

COUNCIL ON AGING

Our mission never changed. Even when the Town was unable to fund the Senior Center building from July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006, staff and volunteers were still reaching out to seniors and meeting the needs of those in the community.

During the first part of 2006, the Senior Center Offices were located in the Town Hall. Becky Moriarty, funded by the Formula Grant from the state, worked for 6 hours/week as Director and Susan LaMondia, funded through a Title IIIB grant from Greater Springfield Senior Services, worked 12 hours as Outreach Coordinator. Thanks to numerous volunteers, many senior center programs were able to continue in new locations around town. Mattie Nichols ran Pitch games at the Town Hall. Kathleen Flynn opened up her house to the Trivia group. Barbara Dunwoody continued to meet with the Knitters at Centennial Commons. St. Mark's Church in East Longmeadow hosted our exercise programs taught by the YMCA and Line Dancing taught by Mattie Nichols. The quilt group continued to meet at the Town Hall. Other area Senior Centers were very accommodating and took in programs whenever possible. Bethlehem Baptist Church remained the site for the lunch program and Gennie Ford stayed on as the coordinator while the center was closed. And finally, Bill Olmstead kept everyone "in the know" when he created the newsletter "Moving Ahead" which included information about the Senior Center and the Library. The Friends of Hampden Seniors and the COA Board remained active during this time and offered a great deal of support and encouragement to the very small staff that remained and also continued to advocate for future funding of the Senior Center.

We were so pleased when on July 1, 2006 the Senior Center was able to open again. Becky and Sue were happy to move out of the Town Hall and into their own offices. Helena Nossal returned to her position as Assistant to the Director and Contributing Editor of the Scribe and Rudie Voight returned as our Custodian. We welcomed a new Senior Aide, Anna Rose Ingari and were happy that so many of our dedicated volunteers returned.

Shortly after our grand re-opening, Bobbi Grant was hired to fill the Activities Coordinator Position. Bobbi has been doing a great job and came with many new ideas for programs and events here at the center. This position is presently funded through the state formula grant.

The Lunch Bunch is up and running at the center under the direction of Christine Mansfield. This faithful core group of seniors kept the program running while it was at the church and continues to attend meals here on a daily basis. Other new programs and activities are taking place at the Senior Center on a daily basis. We encourage you to join us. If you have an idea for new programs or events that you would like to see here, please let us know. We are interested in knowing what you think about what we do and what we offer.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Services available include but 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. We continue to strive to identify the needs of the senior population in Hampden and to try and best meet those needs with programs and services.

The Hampden Senior Center exists to serve the senior population of Hampden by offering activities and support services. Our seniors are precious resources who need encouragement and appreciation. Thank you for your support of our seniors and the Hampden Senior Center.

Respectfully Submitted:

Rebecca C. Moriarty, Executive Director
Brian MacLeod, Chairman
Patricia Clark, Vice Chairman
Al Ouimet, Treasurer
Ruth Haley, Secretary (*through June 2006*)
Mary Malinski, Secretary

Rita Vail
Shirley Gouvan
Karen Leger
Virginia Schneider
Deanna Vermette

Rep. To GSSSI: John Shay

Council on Aging Staff (pre July 1, 2006)

Executive Director: Rebecca C. Moriarty
Outreach Coordinator: Tedi-Ann Busha (*through August 2006*)
Susan LaMondia (*September 2006-present*)

Council on Aging Staff (post July 1, 2006)

Executive Director: Rebecca C. Moriarty
Administrative Clerk: Helena Nossal
Activities Coordinator: Bobbi Grant
Custodian: Rudie Voight
Outreach Coordinator: Susan LaMondia
Senior Aides: Anna Rose Ingari

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.