

Director's Report – July 2022

Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging

Staffing: We're looking forward to welcoming the new Town Social Worker on July 27.

Budget:

The fiscal year ended June 30. With the new year will come an opportunity to fully utilize the budget while fully staffed. Thinking ahead, increases in services costs, the desire to create an outreach-focused budget, and the need for additional paid exercise instructors will likely result in a modest budget increase request for FY'25.

Programs:

My Senior Center reporting statistics for June 2023:

- Seniors In Attendance (unduplicated): 122
- Total Event Sign-Ins (duplicated): 720
- Total Person-Programming Hours: 737

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

In June, special programs included: the return of pickleball clinics, COVID boosters, Fireman's Cookout, Father's Day Luncheon and comedic juggler, botanical printmaking, Lavender Festival, and a workshop on writing and publishing your life story.

Outreach

Mary Ellen is busy building relationships with seniors and assisting them with program applications, transportation concerns, adjusting to life's changes, and much more. Mary Ellen and Katie provided outreach services to 15 seniors a total of 24 times. Scores of additional referrals are made each month without official documentation as well.

Meals

In June 359 meals were served to 63 people, across 20 meals (5 MOC, 13 catered, 1 supper club, and the Fireman's Cookout). Monday and Friday MOC meals are not well attended, so we are offering 1-2 Friday catered meals per month. Attendance is approaching capacity at Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday catered meals – six meals were full and last minute RSVPs were turned away.

Volunteers & Donations

In June, 9 volunteers worked a total of 147 hours, valued at \$1,740. 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.

Site Selection / Building Committee Update:

The Building Committee had their first two meetings, with topics including election of officers, open meeting laws, Article 97 considerations, public outreach efforts and more. At the July 18 Select Board Meeting, the SB voted (3-0) to authorize up to \$150,000 from ARPA Funds to the Senior/Community Center Building Committee for the purposes of project design and due diligence for the purposes of presenting to a future Town Meeting.

Transportation: The COA van service is reaching capacity. On 3 days, the manifest was full. Across 4 days there were 7 riders turned away due to being beyond capacity. The transition to using MySeniorCenter for ride scheduling and reporting has begun. There are distinct upsides and downsides to the process and anticipate it will take several months to get efficient enough to reap the benefits.