

# **Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging**

## **Director's Report - September 2022**

### **Adding Staff:**

The Outreach Coordinator position is posted. The Per Diem Driver began working this month and has worked well. A working group met 8/24/22 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:** Spending is on target for the year.

### **Programs:**

My Senior Center reporting statistics for August 2022:

- Seniors In Attendance (unduplicated): 76
- Total Event Sign-Ins (duplicated): 399
- Total Person-Programming Hours: 515

**\*\*These statistics do not count the approximately 25 Meals on Wheels clients & 65 van riders.**

August special programs included Supper Club at Ocho in Westford (after the 100+ temps caused cancellation of The Sunset Tiki Bar), a tie-dye party, and examination of the Mona Lisa (OneDayU), and almost 50 people for an ice cream social. Bus Trips continue to be popular and included outings to York Beach, Devens Farmers Market, and Motown/Soul concert at NARA Park in Acton. The Fruitlands drum circle and WooSox game were deferred until September.

In September, we are looking forward to several program expansions:

- Van service to Fitchburg and Concord (in addition to our existing service area of Ayer, Shirley, Devens, Harvard, Groton, Acton, and Leominster).
- Instructor Jeff Cote will teach Strength/Balance Flexibility class, and Tai Chi
- The Senior Store will sell convenience items including snacks, pantry items, household goods, and personal care items at the Senior Center and both senior housing communities.

### **Volunteers & Donations**

For August, 7 volunteers worked a total of 92 hours, valued at \$1305.56. We could not do it all without their assistance. Many thanks to Marty's Corner Café in Devens for donating a lunch for the seniors, and to Shop & Save for resuming their weekly baked goods donation.

### **New Building:**

The Building Committee continues to meet monthly. The most recent meeting focused on due diligence needed to determine the viability of one site, the results of a long-awaited meeting with Mass Development about Devens properties, and defining what a collaboration with Parks & Rec would look like.

### **Transportation:**

The van is busy but not beyond capacity. Evening excursions continue to be popular, and the per diem driver allows the van to run more than 40 hours a week, rather than blocking daytime hours to compensate for evening hours. The Senior Center will partner with Nashoba Park and Police/Fire to host a talk on Transportation options in November.

### **Miscellaneous:**

- The newsletter is widely distributed: Emailed to over 100 people, posted on the town website and COA Facebook page. Over 400 copies are printed and distributed across town, including hand delivery to Pond & Pleasant Street senior housing.
- MCOA Annual Conference is October 19-21 in Falmouth
- COA Board: Please remember to sign in for COA Board meetings, so we can track the volunteer hours.