

Commission on Aging

September 12, 2022

5:30 pm

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Review Minutes of June 6th and June 27th meetings**
- 3. Communications & Announcements**
- 4. Departmental Reports**
- 5. Old Business:**
 - **Age-Friendly Community Initiative**
 - a) June 27th COA/CLT Special Meeting**
 - 6-month plan review/Update from sub-committees
 - COA Actions
 - b) October 20th Community Conversation**
 - Proposed Agenda/Format/Outcomes
 - Marketing Plan for the event - Citizen/FB/Other
 - Refreshments
 - Roles of members
 - Other
 - **Senior Center Reaccreditation**
 - Review of Timeline
 - Recruitment of Community Participants
 - Community Survey
 - Other...
- 6. New Business:**
- 7. Adjourn**

September 2022 Department Report

Social Services Update:

- Food Bank and Fuel Bank continue to assist Glastonbury residents in need thanks to generous donations to Glastonbury Gives – there were 164 Food Bank requests during August 2022.
 - We are in the process of purchasing necessary equipment/technology for the soon to be Self-Select Food Bank which has been paid for with grant monies awarded by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving , in collaboration with Glastonbury Links Together- **still waiting on an estimated delivery date**. As of August 23, we were told another 4 weeks.
- The new 2022-2023 LIHEAP Plan for the Energy Assistance Program (heating assistance) was approved. The benefit amounts are decreased considerably from last year’s awards. There is a possibility of additional funds becoming available. Heating costs are expected to be much higher, especially deliverable fuels. As always, the Fuel Bank will be a resource for those who may not qualify for Energy Assistance or who exhaust their benefits. Applications for deliverable fuel will be taken after September 15, 2022. Other utility heating applications will be taken in October, 2022.
- The Homeowners Tax Credit Program ended on 5/14/22 – Outreach Social Workers assisted over 70 residents with their applications and this afforded an opportunity to explore other possible programs or resources. Additional Veteran’s Exemption application period runs through 10/1/2022.
- Social Services began taking applications for the Renter’s Rebate Program beginning in April, 2022. So far 232 applications have been completed. The application period ends on October 1, 2022 (Social Services processed 291 applications for income eligible renters in 2021). Four site visits have been done so far at some of the Elderly/Disabled Housing Sites.
- “Eye Openers,” Low Vision Support Group met **in-person** on 8/26/2022– 8 members were in attendance in person and 3 attended via Zoom. Hybrid meetings will continue to be offered. The speaker this month is a published author and she has completed 6 half marathons. She is blind and spoke about an International Company that pairs a sighted walker/runner with blind individuals who are interested in participating in marathons.
- The Back to School Program for low-income families was held on August 10th. It was a success with several town departments collaborating to make the distribution of backpacks and gift cards for school supplies into an event. The Fire Department, Police Department, Library, Parks and Recreation, Youth and Family and Hartwell Soccer participated . There was a Town Managers Pencil Hunt with prizes for children picking the lucky pencils. The Ice Cream Emergency Truck was also in attendance this year! (again).

So far over 120 students have received backpacks and school supplies, and we continue to assist as requested.

- Social/Senior Services continues to distribute Test Kits/Face Masks to residents as requested.
- Social Workers continue offering information, referral and assistance regarding many topics including Medicare, CT Dept. of Social Services benefits, housing and homecare

Senior Services Update:

We are celebrating National Senior Center Month in September with several events including a special luncheon on Tuesday the 20th. The event will include a retirement party for Norma Carey who has worked as a Program Coordinator for Senior Services for over 20 years. Norma is a very beloved staff member by her colleagues and members of the community. The Town Manager is expected to attend as well as former department staff to wish her well.

The week of the 20th we will also focus on Fall Prevention activities including Balance screenings through Easter Seals and a Tai Chi Demo. During that week we will also display select entries from our Strength, Resilience and Creativity Art/Writing Contest.

On September 12th our new pt. time program Coordinator will start. Her name is Austyn Dolce Paige. She currently works as a program coordinator for the town of Manchester. Austyn holds a BA from UCONN and an MA from Clemson University.

During the summer months of June and July volunteers provided 44 hours of service to 14 households through the Chores program.

The Riverfront Café is now open five days a week from 9:30-2:30, serving assorted beverages, snacks and sandwiches. The café is being staffed by a small crew of dedicated volunteers.

Evening and Saturday programming and Dial A Ride are gradually increasing in volume.

Two summer indoor picnics were successfully held. Trips included several shoreline and Connecticut river boat rides and restaurant outings, including Block Island, as well as museum visits and Yard Goats Games.

Fall trips that are planned include: A trip to Chester and Marker 37 on the river, Chamard Vineyards in Clinton, a chartered trip to the Berkshires, and a visit to the New England Falconry.

Plans are underway to hold a CarFit event on Saturday October 15th. CarFit is an educational program that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them.

The Senior Golf league ended a great season with an end of league Pizza Party at the Tenth Hole Tavern.

We are working to add an additional day each week to the Friendship Circle program beginning in October and two days a week starting in January.

We submitted a \$5,000 AARP Livable Communities grant application to help fund bocce courts adjacent to the Community Center and have applied to the Connecticut Healthy Living Collective to provide the

Tai Ji Quan Moving for Better Balance program once again. We should hear the results sometime in late September.

BUILDING EXCELLENCE:

National Council on Aging/National Institute of Senior Centers -*The National Senior Center Self-Assessment Process*

1. Submit online [Intent to Self-Assess form](#). (done)
2. Form Self-Assessment Committee.
3. Become familiar with the parts of the Manual and the Self-Assessment Process.
4. The Senior Center Self-Assessment Manual contains the nine (9) Standards.
5. These Standards are used to evaluate the performance of a senior center and how prepared a center is to be accredited. These criteria will help you recognize the things the senior center is doing well and the areas that may need improvement.
6. Each standard lists items that are necessary to be accomplished in order to receive accreditation and information that needs to be collected and submitted as the Accreditation Application.
7. A committee carries out the senior center self-assessment process. Staff and Committee gathers answers and documents needed for Accreditation Application.

Proposed Timeline for Glastonbury Re-Accreditation Process

- **September-October 2022**
 - Identify and Recruit Self-Assessment Committee Members
 - Disseminate Materials on Process and Standards
 - Develop Community Survey Draft/Process
- **November-January 2022/2023**
 - Joint COA/Self-Assessment Committee Meetings held: November 7th , December 5th , January 9 (Review (9) Standards)
 - Conduct/Tally/Analyze Survey
 - Compile Standard Lists and information obtained
- **February-March 2023**
 - Prepare submission of Application
 - Submit Application
- **April-June 2023**
 - Application reviewed by NISC
- **July 2023**
 - Reaccreditation Obtained

