

**Commission on Aging  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, June 15, 2015 @ 5:00 p.m.**

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION ON AGING

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, June 15, 2015 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, CT. Chairman Curt Symes called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

**Present:** Curt Symes, Sheila Torres, Joanne Albanesi, Margaret Imbro, John Boccuzzi, Barbara Bloom, Leah Lentocho

**Absent:** Anna Wiedemann, Anne Rothstein, Claire Theune

**Also Present:** Marilyn Place (6:00), Ann Piccini, 4 members of the public

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Mr. Symes announced that there are 2 vacancies on the COA. Both Barbara Bloom and Leah Lentocho who are currently Alternates have been asked if they are interested in becoming full members. The RTC and DTC are in the process of interviewing candidates as well.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Jules Martin, 12 Crosswind Court, introduced himself and his wife, Ruby Ryles-Martin. They have lived in Newtown for 2 years and are interested in becoming involved with the COA. Ms. Ryles-Martin has interviewed with the DTC to fill one of the vacancies on the Commission.

**Ms. Imbro made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from March 16, 2015 and May 18, 2015,** seconded by Ms. Albanesi and unanimously approved.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** (Attachment A) The new Community Center Commission (CCC) consisting of 14 members has been put in place by the Board of Selectmen, and Sheila Torres and John Boccuzzi have been appointed to represent the COA. Mr. Symes was asked by Pat Llodra to present to the CCC a summary of the work that the COA and Newtown Seniors collaborated on defining space needs for the Senior Center. He also reached out to Marilyn Place to identify leaders in the senior community who would be willing to be involved with volunteer activities.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Attachment B) There has been no significant activity. Ms. Torres asked whether it was decided to reprint the Senior Resource Guide with any updates. Since the guide is an important resource for seniors it should be available to distribute at upcoming events. The books cost approximately \$.60 each to print.

Ms. Bloom made a motion to allocate \$500.00 to the printing of an updated version of the Senior Resource Guide, seconded by Ms. Imbro and unanimously approved.

**DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT:** (Attachment C) Ms. Torres asked whether the new classes from the recent grant had begun and Mr. Boccuzzi confirmed that they are underway and expects the numbers to grow. Ms. Imbro inquired about the status of the Facility Needs Team findings with respect to the Senior Center space. She feels the existing Senior Center needs some updating to attract new members. A couple of years ago, Mr. Symes and Ms. Place met with town maintenance to discuss the condition of the building. The building has been maintained properly and there have been no major incidents. However, based on the Senior Resident Survey there is a definite need/desire to improve the environment of the Senior Center. Mr. Symes and Ms. Place will meet to do a needs assessment to present to the Town.

**MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY:** (Attachment D) A total of 235 fuel applications were completed for 2014/2015 including 106 for seniors and 40 for disabled individuals. Operation Fuel has allocated more funds to be used to help with electric bills. Mr. Boccuzzi referred to the Senior Survey which indicated that many seniors are unaware of some programs available to them through Social Services. He encouraged commission members to share this information with seniors.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

*Community Center & Charter Revision Commission Update* – Mr. Symes reported that the Charter Revision Commission has made a preliminary commitment to include the Commission on Aging in the revised Newtown Charter.

*Community Relations & Outreach Team* (Attachment E) – The Cultural Arts Festival group would like seniors to be involved with the festival by submitting some of their artwork. Senior Resource Guides, a COA brochure containing survey results, balloons, magnets will be available to hand out at the COA booth. Volunteers are needed for the Library Book Sale on July 11<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Imbro will follow up with Vicki Boccuzzi and get sign-ups.

*Grants Activities Update* – Mr. Boccuzzi talked with the Buck Foundation about the possibility of expanding the concept of the webpage, [www.danburyseniors.org](http://www.danburyseniors.org), to include surrounding towns. Two possibilities were discussed: 1) a regional site containing all surrounding towns or 2) individual websites for each town. If a regional site is decided on, it will be maintained by the foundation.

A grant through the Cultural Alliance of Danbury supporting cultural activities is due July 23<sup>rd</sup> and Mr. Boccuzzi would like to see the COA partner with either SCAN or the Cultural Arts Commission on submitting a grant proposal. Ms. Bloom and Ms. Place will assist in the process.

*Survey Results & Actions* (Attachment F) – The Executive Summary was discussed as well as possible next steps. The largest number of comments made in the survey was to the question “Are you a member of the Senior Center?”. The major themes included a need to provide more programs to reach a broader range of age and abilities; awareness of services/activities is needed; and environment of the center needs improvement. Ms. Torres asked commission members to send her suggestions for next steps. A timeline will be put together and future meetings will be scheduled to specifically discuss survey results.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Deferred for this meeting.

There being no further business, **Ms. Imbro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m.**, seconded by Ms. Bloom and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann LoBosco, Clerk

AH. A

Newtown Commission on Aging (CoA) – Chairman Report – 6/15/15 Meeting

Welcome to our June CoA meeting. As I mentioned in opening announcements, we now have two (2) vacancies on the CoA and I understand that candidates for alternates are being interviewed. I anticipate that current alternate members will have the opportunity to move up, if desired. LeReine Frampton officially submitted her CoA resignation shortly after our last meeting and I again want to recognize her for years of service, dedication and commitment to both the CoA and the Seniors of Newtown. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

Since our last meeting, I was asked by 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman, Pat Llodra, to present to the newly appointed Community Center Commission (CCC) a summary of the work that both we/the CoA and the Newtown Seniors collaborated on in support of defining a Vision, Requirements & Needs Assessment for New Senior Space (a.k.a. Center). The discussion which went over an hour was very well received, based on feedback, and showed a good deal of understanding for the space needs of the Seniors of Newtown by the CCC.

Sheila Torres and John Boccuzzi continue to be appointed members of the CCC and our primary CoA representatives.

As the CCC progresses over the next few months, I anticipate that we will again be asked to meet and review the Business Case Assessment work surrounding the definition of the senior component of the new Community Center.

On a related note we have gotten preliminary confirmation from the Charter Revision Commission (CRC), that they will be including reference to the CoA, as a part of their current proposed work across all commissions and committees.

Further, as noted on the Agenda, we will be focusing on the Survey Results-Summary, new & recent Grants Initiatives and Planning for our upcoming Community Relations & Outreach Events. Over the past month we received our 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the CoA inquiring about the new Grant Exercise Program and John clarified the terms & conditions back to the submitter.

Finally, in light of the many key activities now in play and other New Business initiatives requiring attention, I would like to suggest for consideration, enlisting Members of the Senior Center for "On-Call or One-Effort" volunteer activities. An exploratory session could be scheduled/conducted with Marilyn here at the Senior Center to gauge interest.

Remember, Senior Center Membership Dues are due this month!

Respectfully submitted,

Curt Symes

Chair, Newtown COA

AH. B

SENIOR SERVICES GIFT FUND						
DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/R	C/D	FRANK KNOTTS TRUST FUND	NEW SENIOR CENTER	BALANCE
7/1/13	Beginning Balance					41,995.66
7/22/14	Trust Distribution			609.76		42,605.42
8/1/14	Ck. #14903 Holiday Hill		(270.00)			42,335.42
8/1/14	Ck. #15024 Michael's at the Grove		(200.00)			42,135.42
9/4/14	Ck. #15537 Superior Signs		(340.00)			41,795.42
9/4/14	Ck. #15468 Minuteman Press		(485.00)			41,310.42
9/18/14	Ck. #15611 John Bocuzzi		(61.24)			41,249.18
9/18/14	T-14601 Trust Distribution			491.00		41,740.18
10/16/14	Ck. #16219 Andrea Zimmermann		(281.25)			41,458.93
10/22/14	T-21447 Trust Distribution			609.76		42,068.69
11/13/14	Ck. #16575 Sean McKee- Party Entertainment		(250.00)			41,818.69
11/13/14	Ck. #16578 Michael's At the Grove - Party		(490.00)			41,328.69
11/21/14	T-27757 Cash Receipts	10.00				41,338.69
12/11/14	Ck. #16894 CW Resources - Senior Nutrition Sv		(240.00)			41,098.69
12/16/14	T-30470 Holiday Raffle	71.00				41,169.69
1/28/15	Trust Distribution			598.40		41,768.09
3/4/15	T-43928 P-card		(71.37)			41,696.72
3/19/15	Ck. #18036 Billy Michael		(75.00)			41,621.72
3/16/15	t-45155 Donation - New Senior Center				2,000.00	43,621.72
4/14/15	Ck. #18347 Ethel Kaufman		(100.00)			43,521.72
4/4/15	P-card		(48.99)			43,472.73
4/21/15	Trust Distribution			598.40		44,071.13
5/4/15	P-card - Michael's		(41.64)			44,029.49

5/4/15	P-card - Party Depot			(50.91)			43,978.58
5/4/15	P-card - Christmas Tree Shop			(246.73)			43,731.85
5/8/15	Additional Trust Distribution				279.90		44,011.75
		81.00		(3,252.13)	3,187.22	2,000.00	44,011.75

AH. C

NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER  
Director of Senior Services  
May 14, 2015 – June 12, 2015

PROGRAMS                      NUMBER OF ATTENDANTS (May)

Zumba Gold	70
Exercise	287
Floor Yoga (2 days)	58
Chair Yoga (2 day)	63
Cards	31
Mah Jong	17
Chorus	27
Bingo/Keno	44
Lunch	121
Knitting	48
Cards (craft)	14
Quilting/sewing	10
Walk-Ins	28
Billiards/ping pong	40
Trips	26
Newsletter	
Wii	8
Chinese brush painting	12
Painting/Art	13
Special events	95
Tai Chi	18
Entertainment	
AARP Safe Driving	
Ballroom Line dance	24
Current Events Discussion	31
Spanish Lessons	23
Speakers	71
Chair Pilates	34
Strength & Balance	32
Inter-generational w/ CAC	48

Attendance Daily:

Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs	Friday
218	186	390	241	419

MONTHLY ATTENDANCE

1454

#### COMPLETED EVENTS:

- Hot Dog Luncheon & speaker Dr. Varanno When Your Get Up , Got Up and Went May 15
- Celebrate monthly birthdays w/ Cake Nurse Linda Pinckney Regional Hospice May 18
- Financial Planning Seminar Series starting May 19 ending August 18
- Community Health Assoc. lecture series May 28
- Healthy Heart presentation June 5
- Fascia Chocolate van trip June 12

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- AARP driver safety program June 19
- Dad's & Donuts @ CAC June 19
- Protecting Yourself from Fraud June 17
- Talk on Healthy Hydration July 8
- Memory Screening July 13
- Live Well 6 week seminar July 23- August 27
- White House Butler speaker August 11
- WCAAA Medicare update seminar August 19
- Statewide Senior Outing August 24

#### ENTERTAINMENT:

- Ice Cream social and Wheel of Fortune July 15

#### Upcoming Trips:

- Mohegan Sun June 15
- Belmont Park June 17
- Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island June 25
- Boston Pops @ Tanglewood July 5
- WNBA all-star game July 25
- Prince Edward Island July 14-21, 2015
- Saratoga August 6
- Bobby Rydell @ Aqua Turf Club August 12
- Polka Fest @ Hunt's Landing August 20

#### New programs:

1. Intergenerational craft program w/ CAC every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday
2. Bible Study Wednesdays @ 2:30
3. Mornings with Marilyn Thursday @ 10
4. Humor w/ Judy Thursday @ 3
5. Cake Nurse w/ Linda Pinckney RN regional Hospice every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday @ 2
6. Bingo sponsored by Lutheran Home once a month

#### More Upcoming Events for Seniors:

- Financial Planning presented by Bankers Life Seminar Series
  1. Final Expenses Tuesday June 16
  2. Long Term Care Tuesday July 21
  3. Medical Expenses Tuesday August 1
- Historian Speaker Arthur Gottlieb LCSW
  - June 18 Grand Central Station 1:00
  - July 22 Rosie the Riveter 1:00
  - August 5 Empire State Building 1:00



**UPCOMING ANNUAL STATEWIDE SENIOR OUTING** @ Holiday Hill will be Monday, August 24 9-4  
The all-inclusive cost this year is \$31 pp. From cherrystone clams to apple pie, swimming, miniature golf.  
Bingo, dancing etc. something for everyone.

I will be looking at chartering a bus for transportation if we go beyond the seating on the SweetHart van  
and the SC van.

As in the past I will request that amount from the gift fund **if need be.**

A Live Well 6 week seminar is scheduled starting July 23 to August 27. Thursday mornings. Our own  
John Boccuzzi and Vicki Boccuzzi were trained through WCAAA and will be facilitating this wonderful  
seminar.

The CHOICES program (CT's programs for Health insurance, Outreach, Information and Eligibility  
Screening) is offering FREE "New to Medicare" presentations across the state These are designed to  
provide an overview of Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, information on Medicare Supplement plans and  
detailed information about the Medicare Savings Program and Low Income Subsidy.

I will be having a presentation here at the Center Wednesday August 19 starting at 3pm.  
WCAAA will be facilitating the overview.

3 new exercise programs from the WCAAA grant for the "social isolated".

1. Sunrise exercise Tuesdays @ 9
2. Stretch and Meditation Mondays @ 2:30
3. Qi gong Tuesdays @ 12:45

Started June 6 and June 7

New classes doing well:

1. The Bible Study
2. Mornings with Marilyn
3. Chinese Brush painting
4. inter-generational w/ CAC

Yearly membership is due by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

\$15 pp resident

\$20 pp non-resident

\$5 pp per class drop in fee

I wanted to share a website.....Danbury Senior Resource. This was just launched...it is the first of its kind  
tying together all services together for the town of Danbury. Please look it up and I'm sure you'd agree it  
is a great site. A great format. Incredible information,

This website was paid for by the Peter Buck aging in place Foundation (owner of Subway) the foundation  
contact, (June Renzulli.)

The Senior Center is a small % to the senior population here in Town. With a website as this one or  
similar it can be built into the social media for all activities within the Community. Easy access for seniors  
their family members. In town and esp. out of town. This could be the creative solution.

Also on this website was listed "Grantmakers in Aging", w/ a GenTogether photo contest.

Awesome project. This could be something to do in the future?

Please, if you have the time, go to both websites it might be the way to go. Thank you.

**UPDATE:** John was able to meet with June Renzulli to get the information on the Foundation.

**[https://www.ctphilanthropy.org/news/foundation-funds-virtual-senior-  
resouce-center-danbury](https://www.ctphilanthropy.org/news/foundation-funds-virtual-senior-resource-center-danbury)**

Keeping the seniors busy and active.

**Marilyn**



# PAID CLASSES

DATE	MAY 2015							TOTAL						
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 F								4	3	10				
2 M	12							4	2		10			11 85
3 T		9						4						74
4 W		8	6						3			10		36
5 TH								4	3	36				38 143
6 F	23 12		6 7 8 4						1 3	10		13	1 4	6 52
7 M	15 20			2				4						3 54
8 T		10												63
9 W		13	3 9					4	3	4			6	47
10 TH			9					6 4 2	2					6 80
11 F	26 12	8								48	6		2	5 86
12 M	18 20	13						4 2	1 2	10		14		99
13 T								4 7	3					8 81
14 W		4						4 8 2	2			13	6	58
15 TH			8					2 2				16		93
16 F	29 11	12							1	8			3	42
17 M														8 73
18 T		13						2						0
19 W	17 23	7						4 4 3	3			8		45
20 TH			7 10 6 11											74
21 F	27 20	9							2 1	10		15	3	61
22 M														10 108
23 T														
24 W														
25 TH														
26 F														
27 M														
28 T														
29 W														
30 TH														
31 F														
MONTHLY TOTAL	218	186	390	2 1	19						1454			

Att. D

## Director of Social Services/ Municipal Agent for the Elderly

### Report for June 15, 2015

Our totals for fuel were 235 applications which are taken from October 2014 to March 15, 2015. Elderly 106, Disabled 40, Families 89. We had 27 applications with incomplete information or they withdrew.

Out of the seven applications for the elderly that were not granted I did get six granted and one they said was denied in February but she did not receive their letter. I was able to get her granted on Operation Fuel. She was happy.

Operation Fuel had given me \$5000 for heating fuel. I completed applications for that amount and called for an additional \$500 and they gave me \$2000 more. I have a couple of days to use that money.

Salvation Army has only enough money for twenty-five shoe certificates totaling \$637 and purchase of backpacks totaling about \$250. Our budget ends Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

People are applying for Rent Rebate applications or asking questions of what they need every week. I have completed about thirty applications.

Our food pantry is doing well. Turn out for the pantry was light today. I had 4 seniors and one disabled. Our pantry is open to elderly, disabled and families.

I have one elderly man who is taking to many meds. His family wants the police to take his drivers license away but until he does something or they see him driving erratic, nothing can be done. He is getting meds in the mail.

We have helped 8 people sign up for food stamps and health insurance. We completed twenty one redeterminations for the Medicare Savings Program.

Ann Piccini

*We have 2 seniors who have grand kids.*

A.H. E

## Commission on Aging

### Community Relations and Outreach Team Report – June 2015

**Meeting Date/Time:** Monday, June 8, 2015

**Present:** Anna Weidemann, Margaret Imbro, Joanne Albanesi, Sheila Torres

**Location:** Edmond Town Hall, Mary Hawley Room

#### Key Discussion Points

**Book Sale** – July 11 and July 12 – Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM – 1 PM; Margaret mentioned that Mary, Vicki and Dottie may participate. Get sign ups at next COA meeting.

**COA Arts Fest** – Sheila reached out to Curt to ask what he has been doing with the Arts Fest Committee.

**Survey Results** – Team discussed results and Executive Summary and provided some suggested next steps. Sheila sent Executive summary to commissioners for input and asked that they be prepared to provide feedback at next meeting. Executive summary will be sent to all commissioners for input and additional thoughts and ideas. The Executive Summary and recommended actions will be discussed at June COA meeting.

Team began work on Orientation packet as outlined below:

**COA Orientation Packet Contents** – Per request from input from Governance Team, CRO members suggested the following items be included in a Commissioner Orientation Packet.

- Welcome Letter – suggest they familiarize themselves by reading through folder and going to the web site to review our minutes, let members know how or where to find that information, also to think about what teams they wish to participate in
- COA Member Bios (Sheila will develop form for new commissioners to use as guide so they can submit their brief biographies.)
- COA Statute Language – Anna Wiedemann will obtain this for the packet
- Charter Language (about appointed Boards) Anna will get.
- COA Bylaws (we will use existing bylaws)
- Teams (their charters, members, etc.) (Sheila will develop
- Contact Information Sheet (Joanne Albanesi will get)
- Robert's Rules of Order (Abridged Guide) As provided by Pat Llodra to other Commissions

**Next Meeting:** Monday, July 14, 2015 @ 2:30 pm. Edmond Town Hall, Mary Hawley Room

*Att. F*



**NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**2014 Senior Resident Survey – Executive Summary**

6/8/2015 V.3

**NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Senior Survey 2014 - Executive Summary**

**Table of Contents**

Introduction and Methodology .....Page 3  
Responses to Demographic/General Questions.....Page 4 - 7  
Responses to Programming Preferences ..... Page 8  
Summary of Survey Comment Responses .....Pages 9 - 13  
Conclusion .....Page 14  
Next Steps .....Page 15  
Summary of Top Five Programs in Each Category by Age.....Page 16 - 17  
Survey Questionnaire.....Pages 18 - 22

## **NEWTOWN COMMISSION ON AGING**

### **Senior Survey 2014 - Executive Summary**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In 2014, the Newtown Commission on Aging decided to conduct its first senior population survey to learn more about the population they serve and the types of programs that they would support or like to see developed. Based on the 2010 Census, Newtown has 5,001 seniors representing 18 percent of the town's population. Demographic trends indicate that this population will continue to grow.

The COA Community Relations and Outreach Team conducted the survey work, working with survey experts in the COA and one survey expert outside the COA to develop the questionnaire (see Exhibit A) and to analyze responses. Members of the Outreach Team were: Sheila Torres, LeReine Frampton, Margaret Imbro and Joanne Albanesi. Commissioner Anne Rothstein became a critical team contributor, lending her expertise in developing the survey, analyzing the data and using tools at her disposal that allow data mining. Similarly, Commissioner Frampton assisted with the development of the mailing list, which was based on the list of registered voters. First Selectman Pat Llodra reviewed the questionnaire and provided input, specifically on the question about "why are you not a member of the Senior Center."

The survey was sent to 4,475 senior residents (all registered voters age 60 plus). We received responses from 1,174 participants, or 25%. Based on self-identified age groups and Census 2010 population data for Newtown, it was determined that we have a representative sample of responses. Of the residents who responded to the survey, 852 added written comments to their survey form. The summary of survey comments is included on pages 9 and 10.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

Surveys were printed and mailed to individual senior residents with a stamped addressed envelope that they could use to return their responses. Each survey form had a unique number to prevent duplication and to aid in survey analysis.

All data was entered into an Excel template that was created to assist the inputting process. Once all surveys were entered a statistical program Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) which is available through IBM. The Excel spreadsheet was imported into SPSS and descriptive statistics were run to determine if there were any entries that were incorrect. Using the original surveys, these errors were corrected.

The statistical package affords the opportunity to cross analyze variables. So the Outreach Committee and the COA were consulted to determine what analyses might be of interest in the

**METHODOLOGY** (continued)

data set. Areas of interest included: Age of respondent by activity preference; age of respondent by knowledge of available services, and age of respondent by gender.

In addition, there were seven opportunities for those surveyed to make comments. These comments were entered into an Excel Spreadsheet which also included the survey id number so that the comments might be sorted by age and/or gender. The results of the analyses are presented on the following pages. The most useful comments were those made in the section which asked whether the responder was a member of the center. Approximately 75% of those returning the survey made comments in this section. These were treated further and a summary is presented by the nature of the comments and by the comments for each age group in the survey.

**2014 Senior Survey – Responses to Demographic/General Questions 1 – 4**

Question #1									
<b>TOTAL NUMBER RESPONDENTS:</b>			<b>PERCENTAGE OF SENIOR POPULATION:</b>						
<b>Gender</b>	M	F	B						
	31.3	42.2	24.3						
<b>Disabled</b>	Yes	No	B						
	11.4	60.4	25.3						
<b>Age</b>	60 – 65	66 – 70	71 – 75	76 – 80	81 – 85	86 - 90	90+	B	
	27.3	22.1	19.8	12.1	10.2	5.2	1.0	1.8	
<b>Retired</b>	Yes	No	B						
	63.5	30.3	4.9						
<b>Employed</b>	P-Time	F-Time	B						
	12.4	18.1	64.1						

<b>Live with</b>	Alone	Spouse /Partner	Family	Grand- child	Friend	Pet	Other	B
	20.4	26.1	3.7	0.3	.02	4.3	0.3	n/a
<b>Years in Town</b>	5 or Less	6 – 10	11 – 15	16 – 20	21 – 30	31 – 40	41 - 50	B
	6.1	8.9	8.7	8.4	15.8	22.5	27.1	2.3
<b>Caregiver</b>	Spouse	Parent	Grand	Other	B			
	13.7	2.3	0.9	2.2	74.6			



Question #2	How important are the following topics to you?			
	Very	Somewhat	Not Important	B
<b>Emergency Support</b>	69.3	17.3	5.5	8.0
<b>Remaining in Your Home</b>	80.3	11.3	4.0	4.3
<b>Transportation</b>	40.7	22.8	26.8	9.6
<b>Maintaining Your Health</b>	89.1	4.7	2.0	4.2
<b>Isolation/Loneliness</b>	23.6	30.4	32.4	13.6
<b>Socialization</b>	16.2	37.2	37.4	9.2

**Senior Survey – Responses to Demographic/General Questions 1 – 4 (continued)**

2014 Senior Survey – Responses to Demographic/General Questions 1 – 4 (continued)

**Question #3**

I am aware of the following services available to Newtown residents  
(most regardless of income)

Percent of Responses	Percent of Responses		
	Y	N	B
Advocacy (Support for your needs)	34.2	53.4	
Benefits Application Assistance (e.g, Medicare)	44.1	45.8	
Budgeting/Financial Planning	26.5	60.8	
Crisis Intervention	35.4	51.8	
Energy Assistance	48	40.9	
Supportive Counseling	37.1	50.1	
Food Pantry	67	22.3	
Household Items/Medical Equipment	32.7	55.2	
Rental Assistance	26.7	57.8	
Operation Fuel Program	47.3	40.9	
Services for the Elderly	50.8	37.1	
State Service Referral	29.8	55.9	
HAART Bus	65	25.4	
Congregate Daily Meals/ Meals on Wheels	65.3	24.0	

2014 Senior Survey – Responses to Demographic/General Questions 1 – 4 (continued)

Question #4 Are you a member of the Newtown Senior Center?	Percent of Responses		
	Y	N	B
	13.4	83.6	1.2

If you are NOT a Newtown Senior Center member, why not? Please circle all that apply.  
(Percent of Responses)

Hours	Location	Program Offerings	Other
2.8	2.6	5.3	25.5

Question #6

I prefer to attend activities on the following day/times (173 total responses)

Days of Week	# Times Selected	B	Times of Day	# Times Selected	B
Monday	9.5		8 AM – 12 PM	4.1	
Tuesday	13		12 PM – 5 PM	5.0	
Wednesday	14.7		5 PM – 7 PM	2.6	
Thursday	10.5		After 7 PM	1.2	
Friday	10.4				
Saturday	2.6				
Sunday	2.1				

**2014 SENIOR SURVEY –SUMMARY PROGRAMS IN PREFERENCE ORDER**

**Question #5. In each of the following categories, please indicate whether you would participate. Please check mark one column next to each item.**

<b>5A. ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Def.</b>	<b>Prob.</b>	<b>5B. PROGRAMS</b>	<b>Def.</b>	<b>Prob.</b>
Exercise	24.1	32.1	AARP Driver Safety	19.3	24.4
Fitness	22.5	29.9	Health Related	15.4	29.4
Strengthening	18.8	27.1	Health Screenings	15.2	27.9
Stretching	17.8	25	Computer Learning	13.5	25
Lectures	13.7	31.5	Music	10.6	24.1
Walking Club	12.2	24.1	History	10.3	22.9
Yoga	11.1	19	Cultural Programs	10.1	23.4
Discussion Groups	9.5	27.4	Fraud Prevention	9.8	24.9
Tai Chi	9.3	15.3	Financial	9.4	25.4
Crafts	8.8	20.5	Community Service	8.8	28.7
Reading Groups	8.4	20	Balancing Programs	8.4	18
Cards	8	23.3	Safety	8.4	21.8
Art	7.9	18.2	Estate Related	8.2	22.2
Photography	7.8	18	Languages	6.6	16.7
Pilates	7.5	13.9	Social Media	6.2	18.8
Knitting/Crochet	7.4	12.9	Spiritual Programs	5.8	13
Chair Yoga	6.8	15.8	Dance Programs	5.1	13.2
Zumba	6.8	11.7	Geography	5	17.9
Table Tennis	6.3	15.8	Creative Writing	4.9	10.3
Monthly Parties	6.2	18.8	The World Through Photos	4.6	15.5
Mind Aerobics	6	17.5	Caregiver Support	3.3	13.5
Woodworking	5.7	12.1	Dating in the 21st Century	1.5	4.2
Ball Room Dancing	5.5	19.2	Addiction Support	1.1	3.7
Monthly Dances	5.2	12	<b>5D. VACATION/OVERNIGHT</b>	<b>Def.</b>	<b>Prob.</b>
Line Dancing	5.1	12.1	Museums	16.4	24.1
Chair Pilates	4.8	13.6	Music Concerts	16.4	22.8
Bocci	4.3	18	Bus Trips	16	25.6
Mahjong	4.1	7.6	Movies	15.7	22.3
Sewing	3.9	9.2	Train Travel	14.1	24.6
Billiards	3.7	16.2	Eastern United States	12.2	25.1
Chorus	3.2	8.3	Canada	9.8	20.6
Wii Bowling	2.3	10.9	Cruises	9.4	16.9
Poetry	2.2	6.6	Europe	8.4	17.4
Pickle Ball	2	6.2	Casinos	8.1	10.9
<b>5C. SHORT/DAY TRIPS</b>	<b>Def.</b>	<b>Prob.</b>	Spa/Health	8	17
Plays/Theater	25.2	32.8	Dances	4.3	10.8
Music Concerts	19.8	28.6	Western United States	1.8	19.5
Dance Venues	16.4	24.1			
Plays/Theater	16.4	22.8			
Art Galleries	14.8	22			
Casinos	8.9	19.6			
Beauty/Hair Salon	2	5.2			

**LEGEND: Def. = Definitely would participate; Prob. = Probably would participate**

## **SUMMARY OF 2014 SENIOR SURVEY WRITTEN COMMENTS**

The questionnaire gave participants an opportunity to comment on any and all questions. We received comments on all questions. The largest number of comments made, by far, was to Question #4, “Are you a member of the Senior Center? 13.4% said yes; 83.6% said no. The survey asked non-members to state why they were NOT members and more than 800 comments were received. Those comments have been summarized by theme on page 2 of this report.

Below is a summary of comments received based on the major themes gleaned.

### **17 COMMENTS MADE IN THE DEMOGRAPHICS SECTION**

- 7/17 are caretakers
- 3/17 are disabled
- 1/17 taxes are too high

### **9 COMMENTS MADE IN THE WHAT ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU SECTION**

- 2/9 taxes are too high
- 2/9 have medical issues, disabled, can't drive
- 1/9 said he/she is “self-sufficient”

### **21 COMMENTS MADE IN AWARENESS OF SERVICES**

- 4/21 not aware
- 1/21 need web site
- 2/21 taxes too high
- Other Comments: Town does poor job of services; Too much focus on Board of Education; Operation Fuel is inadequate; Need larger senior center at Fairfield Hills; COA is not proactive, visible, Newtown offers a lot, Very busy

Question # 4 generated the most comments by far. The question asked respondents who were not members of the Senior Center to comment on why they were not members. Responses are listed on page 10 with details and graphics on pages 11 – 13.

## SUMMARY OF 2014 SENIOR SURVEY WRITTEN COMMENTS (CONTINUED)

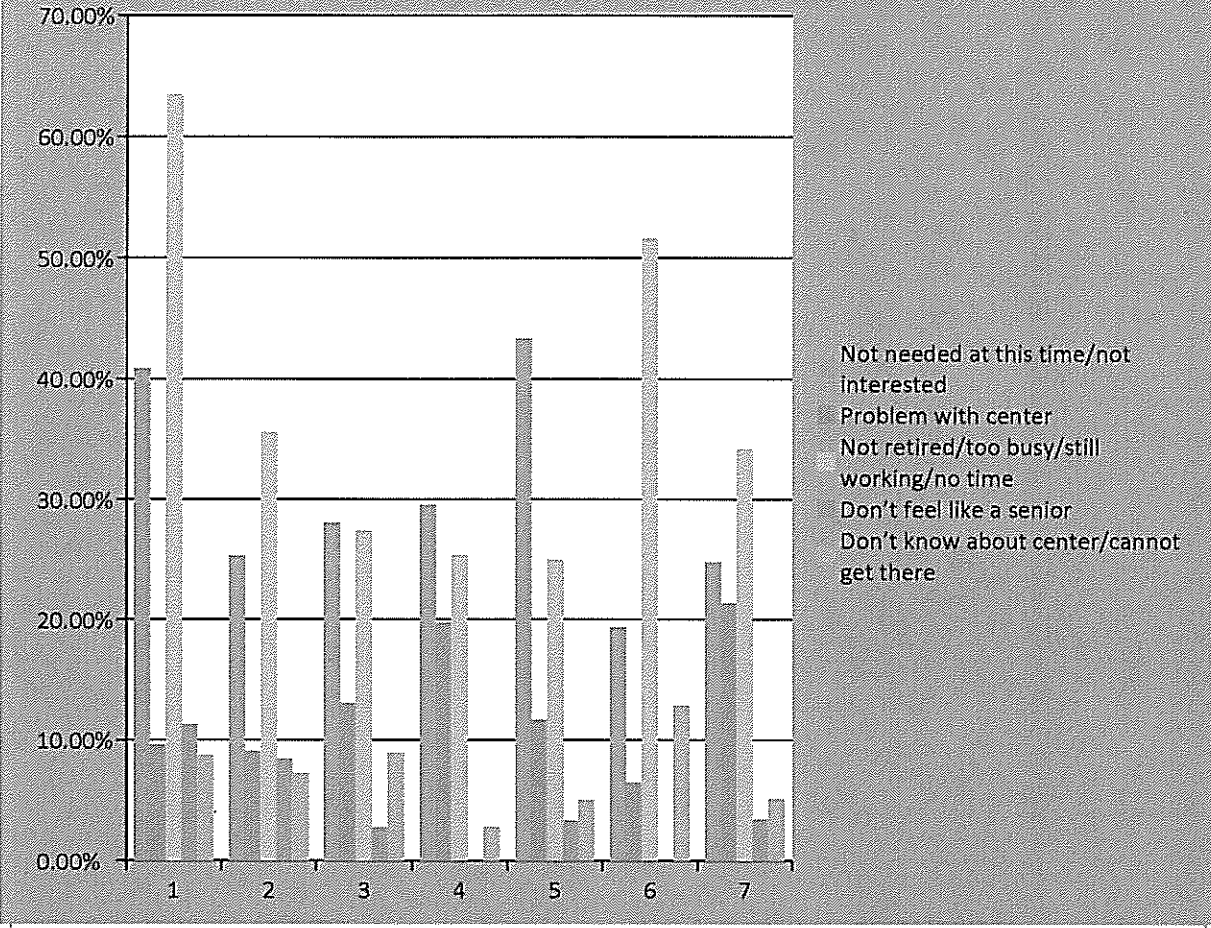
*Subset of Question #4 - See pages 11 - 13 for a chart and details about these responses*

Almost 800 comments on, "If you are not a member of the Senior Center, why not?"

Theme	Number of Respondents
<b>1. Busy or Active with Other Things</b> , groups, business, work, caregiving transportation, language, health or other impediment	<b>264</b>
<b>2. Don't Need, Not Old Enough, Have No Interest</b>	<b>218</b>
<b>3. Don't Know About, Not Aware of Center</b> (Don't know about it, Don't know where it is, etc.)	<b>142</b>
<b>4. Environment of Center</b> (Depressing, ambiance, too crowded, cost, treatment, parking, age of members, transportation, health, distance	<b>95</b>
<b>5. Activities Offered</b> (No swimming, billiards, woodworking, no educational activities, etc.)	<b>29</b>
<b>6. Use Other/Out of Town Services or Not in Town</b> (Snowbirds)	<b>19</b>
<b>7. Accolades</b> (Marilyn does a good job, like the Center, etc.)	<b>8</b>

**Comment Responses to Question 4**

**“If you are not a member of the Senior Center, why not?”**



**LEGEND:**

**Group 1 = Age 60 – 65; Group 2 = Age 66 – 70; Group 3 = Age 71 – 75; Group 4 = Age 76 – 80; Group 5 = Age 80 – 85; Group 6 = Age 86 – 90 plus; Group 7 = Did not give age**

## Summary of Responses to Question # 4 by Age “If you are not a member of the Senior Center, why not?”

Age = 1 (N=230)

Not needed at this time/not interested

Problem with center

Not retired/too busy/still working/

Don't feel like a senior

Don't know about center

Age = 2 (N=166)

Not needed at this time/not interested

Problem with center

Not retired/too busy/still working/no time

Don't feel like a senior

Don't know about center/cannot get there

Age = 3 (N=146)

Not needed at this time/not interested

Problem with center

Not retired/too busy/still working/no time

Don't feel like a senior

Don't know about center/cannot get there

Age = 4 (N=71)

Not needed at this time/not interested

Problem with center

Not retired/too busy/still working/no time

Don't feel like a senior

Don't know about center/cannot get there

Age = 5 (N=60)

Not needed at this time/not interested

Problem with center

Not retired/too busy/still working/no time

Don't feel like a senior

Don't know about center/cannot get there



**Summary of Responses to Question # 4 by Age “If you are not a member of the Senior Center, why not?”**

(continued)

Age = 6 (N=31)

Not needed at this time/not interested

Problem with center

Not retired/too busy/still working/no time

Don't feel like a senior

Don't know about center/cannot get there

Age =Not given (117)

Not needed at this time/not interested

Problem with center

Not retired/too busy/still working/no time

Don't feel like a senior

Don't know about center/cannot get there

Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	missing
Not needed at this time/not interested	40.87%	25.30%	28.08%	29.58%	43.33%	19.35%	24.79%
Problem with center	9.57%	9.04%	13.01%	19.72%	11.67%	6.45%	21.37%
Not retired/too busy/still working/no time	63.48%	35.54%	27.40%	25.35%	25.00%	51.61%	34.19%
Don't feel like a senior	11.30%	8.43%	2.74%	0.00%	3.33%	0.00%	3.42%
Don't know about center/cannot get there	8.70%	7.23%	8.90%	2.82%	5.00%	12.90%	5.13%

## CONCLUSION

Responses to the questions on the 2014 Senior Survey indicate that Newtown seniors are engaged individuals interested in remaining active and enjoying cultural activities, as judged by the responses on Question #5 (See Page 8.) related to programs and activities. A large majority have lived in town 20 to 50 years and they wish to continue to live in their town and in their home, based on how they ranked these topics on Question #3 (See page x.).

The three highest-rated topics of importance were based on Question #x: Maintaining Your Health, Remaining in My Home, and Emergency Support, (See page x.) indicate a need to offer quality programs that address these topics and that are offered consistently and on a variety of schedules to facilitate participation. It also indicates the importance of town services that help residents to remain in their homes.

Unfortunately, the current Senior Center does not offer as many opportunities as possible for all the preferred programs and needs due to space and parking restrictions; poor visibility and marketing; an uninspiring physical and emotional environment; and, because current programs are not compelling or responsive enough to encourage the majority of the senior population to participate. There are also issues related to stigma and misconceptions that keep some residents away because they think the Senior Center is an organization attended by and designed for needy, frail residents. Improved marketing and exposure, a better physical environment and more responsive programming could help address some of these issues.

It's important that senior programs that address the needs identified by this survey be expanded to locations that do not isolate seniors, but rather integrate them with the rest of the community. Making seniors and senior programs visible can diminish the stigma and misconceptions that some residents have. This is why it is so important that a new Community Center provide senior-focused programs that will bring this growing segment of the town's population (18%) into the same space as other residents so that the community has a greater opportunity for more intergenerational interactions and relationships.

In addition, the number of seniors who indicated that they are very busy with other activities may signal the need to provide programming during times of the day other than the current 9 am – 3:30 pm Monday through Friday offered at the Senior Center. Unfortunately, Question #6 did not provide clear answers preferred days and times due to survey formatting issues that made the question confusing and thus made the responses somewhat unreliable. However, expanding senior-focused programming beyond the Senior Center and integrating it with other locations in

the community at large will contribute to greater exposure and participation as well as the opportunity for the whole community to come together in a more natural fashion.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Based on the responses to the 2014 Senior Survey, the Community Relations and Outreach Team will make the following recommendations to the Commission on Aging:

- I. Expand senior-focused programs beyond the confines of the current Senior Center beginning as soon as possible.
- II. Initiate programs based on the 2014 Senior Survey results immediately or as soon as possible and incorporate those programs into Newtown's planned Community Center.
- III. Ensure that a percentage of programs at the future Newtown Community Center be senior-focused programs based on needs and interests identified by the 2014 Senior Survey.
- IV. Explore the possibility of additional part-time staff to plan and coordinate senior-focused programs and services outside of the present Senior Center hours of Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- V. Continue to promote the need for a more centralized, less isolated location for senior-programs, including the goal of incorporating senior-focused space into the future Newtown Community Center.

Table 1. Summary of Age Groups by Activity Groups Showing Top Activities by Average Ratings

Age Group	60 to 65		66 to 70		71 to 75	
	Activity	Avg	Activity	Avg	Activity	Avg
GRP1	EXERCISE	2.10	EXERCISE	2.07	EXERCISE	2.03
	FITNESS	2.06	FITNESS	2.05	FITNESS	2.00
	STRETCH	1.85	STRENGTH	1.93	STRENGTH	1.89
	STRENGTH	1.83	STRETCH	1.88	LECTURE	1.82
	WALKING	1.80	LECTURE	1.86	STRETCH	1.82
GRP2	THEATER	2.02	THEATER	2.07	THEATER	2.07
	MUSIC	1.91	MUSIC	1.92	MUSIC	1.88
	ARTGALL	1.76	ARTGALL	1.77	ARTGALL	1.68
GRP3	HLTHSCR	1.82	HEALTH	1.88	HEALTH	1.84
	HEALTH	1.77	AARPDRIVE	1.84	AARPDRIVE	1.84
	COMMSERV	1.70	HLTHSCR	1.80	HLTHSCR	1.82
	MUSIC	1.70	COMPUTER	1.74	COMPUTER	1.69
	FINANCIAL	1.69	CULTURAL	1.71	CULTURAL	1.65
GRP4	THEATER	1.92	THEATER	1.90	THEATER	1.91
	MUSEUMS	1.84	TRAIN	1.83	MUSEUMS	1.83
	MUSICCONC	1.84	BUSTRIP	1.82	BUSTRIP	1.80
	TRAIN	1.76	MUSEUMS	1.82	TRAIN	1.79
	MOVIES	1.75	MUSICCONC	1.82	MUSICCONC	1.78

Table 1. Summary of Age Groups by Activity Groups Showing Top Activities by Average Ratings *(continued)*

Age Group	76 to 80		81 to 85		86 to 90		90 +	
	Activity	Avg	Activity	Avg	Activity	Avg	Activity	Avg
GRP1	EXERCISE	2.01	EXERCISE	1.91	EXERCISE	1.78	EXERCISE	1.50
	FITNESS	1.98	FITNESS	1.86	STRETCH	1.77	BOCCI	1.33
	LECTURE	1.93	STRENGTH	1.83	LECTURE	1.76	CARDS	1.33
	STRENGTH	1.84	STRETCH	1.74	STRENGTH	1.75	STRENGTH	1.29
	STRETCH	1.80	LECTURE	1.64	FITNESS	1.74	LECTURE	1.25
							MTHDANCE	1.25
						MTHPARTY	1.25	
						POETRY	1.25	
GRP2	THEATER	2.21	THEATER	2.03	THEATER	2.15	MUSIC	1.38
	MUSIC	2.14	MUSIC	1.85	MUSIC	2.00	THEATER	1.38
	ARTGALL	1.79	CASINO	1.55	ARTGALL	1.71	SALON	1.29
GRP3	AARPDRIVE	2.14	AARPDRIVE	2.04	AARPDRIVE	2.12	AARPDRIVE	1.50
	COMPUTER	1.91	HEALTH	1.88	HEALTH	1.89	COMPUTER	1.38
	HEALTH	1.91	HLTHSCR	1.80	HISTORY	1.84	FINANCIAL	1.38
	HLTHSCR	1.88	COMPUTER	1.73	HLTHSCR	1.76	MUSIC	1.38
	SAFETY	1.80	HISTORY	1.69	COMPUTER	1.75	BALANCE	1.29
	FINANCIAL	1.80					HEALTH	1.29
	FRAUDPRE	1.80					HLTHSCR	1.29
GRP4	THEATER	2.11	BUSTRIP	1.97	MOVIES	1.83	WESTUS	1.29
	BUSTRIP	2.06	MOVIES	1.84	THEATER	1.82	BUSTRIP	1.25
	MUSEUMS	1.97	THEATER	1.80	MUSEUMS	1.74	CRUISES	1.25
	EASTERNUS	1.92	MUSICCONC	1.78	BUSTRIP	1.70	DANCES	1.25
	TRAIN	1.91	MUSEUMS	1.72	MUSICCONC	1.61	MUSEUMS	1.25
	MUSICCONC	1.91						

## Survey Questionnaire Page 1

Dear Newtown Resident,

The mission of the Newtown Commission on Aging (COA) is to identify the needs of residents age 60 plus (seniors) and to develop or coordinate grants and programs to address those needs. As a member of this demographic and a taxpayer, the COA is seeking your input and would appreciate your participation in the following brief survey. Your responses will help us determine what types of programs to develop in support of senior needs, including in the new senior center that will be located in the Community Center that will be built with a grant received from General Electric. Please complete the survey and return it in the enclosed stamped envelope. Responses are anonymous, but you are welcome to include your name and address if you wish. We have provided space for additional input and you may send additional input on a blank sheet of paper. For information about the COA, see the Town of Newtown web site. Thanks for participating. **For assistance completing the survey, please call Social Services at (203) 270-4330.**

<b>1. Please indicate the following so that we can get a sense of who responds</b> Please circle correct answer(s)							
<b>Gender</b>	Male	Female	<b>Do You Have a Disability?</b>			Yes	No
<b>Age</b>	60 – 65	66 – 70	71 – 75	76 – 80	81 – 85	86 – 90	90+
<b>I'm Retired</b>	Yes	No	<b>I'm Employed</b>	Part-Time		Full-Time	
<b>I Live With</b> Circle all that apply	Alone	Spouse/ Partner	Family	Grandchild	Friend	Pet	Other
<b>Time Lived in Newtown</b>	Less than 5 years	6 – 10 years	11 – 15 years	16 – 20 years	21 – 30 years	31 – 40 years	41 – 50 years
<b>I'm Primary Caregiver for:</b>	Spouse		Parent	Grandchild		Other	
<b>Comments or Additions:</b>							
<b>2. How important are the following topics to you? Please check one column for each topic</b>							
	Very Important		Somewhat Important		Not Important		
<b>Emergency Support</b>							
<b>Remaining in Your Home</b>							
<b>Transportation</b>							
<b>Maintaining Your Health</b>							
<b>Isolation/Loneliness</b>							
<b>Socialization</b>							
<b>2a. In the event of an emergency, (e.g. power outage, or snow storm) do you have a medical or other issue that requires special attention? Please circle your answer: Yes No</b>							
<b>2b. During an emergency would you like a check-in phone call or visit from emergency personnel? Please circle your answer: Yes No</b>							
<b>2c. If you said yes to 2b, please write your phone number here or call Social Services at (203) 270-4330 to provide your contact information.</b>							
<b>Comments or Additions:</b>							
<b>3. I am aware of the following services available to Newtown residents: (most regardless of income)</b>							
Check one column for each	Yes	No				Yes	No
<b>Advocacy</b> (Support for your needs)			<b>Household Items/ Medical Equipment</b>				
<b>Benefits Application Assistance</b> (e.g. Medicare)			<b>Rental Assistance</b>				
<b>Budgeting Assistance/ Financial Planning</b>			<b>Operation Fuel Program</b>				
<b>Crisis Intervention</b>			<b>Services for Elderly</b>				

<b>Energy Assistance</b>			<b>State Services Referral</b>		
<b>Supportive Counseling</b>			<b>HAART Bus</b>		
<b>Food Pantry</b>			<b>Congregate Daily Meals/ Meals on Wheels</b>		
<b>Comments or Additions:</b>					
<b>PLEASE TURN PAGE TO CONTINUE SURVEY</b>					



**4. Are you a member of the Newtown Senior Center?** Please circle your answer  
**Yes No**

**If you are NOT a Newtown Senior Center Member, why not?** Please circle all that apply

<b>Hours</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Program Offerings</b>	<b>Other</b> (Please write here or below in Comments section)
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**Comments or Additions:**

**5. In each of the following categories, please indicate whether you would participate**  
Please check mark one column next to each item.

	Definitely	Probably	Would Not		Definitely	Probably	Would Not
<b>5A. ACTIVITIES</b>				<b>5C. PROGRAMS</b>			
Art				AARP Driver Safety			
Ball Room Dancing				Addiction Support			
Billiards				Balancing Programs			
Bocci				Caregiver Support			
Cards				Community Service			
Chair Pilates				Computer Learning			
Chair Yoga				Creative Writing			
Chorus				Cultural Programs			
Crafts				Dance Programs			
Discussion Groups				Dating in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century			
Exercise				Estate Related			
Fitness				Financial			
Knitting/Crochet				Fraud Prevention			
Lectures				Geography			
Line Dancing				Health Related			
Mahjong				Health Screenings			
Mind Aerobics				History			
Monthly Dances				Languages			
Monthly Parties				Music			
Photography				Safety			
Pickle Ball				Social Media			
Pilates				Spiritual Programs			
Poetry				The World Through Photos			
Reading Groups				<b>5D. VACATIONS/OVERNIGHTS</b>			
Sewing				Bus Trips			
Strengthening				Canada			
Stretching				Casinos			
Table Tennis				Cruises			
Tai Chi				Dances			
Walking Club				Eastern United States			
Wii Bowling				Europe			
Woodworking				Movies			
Yoga				Museums			

Zumba				Music Concerts			
<b>5B. SHORT/DAY TRIPS</b>				Spa/Health			
Art Galleries				Plays/Theater			
Beauty/Hair Salon				Train Travel			
Casinos				Western United States			
Dance Venues				<b>5E. Other Programs or Activities:</b> Please Write Here			
Music Concerts							
Plays/Theater							
<b>6. I prefer to attend activities on the following days and times:</b> (circle all that apply )							
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
	8 AM – 12 PM	12 PM – 5 PM		5 PM – 7 PM	After 7PM		
Thank you for your participation. If you would like to add anything or share your name, contact, or other information, please write it here or on a blank piece of paper and mail it in with your form in the stamped envelope included with this survey.							
<b>END OF SURVEY - PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM BY 8/31/2014 IN STAMPED ENVELOPE PROVIDED</b>							