

HAMPDEN COUNCIL ON AGING

The Hampden Council on Aging has been established to identify the needs of the senior population in Hampden and to meet those needs through the implementation of new and existing services, programs and community support. The Council on Aging and senior center provides, but is not limited to the following:

- ❖ **Geriatric Care Management**
- ❖ **Transportation**
- ❖ **Monthly newsletter and outreach**
- ❖ **Insurance Counseling**
- ❖ **Prescription Assistance**
- ❖ **Fuel assistance**
- ❖ **Caregiver support**
- ❖ **Recreation/hobbies/arts/crafts/games**
- ❖ **Health and Education**
- ❖ **Tax Assistance**
- ❖ **Monthly health screenings**
- ❖ **Daily congregate meals**
- ❖ **Home delivered meals**
- ❖ **Lock box program**
- ❖ **Entertainment/Social Club**

As always, we welcome suggestions and new ideas as we continue to expand our services.

The Monday through Friday meal program, better known as the “lunch bunch” continues to be our core program here at the Senior Center. Janis DeGrandpre, our mealsite manager, does a fantastic job managing this program, which includes the coordination of all kitchen volunteers and volunteer meals on wheels drivers. Participants who come to the senior center for the lunch program not only enjoy the food, but appreciate the time they have to socialize with their friends.

Mary Lyon Nursing Home continues to prepare meals on holidays and weekends for the people in town who receive home delivered meals. Thank you to the staff at Mary Lyon for continuing this fantastic program and for the numerous volunteers, including the Hampden Police Department, who deliver weekend and holiday meals.

The Center is grateful for the support that is received from the Friends of the Hampden Seniors. In 2004 the Friends were generous enough to provide an automatic door opening system for the front door of the senior center. This door allows easier access for those people who are in a wheelchair or use a walker or cane. The Friends were also generous in funding the re painting of the lines in the parking lot. We are always grateful to the Friends for their constant support.

Due to lack of Town funding we have had to explore other options to make possible the mailing of our monthly newsletter, The Scribe. Thanks to the Friends of Hampden Seniors, the Scantic Senior Citizens Club and numerous private donors who have generously given towards the costs of postage, we were able to continue this publication. We would also like to thank the Lions Club for their support and donation of paper for the Scribe. We could not send out this vital newsletter without this kind of support.

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We would not be able to fully function without the help of the numerous volunteers who give so freely of their time on a daily basis. Over 130 volunteers help out each year at the senior center and we appreciate each and every one of them.

This past July we said a fond farewell to Aline “Tiny” Burt who was reassigned to the East Longmeadow Senior Center due to restructuring within the senior aide program. Tiny worked with the Hampden Senior Center for many years and we were very sad to see her go. We look forward to having her back with us as a volunteer sometime next year. We were pleased to welcome two new senior aides to the Hampden Senior Center, Margaret “Midge” Copson and Regina “Reggie” Rivenburgh.

The Council on Aging Board was saddened by the loss of a board member and friend, Linda Gaudette. Linda was very involved with programs and activities here at the senior center and was enthusiastic about her position on the COA Board. Linda will be missed here at the senior center.

We encourage anyone who has not visited the Hampden Senior Center to stop in at any time for a visit and a tour. Please read the Scantic Scribe to find out what programs, services and activities are happening here at the Center on a regular basis.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rebecca C. Moriarty, *Executive Director*
Brian MacLeod, Chairman
Patricia Clark, Vice Chairman
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Ruth Haley, Secretary

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Council on Aging Staff:

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Custodian: Rudie Voight

Outreach Coord: Tedi-Ann Busha

Senior Aides: Margaret Copson & Regina Rivenburgh

Senior Resource Officer: Gary Courtney

Affiliations: National Council on Aging, Mass Association of Council on Aging & Senior Center Directors, Western Mass Association of Council on Aging & Greater Springfield Senior Services.