

Commission on Aging
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, February 27, 2012

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, February 27, 2012 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT. Chairman Thomas Dwyer called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Thomas Dwyer, Karin Aurelia, Joanne Davis, LeReine Frampton, Margaret Imbro, Joan Plouffe, Larry Schneider, Curt Symes, Sheila Torres and Anna Wiedemann.

Members Excused: Mary Ellen Lydem.

Support & Advisory Present: Marilyn Place, Director of Senior Service; Ann Piccini, Municipal Agent for the Elderly plus Bob Sharpe of the Senior Action Committee.

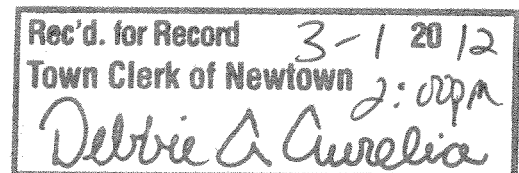
Also Present: Aida Reiske and Barbara Hayden of the Senior Center staff; Newtown Police Officer Mary Helen McCarthy; Robert Merola, a member of the Town's Legislative Council plus three members of the public.

Mr. Dwyer welcomed Margaret Imbro, a newly appointed Alternate Member and stated that there is now an opening for a Regular Member because James Bernardi, whose term expired on January 9th, has decided not to request reappointment. He also mentioned that although he thought the Board of Selectmen would automatically replace Mr. Bernardi with the longest serving Alternate Member, which would be Mr. Schneider, he has learned from the First Selectman's office that the position must first be advertised and therefore the Board could appoint any applicant they wish to. In view of this Mr. Dwyer will recommend Mr. Schneider to the Selectmen.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Reply to Sheila Torres's *Discussion Points* memo distributed to the commissioners at the September 26, 2011 meeting. Ms. Torres inquired as to the last time a Senior Center grant was obtained and Mrs. Place replied that two years ago there was one for the Tai Chi program. Prior to that, in 2007, a Small Cities Grant was received for the Senior Center addition and there was one for programming about fifteen years ago. She then asked for the yearly number of unduplicated visits to the Senior Center going back five years and Mrs. Place replied that she will look this up in her records and provide it at the next meeting. She pointed out that the average number of daily Senior Center attendees has been included in her recent monthly reports. Mrs. Torres explained that she is trying see if there's a trend toward increased use of the center. Mrs. Torres asked how the Senior Center membership fees are used and Mrs. Place stated that they are \$12 per year per member and are remitted to the Town.

Senior Directory. A draft of the Directory prepared by Aida Reiske of the Senior Center staff was distributed to the commissioners for their review, comment and suggestions. She stated that it contained information that was in a draft provided to her by Anna Wiedemann but included additional



data she obtained from other sources. Mrs. Wiedemann pointed out that she modeled her draft to some extent after Redding's Senior Directory. Mr. Dwyer distributed copies of a booklet entitled *Senior Go To Guide* which he had received in the mail from its publisher and pointed out that although the towns it applies to are in the southern part of Fairfield County, the format may be a helpful guide in designing our Senior Directory. He has been told by its publisher that they print similar guides to other areas in Fairfield County but thus far none that include Newtown. Mr. Symes stated that he has collected similar directories from other senior centers as well as state and county directories and asked what are we really trying to accomplish with the directory; also how large a directory do we want?

Mrs. Torres referred to the booklet entitled LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO THE NEEDS OF CONNECTICUT'S ELDERLY TRAINING AND RESOURCE GUIDE which was mailed to the commissioners recently by Newtown Police Officer Maryhelen McCarthy and which is used by her and other law enforcement personnel in Connecticut when dealing with seniors who need their help. Officer McCarthy commented that 90% of the information contemplated for inclusion in our Senior Directory is in that booklet but Ms. Torres felt that it's really a training manual for the police therefore our directory is needed because all seniors might not be able to understand it and Mrs. Wiedemann agreed. Mr. Symes noted that it would be good to get feedback from the seniors as to what they want to see in a directory and Mrs. Place said that she'd try to get this from those who use the senior center by having them read though the draft of our directory and the police guide. Mr. Dwyer noted that Mrs. Piccini plays a major role in dealing with seniors and therefore be involved in determining the type of information that should go onto the directory. Mrs. Wiedemann liked the fact that the police booklet did not contain advertisements for the various services listed that are of interest to seniors because she felt the COA should avoid them in their directory lest they appear to be endorsing them.

At the suggestion of Mr. Symes a sub-committee consisting of him, Ms. Torres, Mr. Schneider, Mrs. Place and Mrs. Piccini was appointed to meet next week for the purpose of forming recommendations as to the type of information that should be included in the directory. Mr. Dwyer requested that in the meantime the other commissioners review the various senior guides now in their hands (actual and drafted) so they can express their own opinions regarding the content of the COA's directory at the next regular meeting.

Planned Giving Program. Mr. Symes stated that he is continuing to explore how to go about setting up a program whereby town residents would be encouraged to bequeath money to the COA's Gift Fund in their wills and will report further at the next meeting. From what he has learned so far it appears that such other town facilities as Parks & Recreation and the Booth Library don't presently have Planned Giving Programs therefore his research could be of value to them as well. He said that First Selectman Llodra and Finance Director Tait are receptive to the idea and Mr. Dwyer suggested that input from the town attorney should also be solicited. Mrs. Frampton and Mrs. Place noted that over the years many people have remembered the Senior Center in their wills. Mr. Schneider suggested that once the program has been set up mention of it should be made in the Senior Directory.

Grant's Committee. Mrs. Torres and Mrs. Plouffe reported that it is critical to have a strategic plan in place in order to obtain grants therefore a Strategic Plan Sub-Committee consisting of Torres, Plouffe, Dwyer, Place and Piccini was formed to study and document the current and future needs of Newtown's seniors. Mr. Symes asked if Newtown could collaborate with other towns in obtaining grants but Mrs. Place replied that our needs could be entirely different from other towns.

Victory Garden. Ms. Torres followed up on her interest in having the COA get involved with a Victory Garden which she mentioned in her September *Discussion Points* memo but up until this meeting there hadn't been enough time to get into detail. She pointed out that last year the town allocated space for such a garden on the Fairfield Hills campus which was very successful. It was maintained by volunteers and the produce was donated to Newtown's food pantries. Plans are now underway for the second season and because separate beds can be "owned" by individuals and organizations she suggested that the COA take one. The commissioners agreed to this and also approved a withdrawal from the Gift Fund when needed to pay reasonable expenses for seeds and starter plants although Mr. Merola of the Legislative Council said that plants are often donated. Mr. Dwyer distributed an article from an October 2011 issue of the Danbury News-Times that gave information about the garden and volunteered to help Ms. Torres on this project as did Mrs. Wiedemann and Plouffe. She hoped that some of those who use the senior center will also volunteer to help. As all rows are marked with comical signs Ms. Torres asked the commissioners to come to our next meeting with suggestions for ours.

New Senior Center. Mrs. Aurelia stated that she has spoken to the Director and Deputy Director of Newtown's Land Use Agency about the possibility of building a senior center on town owned land. As \$500,000 is earmarked in the Town's 2016 Capital Improvement Plan for the design of such a building she is hopeful that a grant could be obtained for its actual construction. Mrs. Place noted that there are seven acres of town owned land behind the Sandy Hook Fire House which is next to the Senior Center. Mrs. Aurelia said that she plans to meet with the Land Use officials again tomorrow regarding this matter.

Mrs. Place and the Senior Action Committee are planning to visit the Shelton and Monroe Senior Centers to observe how they're set up and invited the commissioners to join in. The dates are March 7th and March 9th respectively. Mrs. Frampton suggested that they also visit the Easton Senior Center and Mrs. Place said she'd do this at a future date.

Mrs. Place distributed information about the design and construction of senior centers which she had extracted from various publications plus lists showing the following:

- the names of Connecticut based architects who have experience in designing senior centers,
- senior centers that she and several COA commissioners have visited in recent years,
- the 2012 membership of the Senior Action Committee.

Mr. Symes asked if our hoped for new Senior Center could be constructed on the site at Fairfield Hills where a combined Parks & Rec/Senior Center was supposed to be built until it was cancelled and Mrs. Aurelia said she would inquire about this tomorrow when she visits the Land Use Agency. Mr. Dwyer said that for future reference purposes he's writing up a short history of the failed effort several years ago to construct this building and will distribute it when completed.

Space Problems at the Senior Center. Mrs. Plouffe suggested that some of the portable classrooms that the town is currently trying to sell might provide needed additional space for overcrowded classes at the Senior Center but Mrs. Place pointed out that the only place to put them would be in the parking lot adjacent to the Center where there is already insufficient room to park cars. Mr. Dwyer and Mrs. Place will ask the Town Engineer to advise as to whether it would be feasible to convert some of the

town owned vacant land on both sides of the Senior Center into additional parking spaces. Mr. Dwyer asked Mrs. Place if the gym or other rooms at Edmond Town Hall, which can be rented, might serve as a place to hold such classes but she felt that they would not suffice.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS. None noted.

MINUTES Upon motion of Mrs. Frampton the minutes of the regular meeting of December 19, 2011 and January 23, 2012 were unanimously accepted as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Mrs. Aurelia reported that as of January 19, 2012 the balance in the Commission on Aging Gift Fund was \$27,784.42 and she gave Mr. Dwyer a copy of a statement to this effect issued by the Newtown's Finance Department. Upon motion of Mrs. Frampton the report was accepted as presented.

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT (Attachment B to original minutes).

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY REPORT. (Attachment C to original minutes).

NEW BUSINESS. None noted.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None noted.

ADJOURNMENT. Upon motion of Mrs. Frampton the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Ann M. Mazur, Clerk

SENIOR ACTION COMMITTEE

MEMBERS (2012)

1. Robert Sharpe- Chairman 426-6239 town
2. John Aurelia Co-Chair 426-6673 town
3. Nick Piperis 426-9431 Walnut Tree
4. Barbara Wadleigh 364-0877 Nunnawauk
5. Bernice Ullman 270-6333 Town
6. Bud Ullman 270-6333 Town
7. Yolanda Dorian 426-9931 Town
8. Marianne Imhoff 364-9075 Liberty
9. Robert Place 270-0498 Town
10. Marilyn Como 304-1610 Walnut Tree
11. Carol Bistany 270-5510 Walnut Tree
12. Rose West 364-0433 Walnut Tree
13. Louise Zierzow 426-7709 Town
14. John Boccuzzi 364-0360 Town

SCHEDULED VAN TRIPS TO AREA SENIOR CENTERS:

Wednesday March 7 1:00 Shelton Senior Center

Friday March 9 1:00 Monroe Senior Center

ARCHITECTS FOR SENIOR CENTERS

(www.aiact.org)

Perkins Eastman
422 Summer Street
Stamford, CT 06901
203-251-7400 Fax 203-251-7474
info@perkinseastman.com
www.perkinseastman.com
“Building Type Basics for Senior Living”
by Bradford Perkins (10 Sr. Ctrs. in CT)

Silver, Petrucelli & Assoc. Inc.
3190 Whitney Ave. Bldg. 2 (Oxford Sr. Ctr.)
Hamden, CT 06518
203-230-9007 Fax 203-230-8247
info@silverpetrucelli.com
www.silverpetrucelli.com

Joseph T. Sepot Architects
225 Montowese Street (Monroe Sr. Ctr.)
Branford, CT 06405
203-483-5229

Sullivan Architectural Group
27 Ann Street (Danbury Sr. Ctr.)
Norwalk, CT 06854
203-838-5036

Ames and Whitaker, Architects, P.C.
21 Church Street (Woodbury Sr. Ctr.)
Waterbury, CT 06702
203-756-8944 Fax 203-756-9649
info@amesandwhitaker.com
www.amesandwhitaker.com

CENTERS VISITED

Bethel Senior Center, 1 School St., 792-3048. In former school building. Shares with Park and Recreation as a Multipurpose facility. 55+

Danbury – Elmwood Hall, 10 Elmwood Place, 797-4686. Stand alone building, with addition planned. Architect – Sullivan Architect Group, Zurlo, Norwalk CT. No membership fee.

Monroe Senior Center, 235 Cutlers Farm Rd., 452-3771. Approx. 7,000 sq. ft. Stand alone building. Architect – Joseph T. Sepot. 60+ Membership fee, for senior use only.

Oxford Senior Center, 10 Old Church Rd., 881-5231. Stand alone building, 7,500 sq.ft. Architect – Silver/Petrucelli & Assoc., Contractor – Banton Construction Co.

Redding, Heritage House, 37 Lonetown Rd. 938-9725. Community Center, shares with Park and Recreation. Built 2002.

Shelton Senior Center, 81 Wheeler St. 203-924-9324. Stand alone building, built 1991. 18,500 sq. ft. Membership fees, photo ID.

Southbury Senior Center, Main Street, 262-0667. Shares with Park and Recreation 60 +. Fee to become “Friend of the Senior Center”.

Woodbury Senior Center & Community Center, 265 Main St., 263-2828. Stand alone building. Approx. 7,000 sq.ft. Architect – Amos Whiterker

With a state population that is the seventh oldest in the nation, Connecticut architects have found themselves a part of a growing trend to create more flexible, green and high-tech structures to better serve the changing needs of its active adults the new politically correct term for those formerly known as seniors.

And those multimillion-dollar projects could spell a boom in business for architects and engineers a premise that coincides with the industry's trend according to statistics provided by southwestern Connecticut's Workforce Development Board, The WorkPlace Inc.

"In Southwestern Connecticut, architecture and engineering occupations will increase by 560 to a total of 8,570 jobs by 2012," said Ann Harrison, manager of policy and research, citing statistics from the Connecticut Department of Labor.

"Statewide projections are there will be 2,200 more jobs in architecture and engineering by 2014, bringing total employment in Connecticut up to just over 42,000," Harrison said.

Fairfield County is composed of 22 towns and cities that have at least one senior center; Bridgeport has four and Norwalk has two.

"Many (centers) are trying to do things to attract the baby boomers, who tend to be a pretty fussy generation," said Robert Norton, director of communication for the Connecticut Commission on Aging. "It is a trend that senior centers will have to deal with if they are going to remain viable."

"There is a constant evolution on development in architecture for the aging population," said Alejandro Knopoff, a senior associate at Perkins Eastman.

Perkins Eastman, an international architectural firm with offices in downtown Stamford, isn't just a firm that has completed more than 200 senior living facilities worldwide including 10 in Connecticut it wrote the book on senior living.

"Building Type Basics for Senior Living" by Bradford Perkins et al, "covers the essentials for the planning and design of housing and care environments for the elderly."

Active architecture

"The environment should provide choice and variety so that individuals can select the settings or services that appropriately adapt the environment to their needs," Perkins said in the book.

According to Perkins there are eight architectural building types that are primarily designed for the aging: geriatric outpatient clinic, adult day care/adult day health, nursing homes/long-term care, assisted-living residences, dementia/Alzheimer's care, independent/residential living apartments/congregate housing, continuing-care retirement community, and active adult communities.

"The trend is to make the space as pleasant as possible," said Joseph Sepot, president of Joseph T. Sepot Architects in Branford. "Introducing natural light makes it a much more pleasant space."

Sepot said features like covered porches and walking trails allow for flexibility in enjoying the outdoors.

"Senior centers are now being designed as a destination spot, as opposed to the leftover space that the town has," said Sepot, whose firm has designed or is under contract for three facilities in Connecticut.

"Boomers are high-tech people. They want service, they demand it, ask for it, and they have the finances to acquire it," Knopoff said. Perkins tries to provide green materials and organic spaces that are environmentally friendly.

Remodeling an older building may take longer than constructing a new building since many older buildings have accessibility issues, Knopoff said.

Location also plays a role in the changing needs.

"The availability to public transportation is key," Sepot said.

"We also see retirement communities and senior centers located on college campuses," said Knopoff, of an exchange that allows seniors to access continuing education and students to tap into knowledgeable professionals.

Residential structures are not exempt from the architectural trends and should accommodate aging in place with elevators and accessibility.

"As people age, they don't want to go to Florida or Phoenix. In order to stay here they need the services," Knopoff said.

"We are trying to make the Legislature become aware of the tremendous need for long-term care," Norton said. "There is an opportunity to get more people to stay in (their) homes when they need long-term care."

Here comes the boom

"There is a big difference between how the existing buildings are laid out and what needs to be in place," Knopoff said.

Of the municipalities in Fairfield County, nine have senior centers that are in town halls or schools. Five were built as new facilities within the last 10 years. Including the new facilities, 50 percent of Fairfield County's senior centers are undergoing renovations or in discussion to do the same.

The Darien Senior Center is in a former elementary school, while the Greenwich Senior Center is in a historic town hall. Both municipalities' new centers will be designed by Perkins Eastman.

"One of the things we are experiencing is that fitness is a huge focus, for our population now, and those coming," said Laurette Helmrich, administrator of the Greenwich Senior Center. "The new space will need to address those needs."

Susan Pfister, director of the Westport Center for Senior Activities, said the town appropriated \$4.5 million for the new 12,000-square-foot facility in 2003. The building, also designed by Perkins, replaced the center's location in a high school.

The building has a fitness center, reading room, kitchen, fireplace, terrace, cafe, game room, health screening room, and several bay rooms that may be combined for multiple uses.

"Our long-range planning committee has recommended (next fiscal year) to put dollars aside to expand the facility to meet the number of seniors," said Pfister who noted that by 2010, 25 percent of Westport's population, which is about 26,000, will be 60 years or older.

"A 60-year-old senior of today is very different much more youthful and active, has a higher level of knowledge, which correlates to them being more aware of diet issues, continued exercise and mental stimulation," Pfister said. "Our programs have to reflect that."

"This new facility is great; more people are visiting us and raving," said Ted Simons, 74, of Westport. "They are getting a fabulous array of information, fitness, health awareness, music, art, languages and more."

"Monroe's senior center has open spaces, is bright, very inviting, very attractive, with all the latest accessibility," said Norton of the new 7,000-square-foot center designed by Sepot's firm.

"A lot of centers that had been housed at churches and schools are now acquiring their own free-standing building," said Sharon Gesek, director of the Monroe Senior Activities Center. "Probably about 30 years ago, they took whatever they could (get)."

Monroe's center was previously a two-room space in a high school. The new facility cost \$2.18 million.

Gesek said she's noticed the change "to more of a community center feel because they (centers) offer such a wide variety of programming."

By the time Generation X ages, Knopoff predicts technology will be even more of a focus in the architectural trends.

"It will be interesting to see how that evolves," said Knopoff alluding to new technology in which a cell phone can control lighting in the house or open a garage door.

"I don't know if the senior population will want a facility so high-tech that it becomes cumbersome," said Sepot. "You have to balance the technology with the making of it and the use of the facility. There is still a learning curve on it (technology)."

Simons agreed, saying the one feature that needs to remain constant is "a place that's warm and constantly friendly to visit with friends."

COA 2-27-12
B

NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER
Director of Senior Services
Jan 24, 2012 – Feb 27, 2012

- Work w/ nurse liaison at Regional Hospice and Home Care on upcoming workshops
- Work w/ Income tax assistance counselors on tax preparation sessions
- Confer w/ Fire Marshall on max occupancy in new addition
- Confer w/ Senior Action Committee on space issues and their goals
- Make arrangements for SAC to visit and tour other senior centers
- Confer w/ and set-up Lifeline a medical alert system info presentation
- Work w/ NHS Career Center on a Jr/Sr mentoring program
- Oversee all programming
- Program Shop
- Supervise all programs
- Supervise trips
- Continue to access needs of clients
- Continue to plan excursions utilizing the senior van
- Confer w/ teachers on space issues
- Confer with teachers on ongoing schedules and changes
- Set-up with area Senior Centers and tour companies on combining/sharing trips
- Confer with RSVP on ongoing community service projects and volunteer hours
- Continue to work with Ability Beyond Disabilities chorus program
- Continue to review contracts of potential trips for the year
- Continue to work with area hospital on ongoing community projects
- Continue community projects
- Facilitate quilting/sewing classes
- Facilitate staff meetings when needed
- Meet w/ family members on clients situation
- Work w/ Griffin Hospital on upcoming Fall Prevention Program
- Confer w/ N.O.W. meal site of scheduling specialty luncheons w/ carving station

COMPLETED TRIPS:

- UCONN @ Syracuse Jan 25-26
- Mohegan Sun Jan 25

UPCOMING TRIPS:

- St Patrick's Celebration @ Villa Bianca March 14
- Mohegan Sun March 29
- "Spring Fling" @ Platzl Brauhaus April 11

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- St Patty's Bingo March 13
- Income Tax Assistance Feb 6 – April 9 appt only
- AARP Mature Driving Course March 16
- Special St Patty's Luncheon March 16
- "Fall Safety" Lifeline medical alert Program March 22
- Newtown senior tax relief benefits March 28 9 to 12
- Community education program series (5) starts April 20

February has been busy with evaluating the exercise classes and meeting with the Senior Action Committee to educate them the process of what the COA has done in the past in order to address space issues.

The SAC has new members, a group of 12.

The older members who are still active at the Center have had many meetings with the seniors to explain how , what , where, what happened up at FFH in regards to the shared Community Center and how we got there etc.

The new group is very interested in visiting other Centers in order to get a visual on what myself and the COA had proposed for our special needs.

I've scheduled On March 7 @ 1 to tour Shelton's Senior Center, and March 9 @ 1 Monroe SC . We will be using our Van and would like some new/old COA members to join us.

The new addition "exercise" room limit to 20 and 8 in sun room for Monday's class. As per the Fire Marshall we cannot and will not exceed this amount. The new maximum occupancy sign was delivered Friday to replace the one that "disappeared". I've spoke to the class and this is working.

On Wednesday the class is held in the main room and this too is fine.

The Newsletter that goes out tomorrow has a few changes under services: although we might know what F.I.S.H. is and HART and Meals on Wheels we've explained in more detail for those who do not.

I have some great community educational programs scheduled for the Spring/Summer sponsored by Regional Hospice and Home care of western Ct, also with Lifeline and Home Instead Senior care and Griffin Hospital.

This Spring I will be doing a mentoring program with NHS Career Center.

I'm partnering with a junior @ the HS and her grandfather. The project is focused on art, relationships with senior citizens, and animal habitats.

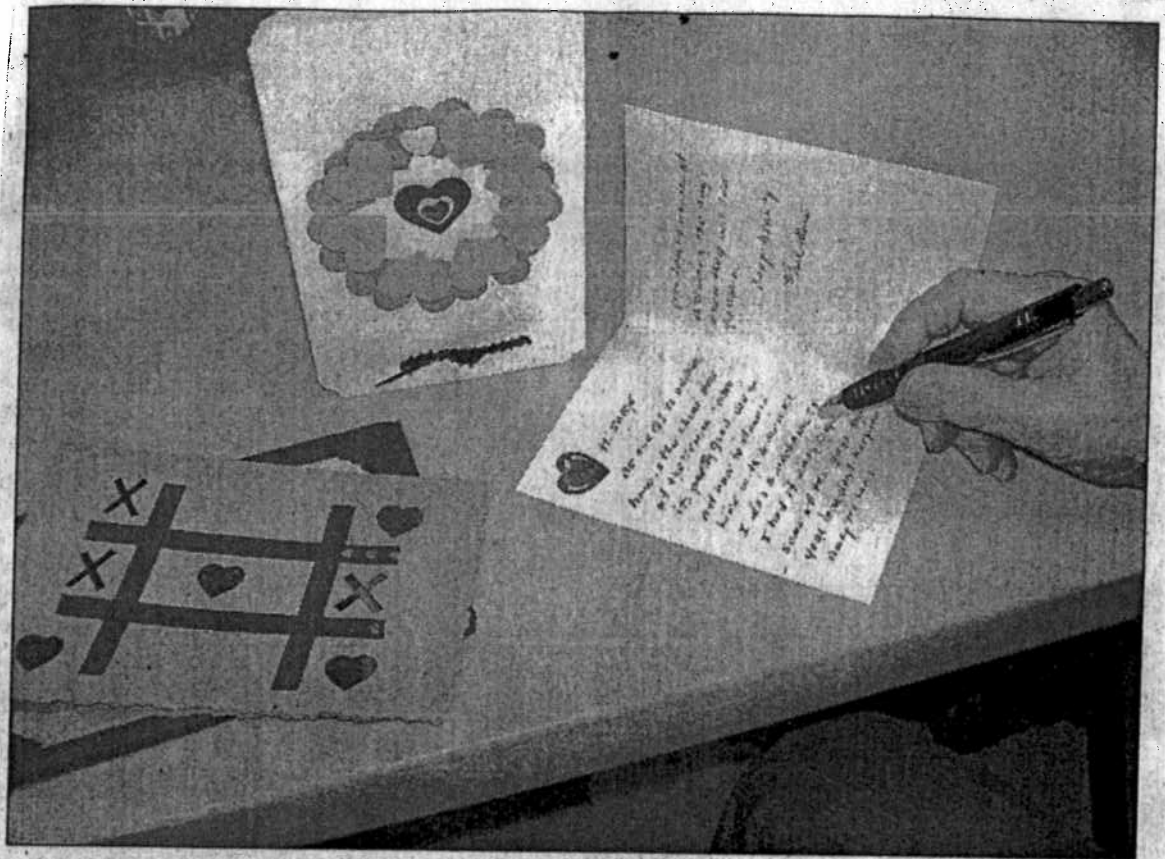
This student will work with her grandfather to make/build Audubon bird houses. Have a class at the center for the seniors to paint them and explain Audubon bird houses. This is an elective course that has been designed to provide the motivated and responsible junior or senior student the opportunity for further study not available within the confines of the traditional classroom environment. Looking forward to this.

Again, Valentine's for Troops was amazing! Our seniors love doing this not only for Valentine's but all year round. See attached

Always busy!

Marilyn

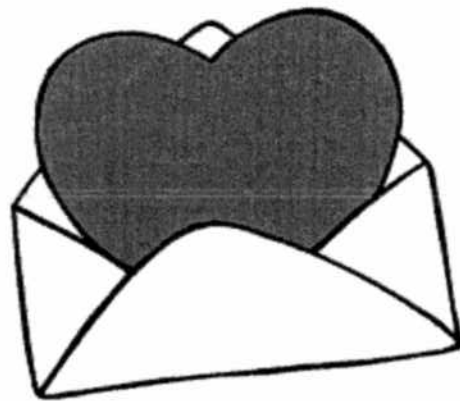




Words From The Wise

For the past six years, members of the Newtown Senior Center have gathered each Tuesday morning to make cards to send to troops in the US armed forces. This year, members have joined in the townwide letter writing campaign, Valentines For Troops. Here, 90-year-old Fred Hurst writes a note in one of the cards. As a veteran of World War II, he knows what words will bring comfort to the hearts of troops stationed overseas. "Hi Sarge —" begins this card. "As one GI to another, how's the chow? Here at the Senior Center, it's pretty good. We do not have to stand in line with a mess kit. I was a mechanic so I had it easy compared to some of the guys. Hope your tour don't keep you away too long. Your family no doubt is counting the days when they will see you again. Stay healthy."

—Marilyn Place photo



VALENTINES FOR TROOPS

Newtown Public Schools

*extends an invitation to
the Community and area Schools*

Wednesday, February 29, 2012

*Refreshments will be prepared by the Culinary
Arts Class. Please join us in the Newtown High School
Cafetorium starting at 4:00 p.m.*

*R.S.V.P. to Carrie Bennett
Newtown High School Assistant Principals' Office
426-7648 or email to bennetc@newtown.k12.ct.us
by February 24, 2012*





We love you Conrad,
Oh yes we do,
We love you Conrad,
And we'll be true



NMS Annual Tea & Show for Newtown Seniors

On March 8th

NMS Cafeteria at 2:15 p.m.

Show begins at 3:00 p.m. In Auditorium



All seniors are welcome!

Please RSVP to Liz

ASAP 203-270-7998

3 MAIN STREET
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470
TEL. (203) 270-4330
FAX (203) 270-4333

COA 2-27-12
C

**COMMISSION ON AGING February 27, 2012
DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES/MUNICIPAL
AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY REPORT**

We have completed two hundred forty three applications. Number of applications completed for seniors are 95 and number of applications for disabled are 34.

Operation Fuel has allocated \$5000 for the winter season for the Newtown Social Service Office. The applicant has to be in an emergency situation. Has to have applied for energy assistance and used their benefit amount. Completed four applications which were for one senior and three disabled.

We had three people who will be retiring soon and they want information regarding the medicare, supplemental insurance, advantage plans and HMO's. The Advantage Plans and HMO have a low monthly charge and if the person is well it is a good deal. If they are seeing a lot of medical providers then the co-pays can be very expensive. This usually takes about an hour with each person.

Clients with the Medicare Savings Program can change to another plan if their medication is not on the card they presently have. We had six clients we helped this month.

We are still receiving donation for the food pantry. I have approximately 18 seniors using the pantry each month

We will be completing a new application for help with United Water Connecticut. They will deduct \$100 for needy families.

I am working on a state application for a husband and wife. One needs home care and the other may stay in a nursing home. The five year look back is very time consuming. Need copies of all checks over \$500.00 and who received the money and for what.

I completed twelve Medicaid applications, and fifteen redeterminations for Medicare Savings applications. **MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM** is now the name for QMB which pays for the supplemental insurance with the state but the doctor has to be a state provider. QMB and SLMB and ALMB pay for the Part B \$96.40 or 115.00 and the Part D for Prescriptions that is deducted from Social Security checks each month.

