

MIDDLETOWN

MARCH 2026

***PRINTED 1/23/26**

**REGISTRATION OPENS 2/11 FOR
MIDDLETOWN RESIDENT MEMBERS**



Prime Times



A Monthly Publication of Programming, Events, and News for Middletown Residents 60+

61 Durant Terrace

(860) 638-4540

www.middletownct.gov/seniors

Regular Business Hours: Monday 8:30am-3pm & Tuesday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

March Activity Registration

Sign-ups open for March on-site activities on 2/11 for all resident members and 2/27 for non-resident members. Sign-ups open for March bus trips on the same days. You can sign-up in person, by phone (if you have \$ on your account), or on the SchedulesPlus site (if you have \$ on your account). Payment is due at time of registration. You **MUST** have the money on your account in order to sign-up by phone or on the SchedulesPlus site. Cash or check is due at time of registration in-person. **No same day registrations** unless coming off of a waitlist or if the program was advertised that way (regular bingo allows same day registration UNTIL noon). **Registration Site:** <https://schedulesplus.com/middletown>. In the event of an inclement weather delay or closure, sign-ups will occur on the next business day.

THE SICILIAN HERITAGE PROJECT

A Documentary about Sicilian Immigration to Middletown



Pizza & A Movie: "The Sicilian Heritage Project"

March 3rd at 1:30pm OR March 26th at 1:30pm

Note: Due to the expected demand for this program, we are running it twice. Please pick one date or the other when signing up for this program.

This documentary released in late 2025 was produced by Middlesex Professors Daniel Nocera and Angelo Glaviano. It honors the work, sacrifices, and resilience of the Sicilian immigrants who traveled from Melilli, Sicily, to Middletown, Connecticut beginning more than a century ago. The documentary features local interviews.

2 slices of cheese pizza served. \$3/5NR pre-registration required.

March Early Bird Dinner: Beef Tenderloin, Potatoes, and Vegetables March 19th at 3pm

Our kitchen doesn't really allow for us to make corned beef & cabbage in bulk, but we still wanted to embrace the spirit of St. Patrick's Day so we went with our favorite meat and potato meal! This meal includes a choice of beverage and a sweet treat for dessert.

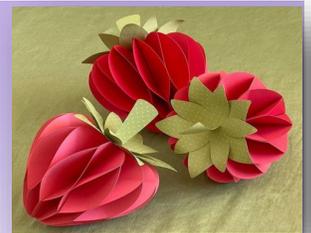
\$8/14 NR pre-registration required.





**March Craft With Heidi:
Paper Honeycomb Strawberries
March 10th at 2pm**

Please note: This is a step by step program. Please make every effort to be on-time. The instructor won't be able to hold the class or catch up a late arrival.



Get ready to “berry” yourself in creativity at this fun craft class. We'll be turning paper into 3D honeycomb strawberries. Talk about a sweet way to spend your day! You'll be cutting and hot gluing your way to bright berries that never lose their ripeness! ** In an effort to serve as many members as possible in this limited capacity program, we are asking that only one member per household register. \$6/8NR pre-registration required.

**Mary Brody Cooking Class:
A Taste of Portugal
March 5th at 1:30pm**

Salt Cod Fritters, Caldo Verde (Kale & Potato Soup), Orange Olive oil Cake

SPECIAL POLICY ALERT: This popular cooking demonstration only seats 25 people. If you have a confirmed spot in the previous month's advertised class (in this case February's) Mary Brody cooking class, you must wait 1 business day (until 2/12) before attempting to sign-up for this advertised class.

This class is run by Mary Brody, a freelance recipe developer and editor. This month she'll be making A Taste of Portugal. The menu will consist of Salt Cod Fritters, Caldo Verde (Kale & Potato Soup) & Orange Olive Oil Cake. The class is held in the Senior Center cafeteria. Mary demos multiple recipes and you get to sample each one! The class usually runs 2-3 hours. \$8/\$11 NR pre-registration is required.



**St. Patrick's Day Social
March 13th at 2:30pm**

Celebrate an early St. Patrick's Day with us by eating something green! Back by member request is pistachio pudding cake. It's a great excuse to socialize with new and old friends and get out of the house! \$2/3 NR pre-registration required.



**Better Breathers Group
February 27th & March 27th
1pm-2pm**

Thanks to our friends at Water's Edge Center for Health & Rehabilitation, our Better Breathers Group is back! If you, or someone you know is living with a chronic lung disease like COPD, asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, or lung cancer, consider joining us at this welcoming support group. Led by an American Lung Association trained facilitator, learn better ways to cope during this free and regularly scheduled educational program. FREE—Please pre-register.



**Baking with Heidi: Italian Herb and Parmesan Crackers
March 24th at 2pm**

Please note: This is a step by step program. Please make every effort to be on-time. The instructor won't be able to hold the class or catch up a late arrival.

Roll up your sleeves for a savory afternoon baking program! There are few things as delicious as Italian herbs and parmesan cheese. Whether you're an experienced baker or a curious beginner, you'll enjoy the hands-on fun of creating perfectly crisp, golden crackers that are ideal for sharing. Come for the baking, stay for the company, and leave with a batch of handmade snacks and a new favorite recipe. \$5/\$7 NR Pre-registration required.



In an effort to serve more members in this limited program, we are asking that only one member per household register and if dietary concerns apply, please allow another member a chance to get into the program.

Bus Trips...

All trips utilize our Senior Center 24 passenger bus and depart from Pat Kidney Field Parking Lot on Farm Hill Rd unless otherwise stated

Longhorn Steakhouse & CT Museum of Culture and History—March 3rd

Giddy up for a day of savory steaks and local stories! Lunch is at Longhorn Steakhouse in Rocky Hill, where you can dig into your favorites and after you've had your fill, we'll head to the CT Museum of Culture & History. Whether you're exploring the state's heritage or just enjoying the company of friends, this trip is a perfect blend of great food and fascinating history. Don't forget to reserve your spot on this trip! **Advanced registration is required \$8/\$12 NR. Cost covers transportation and museum entry fee. All purchases are at your own expense.**

Bus departs Pat Kidney Field at 11:25 AM Bus arrives at Longhorn Steakhouse 11:45 AM
Bus departs Longhorn Steakhouse 1:15 PM Bus arrives at CT Museum of Culture & History 1:30 PM
Bus departs CT Museum 3:00 PM Bus arrives at Pat Kidney Field 3:35 PM

East Brook Mall & Willimantic Brewing Company—March 5th

This is a fund day of retail therapy and historic charm! The adventure starts at the East Brook Mall (Mansfield), an easy to navigate mall featuring favorites like Kohl's, TJ Maxx, Old Navy and much more. Next, we'll head over to the Willimantic Brewing Company for a unique dining experience in a grand, repurposed 1909 post office building. You can enjoy local favorites like their famous beer-battered fish and chips, a hearty sandwich or a savory bowl of onion ale soup while admiring the historic murals and their 60 foot mahogany bar. **Advanced registration is required \$6/7 NR. Cost covers transportation only. All purchases are at your own expense.**

Bus departs Pat Kidney Field at 9:40 AM Bus arrives at East Brook Mall 10:30 AM
Bus departs East Brook Mall 12:00 PM Bus arrives at Willimantic Brewing Co. 12:10 PM
Bus departs Willimantic Brewing Co. 1:40 PM Bus arrives at Pat Kidney Field 2:30 PM

Colchester Mills & The Plum Tomato—March 10th

Get ready for a day of treasures and treats! We're hitting the road for a delightful double feature in Colchester. We'll start our morning browsing the endless aisles of fabrics, crafts, and unique gifts at the famous Colchester Mill Fabrics and Quilting, followed by lunch at The Plum Tomato for a delicious lunch in a cozy, rustic atmosphere. It's the perfect chance to shop for your next creative project and enjoy a great meal with friends without worrying about the drive. Bus seats fill up fast, don't delay in grabbing your spot! **Advanced registration is required \$6/\$7 NR. Cost covers transportation only. All purchases are at your own expense.**

Bus departs Pat Kidney Field at 9:45 AM Bus arrives at Colchester Mills 10:20 AM
Bus departs Colchester Mills 11:50 AM Bus arrives at The Plum Tomato 11:55 AM
Bus departs The Plum Tomato 1:30 PM Bus arrives at Pat Kidney Field 2:05 PM

Collinsville Antiques & Saybrook Fish House—March 12th

Step back in time and savor the flavors of the coast on our next exciting outing! We're heading to the massive Collinsville Antiques Company of New Hartford, where you can explore 22,000 sq feet of "one floor shopping bliss" featuring everything from vintage jewelry and mid-century furniture to quirky collectibles. After working up an appetite browsing the treasures of over 100 dealers, we'll hop over to the beloved Saybrook Fish House in Canton for a legendary seafood lunch. With a "Captain's Platter", a bowl of clam chowder, or baked stuffed shrimp, you're in for a treat! Space on the bus is limited so don't wait to register for this trip! **Advanced registration is required: \$6/\$7 NR. Cost covers transportation only. All purchases are at your own expense.**

Bus departs Pat Kidney Field 9:30 AM 930a Bus arrives at Collinsville Antiques 10:30 AM
Bus departs Collinsville Antiques 12:00 PM Bus arrives at Saybrook Fish House (Canton) 12:10 PM
Bus departs Saybrook Fish House 1:40 PM Bus arrives at Pat Kidney Field 2:40 PM

Blue Back Square West Hartford—March 17th

Get ready for a day of upscale shopping, delicious dining and fun with friends as we head to the vibrant Blue Back Square in W. Hartford. This charming area offers a pedestrian-friendly environment where you can browse stores like Barnes & Noble and Crate & Barrel, or unique local boutiques and specialty shops. You'll also have your choice of numerous top rated restaurants ensuring there is something for every taste. It's the perfect destination to shop, eat, and stroll around in a lively, welcoming atmosphere without worrying about driving or parking. Sign up to secure your spot! **Advanced registration is required: \$6/\$7 NR. Cost covers transportation only. All purchases are at your own expense.**

Bus departs Pat Kidney Field 11:15 AM Bus arrives at Blue Back Square 11:45 AM
Bus departs Blue Back Square 2:45 PM Bus arrives at Pat Kidney Field 3:20 PM

Bus Trips (continued)...

All trips utilize our Senior Center 24 passenger bus and depart from Pat Kidney Field Parking Lot on Farm Hill Rd unless otherwise stated



Thanks Mike for driving our members to all these fun excursions!

Greater Middletown Military Museum & BellaNotte Restaurant—March 19th

Honor our heroes and treat your taste buds to a “beautiful night” in the middle of the day! We’ll begin the day at the Greater Middletown Military Museum, an immersive tribute that includes a Vietnam-era UH-1H Huey helicopter. Explore a vast collection of artifacts, letters, and uniforms spanning from the Civil War to present day. After our tour, we’ll head over to BellaNotte Restaurant for a cozy upscale Italian lunch. This charming spot offers the perfect atmosphere for relaxing and sharing stories with friends. **Advanced registration required \$3/6 NR. All purchases are at your own expense.**

Bus departs Pat Kidney Field at 10:20 AM
Bus departs Military Museum 12:30 PM
Bus departs Rein’s Deli 2:15 PM

Bus arrives at Military Museum 10:30 AM
Bus arrives at BellaNotte 12:45 PM
Bus arrives at Pat Kidney Field 2:25 PM

Pez Factory Tour & Chips Restaurant—March 24th

Saddle up for this nostalgic rush as we travel to Orange, CT to visit the world famous Pez factory. **(\$5 fee on-site)** This sweet destination features the largest collection of Pez memorabilia on public display, including the worlds largest dispenser and a unique custom motorcycle built by Orange County Choppers. After exploring 4,000 square feet of candy history we’ll head to Chip’s Family Restaurant, a local favorite. There’s a hearty dish waiting for everyone. Don’t miss out on this day of sweet memories and delicious comfort food! **Advanced registration required \$6/7 NR Cost covers transportation only. \$5 Entrance fee at PEZ and all purchases are at your own expense.**

Bus departs Pat Kidney Field at 10:30 AM
Bus departs PEZ Factory 12:30 PM
Bus departs Chips Restaurant 2:05 PM

Bus arrives at PEZ Factory 11:00 AM
Bus arrives at Chips Restaurant 12:35 PM
Bus arrives at Pat Kidney Field 2:50 PM

New Haven Museum And Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana—March 26th

We’re heading to New Haven Museum where you’ll explore the fascinating new exhibit “Pronounced Ah-Beetz” a deep dive into the city’s iconic pizza culture featuring Frank Pepe’s original hat and celebrity-signed pizza boxes. And lots of great exhibits. Then we’ll head over to Wooster Street for the real deal! Whether you choose a classic tomato pie or their legendary white clam pizza, you’ll be enjoying a slice of history from a coal fired oven that’s been burning for over 100 years! **Advanced registration required \$9/14 NR Cost covers transportation and museum entry fee. All purchases are at your own expense.**

Bus departs Pat Kidney Field at 10:15 AM
Bus departs New Haven Museum 12:30 PM
Bus departs Frank Pepe Pizzeria 2:10 PM

Bus arrives at New Haven Museum 11:00 AM
Bus arrives at Frank Pepe Pizzeria 12:40 PM
Bus arrives at Pat Kidney Field 2:50 PM

Lockwood Museum and Dive & Dive Bar Restaurant—March 31st

Experience the grandeur of the Gilded Age with a visit to the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum in Norwalk. This National Historic Landmark, recently reopened after a major \$18 million restoration offers a stunning look at 19th century luxury with it’s majestic rotunda and intricate woodwork. **(Museum visit valued at \$28 PP)** After your journey through the past, we’ll head to the Dive Bar & Restaurant in West haven for a relaxed lunch with one of the best views of Long Island Sound. Dive into crowd favorites with island-inspired bites and beautiful waterfront atmosphere, it’s the perfect place to unwind and share stories of the day’s discoveries. Space on the bus is limited so be ready on sign-up day! **Advanced registration required \$20/28 NR. Cost covers transportation and museum entry fee. All purchases are at your own expense.**

Bus departs Pat Kidney Field at 9:45 AM
Bus departs Lockwood Museum 12:30 PM
Bus departs Dive Bar Restaurant 2:30 PM

Bus arrives at Lockwood Museum 11:00 AM
Bus arrives at Dive Bar Restaurant 1:00 PM
Bus arrives at Pat Kidney Field 3:30 PM

Exercise Options at the Center

Mini Gym (Residents Only)

ALWAYS consult your physician before starting a new exercise routine. The gym is for RESIDENTS ONLY and is “use at your own risk”. Scanning in is a requirement of membership and applies to use of this gym. The mini-gym is open weekdays Mondays 9am-3pm, Tuesdays-Wednesdays 9am-4pm, Thursdays 9am-11am and 12pm-4pm, Fridays 9am-4pm. Have you had a chance to check-out or use our new commercial equipment? Thanks to an American Rescue Plan Act grant, our mini-gym got some amazing equipment. What’s stopping you from taking advantage of this FREE benefit? No pre-registration required.

Please follow your instructor’s direction and plan to stay for the entirety of the class.

A gentle reminder—please consult your personal schedule before signing up for these classes. They are in high demand and we are limited by the amount of physical space in the room. Thank you so much!

Please don’t block any entrances or exits with chairs or belongings.

Arthritis Exercise led by Marcy (Mondays & Fridays at 12:30pm): Improve joint flexibility and muscle strength. Marcy is a physical therapist who gets you moving all of your joints from head to toe! Chairs are used for a portion of this class. \$2 Res/\$4 NR per class. Pre-registration required.

Chair Yoga led by Jane (Tuesdays at 10:30am): Enjoy all the benefits of yoga without the fear of getting on the floor or not being able to get up from the floor. All positions are from a standing or sitting position. This can easily be modified to your comfort level. \$2 Res/\$3 NR per class. Pre-registration required.

Exercise/Aerobics led by Jane (Mon., Wed., Thurs. at 9am): This is a high intensity workout with a warm-up and cool down period. Chairs are used for a portion of the class. FREE—Pre-registration required. **RESIDENTS ONLY** and no waitlist kept for this class. **VERY HIGH DEMAND.**

Improving Movement & Balance led by Lisa (Fridays at 10:30am): Using a millennia-old system of coordinated body-posture and movement, breathing, and meditation. This class is mostly standing, but does include chairs for a portion of the class. \$2 Res/\$3 NR per class. Pre-registration required. **Instructor on leave—unsure of exact return date.**

Tai Chi led by Lisa (Thursdays at 11:30am): Improve your balance, mental focus, strength and stamina with slow, flowing movements, gentle stretching, and deep, relaxed breathing. Lisa is a certified evidence-based Tai Chi and Qigong instructor with over 35 years of experience. Chairs are used for a portion of the class. \$2 Res/\$3 NR per class. Pre-registration required. **Instructor on leave—unsure of exact return date.**

Traditional Yoga led by Liz (Wednesdays at 10:30am): Please bring a yoga mat. A large portion of the class is spent on the floor. \$4 Res/\$6 NR per class. Pre-registration required.

Zumba Gold led by Diane (Tuesdays & Fridays at 9:15am): This is a high intensity workout combination of dance and exercise. No chairs are used in this class. FREE/\$1 NR per class. Pre-registration required.

Dance for PD (Great for those with Parkinson’s or a movement disorder) Mondays from 10:30am-11:45am. This program is run by the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven and is currently funded by the CT Parkinson’s Working Group. The 2026 Schedule: 2/23, 3/30, 4/27, 5/18, 6/22, 7/27, 8/24, 9/28, 10/26, 11/23, 12/14



Circuit Training With Quinn—Thursdays at 11am (Residents Only)

ALWAYS consult your physician before starting a new exercise routine. This class begins with stretching and then you rotate through the circuit using machines, weights, etc. under the guidance of Quinn who is a certified professional trainer. The best motivation is each other. You need to be able to do 45 minutes of consecutive exercise in order to attend this program. The instructor reserves the right to assess you for the ability to participate in this training (for your safety).

\$5 per class pre-registration required.

Drop-In Social Groups/Activities
(Not Facilitated By A Staff Member or Hired Instructor)
FREE—No pre-registration required

Billiards Play, Mondays 9am-3pm & Tuesdays-Fridays 9am-4pm

Table play is first come, first served. If others are waiting, please alternate play after your game is concluded. Thanks!

Fun with Yarn, Mondays 1-3pm

If you love to knit or crochet or you want to learn—this club is for you! Yarn donations are available for use as well as patterns, needles, etc. Catch up with others, share your projects, or learn how to get started on this new hobby.

Hand, Elbow, Foot Card Game, Tuesdays 9:30am-12pm

There are a lot of cards used in this rummy-like game. Automatic card shufflers make it a little noisy during this activity (just a warning). You will be able to pick it up in no-time.

Hand Sewing/Quilting, Mondays 1-3pm

If you are interested in hand sewing/quilting, you can drop into this social club. You are welcome to bring anything you are working on or our volunteers will get you started with a small project.

Lending Library, Mondays 9am-3pm & Tuesdays-Fridays 9am-4pm. Many new selections!

Thanks Sue, Cheryl, and Janice for keeping this resource organized for our members!!

Mahjong OR American Mahjong, Thursdays 9:30am-12pm

Mahjong or mah-jongg is a tile-based game that was developed in the 19th century in China and has spread throughout the world since the early 20th century. It takes a while to master this game, but don't get frustrated.



One on One Dietician Appointments!!

Appointments Available on 3/12 or 3/26

**ONE-ON-ONE
NUTRITION
COUNSELING**

Thanks to State Senator Matt Lesser for helping us secure State funding to ramp up nutrition options for Middletown Seniors! Using those grant funds, this is a HUGE opportunity to set up a meeting with a registered dietician who will be taking appointments at the Senior Center for free and confidential nutrition counseling. This service is designed to support your well-being through practical, personalized nutrition guidance. You can discuss topics such as Healthy Eating for Aging Well, Managing Conditions with Nutrition, Meal Planning & Budgeting, Digestive Health, General Food & Nutrition Questions, etc.

You can expect one-on-one appointments with a registered dietician who will work with you to provide supportive, realistic, and evidence-based recommendations tailored to your needs. Your 1st appointment will be approximately 1 hour. Any follow-up appointments will be scheduled for 30 minutes. FREE - A Pre-Registered Confirmed Appointment is Required.

Setback For Fun
March 3rd & 17th at 1:30pm

The tournament didn't work out due to the rate of cancellation we experience here. There are still a lot of people who like to and want to play. On one or both of these Tuesdays, come on down and play with others.

Setback is an easy to pickup card game that can be played with or without partners. Everyone is welcome. This is a drop-in program. FREE!!!

**High Low
Jack**



Beanbag Baseball March 5th & March 25th at 2pm

We are so excited about this new program that's just for fun and socialization!! This is by member request and was one of the programs to come out of our recent brainstorming session. Similar to cornhole and wildly popular in the south with retirees—welcome to Middletown Senior Center beanbag baseball!!! We'll be divided up into two teams and have a seat in your team's dug-out (chairs). One by one, you'll take your chance at getting a "hit" by throwing beanbags. Give it a shot, let yourself relax. There's sure to be



laughter and a lot of positive vibes. Absolutely no skill or experience needed—this activity is for EVERYONE. FREE—Please pre-register. Register for 1 or both games this month! Shaun is being brought in to umpire!

Texas Hold'Em Poker For Fun March 6th & 18th at 2pm

Just for fun, come learn how to play this poker game, socialize and let your playful competitive side come out. This is just an excuse to get together and have fun!

We've got some great poker dealers to take away the stress of meeting people, shuffling, or dealing!

FREE, please pre-register. You can register for 1 or both.



Thanks Shaun & Laura for helping facilitate this activity!

Trivia—March 4th at 2pm

By member request, we are bringing back trivia but in a new way. Using several different formats, we'll be playing trivia. Please note: this program is verbal and pen & paper—not on the electronic tablets. Not everyone can be an expert on every topic. We are all here to have a good time. FREE—Please pre-register.

Regular Bingo—Mondays 1pm-2:30pm

Our bingo program is run by our member volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to be a caller, doing call-backs, or handling the money—feel free to vocalize your interest at the game and get involved! \$2 pre-registration for 4 bingo cards. All money collected is handed out during the games as prizes.

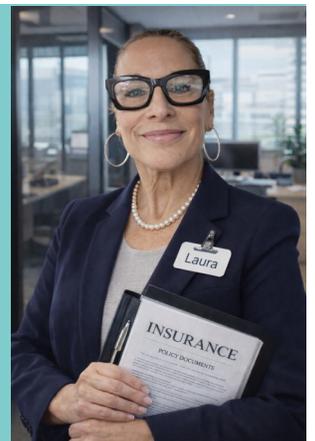


Same day registration is allowed UNTIL 12pm for this program.



CHOICES – Connecticut's State Health Insurance Assistance Program –provides free, unbiased one-on-one benefits counseling on all parts of Medicare, including enrollment assistance and plan comparisons for Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

CHOICES Counselors are not insurance agents/brokers and do not charge for services. Contact your Senior Center today at (860) 638-4542 to schedule an appointment with Laura, a Certified CHOICES Counselor, to discuss your Medicare questions.



REMINDER—

Doors open to programs approximately 10 minutes prior to the advertised start. Do not congregate in the lobby. This is a violation of Fire Code, unsafe, AND makes it impossible for people to conduct business at the front desk in-person or by phone. The staff has been directed to enforce this policy and keep the lobby clear.

Accommodations

Need an accommodation in order to participate in an advertised program? If you need an accommodation, please call Laura at least 10 days before the advertised start of a program. (860) 638-4542.

ADA
Americans with Disabilities Act



Daily Congregate Lunch Program

Lunch is served Monday—Friday at 12pm. Make a reservation for lunch with Senior Resources' Café Coordinator, Rosa at 860-638-4543. Two business days notice is required. A federal form 5 must be on file in order to register for lunch. There are no income requirements. The current menu can be seen on our schedulesplus.com/Middletown site under "Dining Menu". Food is cooked in Middletown at Futures Inc.

People love it! \$3 suggested donation. **BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH!**

Are There Any Transportation Options?

ADA / Dial A Ride Service Through River Valley Transit (860) 346-0212 The City of Middletown contracts with River Valley Transit to provide ADA Paratransit and Dial A Ride services. An application and, in some instances, an interview will be required. The fare for the service is \$3.50 each way.



Encompass Hartford (860) 444-4444 has a program partly funded by a grant from the FTA. \$5 up to 8 miles and \$2.90 for each mile over 8 miles. This service is good for trips all the way past Hartford. They have online or by phone scheduling and take reservations and on demand.

Toni's Trust Financial Assistance For Senior Center Programs Please leave a message



In 2024, we suffered the devastating loss of our beloved member and Matriarch of the Senior Center Family, Antoinette (Toni) Clayton. Toni's family listed the Senior Center as a place to donate in Toni's memory after her passing. If you have a financial barrier to accessing a program or program(s) at the Center, please call our Senior Services Specialist (Laura) at (860) 638-4542 to have a conversation about how we can help. Assistance up to \$20 in credit MAY be available to you based on your situation. This is for those who have financial barriers to participation. Your situation will be kept quiet.

Please note, this credit cannot be exchanged for actual cash at anytime. Funds are given based on need and availability and are at the sole discretion of the Senior Center staff.

Check-in Station (in the lobby) It is a condition of your membership that you scan your membership card each time you come to the Senior Center. If you need a replacement membership card, please go to the front desk. If you forgot your membership card, you can type in your phone number at the check-in station. If you need assistance, please ask a staff member. Once you scan your card, you must check which activity you are here for. If your desired activity is NOT listed, we do not have a record of your registration in that activity. Even if you are coming to the center to play billiards, use the library, conduct business at the front desk—please scan in. It's important for us to track usage of the Senior Center. Any questions, please don't hesitate to ask a staff member. Thank You! Failure to check-in will result in you being marked as a NO SHOW. Manual attendance is taken for bus trips by a staff member.

If you No Show/No Cancel ANY activity, appointment, service at the Senior Center—you WILL be assessed a \$15 service fee on your account. This has been the policy for 3 years and was signed by every member at the time of registration. You are considered a No Show/No Cancel 15 minutes after the advertised start of the program.

Reminder - Waitlists When your name comes up for a spot on the waitlist, you will receive an automated call from (860) 854-3131 awaiting your confirmation or cancel. You should only remain on a waitlist if you are still interested and available to take the spot. The automated system reads you the date, time, and name of the program. You MUST call us to cancel or confirm. This is the only notification you will receive. Please call (860) 638-4540 and let us know if you are accepting the spot. We need to hear back from you whether you will accept or decline the spot you are offered. If we don't hear back from you, you forfeit your spot in that program and we call the next person on the list. We cannot change the message that you receive. It is an automated message programmed by our software vendor. We know the wording can be confusing which is why we have this notice in the newsletter.

Event Seating

PLEASE WAIT
TO BE SEATED

Since October 2025, the Senior Center has switched to a hostess model for seating at large events such as socials, lunch with friends, early bird dinners, night events, etc. Our team will greet and seat guests as they arrive once the doors open for the event. This is being done to keep the flow smooth, support connection, help everyone feel welcome and included, and to provide accessibility and maintain safety. Similar to arriving at a restaurant, please approach the hostess stand with your whole party and we will make every effort to try and seat you together. Large parties will likely be split. During the 5-10 minutes where everyone is being seated, we just ask that you don't walk against traffic. It's best to get your drink and use the restroom before being seated or after everyone is seated for safety purposes. Thank you!

Big Money Bingo—Back By Popular Demand! March 31st at 3pm (Doors Open at 2:30pm)

Unlike our weekly bingo, this program is \$20 to play and all money collected will be given out in prizes. We talked to our friends at the police department to make sure we are following all applicable rules. Again, the Senior Center is not keeping any of the money collected. All money will be distributed in prizes. \$20 Pre-registration is required. This game is run by staff, not volunteers. No entry before 2:30pm. Light refreshments of a prepackaged snack and bottled water included. Daubers are available for use, no need to bring your own.

CANCELLATION / REFUND POLICY

Please remember our cancellation/refund policy. The current registration form / waiver on file which was signed by all members states the following:

Cancellation/Refund Policy: I understand and agree that I must give 2 FULL business days' notice to be entitled to a refund for a program, activity, bus trip, etc. Refunds will be given ONLY as a credit on your senior center account which can be used towards future program/trip registrations. Program registrations and bus trips are not transferable to another member. From time to time, the Senior Services Division may run special trips or programs that have a large upfront cost to the Senior Services Division. These programs will be advertised as non-refundable and non-transferable and treated as such. Refunds will not be given for circumstances beyond the control of the Senior Services Division (e.g. weather, equipment failure, etc.). Whenever possible, cancelled class(es) will be rescheduled. It is your responsibility to cancel any program or bus trip if you are unable to attend. You can call the office, cancel on schedulesplus (72+ hours in advance), or stop by the front desk to cancel. Failure to cancel before the start of an advertised program will result in a \$15 surcharge for each and every program or trip missed. Three no shows/no cancel in a 6 month period will result in a 60 day suspension from programs/trips. You MUST check-in using your membership scancard to have your attendance logged. Failure to check-in for a program will be treated as a no show/no cancel. This pertains to ALL programs/services offered even if they are FREE to attend. If you move, cancel your membership, or don't renew for any reason, the balance left on your account can be transferred to another active member OR will be donated to the Senior Center. 3 same day cancellations in a 90 day period will result in a \$5 surcharge for each same day cancellation going forward. Almost ALL programs are subsidized with taxpayer dollars. The advertised cost is NOT the actual cost of the program.

We are feeling the March Madness!

Want to compete against other members by filling out a women's bracket and/or men's bracket?? Brackets will be available for pickup beginning Monday, March 16th at the Senior Center. Anyone who wants to compete must turn in their filled out bracket by Tuesday, March 17th at 4pm.

The winner with the highest points for the Men's bracket will receive a non-refundable \$25 credit on their account that can be used towards activities. The winner with the highest points for the Women's bracket will receive a non-refundable \$25 credit on their account that can be used towards activities.

Optional: Come to our kickoff event on Tuesday, March 17th at 9:30am featuring coffee and donuts. You can meet other members who want to be part of the March Madness and fill out your bracket on-site. You don't need to attend this event in order to participate. Let us know if you plan to come to the kickoff so we have enough food and chairs setup.

During March Madness—show off your team pride by wearing your team's apparel!

We are hoping to get a lot of friendly competition so we can post weekly results!

Informational: The 2026 March Madness tournament starts with Selection Sunday on March 15th as 68 teams will play in the 2026 NCAA tournament for men's basketball. Check out the full schedule below:

- **Selection Sunday:** Sunday, March 15th
- **First Four:** March 17-18
- **First round:** March 19-20
- **Second round:** March 21-22
- **Sweet 16:** March 26-27
- **Elite Eight:** March 28-29
- **Final Four:** April 4th at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN
- **NCAA championship game:** April 6 at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN

The 2026 NCAA DI women's basketball tournament will have the bracket revealed on Sunday, March 15th.

- **Selection Sunday:** Sunday, March 15th
- **First Four:** March 18-19
- **First round:** March 20-21
- **Second round:** March 22-23
- **Sweet 16:** March 27-30
- **Elite Eight:** March 27-30
- **Final Four:** Friday, April 3 at 4 p.m. with the second semifinal starting 30 minutes after the first game ends. Both will be at Phoenix Mortgage Matchup Center in Phoenix, Arizona
- **NCAA championship game:** Sunday, April 5 at 12:30 p.m. ET on ABC, hosted at Phoenix Mortgage Matchup Center in Phoenix, Arizona

Derek is our go-to for all senior center office business..... Sometimes we even feel like he's psychic.

Unfortunately, he said he can't predict the games or the winners

