GRAFTON COUNCIL ON AGING NEWSLETTER

CENTER HOURS 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM MONDAY - FRIDAY coa@grafton-ma.gov

GRAFTON SENIOR GAZETT

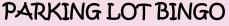
30 Providence Road • Grafton, MA 01519 Phone: 508-839-9242 FAX: 508-839-7306

Grafton Council on Aging / Senior Center



Vol. 19 Issue 4

"Linking Needs with Resources"



(In the back parking lot of the Grafton Senior Center) for Grafton Residents



FRIDAY, APRIL 23rd 20:00 am 21:00 am



Grafton's Senior Center and Recreation Department are holding parking lot bingo for Grafton seniors. Cars containing no more than two (2) people will park in every other parking space behind the Grafton Senior Center. Participants must wear a face mask and remain in their car. Each person will be given two (2) bingo cards and numbers will be called over a loudspeaker. The number called will also be shown on cards held by staff. When someone wins a bingo, the car horn must be used, as well as a flag waved out the car window. If you are a lucky winner, a staff member will deliver your prize to your car.

Bingo players who are the first to arrive will need to back their car in the parking spaces along the metal fence in the parking lot. Do not worry! Staff will be there to guide you! Restrooms will be available if the Municipal Building remains open to the public.

Space will be limited to 24 cars. Please call 508-839-9242 by April 14th to reserve your spot. If you would like to have a Grab 'N Go lunch after bingo, please order your meal when making your bingo reservation.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

Remember, the Senior Center office is fully staffed from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm every day, Monday thru Friday. The Municipal Building is open to the public, but offices remain closed. If you have a need (such as food, acquiring a face mask, have a question, or want someone to talk to), we are here for you. Please either call 508-839-9242 or email **coa@grafton-ma.gov** and someone will get back to you *as soon* as possible.

COVID-19 UPDATE

With COVID-19 still present in Grafton, we want to make sure all our residents are up to date on relevant news to ensure their safety! If you have been having trouble securing a vaccination appointment, the State recently launched a pre -registration tool to help schedule vaccination appointments at the seven mega sites in the Commonwealth. You can pre -register online at <u>vaccinesignup.mass.gov</u> or by using the 2-1-1 help line. If you are unable to complete the preregistration process, a caregiver, your child, or a Senior Center staff member can fill it out for you. Currently, the service only covers mega sites, but more sites will be added in the future. Additionally, a new regional vaccination site opened in Uxbridge at the end of last month. This site will be available to any eligible resident across the state.

The situation in Grafton remains fluid, but regular updates are provided on the town website <u>www.grafton-ma.gov</u>. Please don't hesitate to contact the town with any questions you may have. In the meantime, continue to wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands, and stay safe!

CELEBRATE THE BOSTON RED SOX Tuesday, April 6th—11:00 am





★ We're celebrating the Boston Red Sox!! Elder Nutri ★ tion will be serving a hot dog lunch with baked beans,
 ★ chips, and a dessert in honor of the Boston Red Sox.
 ★ Thank you to the Friends of Grafton Elders for gra ★ ciously paying for the Grab 'N Go hot dog lunch.

Special treats will be handed out, and you will be able.
to guess how many baseballs we have in a container.
Closest to the number is the winner of a gift card.
Winner will be contacted.

★ Please make a reservation at 508-839-9242 by noon ★ Friday, April 2nd if you plan on attending.

MEALS

Home Delivered or Dine at the Center

Meals are served Monday-Friday excluding holidays at the Grafton Senior Center at 11:45am—noontime. Lunchtime is until 12:30 pm. If you would like to sign up, call 508.839.9242. Reserve by 10:30 am two days before. If you are in need of home delivered meals, call 508.852.3205. If you do not drive, consider taking the bus to the Center for lunch! Suggested donation is \$2.50 for those over 60 and \$5.50 for those under 60. Menu includes milk, coffee, margarine, bread and dessert. Worcester Elder Services is our agent for the Elder Nutrition Pro-Bring a friend or make some at lunch. gram. PLEASE KNOW YOUR DONATION OF \$2.50 PER MEAL HELPS KEEP THE PROGRAM RUN-NING!

This Month's Fare:



- Thursday, April 1st......Baked HamFriday, April 2ndVegetable Cheese Bake
- Monday, April 5th Chicken Pesto
- Tuesday, April 6th Hot Dog
- Wednesday, April 7th.....Roast Pork Loin w/Gravy
- Thursday, April 8th American Chop Suey
- Friday, April 9th Jambalaya
- Tuesday, April 13th..... Greek Chicken
- Wednesday, April 14th..... Meatloaf & Gravy
- Thursday, April 15th Turkey w/Supreme Sauce
- Friday, April 16th Lemon Pepper Haddock
- Monday, April 19th Center Closed
- Tuesday, April 20th Teriyaki Beef
- Wednesday, April 21st Chicken Milano
- Thursday, April 22nd Salisbury Steak w/Gravy
- Friday, April 23rd..... Potato Crunch Fish
- Monday, April 26thChicken Picatta
- Tuesday, April 27th Meatballs w/Onion Gravy
- Wednesday, April 28th..... Marinated Pork Loin
- Thursday, April 29th BBQ Chicken
- Friday, April 30th Macaroni & Cheese



CENTER PROGRAMS

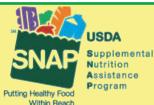
BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC—Every Thurs. 11:00 am CERAMICS—Tuesdays 2:00 pm CHAIR YOGA ---- Mondays at 1:00 pm: Fridays 9:00 am --- Free of charge for Grafton seniors thanks to FOGE. CONGRESSPERSON OFFICE HOURS-Vary COUNCIL ON AGING-Meets 2nd Thursday of every month at 1:30 pm except July and December unless otherwise posted CRAFTS—Wednesdays at 9:00 am DAY TRIPS/EXTENDED TRIPS Vary - See Newsletter for info-Brochure rack in Senior Center DUPLICATE BRIDGE—Thurs. 9:00 am FALL PREVENTION EXERCISE --- Mondays 10:30 am, Wednesdays 9:30 am-Free for Grafton seniors FUEL ASSISTANCE—See Lisa Kelley for appt. HOOKED ON BOOKS CLUB-First Wed. of the Month -10:30 am - noon JOG YOUR NOGGIN—Fun Trivia EVERY Wed. 10:45 am-Unless otherwise noted on calendar. LINE DANCING—Every Friday at 2:00 pm LUNCH—Mon- Fri 11:45 am \$2.50 suggested donation - Call two business days prior by 10:30 am MAT YOGA—Mondays at 9:00 am & Wednesdays at 10:30 am. Free of Charge for Grafton Seniors thanks to FOGE. Medical Equipment Loan Closet—crutches, wheelchairs, canes, etc.—just ask! **ORGAN SOCIAL**—Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am **OUTREACH**—Assessing needs and linking resources – Call for appt. with Lisa. **OUT TO LUNCH**—Monthly outing to area restaurant PAINTING INDEPENDENTLY—Fridays 10:00 am PITCH—Mon & Tues 1:00 pm RUMMIKUB—Wednesdays 1:00 pm SCRABBLE—Tuesdays at 9:30 am SENIOR EXERCISE CLASS -10:30 am Tuesdays and Thursdays. Free for Grafton Seniors thanks to FOGE. **<u>SINGING GROUP</u>**—Fridays 10:00 am (off for the Summer) SOCIAL KNITTING—Mondays 10:00 am STRENGTH & STRETCH CLASS—Thursdays - 12:30 pm FOGE-Fri. 10:00 am Tax Work Off Program—Call Barb Connelly for more info. TRANSPORTATION—Call the office for all the info! WATERCOLORING CLASS—Fridays at 2:00 pm Wii-TV GAME EXERCISE - Available in the TV room almost any time! WRITER'S GROUP—Meets 2nd and 4th Friday at 1:00 pm

<u>YAHTZEE</u>—Tuesdays at 12:30 pm

ZUMBA GOLD — Wednesdays 11:30 am

APRIL 2021

GRAFTON SENIOR GAZETTE



Need help paying for food? Here's what makes SNAP so special and unlike any other food assistance program in the country:

- Getting SNAP doesn't take anything away from anyone else.
- SNAP gives you the freedom to shop for your own food.
- You can use SNAP to buy food at most places groceries are sold.

The Grafton Senior Center is a SNAP intake site. You are able to apply or recertify for SNAP benefits at the Senior Center. It's all confidential.

Please contact the Senior Center at 508-839-9242 with any questions or to schedule an appointment .

GRAB 'N GO LUNCH

PAID FOR BY THE FRIENDS OF GRAFTON ELDERS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

LUNCH IS SERVED! If there is a particular lunch that Elder Nutrition offers daily, you can order that meal and pick up at the kitchen door of the Grafton Senior Center between 11:00 am to 11:15 am on the day it is being served. You must make your reservation by noon at least 2 days in advance (weekend days not included) by calling 508-839-9242. Staff will be on hand to make sure your meal will be available when you arrive at the Senior Center for pickup.

The monthly menu is listed in each newsletter. Don't miss out on your favorite lunch meal! Call and make a reservation.

VIRTUAL GENTLE EXERCISE CLASS

Tuesdays from 9:30 am—10:15 am



Jessica Melo is now offering a live/rotating exercise class through Zoom. The class will last for 45 minutes. Seniors need to have access to the internet and an email account so login information can be provided. If you are interested in taking the virtual class, please contact the Senior Center at 508-839-9242 and give your email address. Jessica will then send you the link to the class. Classes on cable will still be airing.

NEWS FROM SHINE

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH MEDICARE COSTS?

MassHealth Buy-In Programs, also called the Medicare Savings Programs, will pay for the Part B monthly premium, \$148.50/ month.

These programs may also help pay some of your out-of-pocket costs of Medicare.

The Buy-In programs can also help get Medicare Part B for people who only have Medicare Part A.

If you are in a Buy-In program, you will also be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Part D Extra Help program through Social Security, which can help with pharmacy costs.

The following is the financial eligibility for April, 2021

	Monthly Gross	Assets
	Income	(i.e. savings account)
Individual	\$1,771	\$15,940
Couple	\$2,396	\$23,920

If you feel you may be eligible under these new income guidelines, feel free to call the Central Mass SHINE Program at 508-422-9931 or by email: info@shinema.org. You can also call the Senior Center at 508-839-9242 and speak with a SHINE counselor.

PODIATRY

DR. MICHAEL J. BIANCAMANO, D.P.M.

Dr. B. will be offering podiatry services on:

Wednesday, May 19th-1:00 pm

Please call the Senior Center at 508-839-9242 to book your appointment. You will need to bring all of your insurance cards and a list of medications you currently take.

CDC COVID-19 guidelines will be in place and a mask must be worn. Please do not arrive early for your appointment.

CONTINUE TO STOP THE SPREAD



It will take time for everyone to get the vaccine.

We all have to work together to stop the spread of COVID-19. Wear a mask, wash your hands, avoid groups, and keep your distance, even after you get the vaccine.

FUN IS ONLY A CLICK OR PHONE CALL AWAY

Highway 61—offers programs such as trivia, Bingo, educational events, and conversations. Visit **highway61.com** for more information.

Well Connected—offers over 80 programs such as trivia, Bingo, educational events, conversations, health and wellness programs, and many more. Email **coviaconnetions@covid.org or** call 877-797-7299.

GRAFTON SENIOR GAZETTE

APRIL 2021

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Good News!! The Book Club is still reading. They email and have phone conversations discussing the books they have read. The library is once again helping people get the books they need to read for the Book Club. You can request a book by calling 508-839-4649.

The Book Club will be reading the following books in the months ahead:

April—*The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate May—*Highest Duty* by Chelsey Sullenberger June—*The Book of Lost & Found* by Lucy Foley

If you have any questions about the Book Club, please call June Hanam at 508-839-1220. The Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am. If you need help getting on Zoom, email John Cameron at <u>highkey@hotmail.com</u>.

WANTED MEALS ON WHEELS DRIVERS

Are you free once a month to volunteer from 10:30 am-12:00 pm? Drivers are needed to drop off meals to homebound elders. It's quite a rewarding experience. You can deliver once a week or once a month. Routes and meals are picked up at the Grafton Senior Center. Mileage reimbursement is available. Please contact Karen Kosiba, Meal Site Manager, for a volunteer application and a CORI form. If you have questions, please call Karen at the Senior Center 508-839-9242.

SENIOR CENTER TRANSPORTATION



The Grafton Senior Center is now offering transportation. Medical appointments will take top priority and only one or two passengers at time will be allowed on the vans. Reservations for transportation <u>must</u> be made at least 48 hours in advance (weekend hours are not included). All passengers are required to wear masks at all times and sit in the appropriately marked seats. Drinking and eating on the van is prohibited. If a rider does not adhere to the guidelines, services will be cancelled immediately. As a precautionary measure, the vans will be sanitized after each trip. To avoid handling cash or passes at this time, all van rides will be free of charge thanks to the Friends of Grafton Elders.





The Friends of Grafton Elders and the Senior Center thank Dr. Tina Theroux for her kindness, support and generosity she has been providing the Senior Center.

It is so very much appreciated.

SENIORS: CHANGE DIRECTIONS & SHIFT GEARS Leader: Lydia Bogar

Hello Friends and Neighbors!

Spring cleaning time. March is behind us and the sun is high in the sky.

When we started this group a year ago, we talked about resilience and independence, questioned whether or not they were separate mindsets. For me, it's a healthy, forward looking mindset that helps you move from slippers to boots on a cold day. How many valuable lessons have been learned about ourselves and others? Listening skills remain on my daily-to-do list.

EVERYBODY needs something or someone. Forget the false belief that you don't know anyone who can help you. If you, a neighbor, or family member doesn't know a handyman or neighbor kid who can shovel snow or drag the recycling barrel to the curb, you can call our beloved Senior Center (508)839-9242) and ask them.

We started a book swap last spring, during the walk around the block with four neighbors. It was fun and free. Somedays got me off the couch!

You can try the New England tradition of bartering; make soup or cookies for the man who will run your errand to Koopmans, or the kid who has two part time jobs, but would really appreciate a gift card for pizza after he cleans the snow off your car. And always, a sincere thank you.

You can call your neighbor in the evening, but not too late, or leave a voicemail if they work during the day. Swap cell phone numbers if appropriate. If your request is rebuffed, say thanks and move along. There is someone out there waiting to hear from you. I promise. Stay connected. Mr. Bell's invention is more important than ever before.

In many ways, this past year has brought me closer to several neighbors of long-standing, as well as three newcomers. (Long-standing as in forty plus years).

Last but not least, before you go to bed (notice that I did not say sleep) think of someone in our life that you haven't talked to recently. Calling is always better than texting, but do whichever works best for you and the recipient (who may be in a different time zone).

Some of us have been vaccinated and some are still waiting, patiently or not. Patience is hard to come by in ordinary times; this is not ordinary. Neither are we!!

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Did You Know This About the Month of April?

- April is Humor Month, so laugh it up!
- The first day of April is April Fools Day, when children and grown-ups play jokes on one another.
- Our first President George Washington was inaugurated on April 30, 1789.
- April 2nd is Light It Up Blue for Autism Day and the whole month is Autism Awareness Month.
- The Jewish festival of Pescah, or Passover, is celebrated in April. .
- Easter is almost always in April, and, with it comes other Christian celebrations such as Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.
- The Titanic sank on April 15, 1912.
- April is named for the Greek goddess of love, Aphrodite.
- For all the car enthusiasts out there, Ford unveiled their first Mustang on April 17, 1964, costing \$2,368.

The Friends of Grafton Elders are the fund-raising arm of the Grafton Senior Center. This organization helps support our seniors. Membership is \$10.00 per year and open to all ages including young and old alike. Please support this organization and forward any type of donation to: Friends of Grafton Elders, PO Box 186, Grafton, MA 01519 or the Grafton Senior Center, 30 Providence Road, Grafton, MA 01519. Please make checks payable to the Friends of Grafton Elders. Thank you!





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GRAFTON SENIOR GAZETTE

APRIL 2021

FRIENDS OF THE GRAFTON ELDERS

Hopefully, all have had their two shots of the COVID vaccine. Thanks to Barbara and Nancy for arranging the visits to the Worcester Senior Center. It was well organized and not stressful.

All enjoyed the corned beef and cabbage drive-thru. FOGE is going to continue to pay for the Grab 'N Go lunches. We will also continue to purchase extra food items to help our seniors with their food supply.

At our board meeting in March, FOGE decided not to send out dues notices. We plan on having our annual meeting the last week of May, virtually or perhaps on local cable TV. Our biggest concern is ensuring that we have enough volunteers for various positions on the board. There are several vacancies, and our Nominating Committee will put together a slate with as many people as we can. The list of current board positions and the incumbents is listed below. All current board members can run for another term. If you, or anyone you know would like to volunteer to serve on the board, please contact us at foge518@gmail.com. The board meets once a month except in the summer and in December. Meeting usually last one hour. The board's duties include planning the June lunch out, the October birthday celebration, the February calendar raffle, helping with the dues notices, and the Annual Meeting in May.

Current FOGE Board as of 3/11/2021

Nominating Committee Slate for 2021

Marsha Platt, President 2020 Heather Trudell, Vice Pres. 2021 Timothy Brady, Treasurer 2021 Secretary Vacant

Directors

Joy Ashley 2020 Vacancy Irene Murphy 2021 Ellen MacKin 2021 Ann Robinson 2022 John Cameron 2022 Patti Hart 2022

Slate for 2021 President Vice President Timothy Brady Secretary

Directors 3 Year Terms

1 2 Vacant Vacant Ann Robinson John Cameron Patti Hart

Earth Day is April 22nd!!

Anyone whose term ran out or runs out is not listed on the Nominating Committee Slate, except for Tim Brady. Anyone is able to run for re-election.

FOGE will keep you informed through the usual means of communication.

Stay active, wear your mask, and we will get together soon! Marsha Platt, Friends of Grafton Elders President



FUEL ASSISTANCE 2020-2021 Extended to May 28th



This program helps to defray the cost of winter heating bills between Nov. 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021, and may allow for discounts on electrical and telephone bills. The Grafton Senior Center is the intake site for Grafton senior (60+) and disabled residents under the administration of SMOC

(South Middlesex Opportunity Council). Call Lisa Kelley at the Grafton Senior Center 508-839-9242 to request an instruction checklist and to make a free confidential appointment. Income limits are:

<u>Household Size</u>	Income Limit
1	\$39,105
2	\$51,137
3	\$63,169
4	\$75,201

There is still time to receive help. Please don't wait until you are out of oil. Call 508-839-9242 now.

SENIOR EXERCISE CLASSES



Due to the Senior Center being closed to the public, senior exercise classes are now airing on cable channels 191 Charter and 34 Verizon. The classes will air every day and new versions will be periodically added.

The schedule is as follows:

- 10:30 am—Balance & Fall Prevention class with Jessica
- 11:30 am—ZUMBA with Martha
- 12:30 pm—Stretch & Strength class with Jessica
 - 2:00 pm—Line Dancing with Mary

Tune in and give it a try!





NOTAARD 40 NWOT

GRAFTON SENIOR CENTER

30 PROVIDENCE ROAD

COUNCIL ON AGING MEMBERS

Nina Whiting, Ann Allia Annette McCarthy, Peter Shay Marcella Benoit, Secretary William Drago, Chair • William Cutler, Vice Chair

JAAFF

Karen Kosiba, Meal Site Manager Lori Brady, PT Cook Michele Malkasian, PT Activities Coordinator Michael DiVitto, PT Van Driver Maureen Turcotte, PT Van Driver Bryan Dudley, Transportation Coordinator Lisa Kelley, Outreach Worker Vancy Malone, Office Manager Barbara Connelly, Director



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