



## FRIENDS OF THE NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING (FONCOA)

Senior/Community Center · 331 High Street, Newburyport, · MA 01950

[www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Newburyport-Council-on-Aging](http://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-the-Newburyport-Council-on-Aging)

### ABOUT .....

- FONCOA was incorporated on April 26, 1996 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization for the purpose of “support of the Newburyport Council on Aging”
- Our Mission Statement is .....
  - “The Friends of the Newburyport Council on Aging is a charitable 501(c)(3) organization committed to provide financial support to the needs of the Council on Aging”
  - “The Friends generate funds from individual and corporate memberships and donations. Additionally, various fundraising activities are held to further support and expand the Council on Aging programs and services”
  - “Enhancing visibility of the Friends and the Council on Aging within the Community continues to be an important objective. Public awareness as to the value of the Council on Aging and services offered will provide an opportunity for raising the necessary funds to continue offering much needed programs”
- The organization is managed by a board of directors and a leadership team who regularly meet once per month and additionally when necessary.
- Annual meetings are held in the Fall with members and invited guests

### FRIENDS INTERACTION with the COA .....

- The COA Director attends the Board of Director’s monthly meetings as an invited guest (ex officio)
- The agenda line item for the Director is to inform the Board of the following...
  - Current happenings at the Center
  - New programs and services being identified and investigated
  - Anticipated future financial needs for Capital (facility or equipment), Program Support and Services over and above operating budgets, revolving funds or grants
- Participation in any special program planning with the COA team and the COA Advisory Group
- Evaluate, discuss and vote on any support requests presented

### RULES of ENGAGEMENT and SEPARATION of WORK....

- The relationship is best defined as **“Collaborative but Separate”**
  - **“Collaborative”** ..... as sharing the same vision and purpose
  - **“Separate”** ... respecting individual responsibilities and roles
  - Throughout its 27 years the relationship has been very positive, constructive, respectful and productive. Many accomplishments have resulted as such.

## FUNDRAISING and DISBURSEMENT STRATEGIES....

Funds are raised in the following manner....

- Annual Membership Drives in the Friends group
- Conducting an annual November Calendar Raffle
- Receipts from Book and Textile collection boxes
- General donations towards our mission
- Individual Bequests
- Focused fundraising drives for a particular project or programs

Funds are expended in the following manner....

- Gifts to the City for Support Requests by the COA Director/Mayor for Capital and Large Program items to augment City funds with City Council acceptance
- Gift certificates and vouchers to individual seniors for food, fuel and hardship needs
- Program support and development
- Amenities to improve the "Senior Center Experience"

## BOARD MEMBERSHIP .... MAKE UP and REQUIREMENTS ...

- Through the 27 years, over 60 individuals have donated their time, skills and efforts to become a member of the Board of Directors
- The Board has been made up of elected officials (including Mayors and Councillors), City department heads, business leaders, non-profit organization members and community members ... all sharing a similar vision to "**Support Senior Needs**"
- Directors and Officers are all volunteers and elected annually at the Annual Meeting in the Fall. There are no term limits
- Directors are screened and vetted by a Nominating Committee and submitted for approval to the entire Board

## KEY COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS THROUGH the 27 YEARS .....

### **Building a Senior/Community Center....**

- For many years the COA was housed, leasing and sharing space, at the Salvation Army building with programs scheduled across multiple locations in the City
- In 2003/4 the Friends initiated an Advocacy effort with City and State elected officials to pursue a Central facility for the programs and services for the seniors and financial support to build
- In 2005/6 a site selection study was conducted with 3 possible sites identified
- In 2008/9 a "Development and Needs Study" by an outside consultant was funded by the Friends for a facility at the Cushing Park location that had earlier been identified as best site
- In 2010/11, with costs identified, a fundraising drive targeted for \$1.0-1.8M was initiated to cover the costs of the \$6.8M estimated to build over a \$5.0M city bond portion.

- In 2012, the direction was changed to group the Center location into a larger citizen approved proposal incorporating a new elementary school and a Senior/Community Center at the Bresnahan Elementary School site and make facility improvements to the middle school
- In 2015 a fundraising drive for \$400K was developed to raise funds to cover shortfall in constructions costs. Friends collaborated with City and community members to raise and cover the construction shortfall.
- Friends contributed \$30K to this Shortfall Drive

### **Equipment Replacements and Facility Enhancements....**

- Contributed \$25K to replace a Handicap Wheelchair Vanaugmenting \$50K of City Funds
- Contributed to providing Defibrillators for the Center
- Provided additional Ping Pong equipment and supplies
- Funded a Design Development Project for a Multipurpose/Pickleball Outdoor Area at the Center

### **Programs and Services Support.....**

- Volunteer Appreciation Events
- Comedy Nights and Social Events
- Transportation costs support
- Brown Bag transportation costs
- Veteran services
- Senior Cookouts
- Contributions to the AgeSpan organization to support “Grab and Go” lunches and “Traveling Chef” program
- Amenities for the AARP Tax Prep volunteers and the Anna Jacques Vaccination teams
- Support for “Adult Recreation” participation and expansion
- Christmas Holiday Open House and Quarterly “Special Events”
- Hardship and program participation support
- Seasonal Flowers and Decorations to foster a welcoming Center
- Antique cars and “themed” events

### **Advocacy .....**

- Social media..... facebook postings and announcements
- Membership Drives for Individuals and Families ...mailing flyer to 7K households.
- Membership Drives for Business/Corporate local organizations ...
- Annual Calendar Raffle Drives in November.... mailing flyer to 8K households
- **“Friends Information Board”** in lobby of Center
- Newburyport Chamber Membership and Mixer Event hosting
- Complimentary Coffee/Refreshments and Newspapers for Center visitors and program participants