ~ Wednesday June 11 <sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm		
relation to housing, economic, employment, health,	Join Danielle Ramos from National Healthcare for		
recreational and other matters. It shall analyze the ser-	challenging puzzles and brain teasers as an enjoyable & effective way to improve brain health.		
vices for the aged provided by the community, both by public and private agencies, and shall develop and co-			
ordinate programs and make recommendations to the	Inflammation - To Inflame or not to Inflame -		
Town Council regarding the development and integra- tion of public and private agencies in cooperation with	That is the question! - Wednesday, June 4 <sup>th</sup> 12:30pm		
state and other services to the extent possible.	Presented by: Zara Awan CW Resources' Nutritionist		
	Did you know that what you eat can either fuel or fight inflammation in your body? What you eat plays a big		
	role in managing inflammation. Join Registered Dieti-		
	tian Nutritionist Zara Awan for a thought-provoking		
	discussion on how to eat with inflammation in mind as one of the most powerful ways to support long-term		
M	health from the inside out. Handouts and recipes avail-		
Plohegan Jun	able for all. <i>Free program sign up in the lobby!</i>		
a legendary meeting destination	Book Club Wednesday, June 11 <sup>th</sup> at 2:00nm		
	Good Night Irene by Luis Alberto Urrea		
action late			
	Join Bob Moore, PT from Collins Medical Solutions on		
Tuesday June 17th 2025	<b>Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00pm</b> to learn simple tools for your toolbox to maintain and improve your <b>Balance and</b>		
<u>Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 2025</u>	Strength. We will review how to reduce and prevent		
\$45 Per Person	Falls! Bring your best questions!!		
Cash or check payable to:	COLLINS COLLINS		
Monroe Senior Center	Caring for people like family since 1931. Making any house a home for a lifetime.		
Bus Leaves: 9:30am	The world has enough issues, learning about investing		
Bus Returns: 6:00pm	doesn't have to be one of them. Join Eric Beers, VP		
	of Investments with David Lerner Associates, on Tuesday June 10 <sup>th</sup> at 11:00cm to learn shout various		
To RSVP call Ainsley (203) 452-2815	<b>Tuesday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am</b> to learn about various investment opportunities, some designed to provide		
Ext 1	income. This Sensible Middle Ground of Investing		
or visit Monroe Senior Center	<b>seminar</b> will teach you about investment philosophy and may include mutual funds, variable annuities and		
235 Cutlers Farm Road	investing in energy. Find out what makes sense for		
Monroe, CT 06468	you. FREE program sign up in the lobby.		

## Gazy Brother's Farm Food Truck Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am

The Gazy Brother's are graciously bringing a taste of the Monroe Farmer's Market to our Center! Come browse their selection of fresh produce for you to purchase!



### The Evolution of Flower Painting: An Art Appreciation & History Discussion Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 1pm With Theresa Waldron, BFA



You are invited to attend this new program that combines Art History and Art Appreciation with Your Imagination! We'll cover a brief history of flowers as subjects of paintings and see the evolution of painting styles over centuries.

We will end our session with an easy & fun make and take craft! No art supplies needed! Please bring your sense of adventure and your imagination!



## DECLUTTERING

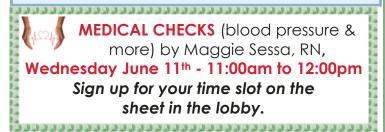
Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm

What to do with all that stuff you don't want or don't need anymore?

Join Lisa Bisson from Masonicare Wesley Village for a presentation on repurposing, minimizing, & decluttering your life!

Free Program - Sign up in Lobby!

Masonicare 🤇 at Wesley Village f 🗖 🗇 🗑 🔿 🏠



#### **Father's Day Celebration** Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm

Join us in celebrating fathers, grandfathers, & father-figures! This outdoor celebration will **Father'S** include a fun filled day of Corn Hole, Bocce, Ping Pong & More!



Refreshments sponsored by **Rosemary Bilash from Church Hill Village** 

Free program Sign up in Lobby! CHURCH HILL VILLAGE a Senior Lifestyle community

**Dog Days of Summer** Friday June 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am **Sponsored by Monroe TRIAD** 

11:00: K-9 Demonstration courtesy of Sgt. DeCarli, K-9 **Riggs, & Monroe PD!** 

12:00: Hot Dog & Hamburger Lunch courtesy of Spadaccino and Leo P. Gallagher & Son **Community Funeral Home** 

\$5 per person Sign up at the front desk





Spadaccino and Leo P. Gallagher & Son Community **Funeral Home** 



Forms are in the container on the wall in the main room; checks are payable to the tour company. Trips are open to anyone who would like to go, invite your family & friends.

#### DAY TRIPS:

- July 22<sup>nd</sup> A Taste Of Freedom NYC ~ \$189 Per Person
- September 15<sup>th</sup> Providence Italian Style ~ \$180 Per Person
- October 7<sup>th</sup>— Bronx Zoo ~ \$122 Per Person
- October 21<sup>st</sup> Spooky Salem at the Witch Museum ~ \$149 Per Person
- November 5<sup>th</sup>- Culinary Institute of America ~ \$178 Per Person

#### **OVERNIGHT TRIPS:**

- Toronto, Niagara Falls feat. The 1000 Islands: May 19-23 ~ \$1,849 pp Double / \$2,449 Single
- Albuquerque Balloon Fest: October 5-10 ~ \$3,699 pp Double / \$4,699 Single
- Christmas in Cape May & Radio City: December 2-4 ~ \$999 pp Double / \$949 pp Triple / \$1,229 Single
- A Nashville & Smoky Mountains Christmas: November 29-December 6 ~ \$3,799 pp Double / \$4,719 Single

\*Please contact Ainsley at 203-452-2815 ext.1 to inquire about trip deadlines and itinerary

## En 1910 En Cernoon Movies

5<sup>th</sup> "Nonnas" | PG | Comedy / Movie is Based on Real Life | 1hr 54min

Vince Vaughn leads a starry cast in this true story about a sweet guy who opens a restaurant & hires Nonnas ~ Italian Grandmothers ~ as the chefs.

12<sup>th</sup> "The Life List" | PG-13 | Movie Based on Books / Drama | 2hr 5min A young woman must fulfill her teenage "life list" to claim an inheritance in this movie based on the bestselling novel of the same name.

### **<u>26<sup>th</sup> "Persuasion"</u> | PG | Romantic / Comedy | 1h 49min**

Based on the Jane Austen novel of the same name. Her high society relations persuaded her to give up the penniless man she loved. Years later, she's single, full of regrets and about to see him again.

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# **<u>Risks of Problem Gambling</u>** Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm

Like all behavioral health disorders, gambling issues do not discriminate. Gambling is often referred to as a "Hidden Addiction" as it is not easily recognizable. Join Mary Blum from CT Renaissance to discuss this.

Free program, Sign up in Lobby

Sail Boat Painting Workshop Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm \$40 \$25! per person

Come paint a nautical sail boat painting! This guided workshop is open to all skill levels!

Sign up with payment at front desk.



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ivasquez@lpicommunities.com (800) 888-4574 x3105

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#### MONROE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL SERVICES

Our department is made up of several factions: food pantry, social services, elderly services, transportation services, and of course the senior center.

Our **Social Services & Elderly Services Coordinators** work to maintain and improve the quality of life for our residents while promoting independence through resources, referrals and assistance. Each serve as a single point of entry for residents on a variety of programs, services and support. They assess resident needs and match them with appropriate programs or services.

Our **Food Pantry Coordinator** works to provide nutritional assistance to financially struggling town residents in a manner that ensures and protects their dignity and confidentiality while combating food insecurity.

Our **Transportation Coordinator** schedules non-medical, curb to curb rides for members 60 & older or individuals with a disability over the age of 18. The program is governed by policy and procedures which try to serve as many people as possible in a fair, efficient and effective manner. Rides can include but are not limited to medical, personal care, shopping, center programs and more.

At the **Senior Center** we try to create opportunities for mindful aging for persons 55+ through physical activity, social engagement, creativity, lifelong learning and guidance, which creates a positive impact on our entire community.

**Monroe TRIAD** is comprised of seniors, law enforcement & community members who focus on all facets of safety needs and concerns of older adults in our community to reduce the fear of crime and educate residents on health & safety related to medical issues, home safety, financial concerns, scam awareness and more. Programs they created or endorse are: friendly caller, file of life, code red announcements, 911 cell phones, contact & access program.

**FUNDS** our department relies on the generosity of the community to support several funds which help residents in financial hardship, these are: **Project Warmth**, the **Monroe Food Pantry** and our **Social Services Exchange**.

- **Project Warmth** bridges the gap when Federal & State energy assistance programs have been exhausted ensuring that residents have a warm home during our coldest months, hot water or electricity.
- The Monroe Food Pantry our clients receive one week's worth of food per month which includes a wide range of healthy food items, such as produce, milk, eggs, frozen meat, and non-perishables.
- Social Services Exchange supports three programs the School Supply Program, Giving Tree Program and assistance to residents for other hardships not supported by other local, state and federal programs.

**Donations** can be made to support the funds listed above via check, cash or PayPal on the Town of Monroe website https://www.monroect.gov/p/donations. Checks or cash can be dropped off at the Monroe Senior Center.

**CODE RED - Town of Monroe's Community Notification System -** friends and neighbors who don't have email or check the Town website are still able to keep informed of our local emergency response team in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts. Examples include: evacuation notices, bio-terrorism alerts, boil water notices, missing persons and more. You can create a managed account which will allow you access to modify your existing notification settings and contact information or you can enroll as a guest. Seniors who need assistance to enroll can contact the Center and we can help you.



#### **RECREATION PROGRAMS**

**Art Class** led by Kathy Pontin is held monthly and delves into a variety of projects to stimulate your creative side.

**Chair Yoga** led by Linda Resnick is designed for seniors who want to exercise gently is held Thursdays at 2:00pm.

Must be current member of the center.

#### **CHORE SERVICE**

Designed for residents who have difficulty financially or physically, completing any of these tasks: heavy housework, yard work, minor home repairs and more. For more information contact Amy LaChioma, Elderly Services Coordinator or Mary Ann Kalm Social Services Coordinator. They will review your request and if you qualify they will work with you to complete a Form 5 & match you with a vendor.

The following **programs & services** made possible through the **Older Americans Act** as the funding source & the **Southwestern Connecticut Area Agency on Aging** as the funding agency.

#### **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

No car, no problem call John Williams, Transportation Coordinator for a ride. Our service goes to a variety of locations in Monroe & nearby Towns. Appointments should be made 24 hours in advance, but can be made as soon as you know the date and time. Medical appointments take precedence. **Must be current member of the center.** 

#### **CAREGIVER INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE**

Amy LaChioma, Elderly Services Coordinator & Mary Ann Kalm, Social Services Coordinator, provide case management. Both serve as a single point of entry for seniors, their family members & caregivers on a variety of programs, services and support. They will access client needs and match them with appropriate programs: energy assistance, nutrition, respite care, homecare, chore service & more.

#### **CAREGIVER PUBLIC INFORMATION / EDUCATION**

A monthly program that is informational, educational and interactive on a variety of topics to help caregivers, family, friends, neighbors and even care recipients learn how to handle and deal with a variety of situations, issues and more. Sessions are led by Arthur Gottlieb who is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Senior Advisor. If there are topics you would like to learn more about please let us know and we will be sure to add it to Art's calendar. Session is open to anyone 60 & older or anyone caring for someone 60 & older. Non-members are welcome to attend. Dates & times are listed in our newsletter.

#### **CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

Caregiver stress is real! If you are a caregiver and feeling stressed, isolated, overwhelmed or depressed this support group can help! The group will help you develop lifestyle changes and offer strategies for creating a life that, despite the daily stressors and emotions of caregiving, remains balanced and meaningful! The group is led by Arthur Gottlieb, LCSW, CSA in the Center's library which offers a confidential and calm setting where caregivers can open up and express their normal frustrations for caregiving and receive non-judgmental advice and suggestions. **Session is open to anyone 60 & older or anyone caring for someone 60 & older. Non-members are welcome to attend. Dates & times are listed in our newsletter.** 

#### DONATIONS

As part of the Title III grants we are asked to seek donations for the various programs and services we provide.

- The car has a bag attached to the headrest and the buses have boxes.
- At the Center our suggestion box doubles as a donation box. There are small envelopes so you can indicate what the donation is for: caregiver information & assistance, caregiver education, caregiver support group, recreation programs, chore service or transportation.



The Monroe Farmers' Market will be open on Fridays from June 13th to October 24th from 3:00 to 6:00pm. The market has reserved parking spots for seniors 65 and older as well as a "cart to car" service to help you bring your bags to your car. On June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00am to 12:00pm Gazy Brothers Farm food truck will be at the center for you to check out and purchase their wares.

Scammers are pretending to be government employees. They may threaten you and may demand immediate payment for you to avoid arrest or other legal action. **DO NOT BE FOOLED.** If you receive a suspicious call: HANG UP! DO NOT GIVE THEM MONEY OR PERSONAL INFORMATION! REPORT THE SCAM AT OIG.SSA.GOV.

Also be mindful of **SCAM text messages and emails**. The ministry is not going to lock you up for not paying your fine, last I knew we don't have ministries in the USA. Lately, I have been receiving many emails coming in and when I look at who sent it, the email addresses are off. DO NOT OPEN any ATTACHMENTS to **EMAILs** that you aren't sure about.

AARP FRAUD WATCH has a variety of resources to help keep you safe, you can check them out at aarp.org/ fraudwatchnetwork. On this site you can look up a scam; see or report scams; get regular updates; hear directly from fraud experts and more. One recommendation is to check your annual credit report which can be done at annualcreditreport.com.

**Detective Stacy Cascante of the Monroe Police Department:** Government agencies will never call you and ask you to pay over the phone with gift cards or crypto currency. If you receive a call asking you to pay with these methods, hang up. If you are unsure if a creditor call is legitimate, hang up and call the creditor number on the back of your card and/or billing statement. Do not click on links that appear in text messages from unknown senders. There are many texts being sent that appear as though individuals owe money for E-Z Passes and/or other toll companies, these are not real and you should not click on the links as they are scams.

MEDICAL NEEDS REGISTRY - The Department of Community & Social Services maintains the Medical Needs Registry to support residents facing health or mobility challenges who may need assistance during emergencies. The list is shared with our Emergency Response Team. The program is for residents with mobility issues, vision or hearing impairments or those relying on life-sustaining equipment like oxygen or c-pap. Forms are available at the center. For more information contact Amy LaChioma, Elderly Services Coordinator.

Our **Monroe TRIAD** has 2 programs available for Monroe Seniors. The **FRIENDLY CALLER** keeps Triads those who lose contact with family & friends from being isolated. Our Friendly Caller calls once a week to offer a caring connection through conversation. For full program details call Amy LaChioma, Elderly Services Coordinator or stop at the center to pick up a form. The CONTACT & ACCESS PROGRAM allows the Police to store information in their computer aided dispatch to help first responders gain access to you or your loved ones in an emergency. If responders have the code to your key box, garage or know where a key is hidden then they won't have to force entry into your for a welfare check or EMS response. There are forms at the center with more information.

**STEADY STEPS** - a program designed by the Monroe Health Department, EMS & Senior Center to empower seniors to prevent falls and emergency calls. It is a holistic, home-based approach to senior fall prevention aiming to decrease the number of fall-related emergency calls through improving the stability and confidence among our town's seniors. Program provides education, risk assessments, referrals and follow up. If you or someone you know can use our expertise give us a call at 203-452-2818 to schedule an initial team visit.

#### Starting this month you may be eligible for a discount up to 50% off your total monthly electric bill, if you meet the household income requirements for all adults over 40% DISCOUNT 50% HOUSEHOLD 15% 20% 5% 15% DISCOUNT DISCOUNT DISCOUNT **INCOME SIZE DISCOUNT** 18. Gross income is used to determine eligibility. \$45,505 \$31,777 \$24,096 \$18,825 \$15,060 The discount is off total bill but up to 800 kWh for nonheat electric customers and 1200 kWh for electric heat \$20,440 \$59,507 \$43,128 \$32,704 \$25,550 2 customers. 3 \$73,509 \$54,480 \$41,312 \$32,275 \$25,820 Those on the previous discount program should have \$87,511 \$65,832 \$49,920 \$39,000 \$31,200 4 received a letter in May. 5 \$101,512 \$77,184 \$58,528 \$45,725 \$36,580

#### **Eversource News** ~ Electric Bill Discount

June Programs				
Every Monday	<b>Every Tuesday</b>	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Friday
9:00 Poker <b>10:00 Fit &amp;</b> <b>Fabulous</b> 10:00 Rummikub 10:30 Bridge 12:30 Mah-Jongg 1:00 Bingo	10:00 Knit & Crochet Instruction <b>10:00 Tai Chi</b> 12:30 Farkle	9:30 Pinochle 10:00 Fit & Fabulous 12:00 Senior Café 2:00 Bereavement Group 2:30 Stretch & Strengthen	<ul> <li>9:00 Poker</li> <li>9:30 Chess</li> <li>9:30 Mah-Jongg</li> <li>10:00 Rummikub</li> <li>10:30 Bridge</li> <li>1:30 Computer Tutor</li> <li>2:00 Chair Yoga</li> <li>2:00 Knit &amp; Crochet</li> </ul>	9:30 Pinochle 10:00 Knit & Crochet 12:00 Senior Café 12:30 Mah-Jongg 1:30 Chorus 3:00 Farmer's Market (13 <sup>th</sup> on)
Monday Specials	Tuesday Specials	Wednesday Specials	Thursday Specials	Friday Specials
2	3	4	5	6
	9:30 Triad Meeting 2:00 Balance & Strength	12:30 Inflammation 2:00 Commission for the Aging Meeting	12:30 Movie ~ "Nonnas" NONNAS	1:00 Summer Concert 1:30 Current Events
9	10	11	12	13
	11:00 Investment Associates, INC. The Sended Middle Ground of Investory 1:00 Art Apprecia- tion & History Discussion	11:00 RN Maggie () 1:00 Brain Games Brain Games	12:30 Movie ~ "The Life List"	2:00 Father's Day Celebration 1:30 State & Territorial Flags of the USA
16	17	18	19	20
	Casino Trip 1:00 Risks of Prob- lem Gambling	Connecticut Wine Trail	<u>Juneteenth</u> Center Closed No Programs No Transportation	1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Summer 2:00 Decluttering 2:00 Chair Yoga Makeup Class
23	24	25	26	27
10:00 Gazy Brothers Farm Food Truck	1:30 "What Other People Think About Us" 2:00 Sailboat Painting 3:00 Caregiver Support Group		12:30 Movie ~ "Persuasion" NO CHAIR YOGA	11:00 Dog Days of Summer
30	CLASS FEES	JUNE	FACTS	<b>OLD GLORY</b>
	Pay in advance for the entire month is \$4.00 per class. Drop-in is \$5.00 per class.	<ul> <li>Birthstones: Pearl / Alexandrite / Moonstone</li> <li>Flowers: Rose &amp; Honeysuckle</li> <li>Notable days of the month: <ul> <li>Flag Day ~ June 14<sup>th</sup></li> <li>Father's Day ~ June 15<sup>th</sup></li> <li>First Day of Summer ~ June 20<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

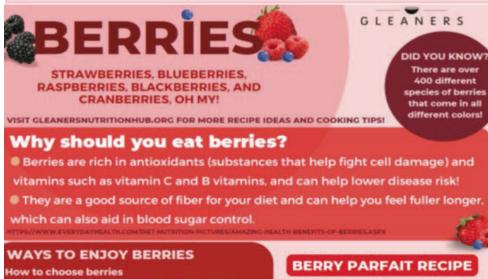
## RVV Solutions Senior Community Cafe

Wednesdays and starting this month Fridays at noon RW Solutions provides a nutritious meal for the program participants.

To take part one must be 60 or older and complete a Form 5 to be enrolled in the program. While the meal is free participants are asked to make a **donation between \\$3.00 - \\$5.00**. Orders are called in by 10:00am on Monday for the meal count.

The menu for the month of June is to the right, please note menu items are subject to change. If you don't like the entrée, no problem there is always an option for a chef's salad.

**FOOD ALLERGY WARNING:** Please be advised that our food may have come in contact or may contain peanuts, tree nuts, soy, milk, eggs, wheat or shellfish, or fish. Please advise a staff member of any food allergies prior to the consumption of meals.



How to choose berries
 Try to choose packs of berries that are not

- moldy- the mold spores can quickly spread to other berries.
- Washing/Storing
- Before washing, remove any moldy or soggy berries.
- Soak the berries in warm water with a couple tablespoons of vinegar to kill any mold sporesabout 5-10 minutes.
- Use a towel to pat the berries dry.
- Store berries in a paper towel-lined, sealable container to reduce moisture.
- Store in the fridge for 1-2 weeks!

#### Freezing

- Berries can be frozen in plastic bags if they will not be used right away.
- Ways to use berries
- Sprinkle your berries into a salad, blend them into a smoothie, use them to make jam, or use them as a delicious topping for frozen yogurt!

  Notes:
- Wash and store different berries separately, not together.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup plain greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup of your favorite berries
- 1/4 cup granola or your favorite nuts

#### Instructions:

In a bowl, add your yogurt and top with all desired fruit or toppings. Mix together and enjoy!

Enjoy this as a healthy, high-fiber breakfast, or as a low-sugar dessert!



Wednesday, June 4 Roast Pork with Creamy Garlic Sauce, Mashed Sweet Potato, Spinach, Wheat Roll, Oreos

Friday, June 6 Roast Turkey with LS Gravy Stuffing, Cauliflower, Oatnut Bread, Mixed Fruit

Wednesday, June 11 Chicken Sandwich with Lettuce & Tomato, Waffle Fries, Broccoli, Hamburger Bun, Fig Newtown

Friday, June 13 Father's Day Special Pot Roast with Onions & Mushrooms, Roasted Red Potatoes, Broccoli, Whole Wheat Roll, Boston Cream Pie.

Wednesday, June 18 Fish & Chips Fish Filet with French Fries, Coleslaw, Tartar Sauce, Wheat Bread, Tropical Fruit Cup

Friday, June 20 Macaroni & Cheese, Stewed Tomatoes, Oatnut Bread, Cookies

Wednesday, June 25 Picnic Lunch Grape Juice, Hot Dog, Potato Egg Salad, Corn on the Cob Hot Dog Roll, Watermelon

Summer months = BERRY SEASON! Berries are sweet & delicious, but also abundant and cost less in summer. Studies also show that they contain nutrients called flavonoids which help to keep our brain cells healthy, retain our cognitive abilities, delay or prevent memory loss and lower the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. Try to eat strawberries and blueberries at least twice a week!



