

Director's Report - August 2022

Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging

Staffing:

Denise is getting settled in as the new Nutrition Coordinator, and doing a great job serving meals, planning the upcoming month's menus, and getting the kitchen organized. The Outreach Coordinator and Per Diem Driver positions have not been posted yet. A working group is meeting soon to edit a proposed job description for the Social Worker. While his/her duties will be across several departments, early discussions suggest he/she will be housed at the Senior Center.

Budget:

While it's early in the year, the budget appears to contain some flexibility due to not yet hiring the Outreach Coordinator & Per Diem Driver, and the lack of mileage reimbursement expenses for Meals on Wheels delivery. Some of those funds will be redirected towards covering the two insurance deductibles on the van, and possibly refurbishing the two offices to accommodate the anticipated five staff members.

Programs:

My Senior Center reporting statistics for July 2022:

- Seniors In Attendance (unduplicated): 52
- Total Event Sign-Ins (duplicated): 201
- Total Person-Programming Hours: 236.5

****These statistics do not count the approximately 25 Meals on Wheels clients & 63 van riders.**

This month's special programs included Supper Club visits to Next Stop Pub and S.S. Lobster (Fitchburg), Canna-Curious hosted by Gage, and Botanical Printmaking sponsored by the Ayer Cultural Council. We utilized the slightly-sloped grassy area beneath the trees to host an outdoor luncheon and concert by Dan Kirouac, also sponsored by the Ayer Cultural Council.

The van trip to York Beach was unfortunately rained out and rescheduled for August. The second driver was not available on the new date, unfortunately, so capacity is limited to 12. The van also took seniors to the Groton Farmers Market (MOC Farmers Market Coupons were delayed but people still had fun).

Pickleball began this month, with 2-3 people attending each week. People are curious, and an instructor is in the works, so attendance is expected to grow.

Volunteers

As a result of the June volunteer information session, more than a dozen volunteers have been CORI checked and most have been placed. Assignments include reception/admin work, lunch help, seasonal decorator, and Sunshine Coordinator. Some are enrolled in the Senior Tax Workoff program, some are not. For July, 7 volunteers worked a total of 30 hours, valued at \$437. We could not do it all without their assistance.

New Building:

The Building Committee continues to meet monthly. The committee presented a summary of the progress to date to the Select Board on July 13th, where they received the support of the Select Board for their efforts. After reaching out to a couple of new privately owned properties yielded no interest, the committee has been focused primarily on two sites: 106 Park Street (across from Tiny's) and a collaboration with Parks & Rec at Pirone Park. Members of the committee met with the conservation commission to discuss flood plains and wetlands at both sites. Additional due diligence on both sites is ongoing.

Transportation:

The van is busy but not beyond capacity. Interest in rides to the two new towns (Leominster and Acton) has been lower than expected. In September, Monday mornings will expand to Leominster/Fitchburg and Friday mornings will expand to Acton/Concord. Evening excursions continue to be popular, and a per diem driver would allow the van to run 40+ hours a week, rather than blocking daytime hours to compensate for evening hours.

Miscellaneous:

- MCOA Annual Conference is October 19-21 in Falmouth – Director will attend and the COA Board is encouraged to attend.
- There are a few sets of Farmers Market coupons left over. Please spread the word.
- The CDBG funds for food insecurity may be extended. Alicia and I have brainstormed several ways to use them.
- We're getting a hydroponic garden.
- Upcoming events that we'd love to see Board Members at:
 - August 26 at 1pm: Ice Cream Social
- Please remember to sign in for COA Board meetings, so we can track the volunteer hours.