

**Commission on Aging
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, June 18, 2012**

MINUTES SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THIS COMMISSION

The Commission on Aging held a regular meeting on Monday, June 18, 2012 at the Senior Center, 14 Riverside Road, Sandy Hook, Connecticut. Chairman Thomas Dwyer called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Members Present: Thomas Dwyer, Karin Aurelia, Larry Schneider, Joan Plouffe, Curt Symes, Sheila Torres, Mary Ellen Lydem, Joanne Davis, Margaret Imbro and JoAnne Albanesi.

Member Absent: LeReine Frampton

Support & Advisory Present: Marilyn Place, Director of Senior Services; Ann Piccini, Municipal Agent for the Elderly; Maryhelen McCarthy, Police Officer, Newtown Police Department & TRIAD Representative and Robert Sharpe, Chair of the Senior Action Committee.

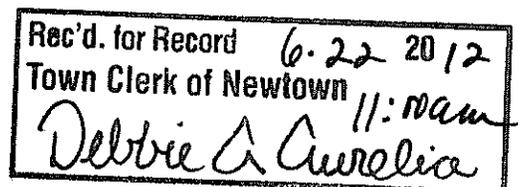
Also Present: Several members of the public

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Mr. Dwyer mentioned that the deadline for filing an application to fill the current opening for a regular membership on the Commission is June 18, 2012 and he is hoping that the Board of Selectmen will appoint alternate member Joanne Davis to it at their next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Senior Directory – Ms. Torres reported that her Team has decided to go with a brochure approach similar to Woodbury's and she distributed a draft showing proposed subjects only. She requested that the Commissioners review it and make suggestions for additions or deletions at the next meeting. She also asked that they give thought toward how funds might be obtained to pay for printing costs. Her plan is to have it completed prior to the Open House in September.

Planned Giving Program – Mr. Symes reported that he is working with Town Attorney Grogins to identify an appropriate Gift Policy Document/Guideline for a municipality like Newtown. To date, he has sourced multiple policies from different environments in order to ensure completeness. Finance Director Tait will again be enlisted regarding appropriate financial measures to manage planned future gifts. Once these steps are completed, a *Planned Giving Program - Announcement & Education Plan* needs to be developed for the town that would cover the COA, Park & Rec, the Library and any other interested Newtown functions. The initial focus would be on pursuing cash gifts vs. complicated property transfers.



Strategic Planning Team – Ms. Torres reported that the Team continues to meet on Wednesday mornings and are moving forward with developing good ideas for the long and short term. Mr. Dwyer stated that they're planning to invite Chairman Ed Marks and Director Amy Mangold of the Parks & Recreation Commission to an informal meeting at the Senior Center at 7:30PM on June 26th to discuss the possibility of the COA coordinating with P&R on the construction of a building on the Fairfield Hills Campus that would include a Senior Center for one half and P&R's needs for the other half similar to what was proposed in 2009 but not realized. He requested the Commissioners to attend this meeting and reminded them that First Selectman Llodra suggested such a cooperative effort when she spoke at the COA's May meeting.

Victory Garden Row – Ms. Torres said that the crops are growing but not yet ready for harvesting and invited the Commissioners to help maintain the garden.

Visits to Senior Centers in Nearby Towns (Attachment A to original minutes) – Mr. Dwyer distributed fact sheets he had made up regarding the Monroe, Shelton, Redding and Oxford Senior Centers which contained information he obtained from his visits to each over the past three months with Ms. Place and several seniors. The visits were arranged by Ms. Place who reported that others are planned for the near future.

COA Open House in September – Ms. Place stated that the Open House will run for about three hours on September 15th, probably from 11:00am to 2:00pm with finger food to be served during the last hour. She's looking into the possibility of hiring a small band to provide background music. Her supply of T-shirts with NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER printed on them is depleted therefore she'll be asking the Commission for a withdrawal from the Gift Fund to pay for new ones when she knows the cost. She sells them at events such as this to raise money for the Center.

MINUTES OF APRIL 16, 2012 MEETING - Ms. Lydem moved to approve the Revised Minutes of May 21, 2012. Seconded by Ms. Imbro and approved 6 to 4.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Attachment B to the original minutes) - Ms. Aurelia distributed a report of current balances. Mr. Dwyer noted that the source of several deposits and the date the report was issued are not shown and he would like that such information be included in the future.

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR SERVICES REPORT (Attachment C to the original minutes) – Ms. Place distributed her Report for the period May 22, 2012 to June 18, 2012 and highlighted significant entries in it.

Regarding the Annual Statewide Outing at Holiday Hill on August 20th, she requested that \$660 be withdrawn from the Gift Fund to pay Getaway Tours who have been hired to transport Senior Center members to the event. She also requested an additional \$60.00 for use as a tip to the bus driver. Both withdrawals were unanimously approved.

She reminded the Commissioners of her request at the May meeting that they consider her alternate proposals for offsetting the cost of providing classes at the Senior Center, one of which being to increase the annual dues for membership from \$12.00 to \$24.00,

the other being to charge a fee for the classes that require a teacher. The matter was discussed at length but tabled for further review at next month's meeting because a decision is not needed until the middle of next year.

MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERY REPORT (Attachment D to the original minutes) – Ms. Piccini distributed and went over her Report dated June 18, 2012.

NEW BUSINESS – Mr. Dwyer reported that he has been looking into the matter of how attachments to our minutes are transmitted to the Commissioners and the Town Clerk. He said that Ms. Davis had called to his attention that the proper procedure would be to include them in the same email as the minutes, even though they were previously handed out at the meetings, but this is not being done. He stated that he has discussed this with the town clerk who has been receiving hard copies of our attachments from our clerks but would much prefer that they be sent to her as word documents in the same emails as the minutes. In view of this he plans to discuss this procedure with our clerk and see what can be done to implement it.

Mr. Schneider referred to First Selectman Llodra's address to the Commission last month and pointed out that although she stated that the securing of funding is necessary for getting a new Senior Center, she also said that another priority is obtaining the support of town officials for it. In view of this he would like to see the seniors more vocal on the matter, especially at election time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – There was none

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Margaret Wilkin, Clerk

MONROE (CT) SENIOR CENTER

Information obtained from visit there by Tom Dwyer, Marilyn Place and several seniors on March 9, 2012 plus some data from the Monroe website.

Address: 235 Cutlers Farm Rd., Monroe, CT 06468; telephone 203 452 6588

Date Built: 2003

Cost: Approximately \$1,500,000

Financing: \$500,000 from a Small Cities Community Block Grant; \$500,000 from the town of Monroe and \$500,000 from various other sources.

Size: 7,200 square feet

Description: A stand alone building. See photo on reverse side.

Parking: Sufficient for routine activities but not enough for big events.

Management: Barbara Yeager is the Director of Social and Senior Services; Mary Ann Kalm is the Social Services Coordinator and Kim Cassia is the Elderly Services Coordinator. Yeager's and Cassia's offices are in the Senior Center; Kalm's office is in the Town Hall, telephone 203 452 2813.

Membership: The minimum age for membership is 60 and they currently have 1,200 members of which 70% are Monroe residents

Annual Dues: \$4.00 per person for Monroe residents and \$5.00 per person for non-residents.

Other Charges: Fees in the \$3.00 to \$4.00 range are made for participation on at classes.

Approximate Daily Usage: Between 50 and 100.

Town Demographics:

Population: 19,479 in 2010
Median Household Income: \$85,000
Number Over 65: 2,045

Sharing Facilities With Other Organizations: The Grant they received prohibits the building's use for any purpose other than for seniors but this only applies to the first ten years therefore as of 2014 they'll be considering renting to others.

Hours & Days Open: Mondays through Fridays from 8:30AM to 4:30PM

Transportation: Two forms of transportation are available to places in Monroe, Trumbull, Bridgeport and Stratford; fixed route and dial-a-ride. Fees vary between \$2.00 and \$5.00 per round trip depending the type of ride used.

Commission on Aging: They have a COA but in recent years it's been very inactive. The last minutes posted on the town's website were those for a meeting that was held in June of in 2010.

Gif Fund: They don't have one.

Planned Giving: They don't have one.



OXFORD (CT) SENIOR CENTER

Information obtained from visit there by Tom Dwyer, Marilyn Place and others on May 17, 2012 plus some data from the internet.

Address: 10 Old Church Road, Oxford, CT 06478; telephone 203 881 5231. See photo on reverse side

Date Built: 2005. The Center previously consisted of a small room in the basement of the Town Hall.

Cost: \$1,896,000

Financing: Town funds plus a Small Cities Grant.

Size: 7,100 square feet.

Description: One large room with a series of smaller ones along the sides for pool (three tables), sewing, games, library, kitchen and offices plus a large patio and bocci court outside.

Parking: According to the Senior Center Director there's more than enough room to park cars.

Staff: The Senior Center Director is Pat Babbage and the Municipal Agent for the Elderly is Joanne Jelenik. Both have their offices in the Senior Center. The town does not have a Social Services Department.

Membership: They have 800 members which includes residents of other towns.

Annual Dues: \$3.00 for Oxford residents, \$5.00 for those from towns contiguous to Oxford and \$7.00 for all others. These payments go into a special fund which the Senior Center Director can use to pay for services to seniors.

Town Demographics as of 2010:

Population: 12,272

Median Household Income: \$101,107

Number Over 65: 1,068

Sharing Facilities With Other Organizations: There's no sharing because it's prohibited under the provisions of the Small Cities Grant which contributed toward the funding of the Center.

Hours & Days Open: 9:00AM to 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays only.

Transportation: They have four town owned vehicles available for their use; a passenger car and three vans that can take, respectively, nine, twelve and twenty passengers.

Commission on Aging: The town has an Elderly Commission which meets at 9:30AM on the first Thursday of each month in the library at the Senior Center and appears to function essentially the same as Newtown's Commission on Aging.

Gift Fund: They has a special fund for receiving donations for paying for senior services. More details are needed here.

Planned Giving: ?



SHELTON (CT) SENIOR CENTER

Information obtained from visit there by Tom Dwyer, Marilyn Place and several seniors on March 7, 2012 plus some data from the Shelton website.

Address: 61 Wheeler St., Shelton, CT 06484; telephone 203 924 9324.

Date Built: 1991

Cost: ?

Financing: ?

Size: 18,500 square feet

Description: A stand alone building that includes meeting rooms, lounges, a poolroom and snack bar. See photo on reverse side.

Parking: ?

Staff for Senior Services, Municipal Agent for the Elderly and Social Services: Kathy Ramia is the Director of the Senior Center and the Municipal Agent for the Elderly. The town does not have a Social Services Department.

Membership: The minimum age for membership is 55 and as of March of 2012 they have 2,786 paid members.

Annual Dues: \$4.00 for Shelton residents; \$7.00 for residents of Ansonia, Derby and Seymour and \$10.00 for other residents.

Charges For Senior Center Activities: ?

Town Demographics as of 2010:

Population: 39,559

Median Household Income: \$67,292

Number Over 65: 5,894

Sharing Facilities With Other Organizations: ?

Hours & Days Open: 9:00AM to 4:30PM Mondays through Fridays.

Transportation: ?

Commission on Aging: Although the Shelton website states that the city has a COA, there's no listing of its members or minutes of its meetings.

Gift Fund: ?

Planned Giving: ?



REDDING (CT) SENIOR CENTER a/k/a HERITAGE CENTER

Information obtained from visit there by Tom Dwyer, Marilyn Place and several seniors on May 14, 2012, plus some data from the Redding website.

Address: 37 Lonetown Rd., Redding, CT 06896.

Date Built: 2002.

Cost: ?

Financing: Paid for with town funds.

Size: *Approx. 6,000 square ft.*

Description: The Center occupies one half of the town's Community Center with the other half dedicated to the town's Parks & Recreation Department which includes a gymnasium. The surrounding area has four tennis courts and three multi-purpose playing fields. A photo of the Center is on the reverse side.

Parking: Usually very good unless the Parks & Recreation Department are hosting a big event.

Management: The Center is operated by the the town's office of Human Services which is located in the Center and also functions as the Municipal Agent for the Elderly and Social Service Department. Its Director is Gail Schiron, (telephone 203 938 3580) whose staff includes Marie Sibilio (telephone 203 938 9725), the Coordinator of the Senior Center.

Membership: No membership required; any town resident aged 55 or over can use it.

Annual Dues: None

Other Charges: \$5.00 is charged for classes that have an instructor; other classes are free.

Daily Usage: Between 30 and 50.

Town Demographics in 2000:

Population: 8,270

Median Household Income: \$104,137

Number Over 65: 925

Sharing Facilities With Other Organizations: Rooms at the Center are available for rental when not being used by the seniors with no fee charged to civic groups.

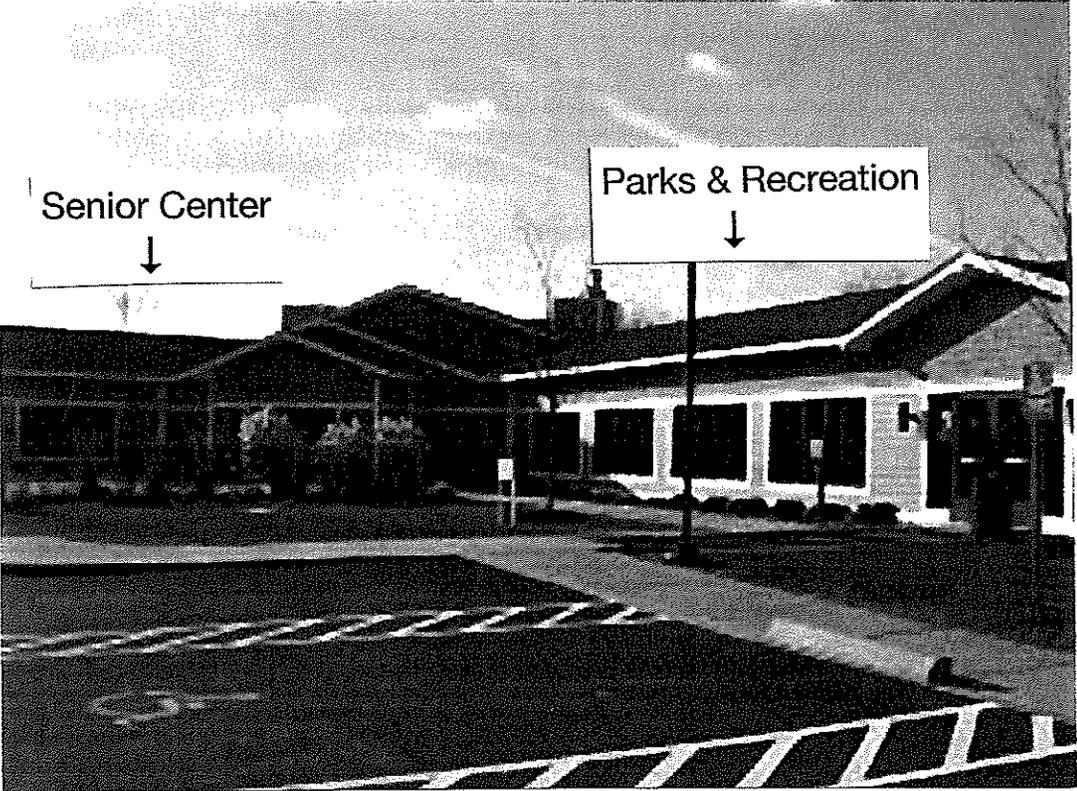
Hours & Days Open: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, 8:30AM to 5:30PM; Thursday, 8:30AM to 6:00PM; Closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Transportation: They have a van for transporting seniors to doctor appointments and shopping in Redding and nearby towns. The service is provided Monday through Thursday, 8:30AM to 4:00PM at no charge but reservations are required at least three days in advance.

Commission on Aging: The town has a Commission on Aging that meets at 9:00AM on the first Wednesday of each month in the Senior Center.

Gift Fund: They don't have one.

Planned Giving: They don't have one.



COMMISSION ON AGING GIFT FUND

ATTACHMENT "B"
JUNE 18, 2012

DATE	RECEIPTS/DISBURSEMENTS	C/R	C/D	FRANK KNOTTIS	
				TRUST FUND	BALANCE
7/1/11	Beginning Balance				46,802.45
7/22/11	J-47 Trust Distribution			593.87	47,396.32
8/22/11	Ck. #23633 Matthews Buses inc		(22,320.00)		25,076.32
8/22/11	J-79 Reimburse approp line for bus transp		(984.50)		24,091.82
9/30/11	J-79 Cash Receipts	10.00			24,101.82
10/20/11	J-53 Cash Receipts			593.87	24,695.69
10/20/11	J-53 Cash Receipts	3,017.60			27,713.29
11/1/11	Ck. #73626 Capellao's - Party		(1,025.00)		26,688.29
11/29/11	J-78 Cash Receipts	1,000.00			27,688.29
12/1/11	Ck. #74000 Winnie Carr		(450.00)		27,238.29
1/19/12	J-55 Cash Receipts			546.13	27,784.42
3/7/12	J-18 Cash Receipts	325.50			28,109.92
4/20/12	J-79 Cash Receipts			546.13	28,656.06
5/23/12	J-82 Cash Receipts	1,420.50			30,076.56
5/24/12	Pcard - lunch and learn program		(42.45)		30,034.10
		5,773.60	(24,821.95)	2,280.00	30,034.10

NEWTOWN SENIOR CENTER
Director of Senior Services
May 22, 2012 – June 18, 2012

- Confer w/ Senior Action Committee on space issues and their goals
- Meet weekly with COA Strategy Team
- Continue to visit area senior center facilities w/ COA and SAC members
- Work with NHS Career Center on upcoming iPad "Getting Started" class
- Plan special "Fashion Show and Tea" w/ inter-generational group "Bridges"
- Organize special planning for 40th anniversary quilt
- Confer w/ COA members on open house Saturday Sept 15
- Confer w/ police officer and Newtown Police Explorers (13-18 yr olds) for a tag sale on August 18 rain date Aug 25
- Begin new projects for Annual Bazaar
- Oversee all programming
- Program Shop
- 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 vacation schedules and changes
- Confer with RSVP on ongoing volunteer hours
- Continue to work with Ability Beyond Disabilities chorus program
- 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
- Set-up and cook for monthly themed luncheons &/or programming

COMPLETED TRIPS:

- "4 Troops" May 24
- 40's Swing Dance Party @ Villa Bianca June 13
- Westchester Broadway Dinner Theater "George M" June 14

UPCOMING TRIPS:

- The Queen of Bingo stage comedy @ Grand Oak Villa June 18
- Mohonk Mountain House during Music Week June 26
- Tall Ships Harborfest in Boston Harbor July 2
- Red, White and Blue Barbeque @ Villa Bianca July 11
- Lobster Feast @ The Log Cabin July 12
- Mohegan Sun July 26

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Lunch and Learn " Helping Caregivers when a loved one is seriously ill" July 20
- LifeLine Health Screening appt only June 22
- Wii Bowling Annual Tournament @ Sullivan Senior Center in Torrington July 25
- Coin Collector's speaker August 7
- Senior Center/Police Explorers Tag Sale August 18
- Annual Statewide Senior picnic @ Holiday Hill August 20
- Community education program series (5) continues to August 24

1. In regards to last months report, I would like to discuss further the possibility of either increase the amount for membership dues, which is \$12 pp per year (\$1 a month) (\$6.00 pp after Jan.) to \$24 pp per year (\$2 a month) OR charge for paid teacher classes. I prefer the \$24 instead of a fee per class.
Or new classes would have a fee.
Would like your input.
2. Jody Murphy RN will do a special "Breathing" class for the exercise group after they finish their class on Wed. June 20 @ 11:30. Also, Jody will be doing a GoodLife Challenge for one month. (no deep fried foods). Those completing the challenge receives a certificate and a thankful heart.
3. Annual Statewide Senior Outing at Holiday Hill will be Monday August 20th. I will be requesting COA gift fund monies to sponsor the transportation again this year. All inclusive price is still \$28 pp.
4. I have 3 quotes from bus companies for the transportation to Holiday Hill

Coach Tours \$895 plus 10% for bus driver tip
DATTCO Coach \$1000
Getaway Tours \$660 we add on bus driver tip

I would like to request \$660 from the COA gift fund for the transportation on August 20th made out to Getaway Tours. Also 10% tip to bus driver. Our van will also be used if needed.
5. Flowers were purchased and planted in the boxes and patio pots. Seniors love the choice of mixed annuals and perennials and also helped with the planting.
6. Senior Center/Newtown Police Explorers Tag sale is scheduled for Saturday August 18 from 9-3.
7. Open House will be Saturday Sept 15. This does not conflict w/ the Health Fair which is Sept 22.
8. Small day trips on the van are being scheduled , for instance

Captain's Cove in Black Rock
Eicher's Cove for picnic/swim
Port Jefferson, NY ferry
Kent Falls
And every Tuesday afternoon ice cream at many venues in the area to choose from

Always busy!

Marilyn



4th Annual Wii Bowling Invitational Tournament

Wednesday, July 25th

*Hosted & Sponsored by the
Sullivan Senior Center*

“Lightning Strikes”

88 East Albert Street, Torrington, Ct 06790

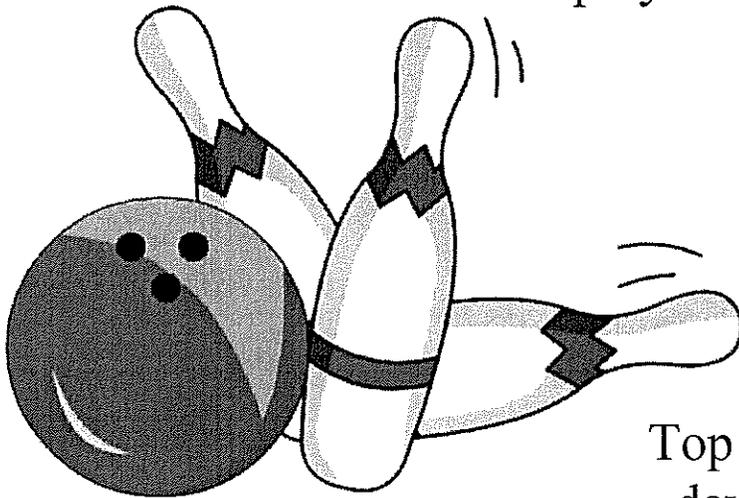
9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

9:00a.m. – 9:30a.m. - Registration

No Entry Fee!

Teams of four bowlers – two alternates if desired

Teams will play three matches



Prizes Categories:

1st Place Team

2nd Place Team

3rd Place Team

High Individual Series

High Individual Game

Top 12 Individual Scorers of the
day will play one game for an
Individual Championship Title!

Continental Breakfast and Afternoon Snack will be served

Congregate Lunch available for a \$3.00 donation

Advanced Reservations Required for Lunch

A Raffle will be available to help fund the day!



Senior Center member Doris Travis dressed up in a specially decorated hat and gloves for the Annual Senior Center Mother's Day Bingo and Tea, Wednesday, May 23. Women from the center are celebrated each year for Mother's Day, and decorating and wearing fancy hats is part of the tradition.



Newtown Senior Center Director Marilyn Place, left, and Commission on Aging board member Karen Aurelia show off the chocolate and white chocolate roses that they crafted, to present to each of the women attending the Annual Mother's Day Bingo and Tea.

—Bee Photos, Crevi

In Celebration Of Mothers

BY NANCY K. CREVIER

Most of their mothers are only memories now, but several of the women present at the Wednesday, May 23, Senior Center Mother's Day Bingo and Tea recalled their mothers vividly.

"She was a very talented, lovely, and beautiful woman," said Marianne Muskus about her mother. "She was a professional hairdresser and absolutely gorgeous," she said.

What Rose West remembered about her mother was "her love, her generosity, and her beautiful singing voice — and her hugs. We never left the house without a hug," she said.

"She was a poor girl, very hard-working, and became very successful with her own business. That was not so usual for a woman in her day," Heidi Roesch said of her mother. "She was born in 1900," she added.

Phyllis Fives thought for a moment about her mother, and then said, "She would invite people in and make Italian dishes for everyone. She was always cooking," said Ms Fives. Laughing, she added, "That's not something she passed on to me!"

"My mother was a kind and caring person," Helen Szamotula recalled. "She took care of everybody," Ms Szamotula said.

"This tea is something we do every year, and we just love doing it," said Senior Center Director Marilyn Place, who, along with Commission on Aging board member Karen Aurelia, was hurrying



An array of homemade treats fills a table prior to the start of the tea party honoring mothers, at the Newtown Senior Center May 23. Volunteers, Senior Center Director Marilyn Place, and Commission on Aging board member Karen Aurelia donated the baked goods.

to set up the display of cookies, bars, and cakes before the event. The elaborately decorated hats worn by many of the guests that day were ones that they had made themselves at an earlier workshop, Ms Place said, and were a tradition for the annual party.

Ms Muskus, Ms West, Ms Roesch, Ms Fives, and Ms Szamotula were among two dozen women celebrated at the annual Mother's Day Bingo and Tea. Following Bingo in the main room, the women retired to the sunroom at the back of the Riverside Road Senior Center, where they were seated at elegantly set tables.

Each table featured a teapot from the personal collection of Marilyn Place, and china cups and plates were set at each place.

The honored guests could choose from herbal or regular teas presented to them by members of the Bridges group, young women from Newtown Middle School who visit the center regularly to take part in intergenerational activities. Serving tea and a selection of sweet and savory treats made by volunteers were Kati Moses, Ann Pruner, Amanda Trampusch, Elizabeth Wolf, Josefina Mendez, Julie Smith, Jillian Gibney, and Mackenzie Page.

Along with an afternoon of conversation, tea, and dessert, each of the women present at the party received a gift of a glass candy dish filled with a variety of homemade candies, and was presented with chocolate or white chocolate roses at the end of the afternoon.

Seniors Advised On Medicare Notices And Fraud Protection

By NANCY K. CREVIER

Eric Freedman, CHOICES counselor assisting Connecticut citizens to better understand Medicare and health care options and a Senior Medicare Patrol coordinator of volunteers, was at the Newtown Senior Center on Riverside Road, Tuesday afternoon, May 22, to discuss how to understand the information in the Medicare summary notices and how to fight fraud.

Mr. Freedman stressed the various ways in which the summary notices can be misunderstood, and how easily billing or diagnosis code errors can occur. Reporting health care errors, fraud, and abuse is actually beneficial to clients, doctors, and to Medicare, he said. He provided a handout dissecting a summary notice, which is not a bill, listing the important points that should be checked for mistakes. Make sure the Medicare number on the notice is accurate, and check that the date matches the day a test was given or processed, and that the charge was for a service provided.

Look for the Medicare logo and check that the provider name and address, or medical supply company name is correct.

"But what looks like fraud often is not," noted Mr. Freedman. "The charges may be for things you are not aware of. Do you know your radiologist's name and where they are located?" he asked the attentive group of more than two dozen Senior Center members. "The radiologist, for example, may be located in another town, or the billing service may be in another town, so the address will be different than your doctor's," he said.

With thousands of numbers making up billing and diagnostic codes, it is not unlikely that errors can occur, said Mr. Freedman, resulting in a problem when payment is refused or overpay-



Eric Freedman, right, talks to an attentive audience at the Newtown Senior Center, Tuesday, May 22, concerning Medicare fraud and scams aimed at senior citizens.

—Bee Photo, Crevier

ment is made. "Call your doctor if you think there is a mistake. The claim should be resubmitted. When the right code is entered, the problem is solved," he said.

There is no doubt, though, that Medicare fraud does happen, he warned. Medicare fraud is easier now than 30 years ago, because a physical

presence is no longer required to steal a card or get into an office. "It can be done by computer. A thief can be anyone they want now," Mr. Freedman said, and cautioned the seniors to stay alert to charges they do not recognize on the summaries. On a more positive note, he said, Medicare now is using the power of new technol-

ogy to track down fraud.

An appointment information sheet was out at the May 22 program. "Or just use book," he told the group. "Write down what date of your appointment, what kind of service you received, and the charge if you can find it," he suggested. By comparing that information with the summary notice, it can be less confusing, he said.

Mr. Freedman also discussed common phone and computer scams. One in particular aimed at older people, and one member said she had received such a call. The call purportedly was from her grandson, who is away at college. The speaker said he had traveled to Canada, given some people a ride, who turned out to be in the drug trade. When stopped by police, they were all arrested and he was in jail. He urged her not to tell his parents and to please write the money to get out. When she asked how to do it, he told her "Thousands. I said I didn't have that kind of money, and he hung up. It was definitely fraud," she said, and Mr. Freedman agreed.

Unfortunately, he said, these calls of money made at night to enhance the confusion of some people do end up sending money to people who are definitely not related. He said he knows a person has a grandson, Mr. Freedman responded to that question, is completely

dom. "It's a common scam. The details change, but not the final request," he said. He reminded the audience that they have spent years developing a common sense. "This is no time to lose your mind. Hang up. Take a deep breath, and call your grandson. Call his parents. You have time to think about it," cautioned Mr. Freedman.

To avoid fraud, whether in Medicare or Medicaid, he said, prevention, Mr. Freedman said, is the best thing.

**Director of Social Services/Municipal Agent
For The Elderly
Report for June 18, 2012**

I have used all the money Operation Fuel allocated. I am hoping to get more for the summer program. Their income has to be below the 200% of the poverty guidelines.

The State of Ct., Office of Policy and Management has started the Rental Rebate Program for Totally Disabled and Elderly. The program has been installed on our computers. We have twelve applicants completed.

I am still seeing three seniors on a weekly basis. One woman who is blind, I check her mail, complete forms or pay bills. I am trying to get her to install a life line and she keeps saying no. The senior who is getting home care three days a week is doing well. The third senior left last week to live with her daughter.

I received a call from the First Selectman's Office that they had an elderly man who was going to hitch hike to Danbury because his ride for a doctor appointment did not show. I brought him to the doctor's office to find out that his appointment was for the week before. He also talked about hitch hiking several times during the last year since his driver's license was suspended.

One client called today to say he has his cell phone. This should be a help if his phone goes out again. He is disabled and gets upset if he cannot call for help.

We will be helping seniors purchase their landfill pass on the internet. They may be able to get a discount.

The Food Pantry in my office has been getting many donations and we have enough food for several months. Presently about twenty seniors use the pantry weekly.

I saw five elderly at their homes to complete Medicaid applications and eight with renewals for Medicare Savings Program. We have helped fifteen people this month with Medicare and the drug card. Several are looking for information because they are planning to retire soon.

