

Living Well Together \mathcal{M} March 14 National

A Newsletter of the Georgetown Council on Aging

March 2023 Website: www.georgetownma.gov

Volume 24/Issue 9 Email: cfiorello@georgetownma.gov



Director's Notes: Along with signaling the end of winter and the arrival of spring, the warmer days and cool nights of late February and early March also mean the arrival of the maple syrup or sugar-making season! I have been fascinated with sugar-making since I was a child. A dairy farmer in central Ontario, my great-grandfather began a sugar-making business that my family continued well into my adult-hood. As a child, I can remember riding on my father's shoulders as he tramped into the sugar bush to watch my great-uncle gather the sap that would ultimately be boiled down into the very best maple syrup. Although he used tractors for farm work, my uncle

kept a team of beautiful draft horses to pull the antique wooden sled through the sugar bush. Sleigh bells jingled as they pulled the sled carrying a huge vat of sap that filled the center of the sled as he made daily rounds, emptying hundreds of sap buckets. At the sugar shack, an even larger kettle filled with sap bubbled on a continuously burning fire. Bucket after bucket of sap was added to the mix as the excess water was boiled from the sap. The most wonderful maple scent filled the woods surrounding the sugar shack. You can imagine the delight of the little girl who was allowed to sample the maple tea that preceded the final boiling down of the syrup! Although it is a far smaller operation, it will soon be time to tap the four sugar maples in our backyard maple sugar bush. Since it takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup, ours is not a very profitable business. But it is still the family business and when our grandchildren join us for their share of maple tea, I know that my great-grandfather and great-uncle are pleased to see a fifth generation of sugar-makers at work!



Free Behavioral Health Help Line

Massachusetts has just launched a new, 24/7 Behavioral Health Help Line, which offers a single point of contact for residents to receive real-time support, initial clinical assessment, and connection to the right mental health and SUD evaluation and treatment, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. The phone and chat line will offer real-time clinical triage and service navigation in more than 200 languages to help individuals and families access the range of treatment for mental health and addiction offered in the Commonwealth, including outpatient, urgent, and immediate crisis intervention. Every call, text, or chat conversation will include clinical follow up. The Help Line is available through phone or text at 833-773-BHHL, as well as chat online at masshelpline.com.



AARP Tax Prep Assistance

Open to older adults and other moderate-income individuals, the AARP Income Tax Preparation Program is now in progress at the Georgetown Council on Aging

Thursdays in March - April 13. This year's program will include scheduled telephone intake appointments followed by scheduled same-day appointments to drop off and pick-up documents and completed tax returns. The drop off and pick up of income tax documents will take place in the Georgetown Senior Community Center. The criteria for Massachusetts Circuit Breaker tax credit program are available at the COA office. To schedule income tax preparation appointments, please call the COA at 978-352-5726 Mon - Thurs, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

<u>B P CLINIC:</u> Wed. February 28, 9:30-10:40 a.m. replaces the March BP Clinic. The next clinic will be held Wed. March 29, 9:30-10:40 a.m. to replace the April Clinic. Please make note of all changes. Pam Lara, Public Health Nurse will provide blood pressure checks. Appointments are required and limited to 8 people per day. Please call the office to reserve your space. 978-352-5726.



MEN'S BREAKFAST: Thurs. March 2 at 10 a.m. Note time change for March/April only Local historian, Bill Boylan will be our speaker. Continued thanks to

Crosby's for their support of this program.

VETERAN'S SERVICES OFFICE HOURS: Thurs. March 2, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Director Karen Tyler will be available to discuss issues and questions. Please contact the COA if you plan to attend. 978-352-5726

BINGO! Join us on **Mons. March 13 & 27, 12:30 p.m.** Bingo is usually played twice a month. **Cost: \$2 per 10-game package.** Attendance is limited to 20 people. For more information, call 978-352-5726.

SHINE OFFICE HOURS: Mon. March 20

9 a.m. – noon. SHINE Counselor Nancy Aberman will be here to answer health insurance questions. **APPOINTMENTS MUST BE SCHEDULED THROUGH THE COA OFFICE**. The COA has a form that must be completed and brought to your appointment. It is available at the COA for pick-up, by mail or by email when you schedule your appointment. To schedule an appointment, call (978) 352-5726.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: A Representative from the office of Senator Bruce Tarr will hold monthly office hours on **Tues. March 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m.** Call for appointments.



Join GPL Librarian Sarah Cognata **Tues. March 28**

at 2 p.m. "Call Your Daughter Home" by Deb Spera. While the Library intends to use these selected book choices, there may be unforeseen circumstances that requires having to change the book choice. Please contact the library if you have any questions.



Girl Scout Troop 82937: Handmade Valentine Cards Whittier Regional Voc. Tech. High School: A delicious Valentine's Luncheon Friends of the GCOA: Provided decorations & entertainment for Traveling Chef and helped serve at 2 lunches.

Prediabetes & Diabetes *Discussion with a Dietician* Join Leigh Hartwell, RD from AgeSpan

Monday, March 8, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

Topics covered: Defining Prediabetes & Diabetes, Best Food Choices, Weight Management, Menu & Recipe Ideas, Macronutrient Balance, The Facts About Sugar, Artificial Sweeteners, Q & A Session

Reserve your seat by calling the COA office at 978-352-5726.

(SS)

St. Pat's Lunch and Concert

Tues. March 14 Lunch @ 12 p.m. ~ Concert @ 1 p.m.

Join us for AgeSpan's Traveling Chef Luncheon Followed by music from



Roger Tinknell "From Ireland to America" Festive Irish/Irish-American Jigs, reels, ballads, sing-alongs & instrumentals.

Seats are limited and lunch reservations should be made before Wed. March 1, but the sooner the better!



2

978-352-5726 See menu on page 7.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Georgetown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency and the Friends of the Council On Aging.

(38)



Tues. March 21 10:30 a.m.

Space is limited. Reserve your seat as soon as possible. 978-352-5726

Ongoing Exercise Groups

Most classes are limited to 17^* people ~ \$3 suggested donation for each class Held at the Georgetown Senior Community Center ~ Call 978-352-5726 to register

Yoga & Strength Training Classes with Donna Bonin & Leah Miller

Yoga meets on Mondays at 9 a.m. and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Strength Training meets on Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Tai Chi Class with Val LaBelle

Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. *Class limit: 10.

Exercise with Leah Miller

Thursdays at 10:45 a.m.

Walking Club

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.

COA Offers Fitness Center Appointments

The Fitness Center at the Georgetown Senior Community Center is open for individual exercise by appointment. Thirty-minute appointments are available each hour. Equipment includes: two stationary bikes, two treadmills, weights, stair-climber & a stationary recumbent bike. Call the COA for appointments (978-352-5726).

Covid-19 Test Kits: Good news! Donated by AgeSpan & the Georgetown Board of Health, the Georgetown COA has free test COVID-19 test kits available to share with local elder households. For information, please call 978-352-5726.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

- Vaccine distribution in Massachusetts: Vaccine boosters are available at local pharmacies & clinics. Use VaxFinder.mass.gov to search for appointments at pharmacies, health care providers, & other community locations. For assistance, call COA at 978-352-5726.
- In-Home COVID Vaccine Program: Any individual who has trouble getting to a vaccine site is now eligible for the In-Home program. Individuals can call (833) 983-0485 to register for an in-home vaccination. The registration phone line is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Veterans: Vaccines for eligible veterans can be scheduled through the VA COVID-19 vaccine scheduling lines at 781-687-4000. Pre-registration is required at: https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/stay-informed.

<mark>☆ Government Offers More Free COVID-19 Test Kits</mark>☆

As COVID-19 cases rise, it's important to stay safe this winter. Each U.S. household can now order 4 COVID-19 at-home tests shipped straight to their door at no cost. All you need to do is visit <u>COVIDtests.gov</u> and enter your contact information and mailing address.

During the public health emergency, people with Medicare can also get up to 8 over-the-counter COVID-19 tests each month at no cost. Participating pharmacies include CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid, & Walmart. Other options available:

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). to find access to free tests. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.
- Check with your pharmacy or healthcare provider to see if they are participating and will bill Medicare on your behalf.

☆<u>New COVID-19 Treatment Hotline</u>☆

Tested positive for COVID-19? Telehealth is a quick and free way to see if you're eligible for COVID-19 treatment. You can access telehealth services by calling **833-273-6330** or by completing an online assessment at **mass.gov/CovidTelehealth**. Clinicians are available every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. This service **IS NOT** for medical emergencies or those who have severe chest pain or shortness of breath.

QUILTING GROUP: Terry Palardy facilitates the group which meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Attendance is limited to 5 people & pre-registration is required. Please call 978-352-5726.

MAH JONG: The Group meets on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Beginners are welcome. Call the COA for more information at 978-352-5726.

KNITTING GROUP: The Knitting Group meets on the **2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 9:30 a.m.** For more information, contact the COA at 978-352-5726.

STAMP CLUB: 2nd & 4th Thurs./month, 1 p.m.

COA VAN AVAILABILITY: Local essential shopping is available **by appointment only** on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Along with grocery shopping, trips to the post office, banks, pharmacies & Walmart can be planned. **There is a noontime Riverside shopping run on the first Tues. of each month after Brown Bag deliveries.**

Friends of Council on Aging: FCOA now meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m.



Households that did not apply for the program last year, can apply for the program by calling Community Action at (978) 373-1971. Maximum gross income is **\$42,412** for oneperson or **\$55,462** for a two-person household. This year applications are available, and can be completed, at the Georgetown Senior Community Center. For more information & assistance, call the COA at (978) 352-5726.

Trustees of the Perley School to Offer Limited Fuel Assistance

Recognizing the difficulties of home heating costs, the Trustees of the Perley Free School offer a **limited** fuel assistance program to local residents who are experiencing financial hardships with energy costs. In addition to the money that is used to fund scholarships for Georgetown graduates & alumni, the Trustees oversee a small endowment to aid Georgetown residents facing financial hardships. Individuals who may need assistance with heating costs, including oil, gas or firewood, can call the COA at (978) 352-5726 for information & referral.

COA Marketplace

COA Marketplace offers a wide variety of soups, canned goods, non-perishable foods & fun snacks. We also offer a variety of non-food products including toiletries, personal care items, incontinence supplies, paper items & dish/laundry detergent. Some fresh foods (eggs, milk, fruit/vegetables...) & Market Basket or Crosby's Marketplace gift cards are available upon request. No income restrictions apply. Home deliveries available. **Appointments are required by calling 978-352-5726.**

Mass. Circuit Breaker Tax Credit

The Mass. Circuit Breaker Tax Credit (CB) is a state income tax credit for certain Mass. residents age 65 years or older who paid rent or real estate taxes during the tax year & who meet income limits & other criteria. Based on local property taxes, the tax credit is funded by the state government. Homeowners are eligible for the credit if they paid more than 10% of their total income for real estate taxes, including water charges. Renters can count 25% of their rent as real estate tax payments. For eligibility information, contact the COA at 978 -352-5726.

Medicare Advantage Plan Open Enrollment

If you are currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you can make a change to your coverage from now through March 31 during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period. You can change your plan to a different Medicare Advantage Plan, or you can change to Original Medicare with a supplement and a Part D drug plan. There are differences with Medicare Advantage Plans and Original Medicare. The changes you make become effective the first day of the following month. This enrollment period is only for people who already have a Medicare Advantage Plan. However, if you have a Medicare plan that is not working for you, call SHINE all year to determine what your options are. SHINE counselors can review your plan as you consider a change. Please call he Georgetown COA at 978-352-5726 for an appointment.

Council on Aging Services

TRANSPORTATION/SHOPPING

The Van is available Tuesdays & Thursdays for door-to-door shopping & errands. Reservations should be made at least two days in advance by calling the COA office at (978) 352-5726. A \$2 donation is suggested to help with program expenses.

TRANSPORTATION/MEDICAL

Northern Essex Elder Transport, Inc.

This program provides rides for elders to medical appointments. Arrangements should be made at least <u>ONE WEEK</u> in advance by calling the COA office at (978) 352-5726. **Registration is required prior to service**. A donation of 43 cents per mile is suggested to help support the program, but no one is turned down due to inability to pay.

TRANSPORTATION/GENERAL-PURPOSE

Ring & Ride is a free shared van service available to Georgetown residents. It requires 24-hour notice w/reservations made through MEVA (978-469-6878, option #3). The van can be used for any purpose including medical & shopping in Amesbury, Boxford, Georgetown, Haverhill, Groveland, Newburyport, Lawrence, Methuen, Newbury/Byfield, North Andover, West Newbury, & Rowley Train Station & Market Basket. For a brochure, contact the COA.

HANDICAP PLACARDS

The COA has applications for handicap placards available from the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Meals on Wheels

Available to eligible seniors by calling AgeSpan at 1-800-892-0890.

Grab & Go Lunches

Served Monday-Thursday, pick-up or delivered. Must be ordered by Wed. of the previous week. 978-352-5726

<u>COA Marketplace</u> (Food Pantry) Services by appointment only. **Food And HEAT RESOURCES**

For information & assistance w/state & local resources, contact the COA office at (978) 352-5726

<u>S.H.I.N.E.</u>

<u>Serving Health Information Needs of Everyone will help you</u> understand your health insurance concerns. Appointments can be scheduled with SHINE counselor Nancy Aberman. To schedule an appointment, call the COA at 978-352-5726.

EQUIPMENT LENDING PROGRAM

COA has medical equipment for long- or short-term lending.

FILE OF LIFE PROGRAM

File of Life provides a health history document to be used by emergency personnel in case of illness or injury.

HEALTH CARE PROXIES

COA has fact sheets & Health Care Proxy forms available upon request.

THE FILE A handy folder which serves as a summary of record of Financial Information, Investments & Insurance, Legal Documents & Estate Management information.

Updated 8/12/21

The Friends of the Georgetown Peabody Library Annual Spring Book Sale

Friday March 31 through Monday April 3

Hours:

Friday, March 31: 10AM to 5PM Saturday, April 1: 9AM to 1PM Sunday, April 2: 1PM to 4PM Monday, April 3: 2PM to 7PM



Donations may be brought into the library starting on Wednesday, March 22 to Wednesday, March 29 during library hours ONLY. <u>Please do not drop off</u> <u>donations outside when the library is closed!!</u>

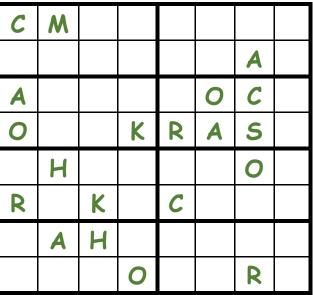
Donations should be gently used, clean, and free from mold and can include books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, audio books & board games. Ask yourself would you be willing to give this to a family member or friend before you decide to donate to the library.

Support the book sale by helping with the sale setup, work at the sale and, of course, shop at the sales! Proceeds from the book sale benefit library programs and museum passes. For more information, send an email to georgetownfol@gmail.com

St. Paddy's Sudoku

Fill in the grids so that each horizontal row, each column & each smaller block contain each letter exactly once. The letters being used are contained in the title over the puzzle.







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MARCH CALENDAR 2023 MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY 2 Tax Preparation by Appt. No BP Clinic Today 1 8:30 Beginner's Pickleball 9:30 Van: Plaistow 8:30 Walking Club 10:30 Yoga 9:30 Tai Chi 12:30 Mah Jong 10:00 Men's Breakfast Note: Time Change for March/April only 10:30 Vet. Agent Office Hours 10:45 Exercise with Leah Van: 9:30 Brown Bag 8 9 Tax Preparation by Appt. 7 6 9:00 Yoga 12:00 Riverside 8:30 Beginner's Pickleball 9:30 Van: Plaistow 8:30 Walking Club 10:30 Strength Training 8:30 Walking Club 10:30 Yoga 8:30 Pickle Ball 11:30 PreDiabetes/Diabetes Pr. 9:30 Tai Chi 9:30 Knitting Club 12:30 Mah Jong 10:45 Exercise with Leah 1:00 Stamp Club 16 Tax Preparation by Appt. 13 14 Traveling Chef 15 9:30 Van: Westgate/Riverside 9:30 Van: Plaistow 9:00 Yoga 8:30 Beginner's Pickleball 10:30 Strength Training 8:30 Walking Club 8:30 Walking Club 10:30 Yoga 12:30 Mah Jong 9:30 Tai Chi 12:30 Bingo 8:30 Pickle Ball 12:00 Quilting Group 10:45 Exercise with Leah 1:00 Roger Tinknell Concert 20 SHINE/appt. only 21 22 23 Tax Preparation by Appt. 9:00 Yoqa 9:30 Van: Westgate/Riverside 8:30 Beginner's Pickleball 9:30 Van: Plaistow 10:30 Strength Training 8:30 Walking Club 8:30 Walking Club 10:30 Yoga 12:30 Mah Jong 8:30 Pickle Ball 9:30 Tai Chi **10:30** Constituent Services 9:30 Knitting Club 10:30 Shramrock Craft 10:45 Exercise with Leah 1:00 Friends of COA 1:00 Stamp Club 30 Tax Preparation by Appt. 27 28 29 Blood Pressure Clinic 9:30 Van: Plaistow 9:30 Van: Westgate/Riverside (Replaces April BP Clinic) 8:30 Walking Club 9:00 Yoga 8:30 Walking Club 8:30 Beginner's Pickleball 10:30 Strength Training 8:30 Pickle Ball 9:30 Tai Chi 10:30 Yoga 10:45 Exercise with Leah 12:30 Bingo 12:00 Quilting Group 12:30 Mah Jong 12:45 COA Board meeting 2:00 Book Club

Fitness Center, COA Library, Pool table are available daily by appointment. Grab & Go Lunch by reservation Monday through Thursday. The van is currently limited to 4 riders for each trip.



Grab & Go Lunches The COA is

working with AgeSpan to offer GRAB-and-**Go** take-out lunches. To participate, please call the COA (978-352-5726) the Wednesday before the desired meals. Meals can be picked-up or delivered & there is no charge at this time. *Watch for special meal offerings.*



Monday

Tuesday

6 Broccoli/Cheese stuf'd Chix 7 Stuffed Shells/Marinara

13 BBQ Pork Riblet

20 Grilled Chix Alfredo

27 Meatball Sub

14 * TRAVELING CHEF* - see above 15 Cold Plate: *** **21** Sliced Turkey/Gravy 28 Yankee Pot Roast Au Jus *** (Egg Salad/Sweet Pot Salad/Garden Salad)

Wednesday **1** Mac & Cheese 8 Meatloaf/Gravy **22** Pork with Apples

Thursday

- 2 Turkey/Sw. Pot. Chili (tomato/chick peas) 9 Crab Cakes/Maryland Sauce 16 St. Pat's Special: Corned Beef Dinner 23 Steak Fajita/Tortilla
- 29 Birthday: Chix Pot Pie 30 Opening Day: LS Hot Dog/ Bun

Full lunch menus are available at the Council on Aging office.

Tues. March 14 at noon.

The menu will feature Shepherd's Pie, Garden

Salad/Dressing, Pie. Please RSVP as soon as possible by calling the COA at 978-352-5726.

AgeSpan presents:

The Traveling Chef

A congregate dining experience (no take-out/delivery)



March Grab & Go Lunch Menu

Georgetown Council on Aging 51 North Street Georgetown, MA 01833

Return Service Requested

Help us to serve you better

In order to make our records more complete & to assist in client contact, the COA is asking people to **Send us your email addresses.** This information is for internal use only and will not be shared.

We strive to keep our mailing list up-todate. Please let us know if you would prefer not to receive the newsletter or if the addressee is no longer at this address.







Georgetown Council on Aging 51 North Street Georgetown, MA 01833 (978) 352-5726

Open: Monday – Thursday 8 am – 4 p.m.

Georgetown Senior Community Center 51 North Street Georgetown, MA 01833

Open: Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 4 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

C.O.A. board meetings are open to the public. They are held at **12:45 p.m.** on the 4th Tuesday of each month at **Georgetown Sr. Community Center**

51 North Street, Georgetown

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Tuesday March 28, 2023

Georgetown Council on Aging:

Director: Colleen Ranshaw-Fiorello Office: Julie Pasquale, Newsletter Kirsten Klueber, Outreach Dave Hall, Van Driver Meal Site Coordinator: Michelle Muise Assistant: Esther Palardy Board Members:

Sue Clay, Chair Darcy Norton, Vice-Chair Jill Benas, Secretary/Clerk Diane Klibansky, Martha Lucius Esther Palardy, Jean Perley, Diane Prescott, Jeanne Robertson **Alternates:** Susan Gardiner

Town of Georgetown:

Town Administrator, Orlando Pacheco Douglas Dawes, Select Board, Chair Peter J. Kershaw, Select Board, Clerk Gary Fowler, Select Board Amy Smith, Select Board Daryle Lamonica, Select Board

<u>Georgetown COA Webpage</u> is located on the town's official website www.georgetownma.gov.

Council on Aging Mission Statement: The main objectives of the Georgetown Council on Aging are to advocate on behalf of older adults, to identify their needs, to develop and implement services to meet their health, economic, social and cultural needs, to encourage maximum independence and to improve their quality of life.

Inclement Weather Policy: The Georgetown Council on Aging and Senior Center will be open for business in inclement weather unless all Georgetown town offices are closed. If the Georgetown Public Schools are closed, there will be no van rides or NEET rides, and all COA activities/programs will be cancelled. If the AgeSpan Lunch Programs are closed, there will be no home delivered meals or lunches served at the Georgetown Senior Community Center.