

Halifax Senior Center Happenings

Fall Edition

A Message from the Director:

Hi Everyone,



The entire staff miss seeing you all every day and the hustle and bustle of the center being open. The COA has been fortunate enough to resume some outdoor programs (weather permitting) and for that, I have been grateful. Unfortunately, due to the weather this will come to an end. I want to remind you all that even though the COA building remains closed we have never stopped providing services. Maria and our wonderful volunteers have continued to coordinate and deliver meals on wheels and we are so appreciative for all of them. The staff have also arranged food deliveries, personal protective equipment deliveries, rides to the grocery store and much needed medical appointments. Granted we may have had to become creative in how these things are handled and there are a lot more rules and procedures but we are getting it done. Do not hesitate to call us with any questions. **WE ARE HERE TO HELP!!!** We will not be sending out a monthly newsletter until we have re-opened the center to the public. However, if there is important information to get to you we will send out either a newsletter or an automated phone call. Please make sure the contact information we have for you is up-to-date so that you don't miss this important information.

Stay well and stay safe,

Susan

SHINE Counselor:

As many of you know our SHINE Counselor Marie Burke retired in April. We are so grateful for her many years of service to the seniors in Halifax.

Our plan is to have our new Outreach Coordinator attend the training to become a SHINE counselor but, we don't have a timeframe for when those trainings will occur.

If you need assistance during this Medicare Open Enrollment period, please contact the Regional SHINE Office in Middleboro at 1-800-231-1155.



Transportation Policy Reminders:

- Transportation is for medical appointments grocery shopping, bank, post office and pharmacy. Medical appointments take precedence.
- Passengers must be able to travel independently. If someone will be traveling with you to assist you, please notify us in advance.
- Reservations should be made at least 3-4 days in advance. Not all rides can be accommodated.
- All medical appointments should be scheduled between 9:30am and 1pm to ensure driver has returned to the COA before close of business.
- If a reservation needs to be cancelled, please do so as soon as possible but at least 1-2 hours before scheduled pick up.
- On days when Halifax Public Schools are cancelled due to inclement weather, the COA vans will NOT be in operation.



“What’s **BUZZN’** at the C.O.A.”



Fuel Assistance Program: Eligibility is based on gross income, household size, and vulnerability to heating costs. Fuel Assistance can assist with any primary heat type: oil, natural gas, electricity, propane, kerosene, wood or coal.

Also, if you are living in nonsubsidized housing and your heat is included in your rent, fuel assistance can reimburse you for a portion of your rent.

Documents needed to begin the process are:

- Recent electric, telephone and fuel bills.
- Copies of: 4 recent pay stubs, award letter or pension statements for social security, veterans benefits, workers compensation or unemployment benefits, tax bill, rent or land receipt.
- Social Security card for each person in household.
- Photo ID (such as License).
- Front page of home owners insurance policy.



Contact our Outreach Workers, Donna and Tricia by calling our office for more details and information specific to your situation.

Local Food Pantries:

- Halifax Congregational Church, 503 Plymouth Street, Halifax - Telephone: (781) 293-6393
Hours: Tuesdays - 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Our Lady of the Lake Church, 580 Monponsett Street, Halifax - Telephone: (781) 293-7971
Hours: 2nd & 4th Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Meals on Wheels: This program is designed to enhance the quality of life for elders by providing nutritionally sound and satisfying meals. The well-balanced meals are delivered Monday through Friday to homebound elders, which also assures regular contact from the outside; provides reassurance and serves as a means to immediately communicate any changes in an elder’s condition. Signing up is easy and confidential, so if you or an elder you know would benefit from this program, please call our Outreach Workers, Donna or Tricia for more information.



SNAP Program: You may be eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) administers SNAP benefits. SNAP provides a monthly benefit to buy nutritious foods. To get SNAP, you must be low-income and be a U.S. citizen or legal noncitizen (restrictions apply). Eligibility for SNAP benefits depends on financial and nonfinancial criteria.

You can now use your SNAP (EBT) card to purchase food online! You can do this at Amazon and Wal-Mart and have the food delivered to your door.



Contact our Outreach Workers, Donna and Tricia by calling our office for more details and information specific to your situation.



WELCOME ABOARD!

New Outreach Coordinator:

Donna Porcello is the new Outreach Coordinator for the Council on Aging.

Donna began working with the senior population over 19 years ago as a Recreation Assistant at the Bostonian Nursing Home in Dorchester.



Her most recent position before joining the Halifax Council on Aging was as the Activity Manager at Active Day, an adult day center located in Weymouth.

Donna is looking forward to speaking with and meeting the seniors of Halifax!

New Van Driver:

Brian Evangelista is the new Van Driver for the Council on Aging.

Brian has lived in Halifax for over 20 years. He has been a Fire Fighter in Pembroke for over 18 years.



In addition, Brian served as Director of Emergency and Security Services for Linden Ponds in Hingham.

Brian is looking forward to meeting the seniors of Halifax!

A Message from Generations:

Hello!!

It is that time of year again to ask for your help. We are looking for members to join Generations. The purpose of Generations (Friends of the COA) is to raise funds to provide that little "extra" support to purchase items or complete projects down the road.

For those of you who have already become a member, we thank you very much!

THANK YOU,
GENERATIONS (Friends of the Halifax COA)



Town of Halifax Phone Directory:

Board of Assessors	(781) 293-1721
Board of Health	(781) 293-6768
Board of Selectmen	(781) 294-1316
Building Department	(781) 293-6557
Building Maintenance.....	(781) 293-1745
Conservation Commission.....	(781) 590-3872
Council on Aging	(781) 293-7313
Fire Department.....	(781) 293-1751
Highway Department.....	(781) 293-1760
Holmes Public Library.....	(781) 293-2271
Information Technology.....	(781) 293-1739
Planning Board.....	(781) 293-1735
Police Department	(781) 294-8713
Recycling Center	(781) 293-1732
Town Accountant	(781) 293-5303
Town Clerk.....	(781) 293-7970
Town Collector.....	(781) 294-8381
Town Treasurer	(781) 293-1731
Veteran Services.....	(781) 293-1724
Water Department	(781) 293-1733
Zoning Board of Appeals	(781) 293-1736



Halifax
Council
On Aging

506 Plymouth Street • Halifax, MA 02538

Tel: (781) 293-7313 • Fax: (781) 293-1774

Website: www.halifax-ma.org/council-aging

Presorted Standard Postage
US Postage PAID
Permit #42
Halifax, MA 02338

HOURS OF OPERATION:

MONDAY - THURSDAY: 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

FRIDAY: 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD

CHAIRMAN:
Jo Schofield

MEMBERS:
Judith Rakutis
Marge Smith
Martha Smith

STAFF

Susan Lawless, Director

Lisa Silvia, Receptionist/Transportation
Coordinator

Donna Porcello, Outreach Coordinator

Tricia Ross, Assistant Outreach/Nurse

Maria Maynard, Nutrition Site Manager
(M.O.W.)

Brian Evangelista, Van Driver

Gary Long, Van Driver

Frank Sullivan, Van Driver

Chris Tompkins, Van Driver

Halifax Council on Aging Mission Statement: To identify the economic, health and cultural needs of our senior community and provide an environment of support, learning and socialization while striving to enrich lives by offering a wide array of programs, transportation and advocating on their behalf, when necessary, thereby promoting independence, wellness and dignity.