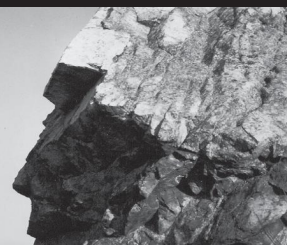


The Senior Profile



Freetown Council on Aging - 227 Chace Road - East Freetown, MA 02717-1008
Office hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Friday 7:30 AM to 10:30 AM
Closed February 21, 2022 for Presidents' Day

Telephone: 508-763-9557, Fax: 508-763-9084, E-mail: COA@freetownma.gov

The distribution of this newsletter is made possible (in whole or part)

By a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs

The Council on Aging's purpose is to help and serve seniors. There is no membership.

Everyone is invited to participate in all activities at the senior center. Come by and enjoy!

NEW: Bereavement Group

Limited space, please call the Senior Center to be added to the list.

There really is no "wrong way" to grieve the loss of a loved one. Most of us experience a whole range of emotions and feelings. It is important to reach out and talk to someone and even cry with someone when you need to in a safe place. Continuum Care Hospice of Southeastern MA will be providing a Bereavement Support Group right here in Freetown at the Council on Aging The 3rd Tuesday of every month from 10 AM to 11 AM. Facilitated by Rev. Lawrence (Rev. Larry) Smith, Bereavement Coordinator with Continuum care Hospice. All are welcomed! First Meeting will be February 17, at 10:00 AM

Submitted by Continuum Care Hospice

Public Health Nurse Clinic

Lori Desmarais, RN, BSN, the Freetown Public Health Nurse is available on the Second Tuesdays of the month. She will be here Tuesday, February 15th, from 10:00 am-11:00 am at the COA for Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar Monitoring, Wound Assessment, Vitamin B12 injections (as prescribed), Health Education and Promotion, and Home Visitation for Homebound Residents (Assessment/Referral). *Submitted by Lori Desmarais*

Volunteer Needed

We are currently looking for a volunteer to fill in and run the BINGO game on Tuesdays at 1:00 on an as needed basis. Please call the COA at 508-763-9557 if you are interested. Thank you.

Submitted by Council on Aging

AARP Income Tax Service

We will have representatives from AARP at the COA to help seniors with their taxes on Mondays and Tuesdays, starting February 7th, at 8:45 AM.to 3:00 PM **Please call the COA for an appointment and further information.**

NEW: Brain Builders:

Buzzards Bay Speech Therapy invites you to Brain Builders. Mondays 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM and Wednesdays 7:00 PM-8:00 PM. Join us on-line or by phone for classes to help improve **memory, word finding and thinking skills, socialization**. Use the Zoom app to connect with us by video or call in by phone. Home practice program also available. Presented by: Lisa Yauch-Cadden, MS CCC-SLP, Kari Star, MA CCC-SLP and Lori Yauch, MA CCC-SLP. For more information and to obtain the link to connect with us contact Lisa at 508-326-0353; lycslp@gmail.com; @buzzardsbayspeech

Submitted by Buzzards Bay Speech Therapy

Book Club

Calling all Book Lovers! The Freetown Public Libraries and the Council on Aging have a monthly book club! Books will be provided by the library and will be available in Hardcover, Large Print and Audiobook Format. Meetings will be held at the **Police Station Community Room** on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 AM. Next meeting on February 16th we will discuss *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion.

Submitted by The Freetown Public Libraries

Art Class Please call before attending.

Wednesdays, 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM, instructor Betty Ashley. This is a chance to work on or in class projects and get instruction on an as needed basis. Some group acrylic, water color and drawing demonstrations will be given at this ongoing class.

FUEL ASSISTANCE

Please call the COA when you receive your application to make an appointment. There are forms and paperwork you must collect to fill out the Fuel Assistance form.

Annual Income: 1 Person-\$40,951

2 People-\$53,551

3 People-\$66,151

Podiatrist

Dr. Markowitz, will be here Thursday, March 10th, at 9:00 AM. You must call Dr. Markowitz to make an appointment at **1-401-455-3554**.

PROGRAMS: Please call before visiting.

Pool Table: Mondays at 9:00 AM

Knitting/Crochet/Embroidery: Mondays at 10:00

Cards: Mondays at 1:00 PM

Bingo: Tuesdays at 1:00 PM

Art Class: Wednesday at 9:00 AM

Scrabble: Thursdays at 1:00 PM

Senator and Representatives

Representative Paul Schmid office phone-617-722-2210

Senator Michael Rodrigues office phone-508-673-8408

Representative Carole Fiola 617-722-2430

VETERAN'S AGENT

Bob Klevecka is our Veteran's Agent if you need his services, please call 508-763-3190, Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

We want to hear from you!

Please call the Senior Center at 508-763-9557 with your suggestions of activities you would be interested in participating in! We look forward to hearing your ideas. Thank you!

Submitted by Council on Aging

Transfer Station Survey:

Please call the Senior Center to make an appointment if you would like to fill out the Transfer Station Survey. It's a quick survey and has to be completed here at the Senior Center. We appreciate your input. This will help us better serve your Transfer Station needs.

OUR GROCERY ROOM

If you need some extra food or essential items, please call the COA and we can put together some groceries for you. We also have adult incontinence pads and undergarments. We can set up a time to pick up in the back of the building, curbside, or if you are unable to drive, we can deliver them. Please call us, we do like hearing from you. If we do not pick up, please leave us a message and we will get back to you. We are still getting donations.

Annie Maxim House, Inc.

Housing Assistance Program

Does your home have a need for repairs that you cannot afford to fix? The Annie Maxim House Housing Assistance Program may be able to help!! The program provides funding for small home repairs in order to enhance the health, safety and quality of life for elders who are 62 years of age or older.

Please note the program is designed to *enhance the safety of your life* and ensure your needs are being met. Projects are restricted budget wise to accommodate *small versus large* repairs. Examples of past projects funded include:

- ✓ Repair of wooden steps to ensure safety
- ✓ Installing hand rails to minimize fall risk
- ✓ Funding of stair chair lift to access second floor bedroom.
- ✓ Repair of broken window for safety/improve heating

If you experience financial hardship and have a need for a small home repair, please call the Annie Maxim House at (508) 763-2494 for further information!

Submitted by Annie Maxim House

Brown Bag" Program

Wednesday, February 23rd

From 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

AT THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING

"Brown Bag" distribution will be held at the Freetown Council on Aging. You must be 60 years of age or older. Recipients must be low income, as measured by participation in (or eligibility for) at least one other program in which proof of income has been demonstrated. This includes elders who are eligible for SSI, Medicaid, Fuel Assistance and Food Stamps, OR your gross household income is at or below the guidelines listed.

1 person	\$1,872 per month
2 people	\$2,538 per month
3 people	\$3,204 per month
4 people	\$3,870 per month

For questions call 508-763-9557.

We will deliver the brown bag if you cannot pick it up. If not picked up by Thursday, we will donate it.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Home Improvement & Repair Loans and Grants (Section 504) are funded directly by the Government. These loans and grants are available to assist people who live in rural communities with a population of 20,000 or less.

Purpose: The Very Low-Income Housing Repair program provides loans and grants to very low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their dwellings or to remove health and safety hazards.

→504 GRANTS

- Applicant must live in an eligible town
- Applicant must be 62 years of age or older
- Applicant must own and occupy a modest dwelling
- Applicant must have a very low income and be unable to repay a loan at 1% annual interest rate
- The repairs and improvements to be made must be necessary to make the dwelling safe and sanitary and/or remove health and safety hazards.

→A 504 Grant can be approved for up to \$7,500. The applicant does not have to pay the grant back to the government, but will be required to remain in the dwelling for a period of three years after receiving the grant.

→The total assistance available through the Section 504 Program is \$27,500, which could consist of a combination loan and grant.

→504 LOANS

- Applicant must live in an eligible town
- Applicant must be at least 18 years of age
- Applicant must own and occupy a dwelling
- Applicant must have a very low income and be able to repay a loan at 1% annual interest rate
- The repairs and improvements may be general repairs to improve or modernize the property, as long as the dwelling remains modest.

→ **A 504 Loan can be approved for \$20,000 at a 1% interest rate which is payable over 20 years.**

Income limits yearly by household for Freetown:

1 \$25,600 2 \$29,250 3 \$32,900 4 \$36,600

To contact Rural Development please call 508-295-5151, extension 4, TDD: 413-253-4590, or on the web at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ma

LOAN CLOSET

We have a medical shed-loan closet if you need any equipment. We just ask that you return them for the next person when you no longer need them.

Canes, crutches, wheel chairs, commodes, walkers, shower chairs and benches, etc. We also have adult incontinence products if you need them. Please call us for availability. We also accept donations of above equipment.

The Tuesday Club of Assonet Fund Raiser

We now have Red Heart Signs for you to purchase! You can call Dottie at 508-644-2459 to purchase signs. They are \$5.00 each. New locations will be added as the weather turns colder.

Please visit our web page to see what we do! Visit us at www.tuesdayclubofassonet.org. Look for more fundraising plans from us in the near future! As always, Thank you for your support.

As one of our members so eloquently said:

A red heart is a symbol used to express gratitude, love, happiness and hope. "I feel the red heart expresses our gratitude and love to the residents of Freetown who are helping us to share love and hope with scholarships for our high school seniors and with donations to various charities in our community! This fundraiser is one way to accomplish our goals! I am so looking forward to when we can hold our annual Strawberry Festival."

Submitted by Tuesday Club of Assonet

VAN SCHEDULING, Please be sure to wear a mask, for your safety and ours. Thank you!

The van will be running a little differently, we can only have one person, unless in same household, in our vehicle at a time. If you have an appointment, we must make sure it does not interfere with another one.

The van runs every **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday**. Please call the COA at 508-763-9557 for further information. We must have at least a 48-hour notice for the van.

In order to be more efficient with the van when you call in, please have the exact name, address and phone number of your destination, and if you need the wheelchair lift. We can no longer schedule without this information. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

FCC Committee Members Wanted

The Freetown Cultural Council (FCC) is seeking active members to sit on the Board. If you are interested in joining the FCC Board, please write a letter of intent and send it to the FCC at town hall or email to FCC@freetownma.gov. If you would like to volunteer at an event before committing to join the Board, or have questions, you may contact Chandler by email.

Submitted by S. Chandler, Secretary FCC

NOTICE OF VACANCY:

Board of Registrars Vacancy

Submitted by Town Clerk

FREETOWN COUNCIL ON AGING
227 CHACE ROAD
EAST FREETOWN, MA 02717-1008
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STD.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #PI 112
ROCHESTER, MA 02770

STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS:

Barbara A. Place, Director
Andrea Lima, Senior Clerk, Editor
Jacqueline Garell, Senior Clerk, Editor

COA Board:

Marion E. Rylands—Chair Person
Robin L. Kendrick—Co-Chair Person
Bruce W. Wilbur—Treasurer

Ruth A. Ferland
Victoria A. Brownell
Alfred C. Barros
Evelyn M. Alves

Van Drivers:

Judy A. Reese
John E. Pye, Jr.
Donna M. Silva

