



## COMMISSION ON AGING

### TOWN HALL

DARIEN, CONNECTICUT 06820

RECEIVED  
10:00 AM  
JUN 10 2009  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE  
DARIEN CT.

Meeting: May 20, 2009.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

Present: Joseph Pankowski, Jennifer Geddes, Mary Giarratana, Norman Guimond, Ron Heinbaugh, Karen Joelson, Mary McCarthy, Pat Morgan, Amy Squyres, Robin Woods. Tom Valentino attended the meeting – he possibly could be our next Treasurer. Also in attendance: Evonne Klein (1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman,) Karl Kildoff (Town Administrator,) Olive Hauser (ex-officio/social services.)

Joseph Pankowski passed out the Minutes of the April 29<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting. The COA members took a few minutes to read them, discussed them, and then approved the minutes.

Regarding 'Beach passes' Olive Hauser stated that seniors could also obtain a 'letter' instead of a pass which would also be accepted to get into the beaches/parks. It would have to be in the possession of the senior and can be obtained from either her or her office.

Correction: It was stated in the April 15<sup>th</sup> COA minutes that Norman Guimond spoke to 3 developers regarding the 35 Leroy Avenue Buildings. He corrected that statement - there were only 2 developers involved.

Karl Kildoff handed out a Proposed Senior Center Organization paper that outlined the procedure that would be followed and who would report to which departments. Discussion followed – what the director duties are now and what the new director would do. Also passed out

were job summaries for the Senior Center Coordinator and for the PT Senior Programs Assistant. Also a Senior Center Functional Needs paper outlining the different programs and what is needed to be done and assigned staff.

#### Senior Center Report (Nancy Zengo)

- May 4<sup>th</sup>> The Senior Men's Choral Group sang for the seniors.
- May 5<sup>th</sup>> Lee Mintz from Family Services spoke on programs to help seniors to Stay At Home. It was a wonderful program and was full of great information.
- May 11<sup>th</sup>> Park Street singers entertained the seniors. An enjoyable program.
- May 18<sup>th</sup>> Alyssa Israel from Aging In Place spoke on all the programs that are available to the seniors.
- May 26<sup>th</sup>> Jackie Pace will be speaking on the 'Resistance in France' and her first hand knowledge. This at 12:45 PM.
- Two of our active volunteer seniors at the SC were honored at the Community Fund luncheon. The volunteers: Marion Kirsch and Phyllis Ryan.
- June 17<sup>th</sup>> Our Volunteer Luncheon. Please RSVP to Nancy Zengo.

#### Thursday/Friday Report: (Carolynn Lewis)

- Gerard O'Sullivan, Program Manager from the State of CT Insurance Co., Consumer Affairs Division, spoke at the Center about how to shop wisely for insurance and how to avoid scams. Very positive feedback was received about the content of his talk, especially as it related to the State's advocacy role on behalf of CT's consumers and their anti fraud prevention mandate.
- The Clutter workshop held last month was extremely successful and the leader, Jen Burke definitely hit a note with many seniors in the community.
- Norwalk Community College's Life Time Learner's classes will end this month. Classes in oil, acrylic painting and sculpture will continue under our direction.
- The Ballet class and other interested seniors will travel to N.Y. City at the end of the month to see an American Ballet Theater performance – the ballet 'La Corsaire' at Lincoln Center. Lunch will be at a local bistro prior to the performance.

- Our Center and the New Canaan SC will travel to the N. Y. Botanical Gardens. This month they are celebrating Holland with large swaths of bright flowering bulbs inspired by the great tulip and lily gardens of Holland. Lunch will be at 'Emilio's' a well known Italian restaurant on Arthur Avenue ( the 'Heart of Little Italy' ) and prior to their tour.
- The new Thursday discussion/support group, 'Remember When' has started and the participants are enthusiastic and really enjoying reminiscing and sharing their own experiences. Discussions are from both a personal and historical perspective. Discussions are generated from a book entitled 'A Visual Timeline of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.
- A 'Senior Fitness' class will start this month on Thursday afternoons. It will be taught by Laura Baere, M.A. who holds her Master's Degree from Florida State University in Kinesiology and Women's Fitness Practices. She has a special interest in providing exercise instruction to all seniors but in particular those who suffer from chronic diseases or disabilities.

Olive Hauser stated Taxi vouchers have been printed for seniors. \$2.50 each for the \$5.00 voucher. Minimum book of 5.

Joseph Pankowski asked Tom Valentine to attend our meeting to see if he might be interested in the Treasurer/Financial position that was vacated by Alexander Liu.

Robin Woods questioned the update on the elevator for wheelchairs and disabled seniors.

Karen Joelson asked that 'Aging In Place' be put on the June agenda.

Joe Pankowski asked that we bring 'issues' to the next meeting so they can be discussed and corrected.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Matteis.