



April is a month of new beginnings, spring has arrived. "*The Art of Healing*" exhibition is coming to ACAC in April. *CASA* is the Court Appointed Special Advocates and are a group of specially trained volunteers and professionals that help children transitioning into foster care placements. The "*Art of Healing*" project involves the children using art to express their feelings and emotions during this transition process, with the support of their *CASA* volunteer. The Alma Community Art Center is proud to host, for the second year, a very moving exhibition of these children's recent artwork as they use painting as part of a healing process. The exhibition opens Wednesday, April 10th and will last through the month of April. The community is invited to come meet the artists, the special program volunteers, and to learn more about the *CASA* program itself at the Opening Reception scheduled for Friday, April 12th from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm.

During the month of April our Gallery will host the second annual Gratiot Downtown Art Expo, the Community Banner project, which is a unique, active, progressive exhibition. Over 170 countywide youth and adult artists submitted their designs for consideration and 75 have been chosen. The selected artists will begin painting their banners mid April and will be displayed in the gallery and then decorate the downtown areas of Gratiot county communities.

For the second year, Alma Community Art Center proudly hosted Youth Art Month during the month of March. The Wassenaar Art Gallery exhibited pieces of art that were created by youth that attend our local area schools. Elise Bennett, a junior at Alma High School, heard about the opportunity to exhibit some pieces of her work during Youth Art Month from her art teacher, Jon Studebaker. She chose to exhibit two large pieces that she had painted for her dad's office of famous New York City buildings. Elise took photos of her work and placed them on social media sites. She quickly heard from an interested buyer in New York City who wanted to purchase the paintings and possibly other work that she has done. Elise has always been interested in art, even as a small child, and especially enjoys painting and charcoal. She has done many art pieces running the gamut from doing paintings for family and friends to celebrate life's happy occasions to helping friends paint and decorate their rooms. After high school, she plans on attending college to study art. Elise currently has other pieces of her work on exhibit at the Alma Community Art Gallery.

A class offered in April is, Selling Your Items on Etsy with Steve Hawkes showing how to use a social media site to prepare you for selling on a virtual storefront. Other class offerings for the month of April are After School Art Classes that meets three times per week and includes acrylics, water color, and drawing with beginning knitting offered to ages 10 and above. Class offerings for 16 and older will be hand beading on felt, batik on rice paper, water color techniques and pyrography

The Alma Community Art Center is Open Wednesday through Saturday at 11:00 a.m. for more detailed information on classes and workshops, visit our website at www.alma-cac.org or call 989-463-8366.