

Director's Report – November 2023
Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging

Budget:

Department budgets are due at the end of December. Anticipated changes include additional funds for fitness instructors and the meals program. The cost of services has increased as well. The Senior Center did not do a capital request for a van, but will pursue a per diem driver (not a budget line item).

Spending is on track for the year. MUNIS Report as of 11/6/23:

Account	Label	Budget	YTD Expended	Available Budget	Percent Used (11/6/23)
51000	COA Salaries	74,291	22,859	51,432	31%
51100	COA Wages	71,513	19,577	51,935	27%
52000	Services	19,220	3,651	15,568	19%
54000	Supplies	43,650	14,596	29,053	33%
57000	Programs	12,800	5,976	6,823	47%
		221,474	66,659	154,811	25.8%

Programs:

My Senior Center reporting statistics for October 2023:

- Seniors In Attendance (unduplicated): 117
- Total Event Sign-Ins (duplicated): 664
- Total Person-Programming Hours: 890

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

In October, special programs included: Rotary Club Chicken BBQ deliveries, a presentation on using online tools to downsize, a fall foliage trip aboard the Essex Steam Train and Boat, a Cooking for One presentation provided by MOC, a talk by Loaves and Fishes, an evening program about Planning for Medicare aimed towards younger seniors, and the annual Halloween Party with the Police Department.

Outreach

Staff provided outreach services to 18 seniors a total of 27 times in October. Almost half of these interactions centered on housing issues and general financial management, with the remaining services provided being varied, including advocacy work, disability benefits, family assistance, assistance with food security, general information, health benefits counseling, 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 October, 397 meals were served to 77 people, across 22 meals (5 MOC, 16 catered and 1 supper club). The meals program very popular, with 6 of the 16 meals filled to capacity, and the remaining meals nearly full.

Volunteers & Donations

In October, 10 volunteers worked a total of 152 hours, valued at \$2,161. 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 Barbara Gibbons for her weekly desserts.

The Senior Center received a donation to create a meals scholarship fund, for those who cannot afford the \$3.00 suggested donation. The structure of this program is in development.

Senior Tax Workoff program for FY'24 ended October 31st. The Senior Center placed 7 workers, who together worked 822 hours, for a total tax credit of over \$12,000.

Site Selection / Building Committee Update:

The Senior Center Site Selection and Building Committee will hold it's first meeting on Thursday, November 16th at 6pm.

Transportation: October was another busy month, with the van taking 70 passengers on a total 404 medical, nutritional, shopping, social, and employment-related trips. On three days the manifest was full, with many other days nearly full. Seven riders were turned away due to the van being at capacity at their required time.

COA Board Opportunities: Servers needed for the Thanksgiving Meal on 11/17 and the Christmas Party (date TBD). Will the COA Board be offering meal coupons again this year? See draft list of annual events where the COA is welcomed to assist the COA staff.

Annual Events & COA Board Opportunities to Volunteer:

January: Attend public budget forums in support of Director; Assist with meal delivery event

February: Assist with meal delivery event; Assist with tax check-ins

March: Assist with tax check-ins

April: Assist with tax check-ins; Annual Town Meeting – COA reserve an info booth

May: Assist with Mother's Day Luncheon

June: Assist with the Fireman's Cookout

July: Assist with Ice Cream Social

August: Prepare for fall grant season

September: Assist with Pleasant Park Luncheon

October: Capital Requests due at year end; Senior Tax Work Off Ends; Annual Special Town Meeting – COA reserve a booth; Newton Street Festival

November: Department budget work; Assist with Thanksgiving Party;

December: Department budgets due at month end; Create meal tickets(?) and assist with Holiday Party