

Council on Aging Director's Report - December 2022

Staffing: Kevin Johnston started working 10-15hrs/wk, assisting the Director with a variety of tasks. Intern Ashley Greene is working at the Senior Center on Thursdays, researching policies and procedures. Interviews were conducted for both the Outreach Coordinator and Social Worker positions. An offer was extended to both, and both were declined.

Budget:

The FY'24 budget was submitted on 12/30/22. The budget is largely the same, but requested:

- Adding \$1200 to cover the My Senior Center annual licensing fee.
- Adding \$1000 to cover the insurance deductible on the van, should there be an accident.

Plans for using the updated Formula Grant funds are under research, but implementation may need to wait until an Outreach Coordinator or Social Worker is hired.

Programs:

My Senior Center reporting statistics for December 2022:

- Seniors In Attendance (unduplicated): 84
- Total Event Sign-Ins (duplicated): 436
- Total Person-Programming Hours: 512

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

In December, special programs included Silver Bells musical review (we needed two vans), a Listening Session to hear feedback & ideas to set Senior Center goals for 2023, a trip to Foxboro to see Magic of Lights, and two "make one, gift one" Christmas crafts (tea trees and mason jar cookies). The Christmas Party served 50+ seniors and was a tremendous success.

Outreach

AARP will offer free tax return preparation again this year. Ayer residents have preference between Jan 1-15, before AARP and other senior centers will advertise to other towns. Fuel Assistance appointments continue to be in high demand. After a break from the hectic open enrollment schedule, monthly SHINE appointments will resume in February and the first Monday of the month thereafter. SNAP (Food stamps), ACP (reduced-cost internet), and senior housing application appointments are ongoing. COVID SNAP benefits end March 2.

Meals

In December, 198 meals were served to 63 people, across 13 meals (1 MOC and 12 catered). Monday and Friday MOC meals are not well attended. Attendance is growing at Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday catered meals from an average of 6 attendees this summer, to 16 per meal this fall. We had 56 seniors for the Christmas Party.

Volunteers & Donations

For December, 8 volunteers worked a total of 124 hours, valued at \$1,772.50. 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 Monday baked goods donations, and to Friends of the Nashoba Valley Medical Center for their recent \$500 donation.

Building Working Group Update:

Building Working Group/Site Selection Committee voted to prioritize and pursue a Parks & Rec partnership, place on hold a secondary location option, and investigate the procedures and timeline for engagement with Devens should an Ayer property not be available. The COA is touring senior centers, and beginning work on messaging/communications.

Transportation: The Director has inquired with MART about the steps needed to use a second/duplicate MART van on a more regular basis and investigating the impact to the Town's assessment.

Volunteer Opportunities: Thank you to the COA Board members who volunteered at the Christmas Party! The Senior Center will have a large-scale delivery meal in February and would appreciate additional drivers. Date TBD.