

## **REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING**

### **About the Council**

The Wellesley Council on Aging, founded in 1972, is a Town Department that serves residents 60 years or older and their families. The Council on Aging is funded through local taxes, state grants, and private contributions. The Council on Aging is composed of a twelve-member volunteer Board of Directors appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Council on Aging board members for 2004-2005 were: Janet Beyer (Chair), Joellen Toussaint (Vice Chair), William Blount (Treasurer), Lorraine Tolman (Secretary), Linda Cohen, Stanley G. Hodges, Sr. Alice McCourt, Kathleen Quirk, Dianne Sullivan, Eleanor Sullivan, Mary Esther Tolles, and Mary Ann Ziegler. The 2004-2005 Board also included two Associate Members – Felix Juliani and John Schuler.

The Council's professional staff consists of a full-time Director of Senior Services, a full-time Health and Social Services Administrator (Outreach Worker), and a part-time Senior Activities Coordinator. In addition, many volunteers assist with activities, lead programs, and participate as class instructors.

### **Council Services**

Council services include subsidized transportation, a bi-monthly newsletter, financial assistance through the Simons Fund, participation in the AARP Tax Counseling Program for Elders, SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders) health benefits counseling, and the South Middlesex Opportunity Council Fuel Assistance program. The Council on Aging also provides information and referral; outreach services; in-home assessments; Senior Room Activities; weekday lunches (sponsored and managed by Springwell, Inc.); exercise programs; educational and recreational programs; social and cultural activities; day trips; and intergenerational programs.

### **Programs July 1, 2004-June 30, 2005**

Several long-standing groups meet at the Council on Aging: weekly needlepoint, weekly Bridge, weekly Investment Club, bi-weekly book discussion group, monthly meeting of the Wellesley Retirees, quarterly Triad meeting (partnership with seniors, law enforcement, and the Council on Aging to address safety issues for seniors), Community Service Bears (who meet weekly to make teddy bears for needy children), and the Afghan Project (who meet monthly to knit afghans for foster children).

Some day trips of note were: River Quest in Essex, Connecticut; Concord Museum and Old North Bridge; Wickford Village, Rhode Island; New England Flower Show; New Hampshire Foliage Trip; State House in Boston; Tour of the Wellesley Police Station; Casco Bay/ Bailey Island; and Tanglewood Summer Concert.

Exercise classes offered in Fiscal Year 2005 were: Walking Group (once per week), Yoga (once per week), Balance and Flexibility (twice per week), and Line Dancing (once per week), and Tai Chi (twice per week).

Classes offered were: Computer Instruction, Opera Appreciation; Fine Arts; Poetry Writing, Memoir Writing.

The Council on Aging had a nursing intern from Emmanuel College who worked once per week from September to December to assist with completing Files of Life emergency cards, give health seminars, and meet with individuals regarding health literacy.

There were also several lectures and health screenings such as: Hearing Screening, Alzheimer's Support Group; Wellesley Booksmith Author Talk; Medicare Part D Seminar; Living With Arthritis; "Preparing for the Unexpected" with the American Red Cross; Insomnia Seminar; Prescription Drug Program Seminar; "Save A Life Stroke Seminar"; "How to Understand Your Doctor's Medical and Instructions and Lab Reports (Health Literacy)"; Reverse Mortgages; Elder Hostel; Recognizing Elder Abuse; AARP Safe Driver Program; Library Services; Financial Planning; Homestead Protection with Norfolk County Register of Deeds; and "Successful Aging in Place" with Wellesley Chief Assessor Donna McCabe, Springwell, Framingham Co-operative Bank, and Homeowner Options for Massachusetts Elders.

Other activities included the annual holiday party, Springwell Annual Barbeque, Springwell "Carving of the Day" Lunch, free weekly movies, monthly video travel programs, Grand Canyon slide show and lecture, monthly Potpourri, a monthly video travel program, intergenerational programs (such as leaf raking and "cheer baskets" courtesy of the Wellesley Youth Hockey League in conjunction with the Wellesley Police Department and DPW; computer classes at Babson College taught by Babson student volunteers; intergenerational Game Day, and intergenerational Line Dancing).

## **REPORT OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

The Zoning Board of Appeals consists of three permanent members and three associate members, each appointed by the Board of Selectmen for a three year term. The permanent members on the current Board are Richard L. Seegel, Chairman, Cynthia S. Hibbard and David G. Sheffield. The associate members are Robert A. Bastille, J. Randolph Becker, Vice Chairman and Robert W. Levy. Lenore R. Mahoney serves as Executive Secretary.

The Board of Appeals is empowered to hear and decide Appeals, Petitions for Variances, Findings, Comprehensive Permits and Special Permits, in accordance with the Zoning Bylaws of the Town and MGL Chapters 40A and 40B. Public hearings are held at least once a month. The Board of Appeals office in the lower level of the Town Hall is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and from 2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. [(781) 431-1019, ext. 208]

From July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005, 20 Public Hearings were held by the Board of Appeals. A total of 100 petitions were filed during that period, which was an increase of 11 cases from the previous year. The Board ruled on 8 Variance requests under Section XIX (Yard Regulations) of the Zoning Bylaw. There were 13 requests for Special Permits or renewal of Special Permits previously granted for uses not allowed by right in a Single Residence District or a Business District, including educational uses, two-family residences, boarding or lodging houses, drive-through windows, and home occupations. Site Plan Approval under Section XVIA was granted for 3 Major Construction Projects. Site Plan Approval under Section