



May has brought the brightness of spring that we have all been anticipating. It has also brought the creation of 75 bright banners created by the winning countywide youth and adult artists of the second annual Gratiot Downtown Art Expo, the Community Banner Project. These creatively designed and painted banners will be displayed beginning mid-May in the downtowns of Alma, Ithaca, and St. Louis and will brighten our communities for many weeks.

“Above the Influence” is the new exhibit opening at the Alma Community Art Center on Thursday, May 16. The opening reception is from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm with the student artists giving an “artists talk” at 5:45 pm. The Gratiot County Substance Abuse Coalition is a collaborative countywide decision-making body of community members that convenes monthly to address the issues of substance abuse prevention needs for Gratiot County. The Coalition is collaborating with area schools to provide an Above the Influence campaign to youth in Gratiot County. Every teen’s life is filled with pressure with some of it good, some of it bad. Their goal is to help teens stand up to negative pressures and influences. The campaign is designed to bring awareness of positive and negative influences that can affect the youth in our communities and inspire teens to live Above the Influence. One of the campaign components is an art project. Students create their own visual expressions of the Above the Influence symbol. This activity allows the students an opportunity to decide what is important to them and what it really means to live Above the Influence. This program is student driven so each school and student group in Gratiot County makes its own decisions as to how they want to get their important message out to their communities. Please take the opportunity to support area youth by stopping by the Alma Community Art Center to take in this exhibit.

The Alma Community Art Center is very excited to offer a 4-day Art Camp this June 17-20. Children will spend 4 days with local artists and teachers in this very special event creating a variety of 2d and 3d art while learning about the many styles and mediums art has to offer. The camp meets Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Both watercolor lessons with Diane Clise and woodburning with Steven Hawkes can now be arranged by appointment. If you are feeling creative, or if you would like to get a group of friends or family together to try an art class, this is your opportunity. Be sure to call the Art Center to find a time that works for you for either of these classes. Youth art classes continue twice a week offering acrylics, watercolor, and tie dye. Class offerings for 16 and older will feature Batik on Rice Paper, Watercolor Techniques, and Selling on Etsy.

A new and exciting event that will be offered is Uncorked Painting at Hometown Cellars on Thursday, July 18 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. We'll enjoy wine, snacks and the company of new friends. Get out and get creative with new friends in this very special event!

For more detailed information on classes, camp, and workshops, please contact the Alma Community Art Center at 989-463-8366 or visit our website at www.alma-cac.org to set up a class!