

## April's Past

### April 15, 1912 – The Sinking of the Titanic

The RMS Titanic, one of the most famous maritime disasters in history, sank after striking an iceberg. This tragedy led to significant changes in maritime safety laws.

### April 12, 1961 – The First Human Spaceflight

On this day, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human to journey into outer space aboard Vostok 1, marking a monumental achievement in the history of space exploration.

### April 4, 1968 – The Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On this day, the world lost a remarkable leader in the fight for civil rights, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His legacy continues to inspire movements for justice and equality today.



*George Washington was one of the first Americans to breed mules.*

## A Note from Jace

Wow, it's hard to believe it's already April, and with it comes the beauty of spring! Last month, I celebrated my one-year anniversary at River Commons, and I couldn't be more grateful for all the wonderful staff and residents I get to work with every day. It's been such a rewarding experience to build relationships and create lasting memories with all of you. As the weather warms up, I'm excited for the many classic car shows in the area — they've always been one of my favorite events, and I really hope you all can join us for the upcoming outing to see some amazing cars! On top of that, with my mom owning horses, rodeo season is kicking off, and it's extra exciting for us now that she has some "skin in the game." We're looking forward to the excitement of the rodeo season and celebrating with her. We also hope all residents can spend some time outside this spring season, soaking up the sunshine and enjoying the fresh air.

## From the Kitchen

April always brings out fond memories for me, as a young girl I attended show and shines with my grandparents every weekend. The most memorable was always Redding's famous Kool April Nights.

When it comes to the 1950s, The American diner culture was booming, and burgers with fries and thick milkshakes were essential.

The local diner was a place where people gathered to enjoy good food, listen to music, and share a sense of community. Even as the dining scene continues to evolve, the 1950s diner remains a beloved icon.

## The Mighty Mule Legacy

Mule Day in Columbia, Tennessee, is a beloved four-day event, celebrated from April 3 to 6 in 2025. The festival honors mules, which are known for being more patient, sure-footed, and longer-living than horses, and faster, smarter, and more cooperative than donkeys. Originally started as Breeders' Day in the 1840s, it allowed farmers to bring their mules to market. Columbia earned the title "Mule Capital of the World," and today, Mule Day features mule-driving contests, parades, and a flea market, music, and food and drink. No other town loves its mules as much as Columbia, Tennessee.

Matanzas, Cuba, also celebrates its love for mules with Matanzas Mule Day on April 27. The tradition began after the first military action of the Spanish-American War on April 27, 1898, when American naval ships bombarded the city. The only casualty was a mule, who became a folk hero and was buried with full military honors. Though some claim the story was propaganda, the tradition endures.

# River Commons Chronicle

April 2025

## Celebrating April

**Stress Awareness Month**

**Jazz Appreciation Month**

**Golden Rule Week**  
April 1<sup>st</sup>–7<sup>th</sup>

**Passover**  
April 12<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup>

**Metric System Day**  
April 7<sup>th</sup>

**Easter**  
April 20<sup>th</sup>

**Earth Day**  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>

**DNA Day**  
April 25<sup>th</sup>

**Hug an Australian Day**  
April 26<sup>th</sup>

**River Commons**  
530-221-2121  
301 Hartnell Ave  
Redding Ca, 96002

As winter melts away and the days grow longer, it's the perfect time to embrace the rejuvenating spirit of spring! This season brings more than just warmer weather – it's an opportunity for growth, connection, and a renewed sense of well-being.

Spring is all about fresh air, blooming flowers, and sunshine! Whether it's taking a leisurely stroll around our community's garden or simply sitting outside, there's so much to enjoy. Regular time spent outdoors can improve mood, boost vitamin D, and enhance overall health. Let's take advantage of the beautiful days ahead!

As we welcome the beauty of spring, let's remember to take care of ourselves – both physically and emotionally. This season offers an abundance of opportunities to reconnect with nature, nurture our well-being, and embrace the joy that comes with each new day. Together, let's make this spring a season of renewal, growth, and connection.

Wishing you all a joyful spring!  
Jennifer



## Welcome April



As we embrace the vibrant season of spring, we're excited to share our upcoming Golden Egg Hunt, a fun and festive activity that promises to bring smiles and joy to all. This season is also a reminder of the beauty around us, with colorful blooms transforming our community into a lovely, natural landscape. It's the perfect time to get outside, enjoy the fresh air, and take a stroll through the neighborhood. Regular walks not only allow us to appreciate the season's beauty but also offer numerous health benefits, including improved mood, increased energy, and a sense of connection with nature. Engaging in these outdoor activities not only enhances our well-being but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and joy within our community. Whether you're hunting for golden eggs or simply soaking in the sights and sounds of spring, it's a wonderful time to enjoy the outdoors!



## Golden Voices: Gene Keller's Journey

### Written By: Jace

Born in Chicago, Gene spent her early years moving between Illinois and New Jersey. Her family relocated often, giving Gene the opportunity to experience different parts of the country, including memorable visits to places like Niagara Falls. All the frequent moves brought a sense of adventure to Gene's childhood. When World War II began, Gene's family returned to Chicago, where she completed her education and attended the Art Institute of Chicago, eventually graduating from Chicago Academy of Fine Arts.

Pursuing her passion for art, Gene chose a career in commercial art, knowing it would provide a more stable income than fine art. Gene's artistic talent and hard work led her to a successful career in newspaper advertising. Starting as a staff artist, she quickly rose through the ranks to lead the creative services department for a prominent newspaper group in California, managing advertisements for businesses across the region. Her skills were so valued that sales representatives often invited Gene to join client meetings, where she would sketch ad concepts on the spot. Eventually, she transitioned into sales herself, handling major accounts and enjoying the collaborative side of her work.

Family has always been central to Gene's life. As an only child for twelve years before her brother was born, she developed a close bond with her family. Gene met her husband through her stepbrother, though their relationship had a humorous beginning — she initially told him she wasn't interested! However, fate had other plans, and after some time, their relationship blossomed. During the Korean War, Gene's husband was stationed in Paris, while she made the bold move to California. Upon his return, they built a life together on the West Coast. Gene's husband's career in satellite communications brought them many proud moments, including his contributions to the early stages of satellite technology — though, as she jokes, he could never quite fix a washing machine.

Together, they raised three girls and two boys, and their family has since grown to include ten grandchildren and three-and-a-half great-grandchildren. Gene cherishes the time spent with her family and is especially proud of how they remain close and supportive.

Eight years ago, after an extensive search led by Gene's daughter, she and her husband found their perfect home at River Commons. The welcoming atmosphere, beautiful surroundings, and friendly neighbors made the decision an easy one. Gene appreciates the peace of mind that comes with senior community living, where the most challenging decision of the day might be whether or not to have a second dessert!

When asked what advice she would offer younger generations, Gene's words were heartfelt and simple: "Marry your best friend, don't take life too seriously, and focus on what truly matters." Gene also fondly remembers her dream of becoming a cartoonist and encourages others to follow their passions, whatever they may be.

Gene's story is a testament to the joy of embracing life's adventures and finding beauty in both the big moments and the small ones. We're honored to have her as part of our community family!

## Welcome New Residents

**Judy Roberts**  
APT # 315



**Robert Reich**  
APT# 115



**Trisha McNemar**  
APT #107



## Classic Cars: A Journey Through Time and Restoration

Classic cars hold a special place in many hearts, especially for those who have owned or admired them over the years. Did you know that the Chevrolet Camaro was designed to compete with the Ford Mustang in the 1960s, sparking a rivalry that continues today? Many classic cars, like the 1960s Ford Mustang or Chevrolet Corvette, have become valuable investments, sometimes worth hundreds of thousands of dollars! Collecting and restoring these cars has grown into a popular hobby, with enthusiasts pouring time and money into bringing these vintage vehicles back to life. The restoration process often involves meticulous work on everything from the engine to the upholstery, and for some, it's not just about the car—it's about preserving a piece of history.

If you're looking to immerse yourself in the world of classic cars, don't miss Kool April Nights in Redding this April. This local event is a fantastic opportunity to explore a stunning collection of vintage cars and interact with fellow car enthusiasts. Whether you're reminiscing about the cars of your past or simply enjoying the beauty of these restored classics, Kool April Nights is the perfect chance to witness the passion and craftsmanship behind these timeless vehicles.

It's a celebration you won't want to miss, check your activity calendars and join us!





## April Birthdays

April is a month brimming with dynamic energy and unforgettable personalities! Those born between April 1–20 are fiery Aries, the adventurous Rams, known for their enthusiasm, charm, and unstoppable drive. Pioneers at heart, they dive into challenges with unmatched vigor. From April 20–30, the steadfast Taurus takes the spotlight—determined and persistent Bulls who work tirelessly to achieve their goals and savor the rewards of beauty and peace in their homes. Iconic celebrities born in April include the legendary Marlon Brando (April 3), the charismatic Spencer Tracy (April 5), and the distinguished General Colin Powell (April 5). Also born in April are martial arts legend Jackie Chan (April 7), renowned artist Paloma Picasso (April 19), and the beloved Shirley Temple (April 23). The witty Jerry Seinfeld (April 29) and the laughter-filled Carol Burnett (April 26) also share this remarkable month of birthdays. April is a month of passion, persistence, and fun!

### Residents:

### Staff:

Barbara Macy	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	George	April 21 <sup>st</sup>
Wanda Sell	April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Lisa	April 24 <sup>th</sup>
Nancy Hipsher	April 5 <sup>th</sup>		
Judy Morrill	April 7 <sup>th</sup>		
Elaine Bellamy	April 8 <sup>th</sup>		
Marita Millen	April 15 <sup>th</sup>		
Marylou Webb	April 18 <sup>th</sup>		
Shelly Wood-Peace	April 21 <sup>st</sup>		
Carol Keeler	April 27 <sup>th</sup>		

## April's Historic Milestones

April has been a month of pivotal moments throughout history, with milestones that have shaped the world we know today. On April 4, 1968, the civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was tragically assassinated, leaving behind a legacy of equality and justice that continues to inspire. On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin made history as the first human to travel into space, forever changing the course of space exploration. April 15, 1912, marks the sinking of the Titanic, a tragedy that still resonates in popular culture. Additionally, April 30, 1789, saw George Washington take the oath of office as the first President of the United States, setting the foundation for the future of the nation. These milestones remind us of the progress and sacrifices that have shaped our world.



## Entertainment Blooms in April



Redding Public Library  
April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM



Applebee's Restaurant  
April 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 PM



Classic Car Show  
April 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 AM



Thrift Store Outing  
April 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM

Happy Hour with The Good Time Band  
April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 PM



Happy Hour with The Pine Dogz  
April 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM



Happy Hour with Goody Goody Band  
April 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM



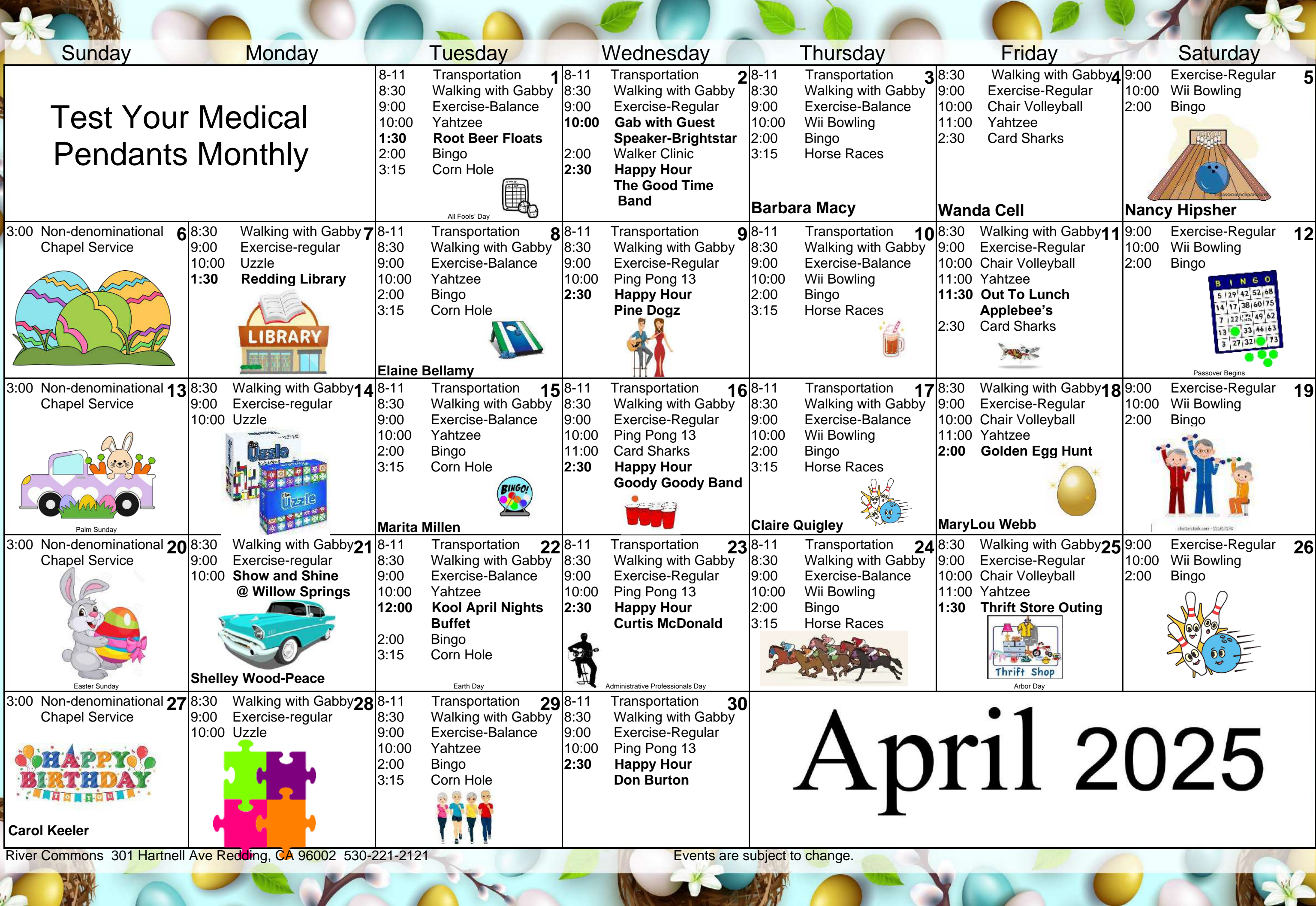
Happy Hour with Curtis McDonald  
April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:30 PM



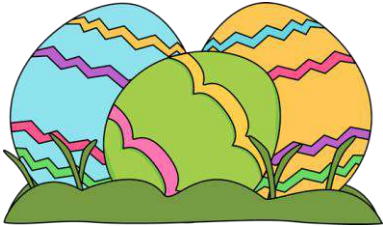








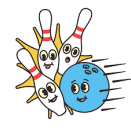










Happy Hour with Don Burton  
April 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Test Your Medical Pendants Monthly		8-11 Transportation 1 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Balance 10:00 Yahtzee 1:30 Root Beer Floats 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Corn Hole  <small>All Fools' Day</small>	8-11 Transportation 2 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Regular 10:00 Gab with Guest Speaker-Brightstar 2:00 Walker Clinic 2:30 Happy Hour The Good Time Band	8-11 Transportation 3 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Balance 10:00 Wii Bowling 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Horse Races  Barbara Macy	8:30 Walking with Gabby4 9:00 Exercise-Regular 10:00 Chair Volleyball 11:00 Yahtzee 2:30 Card Sharks  Wanda Cell	9:00 Exercise-Regular 5 10:00 Wii Bowling 2:00 Bingo  Nancy Hipsher
3:00 Non-denominational Chapel Service 6 	8:30 Walking with Gabby7 9:00 Exercise-regular 10:00 Uzzle 1:30 Redding Library 	8-11 Transportation 8 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Balance 10:00 Yahtzee 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Corn Hole  Elaine Bellamy	8-11 Transportation 9 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Regular 10:00 Ping Pong 13 2:30 Happy Hour Pine Dogz 	8-11 Transportation 10 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Balance 10:00 Wii Bowling 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Horse Races 	8:30 Walking with Gabby11 9:00 Exercise-Regular 10:00 Chair Volleyball 11:00 Yahtzee 11:30 Out To Lunch Applebee's 2:30 Card Sharks 	9:00 Exercise-Regular 12 10:00 Wii Bowling 2:00 Bingo  <small>Passover Begins</small>
3:00 Non-denominational Chapel Service 13  <small>Palm Sunday</small>	8:30 Walking with Gabby14 9:00 Exercise-regular 10:00 Uzzle 	8-11 Transportation 15 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Balance 10:00 Yahtzee 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Corn Hole  Marita Millen	8-11 Transportation 16 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Regular 10:00 Ping Pong 13 11:00 Card Sharks 2:30 Happy Hour Goody Goody Band 	8-11 Transportation 17 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Balance 10:00 Wii Bowling 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Horse Races  Claire Quigley	8:30 Walking with Gabby18 9:00 Exercise-Regular 10:00 Chair Volleyball 11:00 Yahtzee 2:00 Golden Egg Hunt  MaryLou Webb	9:00 Exercise-Regular 19 10:00 Wii Bowling 2:00 Bingo  <small>Shutterstock.com - 312817274</small>
3:00 Non-denominational Chapel Service 20  <small>Easter Sunday</small>	8:30 Walking with Gabby21 9:00 Exercise-regular 10:00 Show and Shine @ Willow Springs  Shelley Wood-Peace	8-11 Transportation 22 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Balance 10:00 Yahtzee 12:00 Kool April Nights Buffet 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Corn Hole  Earth Day	8-11 Transportation 23 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Regular 10:00 Ping Pong 13 2:30 Happy Hour Curtis McDonald  <small>Administrative Professionals Day</small>	8-11 Transportation 24 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Balance 10:00 Wii Bowling 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Horse Races 	8:30 Walking with Gabby25 9:00 Exercise-Regular 10:00 Chair Volleyball 11:00 Yahtzee 1:30 Thrift Store Outing  <small>Arbor Day</small>	9:00 Exercise-Regular 26 10:00 Wii Bowling 2:00 Bingo 
3:00 Non-denominational Chapel Service 27  Carol Keeler	8:30 Walking with Gabby28 9:00 Exercise-regular 10:00 Uzzle 	8-11 Transportation 29 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Balance 10:00 Yahtzee 2:00 Bingo 3:15 Corn Hole 	8-11 Transportation 30 8:30 Walking with Gabby 9:00 Exercise-Regular 10:00 Ping Pong 13 2:30 Happy Hour Don Burton	April 2025		