

# GARDNER COUNCIL ON AGING AND SENIOR CENTER

City Report for Calendar Year 2014

The senior center is a place where folks can go to obtain information, learn something new, volunteer, enjoy a lunch, play pool, several different types of card games, quilt, exercise, or any other array of events. There have been many changes and improvements to not only the building but the limited space to become more usable. A media center was created where three computers are set up for classes as well as for seniors to utilize any time. We have had new baseboards installed in the large function hall and ceiling fans installed to assist with better heating and to reduce the heating costs. We had to have all six heating circulator pumps replaced due to failure. We are still having heating and air conditioning issues in certain parts of the building and there are several items that need replacing and repair and will continue to work on them.

We have had other changes as well, the transportation service is now covered by Montachusett Area Regional Transit Authority (MART), which in turn have eliminated those staff and we had a change in job description because of the dispatching piece no longer being needed. This then changed the duties of the secretary who then unfortunately retired and I wish Lorrie well in her retirement and her 35 years of service to the City. I was able change the job description into a secretarial/activities staff member. This person will answer calls as well as assisting with planning events. I would also like to thank all the van drivers for their service and to Anne for her 20 years and her retirement.

Last year in March I had the MySeniorCenter software tracking system installed to let us know the amount of folks that come through our doors and for what purposes? These numbers are needed for granting purposes and we need these numbers not only for the state but also to help us know what folks are interested in. If you have not yet registered, stop by to check out the touch screen and become registered. This registration will allow you to receive important telephone messages from the senior center.

This table shows the statistics for the year:

### Event Statistics

Community Education	631
Fitness/Exercise	1134
Health Screening	41
Information Sharing	406
Nutritional	2698
Recreation	1767
Social Event	5983
Volunteer	738

There is a total of 13,398 event sign-ins that took place since March of last year and as we move through this next year, our goal is to increase it. We will be educating folks on the importance of the signing-in and this helps us to track what events are popular and if we should run the event again.

We have had a change in the staff in the lunch program, the past site manager retired and a new site manager was hired at the end of the year. We are working on making improvements to the site and we are hoping to make it grow so that is feasible to have the site. We hope you will join us for a great lunch.

I had obtained several grants and we had run the Aging Mastery Pilot Program through Massachusetts Councils on Aging and the National Council on Aging. This program was a 12 week program and every week was a different topic provided with incentive items given at each session and then points were earned and redeemed for gift cards.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers that have provided to be a significant help to us throughout the year. The volunteers have donated their time and if we turned that into money, it would be over \$50,000.00 worth of service if these folks were paid. Thank you for your service to your community and the senior center, we truly appreciate your assistance.

I held our first annual Health, Wellness, and Safety Fair in March. We had 45 vendors and over 100 folks come through the doors. There was a variety of topics and

folks to talk with about anything that was of interest to folks. I offered free lunch and vendors provided many raffle items. The next one will be held in April and is moved to Waterford Street School due to more parking space available.

My goals for this year is to increase outreach, repair air conditioning units, increase programing and services and to engage more community members. If you are interesting in being an associate board member, starting a friends group, assisting in some other way, or making donations, feel free to contact me here at the senior center.

Lastly, I want to thank the staff for their dedication and service and assistance during the many new events, changes, and improvements and in making the center a welcome place to go for our elder population.

Sincerely,

Eileen Clarkson, HS-BCP, CDP, MS, MPA  
Notary Public, Certified Director  
Director of the Gardner Senior Center/Council on Aging