

Director's Report for November 2021

Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging

11.22.21

Physical Space:

The staff and seniors are thrilled by the Senior Center's new, inviting look. New paint, flooring, reception and dining furniture have transformed the Senior Center into a warm and welcoming place to engage, learn, exercise, and eat.

Kitchen/Meals:

One Day Permits were submitted for each of the 10 special meals planned between now and the end of the year, funded by the COVID-19 grant. The large freezer was defrosted. Congregate meals resumed 11/8, with attendance ranging between 5 for MOC meals and 30 for special meals.

Software:

The MySeniorCenter software purchase was funded through a reserve fund transfer and staff will be trained on the new system on 12/17.

Newsletter:

The newsletter produced through the existing vendor was unacceptable for distribution and was re-printed on the Town Hall and COA printers. We will be seeking release from our contract and continue to print in-house.

Programming:

The Senior Center re-opened November 1. It will take time to ramp up programming and learn what the seniors want & need, but we have a steady and increasing following for exercise and meals. The business model for running the Center is being evaluated.

Transportation:

MART continues to push for dispatch and driver regionalization. The Senior Center will begin using QRyde software for ride scheduling & manifests beginning December 1. The software has some bugs and unfinished features. No commitment has been made to regionalizing rides.

Budget:

Spending is on track thus far. Changes will be needed for the upcoming fiscal year to accommodate a full re-opening and new priorities for the Senior Center.

The CDBG COVID grant (\$4500) for food delivery has received a verbal blessing from Economic & Community Development to be used for congregate meals.

Miscellaneous:

- COA staff and board are all eager to begin work on a new Senior Center
- Publicity: social media & town website content are being reviewed and updated.
- Volunteers: once the physical improvements and operations have stabilized, we'll be looking for volunteers and senior tax work off workers