

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

In 2005 the Hampden Council on Aging and Senior Center celebrated some wonderful events, but also faced many challenges. Through it all, the Council on Aging fulfilled its purpose; to identify the needs of the senior population in Hampden and to try and best meet those needs with programs and services. Services provided continue to include and are not limited to:

- Care Management
- Monthly health screenings
- Congregate Meals
- Insurance Counseling
- Home Delivered Meals
- Transportation Assistance
- Outreach and monthly newsletter
- Brown Bag Program
- Prescription Assistance
- Lock box program
- Fuel Assistance
- Entertainment/Social Club
- Health and Education
- Tax Assistance
- Recreation/hobbies/arts/crafts & games

At the end of June 2005 the Senior Center closed its doors due to the failed Proposition 2 ½ override question voted on in May. Prior to the closing, many exciting events took place some of which are highlighted below.

The Lunch Bunch Program, managed by Janis DeGrandpre continued to flourish. New “special meal” days were implemented and the numbers of people coming to lunch increased dramatically. The kitchen volunteers and meals on wheels volunteer drivers helped to maintain the success of this program.

In June, Janis DeGrandpre announced her retirement from the meals program after 27 years of successfully maintaining an exceptional program. She also left her position as Activities Coordinator. We celebrated with Janis as she made the difficult decision to leave in order to spend more time with her family. We continue to wish her well in her retirement and thank her for her many years of dedication and service to the seniors of Hampden.

The Friends of Hampden Seniors supported the Senior Center in many ways in 2005. The Friends purchased the beautiful new sign for the Senior Center and also had an awning installed at the back door to help direct snow and ice away from the door, and continued to fund the Scantic Scribe newsletter.

Our senior aides, Reggie Rivenburgh and Midge Copson finished their year with the senior center in June. They were wonderful assets to our staff and they are missed. We enjoyed having them at the senior center and appreciate all the work they did.

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING P2

The second half of 2005 was a trying time for many seniors and all of the people who enjoyed their time in the beautiful senior center building. We found out in May that our doors would close on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Boxes were packed, items were stored away and final preparations were made in order to lock the doors. It was a difficult time for everyone as Doreen Rauch, Helena Nossal and Rudie Voight were laid off. The senior center moved to the Town Hall with Becky Moriarty, Director, working 6 hours per week through a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and Tedi-Ann Busha working 12 hours per week through a grant from Greater Springfield Senior Services.

Bethlehem Baptist Church opened their doors and invited us to continue our lunch program from their kitchen. Starting on July 1, 2005 under the direction of Gennie (Bond) Ford, the Lunch Bunch was relocated and continues to thrive. We are so grateful to Pastor Brian MacLeod and everyone at the church for their continued support of the seniors in Hampden. Without them, the lunch program would have been cancelled.

At the end of July we said good-bye to Tedi-Ann Busha as she and her family prepared to move. Tedi-Ann helped many seniors in her time at the center and she is missed. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

In September 2005 we welcomed Susan LaMondia to our staff as the new Outreach Coordinator. Sue came to this position with a great deal of knowledge and experience in the area of helping seniors. We are certainly glad that Sue has joined us. She has done a tremendous job getting information out to seniors from the Town Hall office.

Many of the senior center programs continue to run with the help of dedicated volunteers. We are grateful for the people who are helping to maintain these programs and activities. For information regarding programs and events you are encouraged to call the senior center.

The Council on Aging Board also experienced change in 2005. John D. Flynn spent a short time on the board filling an under 60 vacancy and resigned when he became a selectman. More recently we said good-bye to long time member Arlene Fisher. Arlene was a very dedicated member and we were sad to see her go. We wish Arlene well as she and husband George spend time cleaning up after the terrible flooding of their home.

Our last note of thanks goes to Rudie Voight, the former senior center custodian. Rudie has been volunteering his time to check on the senior center building on a weekly basis. Thank you Rudie!

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING P3

We do hope that in the not too distant future we will once again be able to re-open the senior center building on Allen Street. Until then, we hope you know that the council on aging and senior center is still alive and we are always here to help. Please call or visit us in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:

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

Rita Vail  
Arlene Fisher  
Shirley Gouvan  
Virginia Schneider

Council on Aging Staff (prior to July 1, 2005)

*Admin. Clerks:* Helena Nossal & Doreen Rauch

*Activities Coord/Meal Site Mgr:* Janis DeGrandpre

*Custodian:* Rudie Voight

*Outreach Coord:* Tedi-Ann Busha

*Senior Aides:* Margaret Copson & Regina Rivenburgh

*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.

Council on Aging Staff (post July 1, 2005)

*Executive Director:* Rebecca C. Moriarty

*Outreach Coord:* Susan LaMondia

*Affiliations remain the same*