

Director's Report - July 2022

Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging

Staffing:

I'm pleased to announce that Denise Galvin has accepted the position as Nutrition Coordinator. She will start July 27th. Her initial availability is more limited than the hours the position was funded for, but she will be a tremendous addition to our team. Debbie Keohane has opted not to return after her leave of absence, so the Outreach Coordinator position will be posted soon.

Budget:

Changes implemented by the new Town Accountant, Fred Aponte, bring fewer budget categories, which should simplify the accounting process. The Senior Center is grateful for the full funding of the FY'23 budget, which will facilitate many positive improvements to the center's offerings.

Programs:

My Senior Center reporting statistics for June 2022:

- Seniors In Attendance (unduplicated): 67
- Total Event Sign-Ins (duplicated): 205
- Total Person-Programming Hours: 293.5

******These statistics do not count the approximately 25 Meals on Wheels clients & 55 van riders.

******Reminder that we were closed for two weeks due to staff vacation and illness.

The beach trips continue to be popular, "selling out" within 48 hours. Other day trips such as the Pickity Place luncheon sold out as well. Lunchtime speakers and performances increased turnout on those days as well. Many thanks to the Ayer Fire Department for hosting us for a cookout on June 3rd. We had almost 60 seniors in attendance, our highest turnout yet, post-pandemic. We're collaborating with Parks & Rec to start a pickleball program. Supplies have been ordered, the courts have been lined, and the program will debut on July 19th.

New Building:

The Building Committee continues to meet monthly. The need is well documented, a floorplan has been developed based on that need. The main obstacle at this point is finding an appropriate site. After the RFP yielded one response that was determined to be nonviable, the Committee is reconsidering the parcel at 106 Park Street, as well as a downtown site, and a collaboration with Parks & Rec. The Committee appeared before the Select Board on July 13th to provide a progress report. The Select Board was supportive, as was the Council on Aging.

Transportation:

Most seniors are excited about servicing two additional new towns (Leominster and Acton). Utilization is low for these new destinations but expected to build over time. The FY'23 budget allows for hiring a Per Diem Driver for 10 hours a month, and that position will be posted soon.

The Director is investigating new transportation options including building a peer caregiver program, which would allow volunteer drivers to bring seniors home from medical appointments requiring supervision in addition to transportation, such as day surgeries.

Volunteers:

The volunteer information meeting in June was successful and resulted in a handful of new volunteers. Schedules are being designed.