

# Among Friends

## August 2020

Friends of HCOA website: [www.fhcoa.org](http://www.fhcoa.org)



### PLEASE NOTE ...

At the time this newsletter is being written, we are still social distancing. As a result, no information is available as to when our Town buildings will re-open. With that in mind, we have cancelled/postponed most programming and all trips for the month of August. Transportation on the van is still available by appointment, call Mary at 508-210-5573; as are Outreach Services, Meals on Wheels and the staff is here Monday-Friday to answer any questions or concerns you have either via phone or e-mail. We look forward to seeing all of you here at the Center as soon as it is safe to come together again. As you aware things are changing every minute, so the information in this newsletter is accurate up to approximately mid-July when it went to print.



### CLASSES W/MARTY FRENCH ARE BACK



Marty French will be offering two classes in August. *Fri., Aug. 7 & Fri., Aug. 21 at 1:00 p.m.* Classes will be held **OUTSIDE**. Exercise for all levels, some while seated in chairs, and some standing. Wearing a mask during class is optional. You will be 6 feet apart facing forward. All are welcome. There's no charge for the classes. We **ARE** going to **REQUIRE** you to register in order to attend the class such that we can have enough chairs outside for everyone. Class size is limited. Call 508-210-5570 to register. (Please remember the building will be closed & participants will have no access to the building/rest rooms.)

### FROM OUR FRIEND SHERIFF LEW ...

**Your safety is always our highest priority.** With that in mind, we must share with you the disappointing news about our beloved Sheriff's Annual Senior Picnic. Due to the current circumstance of COVID-19 including significant health concerns for our senior population, **we must CANCEL this year's event.** We look forward to celebrating with you next year, it will be Bigger & Better than ever! In the meantime, be sure to #StaySafe. For any questions regarding our Senior Picnic cancellation please contact: [dostiguy@worcestercountysheriff.org](mailto:dostiguy@worcestercountysheriff.org) or call 508-796-2638.



#### COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEMBERS

**Susan Sullivan - Chairman**  
**Richard Mansfield - Vice Chairman**  
**Wayne Howard**  
**Maureen Locke**  
**Eric Johansen**  
**Faye Ellis**  
**Nancy Melton**

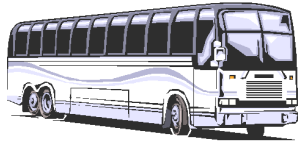
**Holden Senior Center**  
**1130 Main Street, Holden, MA 01520**  
**508-210-5570**

**Director: Louise Charbonneau**  
**Secretary: Maureen Buffone**  
**Program Coordinator: Clare Nelson**  
**Transportation Coordinator: Mary Sloan - 508-210-5573**  
**Outreach Worker: Paula Earley**  
**Outreach Worker: Dale Hayden**  
**Drivers: John Bianco, Greg Tivnan,**  
**Katherine LePain, Lisa Larson**  
**Meal Site Manager: Sue Donaldson - 508-210-5578**

*The mission of the Holden Council on Aging is to assist seniors and their families by providing services and activities that will enable them to stay independent and living in their own homes for as long as possible.*

**Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**





# UPCOMING TRIPS

[\(Trips will take place only if COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted\)](#)



**Tuesday, September 8 ... Narragansett Lighthouse Cruise ...** Depart the Senior Center at 9:00 a.m. You'll first arrive at Rhode Island's Quonset Point Officer's Club for a delicious, full course luncheon. Your menu includes a Garden Tossed Salad, Entrée of Fresh Baked Scrod or Baked Chicken with Lemon, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Chocolate Cake Dessert and choice of Coffee or Tea. After lunch you'll board the Millennium Ferry for a narrated Narragansett Bay Lighthouse tour, including ten beautiful lighthouses and a Newport Harbor tour. You'll cruise under the breathtaking Jamestown and Newport Bridges, past mansions, historic Fort Adams and many other historic Rhode Island sights. You'll return home at 5:30 p.m. Cost of this tour is \$91.00/person including transportation, lunch, cruise and driver's gratuity by check made payable to "Friends of HCOA."



**Wednesday, September 30 ... The Ultimate Jimmy Buffet Tribute Show ...** Grab your beach chair, your suntan oil and your favorite drink and get ready for a virtual trip to the islands! Jimmy and the Parrots are the most sought after Jimmy Buffet Tribute band in the country. They not only play your favorite Buffet songs, they also play our favorite songs by the Beach Boys, Paul Simon, Harry Belafonte, Bob Marley, among others. Enjoy the show during your visit to Foster's Clambake Restaurant in York, ME. Your meal will include Whole boiled 1 1/4 lb. lobster or 1/2 BBQ chicken, clam chowder, fresh steamed mussels, fresh Maine clams, corn-on-the-cob, potatoes and onions, blueberry cake, rolls, butter & beverage. Cost for this trip, including transportation, lunch, show and driver gratuity is \$101/person by check made payable to "Friends of HCOA."

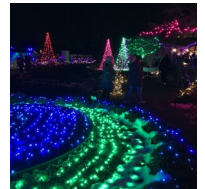


**Tuesday, October 13 ... Green Mountain Railroad ...** Depart the Senior Center at 9:00 a.m. Traveling north to Vermont you'll enjoy the color changes of sugar maples which signals nature's change of seasons. After a visit to the Grafton Cheese Shop in Brattleboro, VT, for samples and tasting, you'll enjoy a delicious full course luncheon at the New England House Restaurant, Meal choices will be Cider Chicken or Yankee Pot Roast. Next you'll travel to Chester, VT to board one of New England's finest railroads, The Green Mountain Railroad for a spectacular sightseeing foliage tour. You'll arrive back home at 7:00 p.m. Tour cost of \$101/person, including transportation, luncheon, railroad tour and driver's gratuity can be made by check payable to "Friends of HCOA."



**Wednesday, November 11 ... Newport Playhouse & Cabaret ...** Bountiful Buffet, Comedic Theater, and Cabaret performance during dessert. \$91.00/person including transportation, lunch buffet, entertainment and driver gratuity can be made by check payable to "Friends of HCOA."

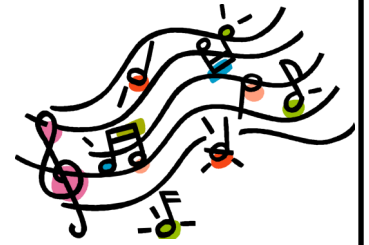
**Wednesday, December 2 ... Christmas Lights at Tower Hill ...** Leave Holden Senior at 2:45 p.m. ... Late lunch at O'Connor's Restaurant. Cost is \$70.00/person including transportation, lunch, tower hill lights tour and driver's gratuity can be made by check payable to "Friends of HCOA."



**Tuesday, December 8 ... Foxwood Casino Legends \$10 Slot Play ...** \$81.00/person. Luncheon Buffet. "Legends in Concert" Show. More details to follow in future newsletters.

[We would like to ask if you are signing up for more than one trip that you provide a separate check for each trip. Thank you!](#)

## 2020 HOLDEN BANDSTAND SERIES



**Sundays 6:00-8:00 p.m. ~ 1130 Main Street**

- August 2**                    **The Rusty Buckets** sponsored by **Janice Mitchell Real Estate**  
Dance Tunes, Oldies, Soft Rock
- August 9**                    **Wachusett Community Band** sponsored by **Webster First Fed. Credit Union**  
Show Tunes, Marches, Popular and Classical Artists
- August 16**                    **Holdin' Back Band** sponsored by **Cornerstone Bank**  
Patriotic, Oldies, Rock and Roll, Sing Alongs

*The Holden Bandstand Committee would like to give a special thank you to all of the 2020 Sponsors and Business Donors who make these concerts possible. Thank you.*

### **SPONSORS**

**Blair Realty**  
**Cornerstone Bank**  
**Gibbs Realty, Inc.**  
**Holden Cultural Council**  
**Janice Mitchell Real Estate**  
**Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Worcester**  
**Webster First Federal Credit Union**

### **BUSINESS DONORS**

**Ellie's Pet Barn**  
**Manor/Draught House Bar & Grill**  
**Mulroy Family Dental**  
**S & S Marketplace**  
**Steve's Pizza**  
**Sunnyside Ford**  
**Village Repair**  
**Wong Dynasty & Yankee Grill, Inc.**

**In the event of rain, the concerts will be cancelled**

**\*\*The Committee passes the "bucket" at each concert for voluntary contributions to maintain the Bandstand.\*\***

**The concerts will be held in accordance with COVID-19 pandemic regulations.**

### **FROM THE FRIENDS ...**



Hopefully you are all getting use to the "new normal" and making healthy decisions. Our Friends Annual meeting is temporarily scheduled for **Monday, September 14th at 10:00 a.m.** Please watch the September newsletter for confirmation.

### **FROM THE LIBRARY ...**

While the Gale Free Library building remains closed to the public, we are offering materials to be picked up curbside at the library BY APPOINTMENT. We are also providing a reader's advisory to assist patrons with what they might like to read since they cannot currently browse. Also, please remember the option of Book Express where you can let us know books, movies, etc. you'd like to enjoy and it's brought to your home via a Senior Center Volunteer. Please don't forget to check our many digital resources for patrons. If you have questions about using these resources, or need reference or technical assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. Ways to stay in touch with us: Website: [www.galefreelibrary.org](http://www.galefreelibrary.org) ("reference Question" link on Adults page); "Ask a Librarian" Text Service: 508-210-2901; Phone 508-210-5560 (Main)/508-210-5569 (Reference) or follow us on Facebook.



## FROM THE OUTREACH OFFICE

The Outreach Office is still here and ready to assist with any information you may need. Paula and Dale are available to take calls and provide you with information on housing, SNAP, fuel assistance, Help at H.O.M.E., etc. Please call, leave a message on either phone and we will return your call.



The Book Express is available for any senior who would like to have books, movies, etc. delivered to their home on the 2nd Wednesday each month. You call the library and library staff will set aside your choices for our volunteers to pick up and deliver to you. The number for the Gale Free Library is 508-210-5560 (Main) or 508-210-5569 (Reference). Their hours of operation are Monday and Friday 9:30-5:30; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:30-8:00; Saturday 9:00-1:00.

During these difficult times we need to stay connected so, please, feel free to call if we can help. Have a wonderful summer. Take a walk, sit outside, enjoy the flowers and warm summer sun. Remember to hydrate and use sun screen! We are looking forward to seeing you all soon!

Paula - 508-210-5575 and Dale - 508-210-5576

## FARMERS MARKET COUPONS AVAILABLE



We will be distributing farmers market coupons on **Monday, August 3 from 10-11 a.m.** to eligible seniors. Qualified recipients must be 60 years of age, bring a current ID with a current address or a current ID and an invoice with a current address and must be income eligible. Number of coupons is limited. Distribution will done on a first come; first served basis. Distribution will take place outside. Because the town buildings will still be closed to the public, there will be no access to the building.

## FROM OUR TRIP COORDINATORS

Thank you to all who signed up for the 2020 Holden Senior Center bus trips. Thank you for understanding as trips have been canceled or postponed each month due to the Corona Virus.

***Please do not send checks to the Senior Center as trips are being canceled month by month. You may continue to sign up for trips by contacting our trip Coordinators at 508-210-5579. Trip Coordinators will contact you a month prior to each trip to ask for your check should a trip be permitted to go.***

Our trip volunteers have been working with each of our transportation vendors to provide the latest information as to how and when trips will begin to continue. Dianne and Eileen have been calling each of you who have signed up for trips and will continue to do so as we move forward.



The following is a list of trips that are still available and for which we are continuing to take registrations. As mentioned above, we are not taking checks at this time until we are assured the trip will happen. We will notify you should the trip be canceled or postponed. We will call 30 days prior to the trip to request payment. Checks are made payable to "Friends of HCOA." Separate checks are required for each trip and may include payment for all members of your party. Please remember to include meal selections, if applicable, when you register. For details on most of these trips, please see page 3 of this newsletter.

Narragansett Lighthouse tour - September 8, 2020

The Jimmy Buffet Tribute Show has been rescheduled to September 30, 2020

The Green Mountain Railroad - October 13, 2020

Newport Playhouse and Cabaret - November 11, 2020

Christmas Lights at tower Hill - December 2, 2020

Foxwoods Legends \$10 Slot Play and Legends show - December 8, 2020

## INFORMATION FROM SHINE

Hello! We are providing remote counseling to assist you. Call us to answer any of your Medicare related questions. You can reach us if: you are aging into Medicare at 65, you have lose your employment coverage for any reason and you are 65 or older, or simply have a general question about your current Medicare coverage.



Medicare and Social Security have announced new procedures for Medicare enrollment during the COVID emergency. This information is available on our website at [www.shinema.org](http://www.shinema.org).

If you live in Central Mass., call us directly at 508-422-9931. We are also available via multiple platforms such as FaceTime, Zoom and Skype conferencing to do one-on-one appointments if needed. Watch our website for Medicare 101 presentations via Zoom. Visit our website [www.shinema.org](http://www.shinema.org) and our new Facebook page: [SHINE Central MA](#) Like and share our posts!!

### FROM OUR TOWN CLERK ~ JEANNE M. SURVELL

An expanded opportunity to vote by mail in the upcoming State Primary, September 1st and the Presidential Election on November 3rd exists for everyone.

**Vote by Mail Applications:** The Secretary of State Elections Division will send a “vote by mail” application to all registered voters who have not yet applied for either an absentee or early voting ballot for 2020. The mailing is required to be sent by July 15th to all voters registered as of July 1st. The State applications will be pre-addressed back to the Holden Town Clerk and with pre-paid postage there will be no expense to you to return them for a ballot. For any persons registering or voters updating their voter registration address after July 1st, the Clerk’s office will include an application with their acknowledgement notice.



You don’t have to wait until the State sends you an absentee application, you can request one now from the Town Clerk’s Office. Absentee applications are available at the Senior Center, on the Town Clerk’s website or the Secretary of State’s website. You can send me a hand written letter or an email stating you’d like a ballot for some or all elections this year. In your request please indicate your choice of political party for the primary, state your residential address and mailing address if it’s different from your residential address and a phone number to call in case we have a question.

**Early Voting in Person:** House Bill 4820, an Act relative to voting options in response to COVID-19, was passed by the House & Senate last week & was signed into law as Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020. Thanks to the graciousness of Senior Center Director, Louise Charbonneau, the clerk’s office will be able to offer in-person early voting for the September State Primary at the Senior Center dining room starting on Saturday, August 22nd from 8 AM to Noon and on Sunday, August 23rd from 8 AM to Noon. Early voting will be available at the Senior Center during normal business hours during the week until Friday, August 28th at Noon.

I hope that everyone will exercise their right to be heard at the polls while staying safe and taking advantage of expanded voting by mail. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Jeanne Survell, Holden Town Clerk, 508-210 -5530, [townclerk@holdenma.gov](mailto:townclerk@holdenma.gov)*

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TAX PREPARATION

Tax-Aide, a partnership between the IRS & the AARP Foundation, needs volunteer counselors to help low-and moderate-income persons in your community prepare their Federal & Massachusetts income taxes. Additional positions for site greeters are also available.

Last year over 4,700 returns were prepared at 41 sites around Worcester county. Nationally almost 3 million taxpayers availed themselves of Tax-Aide services.

Volunteers work 4-6 hours per week for the eleven weeks during tax preparation season - Feb.1st-Apr. 15th. Training for volunteer preparers will be on three Saturdays in December. Internet access and basic computer skills are necessary. For an application and/or further information go to: <https://aarp.org/taxaide>. Select “Volunteer.” Then select Tax Aide from the drop down.





# SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS ...

Sept. 1 ... State Primary



Sept. 14 ... Free Legal Clinic by appointment



## FRIENDS OF HCOA I WOULD LIKE TO:

- Renew My Membership
- Become a New Member

Enclosed is my \$5.00 Donation  
Please Send My Membership Card To:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

You can stop by the Senior Center to join or mail your membership to: Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main Street Holden, MA 01520.

## PLEASE NOTE ...

While we appreciate those of you who share some of your magazines with us after you've finished with them, unfortunately we can no longer take them. Currently there's no one here to enjoy them and when we reopen, we won't be able to accept



### SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU

Sadly, we are unable to have our Annual Cookout as it's still not safe to come together.

**BURGERS**



**HOT DOGS**

So the staff thought that the least we could do is offer the cookout "to go." Therefore, on **Wed., Aug. 19** between **12:00 p.m. & 12:45 p.m.**, we invite you to pull up to the door and we will hand you a container which will have a hotdog; a

hamburger; a roll for each; condiments; a bag of chips and a dessert for you to enjoy at home.

Reservations are **REQUIRED** and will be accepted through end of business on **Fri., Aug. 14** or until we have reached 100 reservations.

### ARE YOU MISSING YOUR FRIENDS?

We have an idea to remedy that. Anyone is welcome to come together either on the side of the ball field or on our porches. All you need do is organize your small group, bring your own chairs and other necessities (water, snacks, etc.) and enjoy each other's company!

Please remember that the building is locked so you will have no access to rest rooms, etc. We encourage social distancing and the wearing of masks if you cannot social distance.

### SOCIAL DISTANCING



*Distribution of this newsletter is made possible, in part, by a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Friends of HCOA, Inc.*

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