

**TOWN OF DARIEN  
COMMISSION ON AGING  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 19, 2014**

**ATTENDANCE:** Joe Pankowski, Chair; Jennifer Geddes, Ron Heinbaugh, Tom Valentino  
Mary McCarthy

**STAFF:** Beth Paris, Darien Senior Center; Olive Hauser, Human Services

**CALL TO ORDER.**

Mr. Pankowski called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was not present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

Due to the fact that there was no quorum, these will be discussed in April.

**HUMAN SERVICES REPORT.**

Ms. Hauser presented her report to the Commission. (See attached)

**SENIOR CENTER REPORT.**

Ms. Paris presented her report to the Commission. (See attached) Discussion followed on the details of the upcoming move. She said that her staff is busy sorting, packing and still managing to run the full programs. Ms. McCarthy asked if would be possible to arrange a tour. Mr. Pankowski said that he would look into this.

**OLD BUSINESS.**

A letter should be arriving to all the Commission members from the Selectman's Office regarding the establishment of Town emails for Commissioners and Board Members. This is to insure that all the emails involving Commission business is handled through the Town.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

**\*\* MR. HEINBAUGH MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* MS. MCCARTHY SECONDED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

Commission on Aging  
Human Services Report  
Olive Hauser, Director

March 19, 2014

1. The deadline for authorizing deliverable fuel through the state Energy Assistance program ended on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The process of getting individuals approved and authorized for a deliver was very time-consuming and arduous at best. The Energy office at NEON was overwhelmed and understaffed. The entire agency continues to have significant issues.
2. Another 150 copies of our Senior Resource Directory is being printed. Our first run of 100 has all been given out. We are keeping the runs small so we can update information more quickly and not have a large scale rewrite waiting for us in a year. The runs are printed quickly once the corrections are made.
3. The Heights is beginning to bring people into the homes that constitute the last phase of their building project.
4. In our budget we requested some additional staff time. We are anticipating the increase in services with the Senior Center move and the completion of The Heights.
5. Our Home Goods Closet is has been the recipient of some very generous donations and yet we still run short after about two weeks.
6. The Renter's Rebate program has had some money returned to it and we are anticipating some legislative changes which will open the program to all applicants again.

Respectfully submitted,

Olive Hauser, Director

## **Commission on Aging Report**

Darien Senior Activities Center

March 19, 2014

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Coordinator

March finds us busy still organizing and packing. We have enlisted volunteers to help us in the sorting and disposing of items. The Woodshop Donation program will not be taking in new projects beginning in April in order for them to begin the process there. The staff is working on an organizational move plan so when there is a meeting with perspective professional movers we will be as ready as we can.

In the meantime we are planning a lighter schedule of special entertainments and programs in anticipation of the move and in hopes of preventing too many cancellations. We are also looking at our regular programs and activities and making every effort to leave the schedule as close to the same as possible. 103 attended the St Patrick's Celebration and 68 the next day for Stamford Hospital's Lunch and Learn. Attendance has been steady since the beginning of March.

Also hosting 40 AARP Chapter Leaders for a planning meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> to determine the future of AARP Chapters-were they have been-where they are going.

**Monthly Caregiver Educational Support Program: 5**

**Caregiver Options Counseling: 7**

**Referrals to Human Services: 5**

**At Home in Darien Assist: 10**

### **Highlighted Programs for March:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Blood Pressures

4<sup>th</sup> Historical Series –Art Gottlieb

5<sup>th</sup> Garden Club of Darien

7<sup>th</sup> AARP Chapter meeting- Ballet Performance open to everyone

11<sup>th</sup> 99 Ways to Save w/Cookie Martini

11<sup>th</sup> Crafts and Conversation with Darien High School CORE Group

12<sup>th</sup> Ct Pharmacy presents "Tips for Fall Prevention"

14<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's Day Brain Twisters and Teasers

17<sup>th</sup> St Patrick's Day Celebration

18<sup>th</sup> Stamford Hospital Lunch and Learn: GI Issues and Aging"

18<sup>th</sup> Caregiver Educational Support Program

19<sup>th</sup> AARP Driving Course

21<sup>st</sup> "Ask a Lawyer"

25<sup>th</sup> Darien Library presents "Poetry"

27<sup>th</sup> BINGO Plus with Pam

**Ongoing Work in Progress:**

Program Planning Summer/Fall

Monthly Newsletter

Daily Statistics

Organizing and packing for move

**Building Issues:** Building Leaks continue to spring up in new places; Hand sink in main hall had to be serviced; Lost Heat Boiler failure one day.

**Meetings attended:** SWCAA State Advisory Board; SWCAA quarterly Senior Center Director meeting; Memory Café planning meeting Stamford Consortium; COA monthly Meeting

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