

Director's Report - November 2022

Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging

Staffing:

There was one qualified candidate (and several general applications) for the last posting cycle for the Outreach Coordinator position. No applicants for the Social Worker position. Both will be reposted again.

Budget: Spending is on target for the year. The Formula Grant funding was updated to reflect the 2010 census, which resulted in additional funding for the COA. Expansion of current offerings is a priority: home health care, respite, and/or handyman services. Open to suggestions.

Programs:

My Senior Center reporting statistics for October 2022:

- Seniors In Attendance (unduplicated): 96
- Total Event Sign-Ins (duplicated): 511
- Total Person-Programming Hours: 776

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

In October, the most popular program was the Fall Foliage Turkey Train, with 38 participants on our first post-pandemic chartered bus. Jeff's new Tai Chi and Strength/Balance/Flexibility classes have been a hit. He will add additional wellness offerings in January. Women's Conversation is gaining momentum. Supper Club continues to be quite popular, often filling in the first day, if not the first 2-3 days. The late afternoon Medicare information session was well-attended by seniors that don't attend our other events. The Patriots Party proved to be high effort for low attendance and too labor intensive given current staffing. The Senior Bullying presentation put on by Nashoba Park was timely, and sparked not only productive conversation, but a helpful "reset" on a couple of simmering friendships.

Outreach

The revitalization/redevelopment of Ayer, coupled with inflation, continues to create dire financial and housing needs for seniors. Fuel Assistance enrollment appointments are being conducted at the center, as is SHINE Medicare counseling during open enrollment. Individual counseling on additional programs and services is happening almost daily. The mobile senior store isn't as popular as expected – will continue it through the winter to determine if need increases as the weather declines.

Volunteers & Donations

For October, 8 volunteers worked a total of 94 hours, valued at \$1,345.45. A smaller set of these volunteers participates in the Senior Tax Workoff program, which runs November 1 – October 31. With only a partial year of effort, 3 seniors worked a total of 268 hours, resulting in \$3,821.85 in tax credits! The Senior Center could not run efficiently without their assistance, and we are very appreciative of their time. Many thanks to Shop & Save for their resumption of the Monday baked goods donations, and Nashoba Park for their lunch donation as part of the Senior Bullying presentation.

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 COA Van is still in the shop. Final bills have been issued payment is being processed. The Senior Center will partner with Nashoba Park Assisted Living and Police/Fire to host a talk on Transportation options in November.

Volunteer Opportunities:

We are anticipating a large crowd for our Thanksgiving Luncheon on Thursday, November 17th. It would be great if the COA Board could help serve.