

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

As of now our offices are still closed to the public until further notice

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!

**DUE TO UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES,
WE ARE SHORT HANDED AT THIS TIME.
PLEASE CALL THE SENIOR CENTER
MONDAY-THURSDAY 9:AM TO 1:00 PM
FOR SERVICES**

SHINE: (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone)

I am available to answer questions and address concerns throughout the year. If you become eligible for Medicare during 2021 or need any assistance, please contact the Council on Aging and they will get your information to me. Until guidelines for Covid change, I will continue to assist you via phone calls.

Submitted by Brenda Motta, SHINE Counselor

COA Van

At this time, our van is available for anyone who may need a ride to the store or doctor's office. You must call the office and give us the date, time, address and phone number, if it is a doctor visit. We will see if we are available, limit of one person, unless in same household, on van. Masks required.

Tax News

We will start doing tax returns Tuesday, March 2. However, because we are still in the COVID epidemic, we cannot have in-person taxpayer contact. Taxpayers will have to come to the center, where we will scan all your documents, and return your originals to you. You will have to return either later that day or on the next tax preparation day to pick up your return. More information will be sent to you when you sign up for an appointment.

Submitted by Sister Joseph Marie



Stay Connected to the Town of Freetown

There are a number of ways to receive informational updates from the Town of Freetown.

- 1.) Town website: freetownMA.gov
- 2.) Subscribe to Town news updates, meeting agendas and meeting minutes: freetownMA.gov/subscribe
- 3.) Video Recordings of Meetings: freetownMA.gov/FREECAM
- 4.) Subscribe to Freetown Flash! Freetown's Citizen Notification System: freetownMA.gov/FreetownFlash
- 5.) Facebook: facebook.com/FreetownMA
- 6.) Twitter: [@FreetownMA](https://twitter.com/FreetownMA)

STAY SAFE AND CONNECTED

James White Memorial Library Appointments

The James White Memorial Library in East Freetown has re-opened for browsing by appointment. Masks or face coverings are required for entry into the library. To schedule an appointment, please contact the James White Memorial Library directly at 508-763-5344. For more information on the guidelines in place for this reopening, please call the library or visit freetownma.gov/libraryCOVIDreopening.

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. New applicants please call the COA to make an appointment. You have until April to apply.

Annual Income: 1 Person-\$39,105

2 People-\$51,137

3 People-\$63,169

Brown Bag” Program

Wednesday, March 24th

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.

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

Senator and Representatives

There are no office hours at this time. Please call their office if you need assistance.

Senator Michael Rodrigues: 617-722-1114

Representative Paul Schmid: 617-722-2210

Representative Carole Fiola: 617-722-2430

Compassionate Care Hospice

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

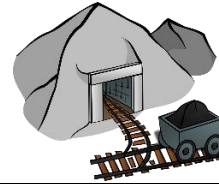
Compassionate Care Hospice serves the needs of patients and families in Southeastern Massachusetts. An integral aspect of the care are volunteers who serve in a variety of capacities. They make friendly visits with patients to talk about interests, hobbies, favorite activities, life reviews, and even sing songs together! A volunteer can be a supportive, peaceful presence when a patient is sleeping. The volunteer also brings respite to the patient’s family. Being a volunteer is a wonderful way to give back to the community and provides something very meaningful to patients and their families!

If you are interested, please contact: Michael Freilich, Volunteer Coordinator at Compassionate Care Hospice in Taunton. Phone: (508) 386-6011, Email: Michael.Freilich@cchnet.net.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

Top Ten Countries with Largest Coal Reserves

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. United States | 6. Germany |
| 2. Russia | 7. Ukraine |
| 3. China | 8. Kazakhstan |
| 4. Australia | 9. Columbia |
| 5. India | 10. Canada |



Top Ten Dog Breeds

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. German Shepherd | 6. Yorkshire Terrier |
| 2. Labrador Retriever | 7. Golden Retriever |
| 3. Beagle | 8. Shih Tzu |
| 4. Dachshunds | 9. Poodle |
| 5. Boxer | 10. Pug |



VAN SCHEDULING, MASKS MUST BE WORN!

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.



USDA CAN HELP REPAIR YOUR HOME 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.

REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Senior hours on Wednesdays extended through March of customers who need to conduct RMV transactions.

The RMV will designate Wednesdays in March at 17 RMV Service Centers to serve customers age 75 and older. These service centers will be dedicated to processing all Registry transactions for older customers. A reservation is required. Providing older adults with a designated RMV service center every Wednesday through March will result in a safer space for customers to visit.

The designated RMV service centers for customers 75+ are:

Brockton, Danvers, Fall River, Greenfield, Lawrence, Leominster, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Revere, South Yarmouth, Springfield, Watertown and Worcester.

Customers 75 and older will be able to visit the RMV service centers listed above by reservation only, Wednesdays through March.

Select the "Senior Transaction" option in the "Make/Cancel a Reservation" transaction at www.Mass.Gov/RMV to view availability and make a reservation at one of these locations.

Below are the options for an appointment.

- If you are a AAA member, you may make a reservation now to renew your driver's license/ID or registration at a AAA location. Visit www.aaa.com/appointments to schedule your visit.
- If you are not a AAA member, visit Mass.Gov/RMV to make a reservation to visit an RMV Service Center. Select the "Senior Transaction" option on the "Make/Cancel a Reservation" transaction
- Email the RMV for assistance at MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma
- Call the RMV at 857-368-8005

From Massachusetts RMV

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
Rosemary Haley, Senior Clerk, Editor
Janet Pilotte, Senior Clerk

COA Board:

Marion E. Rylands—Chair Person
Bruce W. Wilbur-Treasurer
Ruth A. Ferland
Victoria A. Brownell
Robin L. Kendrick
Alfred C. Barros

Van Drivers:

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

We would like to thank Vincent D' Oliveira for all your service. You will be missed.

We at the senior center are hoping to open slowly. We miss you all. Hope everyone has had a chance to receive their Covid vaccine, or have an appointment. If you know of a shut in, send them a note. They appreciate anything to cheer them up.

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.
