

## **Director's Report – September 2023**

### **Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging**

**Staffing:** Congratulations to Sam Parr for celebrating his six year anniversary with the Town on September 11<sup>th</sup>!

**Budget:**

Spending is on track for the year.

**Programs:**

My Senior Center reporting statistics for August 2023:

- Seniors In Attendance (unduplicated): 105
- Total Event Sign-Ins (duplicated): 730
- Total Person-Programming Hours: 858

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

In August, special programs included: trips to the farmers market and York Beach; onsite programs such as Fitchburg State's ALFA program, The Highwaymen Songs by Matt York, Who Wore What When (A History of Fashion), and a special evening program on Solo Aging. Sadly, our trip to the Tusk concert was rained out.

**Outreach**

Mary Ellen is eagerly learning new tasks such as weekly table tents and designing graphics for our Facebook account. She continues building relationships with seniors and assisting them with program applications, transportation concerns, adjusting to life's changes, and much more. Katie, Mary Ellen, and Brittany are developing processes for dividing the caseload efficiently. Staff provided outreach services to 20 seniors a total of 37 times in August. Services provided are varied, including advocacy work, disability benefits, family assistance, financial management skills, assistance with food security, general information, health benefits counseling, housing assistance, meals on wheels enrollment, mental health or other health services, transportation counseling, unemployment benefits, and more.

Scores of additional simple referrals are made each month without official documentation as well.

**Meals**

In August, 329 meals were served to 57 people, across 23 meals (4 MOC, 18 catered and 1 supper club).

Because some meals were sold out or oversubscribed in recent months, we are trying a new approach to meet demand. We will begin offering 3 Friday meals a month, and meal capacity will increase to 32 on Wednesdays and Fridays by seating the back tables (arts & crafts area). This is not possible on Tues/Thurs due to Meals on Wheels space requirements.

**Volunteers & Donations**

In August, 10 volunteers worked a total of 176 hours, valued at \$2,506. 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 Barbara Gibbons for her weekly desserts.

**Site Selection / Building Committee Update:**

The efforts to build a new Senior Center have reached yet another dead end. At their August meeting, the Parks Commission rescinded their support of the Senior Center/Community Center project on Field 6 at Pirone Park & issued a public statement that made future collaboration impossible. The SC/CCBC voted 9-0 to recommend their dissolution. Their vote was accepted by the Select Board at their 9/5/23 meeting, and then a new stand-alone Senior Center committee was created by the Select Board with \$60,000 in ARPA funding.

**Transportation:** The van was busy in August, driving 2,231 miles. Seventy riders utilized the van for 464 trips. Declaring a daily manifest full is at the discretion of the Director and MART Coordinator, and occurred only one day in August, with 4 riders were turned down due to capacity issues.