

Council on Aging Director's Updates

Tammy Murray

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Nancy, Katie, Ben, and multiple nurses from the MIH group have been contacting all of our seniors in town. We have touched every single senior in our data base at least twice since we have closed the building. During these calls we find out medical conditions and needs they may have. These calls have resulted in things such as delivering food or going food shopping for them. We have been using CERT volunteers to assist in shopping trips etc.

We have been performing regular tasks such as applications for SNAP Benefits, Fuel Assistance, SHINE Applications and referrals, Housing Applications, Medical Equipment loans, Notary Services, MOW, and other requests. We have also been broadcasting exercise classes on HGTV as well as on Facebook and in addition to that a writing class is being conducted by an instructor using her Zoom account. We have had conference calls involving the people from the arthritis class and we are working on delivering Veterans breakfast on Memorial Day with the help of Carol Mattes and the CERT Team.

I cannot say I know what it will look like when we are able to open. I cannot say when we will open. What I can assure you is that we are doing all that we can for every senior in town that we have touched. If you hear of anyone who is not being assisted, please let me know. We have still had volunteers coming to the center daily to deliver Meals on Wheels as well as using George and Michael to do so we are still transporting seniors to doctor's appointments or shopping. That has never stopped.

I am working on updated statistics for the last two months I should have those available and distributed to you all in a week or so. George, Michael, and I are at the Center daily at least between the hours of 9 and 2 PM and the remainder of the time I am working remotely Nancy and Katie have been working remotely since March.

We are distributing masks that are being donated to the center by people who make them to any seniors who need them all of these communications have been posted on the website as well as on Facebook and the information is shared when we are making our wellness check phone calls.

In addition to all of this I was assigned food services with the assistance of Carol Mattis for the town we have been working closely with the food pantry the schools etc. making sure that anyone who needs a nutritious meal is receiving it. I make regular visits to Cisco and Plympton picking up food service orders for the school as well as stocking our pantry at the Council on aging in case people need things.

On a side note, Parks and Recreation as well as the school enrichment program will most likely suspend all summer day programming.

The way Senior Centers perform is going to change they will most likely be a decline in programming and an uptick in outreach as we have seen over the last few months. We are committed to do everything we possibly need to in order to be sure that the seniors and all residents in our community have what they need.

Do you to the Council on aging budget being a part of the Community Services Budget we have not had to cut any expenses in our budget what we have done is moved some of my salary into other departments we will not be filling the volunteer coordinator position in 2021 we are unable to hire a part-time cook in 2021 but based on the uncertainty of this virus those do not concern me I have been assured by the town manager that they're not being taken off the table completely and will be revisited in 2022 or 2023.