

Director's Report – April 2022

Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging

Staffing: The Outreach Coordinator and Social Worker positions remain vacant. The Outreach Coordinator position has an updated pay range following union contract negotiations. Previous applicants were reapproached with the new matrix rates. Kevin Johnston's temporary placement ended 4/4/23.

Budget:

Spending is on track for this fiscal year. There will be unexpended funds due to the lack of an Outreach Coordinator. The Director is evaluating use of these funds and working with staff to determine priorities.

Programs:

My Senior Center reporting statistics for March 2023:

- Seniors In Attendance (unduplicated): 117
- Total Event Sign-Ins (duplicated): 591
- Total Person-Programming Hours: 678

*These statistics do not count the approx. 25 Meals on Wheels clients & the 84 van riders (226 total rides) in March.

In March, special programs included a senior center update, St Patrick's Day party, and guest speakers on Planning for Medicare and The Forest Floor. We hosted our first monthly Birthday Party, Supper Club outings to Tiny's and Parker's Maple Barn, and an indoor putt-putt/mini golf tournament. Snow days forced the cancellation of the Nashoba Tech lunch, WOW handmade cards and What You Should Know About PFAS. All were rescheduled for April.

Outreach

AARP Tax Prep, Fuel Assistance, SHINE, SNAP (Food stamps), Lifeline (reduced cost phone), ACP (reduced-cost internet), and senior housing application appointments are ongoing. There has been an increase in SNAP-related appointments due to the end of the public health emergency.

Meals

Despite two snow days in March, 292 meals were served to 56 people, across 14 meals (1 MOC, 11 catered, 2 meal trips). Monday and Friday MOC meals are not well attended. We will begin offering 1-2 Friday meals per month. Attendance is approaching capacity at Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday catered meals.

Volunteers & Donations

In March, 6 volunteers worked a total of 67 hours, valued at \$957. 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, Blue Cross Blue Shield for sponsoring the Medicare evening program, and The Nashua River Watershed Association for offering the Forest Floor program.

Site Selection Update:

The Site Selection Committee presented their report to the Select Board on March 27th, recommending Pirone Park as the site of a combined senior/community center. Next steps include the appointment of a Building Committee and obtaining funding to study the site and expanded project.

Transportation: The COA van service is reaching capacity. Sam was on vacation for 6 workdays in March. On 4 days, the manifest was full. Across 8 days there were 31 riders turned away due to being beyond capacity.