

Director's Report – May 2023

Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging

Staffing: The Outreach Coordinator and Social Worker positions remain vacant and posted. Two new candidates will be approached for interviews.

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 using the funds to update/upgrade the Center including expanding wifi capabilities, craft room storage, sneeze guards for the kitchen, and magnets for the van.

Programs:

My Senior Center reporting statistics for April 2023:

- Seniors In Attendance (unduplicated): 115
- Total Event Sign-Ins (duplicated): 595
- Total Person-Programming Hours: 671

*These statistics do not count the approx. 25 Meals on Wheels clients & the 70 van riders in April.

In April, special programs included WOW handmade card class, presentations about PFAS in the water, Medicare fraud, and decluttering, two supper clubs, a senior center update.

Outreach

While AARP Tax Prep came to an end mid-month, Fuel Assistance, SHINE, SNAP (Food stamps), Lifeline (reduced cost phone), ACP (reduced-cost internet), and senior housing application appointments are ongoing.

Meals

281 meals were served to 67 people, across 18 meals (2 MOC, 14 catered, 2 supper club 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 – four meals were full and last minute RSVPs were turned away.

Volunteers & Donations

In April, 12 volunteers worked a total of 113 hours, valued at \$1,609. 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, Senior Medicare Patrol for sponsoring the Medicare fraud program, and the Ayer Cultural Council for sponsoring the WOW cardmaking class. The Senior Center received an anonymous donation for \$2,000 that will be accepted at the 5/2 Select Board Meeting.

Site Selection Update:

The Select Board created the Building Committee at their April 4th meeting, appointing relevant town employees and charging relevant boards to appoint a representative. Three residents-at-large will round out the 9-member committee. Residents had until April 28 to declare their interest. The Selectboard will interview candidates and appoint them at a future meeting.

Transportation: The COA van service is reaching capacity. On 1 day, the manifest was full. Across 3 days there were 5 riders turned away due to being beyond capacity.