



TOWN OF TEMPLETON COMMUNITY SERVICES

**27 Boynton Road
Templeton, MA 01468**

TEL: (978) 939-5582



Community Services – FY 24 First Quarter Reports

Library/ Community Services

The library's summer reading incentives continued through much of this quarter, with approximately 60 children participating. I participated in interviews for a Director of Veteran's Services. TCTV intern, Ashlynn helped to create the first issue of our e-newsletter. We are compiling a list of subscribers and hope to have a Fall issue. The Farmers' Market continued and concluded in this quarter. I completed and submitted the 1st of 3 reports to the Board of Library Commissioners. Story Hour began in early September. The weekly Stitching group, spearheaded by Library Assistant, LouAnn resumed. A stunning 9/11 memorial was placed on the library grounds by resident Kelly Taylor.

- (attached) See Food Pantry report

Senior Services

The Center was bustling with visitors, events, and regular offerings this quarter. Elvis was in the building! A concert of his greatest hits was enjoyed as the audience dined on pizza! A trip to Salisbury Beach was enjoyed by a van-full on a sunny July day. Other trips included: the Red Apple Farm and Newburyport. Two BBQs were held, with guest grill-masters. Two informative sessions were hosted by Dr.Chandra: one on diabetes and the other on osteoporosis- each accompanied by a healthy breakfast. A vaccine clinic was held with 52 flu shots administered and 40 pre-registrations for the October Covid clinic. A newly formed men's group was very popular. Elaine and Linda attended the MCOA (Mass. Councils on Aging) conference. Talk with the Town guest Rich Curtis answered questions about CERT. Three meals were sponsored with ARPA funds. Regular activities included: walking group, yoga, pitch, card bingo, creative stitchers, book club, cribbage and mah jong.

Attendance: 1,256
Social Service Interactions 118
Volunteer hours 256
Rides provided: 515

Veterans' Services

I have been able to Reconcile Accounts/Cases from July 2022 through the end of September 2023 and the State has reimbursed the Town of Templeton \$46,626.92.

In this time of being in this position for 8 weeks, through September, I have also submitted 8 New VA Claims for Veterans. I have also processed paperwork for 4

Spouses who needed to become the Alternate Signer for the Veteran due to the Veteran's medical condition.

I have already learned so much in 8 weeks and I know it will continue and I am excited! Thank you for allowing me to serve the Veterans and their families of this town. Michelle

Cultural Council

This first quarter the Templeton Cultural Council met 1 time in August to discuss upcoming events, financial report and 2024 Mass Cultural Council grant cycle. We had a rough summer with the weather and had to move some of our events to later dates, but it worked out and was a great summer.

August 6, The TCC had our first concert on the Common at the Bandstand.

'Crossroads' performed for 2 hours and was well attended by our community.

August 6, Narragansett Historical Society hosted The Go Fly a Kite festival. The TCC Council supplied the grant for the band at the festival.

August 12, Narragansett Historical Society hosted a Garden Tea with the council supplying the grant for entertainment. Take Jazz performed for 2 hours in the beautiful garden. Local church ladies as well as the TCC council supplied the refreshments and local community young adults as servers.

August 20, TCC had the second concert in our series on the Common at the Bandstand. Bridgewater Antiphonal Brass Band Society is a 22-piece brass band and played for 2 hours. Templeton First Church helped the council with 22 chairs that the band required for the performance.

September 17 had the third concert in our summer series with 'Strictly Overtime'.

The community has provided good feedback with our Concert on the Common series.

After talking with several residents and business owners, they all have said it is nice to have this coming back into our community.

Every concert seems to be attracting more people and average attendance is about 90 – 100 people. We also must note that people living in the area enjoy the entertainment from their homes and back yards.

As always, the Templeton Cultural Council needs volunteers to join our council. It's a great way to learn about your town, be creative and provide fresh ideas for things people would like to see in the Town.

TCTV/ Cable Department

3 MassHire Interns worked 6 weeks in July and August

- Produced archive B-roll of town buildings, parks and grounds

- Produced video trailers of Templeton around town

- Planned and produced Baldwinville School Housing Project Open House program

- Planned and produced TCTV News show

- Videography and edit Go Fly a Kite Festival program

Department Initiatives

- Establishing more structure for staff to be productive

- Cleaned and organized closet space! BIG!

Grant applications submitted:

-Digital Equity partnership through MassTech Collaborative for Digital Lab, w/MWCC & Wachusett Business Incubator

-Community Foundation of N Central Mass Community Development grant to produce Montachusett Scene signature show for Montachusett.TV. Awards announced late Oct.

-No word on Digital Equity Planning w/MRPC along with Phillipston, Royalston

Staff Programs Produced in Q1

Play Outside Day - 360 video

Appleseed Country Fair

Gardner Chamber of Commerce Golf video

Oktoberfest/Fall Fest & Chair Luge

Red Apple sponsorship

Concert on the Common

Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center

Photo Assets & Archive in Q1

Bolton Fair

Appleseed Country Fair

Gardner Centennial Parade

Johnny Appleseed Festival

Concerts on the Common

Montachusett.TV & Digital Lab Paths

Need other freelancers for Montachusett.TV

-Photography and Calendar post writers, area live music followers

Partnerships sought for mTV, Digital Lab

RFP for services went out

TECH ISSUES WHACK-A-MOLE

-Buffering and intermittent audio noise in live streams remain issues.

ANALYTICS

-TCTV Facebook 12,768 reach, up 42%, number of posts down 40% LESS is MORE?

-Biggest day of reach Sept. 2 - didn't post content

Most popular Q1 posts:

-Appleseed Fair video preview had 5K reach

-Kite Fest/Play Outside Day Aug 5-6

-TCTV News week of Aug. 14

-Motorpalooza preview Sept. 7-8

TCTV YouTube Channel holds form in Q1

-11.4K views, 1,000 watch hours

-Big days Aug 10, Sept. 13-14, Sept. 25, 27

Most popular in Q1:

-#1 Collector Time: Luminous Lanterns edges Tonka Toys!

-#6 & 8 Select Board meetings of Aug. 9, Sept. 13

-#7 Surprise - Planning Board of Aug. 13, 2019: 2K+ views - cannabis zoning overlay and bylaw amendment, 22 likes, and Sept 3-15 jump of several hundred views

-#10 Baldwinville School Housing Project Open House

Montachusett.TV website shows healthy growth

-2,000 views/month

- Engagement rates, pages per visit look healthy
- 25% growth from July through September
- Facebook reach was 10,720 for Q1, Likes are up
- Big day Sept 4: Appleseed Country fair photos

New Hope Bible Chapel dba/ Templeton Food Pantry

P.O. Box 189

Templeton, MA 01468

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

Dear Selectboard Members:

As the Director of the Templeton Food Pantry, I'd like to give you a brief report: The foot traffic of the food pantry has increased significantly this year due to the economy and other factors. In January of this year we serviced 191 households which represented 462 individuals. In the month of August, we serviced 297 households which represented 752 individuals! Along with this increase, the monetary donations coming in have decreased. I'm sure people gave more during the height of Covid 19.

Because of these statistics, I've had to constantly evaluate and make changes accordingly. We were spending an average of \$4,500/month at Market Basket to supplement the food donations from the community. Needless to say, we had to stop buying many items and are now spending about \$3,000/month. We continue to make monthly pick-ups of 2,000-3,000 pounds of food at the Worcester County Food Bank. This is a lifesaver. We also continue to get regular donations from the Country Hen, the Kitchen Garden, the Petersham Pet Food Task Force, bread from Hannaford, and occasional items from BJ's. We are also in full swing to provide Thanksgiving Boxes to 75 families.

In the past. We didn't turn anyone away regardless of where they lived. As of July 2023, I had to make the decision to only serve the towns & city (Gardner), that border Templeton, including Athol (which doesn't technically border us). If the numbers continue to increase, we may have to make the painful decision to not serve Athol, Gardner, & Winchendon as they have pantries in those towns. We are going strong and see a continued and vibrant service to our community in the days ahead. Although it can be challenging, we are making decisions that will guarantee the longevity of this vital ministry.

We continue to work with many volunteers from our community. I value their time and sacrifice. Many have vocalized that the current hours of 12 to 3 PM on Saturdays is very inconvenient. For that reason, as of November 1, 2023, I plan on changing the hours for Saturday to 10 AM to Noon. All other hours throughout the week will remain the same. Please make the appropriate changes to the town website and any other place it is promoted. We will do the same. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cote, Director

mjoycote@gmail.com