

Community Services FY 21- First Quarter Report

Community Services

The Community Services units continued to support each other during this quarter to provide critical outreach to the community. The Food Pantry remained busy, and forged many wonderful partnerships and enjoyed the support of our generous neighbors. A Town-Wide food drive was held. I participated in the application process for the CDBG grant with Athol. An RFI - soliciting groups interested in operating the Food Pantry - was listed on the town's website.

Library

The Library continued to offer curbside service. The MLS (Massachusetts Library System) resumed Inter-library loan deliveries; delivering and picking up requested materials twice a week. I began working on the 3 reports to the Board of Library Commissioners. Story Time videos were made available on the town's website and social media. I completed annual reviews for the CS units. The bid opening for the Library's roof and construction project took place, and a contractor was chosen.

Senior Services

Meals on Wheels deliveries continued uninterrupted this quarter, with the crew from GAAMHA taking over the transportation piece after discontinuing that program in early April. Many thanks to Joe Arsenault and Rene Melanson, our 2 Senior Center staff drivers, for stepping up to make sure this valuable service continued in April, May, June and July. Our SHINE volunteer, Gail held phone appointments to assist Seniors with insurance questions. Our new Services Coordinator, Cindy Shea began in July. She and I interviewed for the positions of : Activities Coordinator, Administrative Assistant and Driver. Kaley McLaughlin, began in the Admin role in August. The raised beds were planted and maintained by volunteers, and produce was donated to the Food Pantry. Activities and happenings in this quarter included: Yoga in the yard, a Zoom support group, an informational program by TMLP, essential medical transportation, the COA board meeting and 'Senior Buzz' monthly newsletter made available electronically

Veteran's Services

Worked with Legion regarding a scout project for flag drop off boxes.

Continue to serve veterans through appointments and phone calls.

Food giveaways for Veterans with assistance of the Legion in Baldwinville is still going strong. Over 700 boxes and extras have been dispersed totaling over 7000 meals provided to veterans. This includes looking for food programs to support this initiative and purchasing food with donations made to the Legion.

Worked with DAV to secure ramps for use by veterans in need of them.

TCTV

Highlights

Zoom/YouTube streams

28 meetings streamed in Q1, and 93/96 since March 16

Overcame random obstacles and setbacks with Zoom, YouTube

Server switchover preparations

Produced Graduation, Kite Festival, Take Out Templeton, other videos

YouTube:

18K views, +137 subscribers

top YouTube Videos:

Inside the Police Station

Songbirds of the Northeast

NRSD Parent Forum

Collector Time: Tonka Toys

How to Make a Ninja Mask

#10 Phillipston Town Meeting

New Castus Server Prep

Final installation postponements meant taking small, steady steps

Channel 8 is getting a gradual makeover

Pump up community access

Staff Reboots

Lost two people, pulled Hannah away from community productions

Re-staffing with hires - Monty Tech co-op possibility

New positions including video production assistants
can accelerate growth with staff and community involvement

Public Support

TCTV is a platform for the community
Senior Center will collect and curate their own programming
Organizations can operate their own slide shows, create video
Still need a place to engage with public
Promotions to educate public

Cultural Council

The TCC met several times via ZOOM this quarter. July was our first meeting to discuss this quarter's 2020 remaining events, mostly regarding cancellations and help with Grantees.

August the council sponsored the band for the Kite Festival, put on by the Narragansett Historical Society. The festival was held at Brooks Field and had great day for it. Many people participated in flying kites, making giant bubbles and dancing.

The Lucy Stone teas was going to celebrate the 100 years of the 19th Amendment passing for the Women's Right to Vote, but ended up being postponed until the spring of 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions and concerns.

Several Templeton Cultural council members aged out on their term this quarter. This meant we had to replace our Treasure, Barbara White. Pat Gale volunteered to take over the Treasures position and Lisa Dembek continues to be the Chair.

The remainder of the quarter was uneventful, as everyone adhered to Covid-19 rules of social distancing and no large gathering. Many of the Templeton Cultural Councils sponsored events were cancelled.

Hopefully our new grant cycle and year 2021 will have more events to share and report on.

Recreation

Nothing reported