

# BETHEL SENIOR CENTER

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center  
1 School Street, Bethel, CT. 06801  
Telephone: 203-792-3048; Fax: 203-744-3812

## Report to the Commission on Aging Bethel, CT.

Date: 11-13-12

### OLD BUSINESS

- Lisa Plumb, Al Barney and Heather Rogalski set a date to look at a new stove in Waterbury, however, the date set turned out to be the day of the Nor'Easter Winter storm. The three will set another date in the near future.
- At the last meeting it was discussed to have the cafeteria painted. Some of the paint is peeling and dirty and needs to be painted. Since the last meeting Tracy Rogalski, from the Public Works Department, has authorized that paint and supplies would be purchased from the town. Lisa would organize volunteers to paint the room. Tracy has purchased the paint and supplies and volunteers began painting the hallway near the art room at the end of October. They will continue painting the hallway and will begin painting the cafeteria next. Several members have commented on the excellent job the volunteers have done.
- A second "Going Green" meeting was held Oct. 17 at 10:30 a.m. Four committee members attended and agreed to continue the meetings quarterly. A new recycle bin has been purchased and labeled in the Card Room. Members agreed it looks much better than garbage bags on top of the cart in the Card Room. Other issues discussed were having a compost container on the property outside to begin compost for a spring garden. Members viewed several options including a tabletop compost container and outside bins. Members will discuss options with other members not at the meeting and continue the discussion at the next meeting. Members will continue to look into a trash recycle dumpster, having a fundraiser shredding truck come and other methods to recycle throughout the senior center.
- The Coat / Winter Wear Drive is being held. Several people both members, and people from the community have taken advantage of the free coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens offered for free to anyone in need. No questions were asked to those who desired a new item. The coat rack and winter wear are being displayed next to the Ceramic Studio. This seems to be a comfortable area for people to look privately at the items displayed.
- The VNA did 3 flu clinics in September/October. The total number of flu shots given was: 9/14-50 people; 10/4-75 people; 10/12-40 people received flu shots.
- The new classes started in October/November had the following participants:
  - Craft class - 6 members weekly.
  - Cake Decorating - 4 people
  - Bike Club - 2 new people

Book Club - 4  
Game show - 10  
Computer Clinic - 8 (maximum)  
Movies - 18 people  
Music Appreciation - 3  
Piano 2  
Sewing -2  
Walking - Average: 3 (Ranges from 2-7 people)

- The Live Well Workshop has almost ended that Ana and Lisa led in October/November. One make-up class will be held Nov. 26 due to a weather cancellation. Ten members participated. There was obvious growth in participant's confidence and enthusiasm with the program. Members will complete a survey at the last class that may be shared at the next Commission meeting.
- Three lectures were held in October:
  - a. Legislative Director from Chris Murphy's office - 18 attended
  - b. Bill Caron spoke on Medicare changes - 19 attended
  - c. Angelo Giordano of Bankers Life & Casualty - 8 attended,It is difficult to know the best time to attract members to the lectures. Some attend because they are at the BSC; others attend specifically for the lecture.
  - Spoke to Wendy Smith, Selectman's Secretary, and inquired about getting a replacement for the vacancy position on the Commission of Aging Committee. Wendy was going to speak to the Selectman regarding the position and will follow up with Lisa Plumb. Lisa gave Wendy three names of possible candidates for him to consider.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- New programs
  - The new Book Club held their first meeting on Tues., Nov. 6. The Librarian from the Bethel Library led the meeting. Four people attended. The members that attended were very pleased the book club has been started again.
- Upcoming Special Events / Programs
  - Information Technology Day at Bethel High School. Members will have an opportunity to learn from the experts...the high school students. Members must sign up at the BSC, but will meet at BHS on Dec. 12 to learn about the computer, laptop, IPAD, Ipad, smart phone.
    - Holiday Programs including an old fashion holiday singalong, holiday craft class, Cookie Baking, Cookie Exchange, Holiday Concert, Holiday Party, New Year's Party.
    - Local Author Book Signing, also a BSC member, Joesph Farris, will give a lecture and book signing on Dec. 13. Mr. Farris is a Cartoonist (New Yorker magazine), Illustrator, Author, Painter.

- Trips & Travel
- Past trips:
  - Foxwood Casino. 33 members attended the show, 55 total.
  - Members enjoyed the show.
  - Westchester Dinner Theatre, saw Fiddler on the Roof. 29 attended.
  - Excellent show, food was very good.
  - Virginia Beach Trip. 5 days. 14 BSC members attended. All had a great time. One excursion was cancelled. The tour guide substituted another trip to a zoo and participants were very pleased.
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**Upcoming trips for December:**

Tony Kenny: An Irish Christmas at Westchester Dinner Theatre on Dec. 18.

Mohegan Sun Casino, Dec. 4.

There will be a Travel Committee meeting scheduled in December to organize trips and travel plans for 2013.

**Volunteer Program**

5 volunteers from Danbury Healthcare continue to volunteer at BSC while they are on strike. They have been painting the hallway in the senior center and will begin painting the cafeteria once the hall is completed.

The Friends of the Seniors recently recognized the volunteers with a generous gift card donation. The cards will be presented to the volunteers before the holiday at a special volunteer "surprise" party.

One additional volunteer joined the BSC and will volunteer regularly on Monday mornings.

**Accidents / Incidents**

No accidents since the last meeting.

One incident involving two members arguing and using inappropriate language in the senior center. Both members were spoken to privately and the behavior has not been repeated.

**Shelter**

The BSC was closed the week of Oct. 29 - Nov 2 due to inclement weather (Hurricane Sandy) and the Red Cross operating a shelter at the Municipal Center. The building was opened as a warming station, recharging station (cell phones/computers), and shelter for food and sleeping accommodations to those without utility services. Lisa worked the shelter which allowed for close interaction with other Departments in the Municipal Center. Also the senior center area was opened during the shelter exposing the center to local residents who do not usually attend the shelter. Movies were offered and various games and activities. People who stayed in the shelter and participated with the meals were very appreciative.

**REQUESTS for the Senior Center**

Three requests were submitted to the Friends of the Seniors at their last meeting:

1. Barbecue grill. The request was granted and a beautiful grill was purchased by the FoS.

2. Newspaper subscription. The Friends of the Seniors decided to have a BSC member who attends daily bring in his newspaper to see if people are interested in reading it. The member was keeping track of members reading the newspaper and stated that 3-5 members consistently read the newspaper. Some days 7 people are noticed reading the paper. It is of my opinion that this would be a benefit for our members to have a subscription to the newspaper so a paper is available for them to read.
3. Additional entertainment for the BSC. This request was tabled.

Submitted By: Lisa Plumb

**Lisa Plumb, Senior Center Director / Municipal Agent**

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## **Municipal Agent Report**

**11-13-12**

1. Four (4) telephone calls during the past month regarding Municipal agent referral information.
2. Set up one meeting regarding Part D Medicare prescription plans.
3. Lisa spoke to the Director of the Choices program for the State of CT regarding training for the Choices program / Medicare. She was informed the programs in the State are currently filled and no additional programs will be offered this year. The program will be revised for next year and no information is available at this time.
4. The medical equipment that has been loaned the past month to Bethel resident's includes one wheelchair for loan and one wheelchair that was loaned temporarily as someone came in to vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Plumb  
Municipal Agent