



Huntington Community Newsletter

Published by Huntington Council on Aging

24 Russell Road, Huntington, MA 01050, 413-512-5205, coa@huntingtonma.us

SPRING 2024

TOWN HALL & STANTON HALL ACCESSIBILITY



The Town Hall and Stanton Hall ramp project is still in progress. We are hoping that it will be ready to use with temporary handrails the week of February 5. The front and back doors at Town Hall and the front door at Stanton Hall will still be used until then and also during any interruptions when the permanent railings are being installed. If any member of the public is unable to use the stairs, please contact Town Administrator Jennifer Peloquin at 413-512-5200 or the department in which they wish to see in advance for an accommodation. Updates will be publicized in the Country Journal and on the town website and town Facebook page. The town apologizes for the inconvenience. Thank you for your patience.

ST. PATRICK'S CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE SIT-DOWN LUNCHEON

Featuring Entertainment by
WILD THYME



Saturday, March 16
12:00 p.m.

Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Rd., Huntington

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

All ages welcome. \$7 per meal suggested donation.
Please call 413-512-5200 for reservations by Friday, March 1.
Reservations are limited to 70.

Sponsored by the Huntington Council on Aging.

Council on Aging News

New Ideas for the Future

We are looking forward to fresh green landscapes and fresh ideas and activities. To start with, the COA is hoping to build more social activities with activity clubs. This includes card games, chess, scrabble, knitting, quilting, pickleball, or even just a coffee club and any other ideas you would like to suggest. Start by calling the COA at 413-512-5205 and signing up for your favorite social activity and sharing ideas for new ones. Transportation can be provided by the FRTA van or volunteers.

Book Delivery

Working with the Library, we are hoping to start a weekly book pick up and drop off for home bound seniors. If you would like to help with this new program or have access to home delivery of books, call the COA to register and we will contact you with the details.

Exercise

Currently we offer two exercise programs. Chair Yoga for \$5.00 per class every Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Line Dancing has become a big hit on Thursday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. for free. We watch a line dancing instruction video and dance, dance, dance.

Birthday Celebrations with Bingo

For our quarterly birthday celebration, we will be celebrating winter birthdays on Tuesday, February 13 and spring birthdays on Tuesday, April 9, both at 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Join us for cake, ice cream and a few games of BINGO.

Challenges

It has been a challenge this winter between the weather and the construction of the new ramp at Town Hall/Stanton Hall. We are grateful to the Huntington Evangelical Church who have allowed us to use their chapel next to Town Hall so we could continue to hold handicap accessible programming. Activities that were cancelled due to weather will be rescheduled for the spring and summer.

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

Quick, quick - sign up for our St. Patrick's Day luncheon today! We will be offering our annual corned beef and cabbage luncheon in person (70) at Stanton Hall with live Irish music performed by Wild Thyme. Hope to see you there for good food and rousing music.

Grant Funding

We are grateful for another two year round of funding for our Outreach Worker, Caregiver Support Coordinator and Hilltown Memory Café from Highland Valley Elder Services. Please utilize these services or we will lose these services. We also received funding from the Local Cultural Council for art and musical programming at the Hilltown Memory Café and for live entertainment at other COA events. Southern Hilltown Adult Education Center is seeking a new grant that will provide technical support and services for the community.

Age and Dementia Friendly Planning

We completed our three listening sessions with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and heard your concerns and suggestions regarding public transportation, sidewalks and crosswalks in need of repair, housing, and other services needed in our community. If you were not able to attend any or all these meetings, please email us at coa@huntingtonma.us. Tell us about how expanding

FRTA van services to include not just seniors but residents of all ages 18 and over would have a positive impact on you and your family. Medical appointments and seniors would still be a priority. The expanded program utilizes an online app that insures pick up and return services and tracks usage automatically. The listening session was attended by the state highway department (MassDOT) and they did a preliminary survey of the sidewalks on route 112. We will stay in contact with them to follow up on their plan to improve conditions to comply with disability standards (ADA). We will be submitting our intentions to become an age friendly community to AARP, which will give us access to more grants. We will be applying to AARP for a community grant to purchase and install benches along the downtown walking routes and at North Hall. Please join us at our next Task Force meeting on Wednesday, March 6 at 1:00 p.m. at Stanton Hall as we create an action plan to improve the quality-of-life experience in our community.

Kathleen Peterson, COA Chairwoman

FRTA Van Service

**Available to Residents Age 60 & Over of
Blandford, Chester, Huntington,
Middlefield, Montgomery, & Russell**

Monday through Friday

Medical and Other Appointments, Shopping, and Errands

Please call Van Driver Richard Homan at 860-836-1844 to schedule an appointment by 6:00 p.m. the day prior to your ride. Appointments should be made as far in advance as possible to ensure availability. An application needs to be filled out prior to riding the van. Please call 512-5205 to have one mailed or emailed to you.

VAN FARES

- ♦ All one way trips that originate and end within the same town: \$1.25 (\$2.50 round trip)
- ♦ All one way trips to an adjacent town that are within the service area: \$1.75 (\$3.50 round trip)
- ♦ All one way trips beyond an adjacent town that are within the service area: \$2.25 (\$4.50 round trip)
- ♦ All one way trips to Senior Centers are \$0.75 (in town), \$1.00 (adjacent towns), and \$1.25 (beyond adjacent towns.)
- ♦ There is an escort/PCA fee of \$0.75 for each trip and they must be there to assist the passenger with the trip (not there to do their own errands)

Multiple stops will result in multiple fares.



Educational Programs



Losing Murrayfield

presented by John Garvey

Wednesday, February 7, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Reverse Mortgages

presented by Terry Olbrych from Norcom

Wednesday, March 13, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

From Wild to Mild - How the Wolf Has Evolved to a Pet Dog

presented by Lois Kiraly

Wednesday, March 20, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Narcan Training

presented by Hampshire Hope

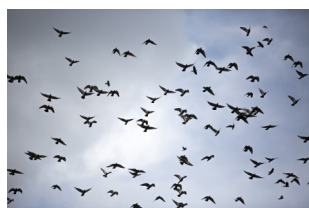
Wednesday, April 3, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.



Financial Exploitation of Elders

presented by Scott Gullett from Highland Valley Elder Services

Wednesday, April 10, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.



Bird Migration

presented by Lois Kiraly

Wednesday, April 17, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Stop the Bleed

presented by Hilltown Community Ambulance

Wednesday, May 1, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Jewelry Beading

presented by Sue Maxwell

beads and materials funded by the COA

Wednesday, May 15, 1:00 p.m.



Garden Pots

presented by Kathleen Peterson

plants and materials funded by the COA

Wednesday, June 5, 1:00 p.m.

*All events are held at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, Huntington
Some events may be moved to the Huntington Evangelical Church's chapel at 22 Russell Road.
due to ongoing work with the Town Hall/Stanton Hall ramp project.*

*Please contact Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283 or
email caregiveroutreach@huntingtonma.us for more information.*

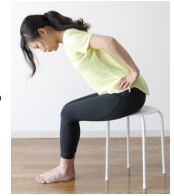
Chair Yoga

Every Wednesday, 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. at Stanton Hall, \$5 per class



Line Dancing

Every Thursday, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. at Stanton Hall



Gateway Fitness Center

Monday - Friday (when school is in session), 2:10 - 5:00 p.m.
at Gateway Regional High School

Registration and waiver paperwork is required for each program and needs to be completed before starting. Paperwork is available at Town Hall or by contacting the COA at coa@huntingtonma.us or 413-512-5205. For transportation, please call van driver Richard Homan at 860-836-1844.



ELECTION DATES

Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 11, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 3, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Presidential Primary

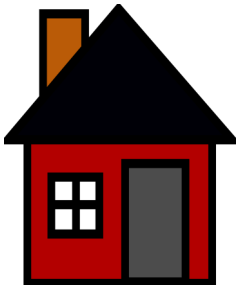
Annual Town Election

State Primary

State/Presidential Election

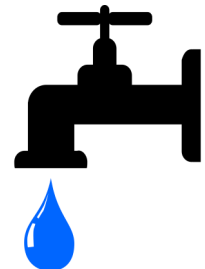
Elections are held at Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, Huntington. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk at townclerk@huntingtonma.us or 413-512-5209.

BILL REMINDER



FY2024 2ND QUARTER WATER & SEWER
DUE MARCH 4, 2024

FY2024 4TH QUARTER REAL ESTATE TAX
DUE MAY 1, 2024



Huntington Recreation Committee

Springfield Museums Trip

21 Edwards Street, Springfield, MA 01103



Wednesday, February 21

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Play with optical illusions, try your hand at origami, design a comic strip, and more.

Free with museum admission!

Tanglewood Marionettes, 1:30 p.m.

Experience Fairy Circus, featuring beautifully hand-crafted marionettes that dance, play, and fly to the music of favorite composers.

Spark!Lab, 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Automata were an early form of robotic toy featuring moving scenes and characters. Design your own figure and use a hand crank to bring it to life!

Try Your Eye, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Play with optical illusions—the base of animation.

The Science of Sound, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

How do we hear? Learn about the science of sound with a variety of hands-on activities.

Be An Illustrator, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Design a comic strip or flip book to tell a tale of your favorite character or one of your own creation.

Jumping Frog, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Using the Japanese art of paper folding, create a jumping frog!

Event Discount price: **Adults: \$15 (Reg:\$25), Youth \$10 (Reg:\$13)** Children under 3 Free.

Huntington residents will receive an additional \$10 discount per family.

Attendees will meet in lobby at 10AM and then may enjoy the day at their leisure.

Sign up by Friday, February 16 with Kayla K. at 413-329-5474

or email recreation@huntingtonma.us

Leave name, address, phone #, and number of adults and children

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 24 (Raindate Sunday, March 25)

11:00 a.m. at Pettis Field

Mothers' Day Crafts for Kids

Date to be Determined

See our Facebook page for updates!

PROPERTY TAX WORK OFF PROGRAM

Applications are now available at Town Hall and www.huntingtonma.us for the Huntington Senior and Veteran Property Tax Work Off Programs for Fiscal Year 2025. Huntington property owners who are at least 60 years old, and/or U.S. military veterans, may work up to 33.33 hours at the rate of \$15.00 per hour in a town department to receive a maximum \$500 credit on their real estate tax bill. The tax credit will be applied to the owner's February or May 2025 real estate bill. Those who are both seniors and veterans may apply for both programs. The application deadline is February 12, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Administrator at admin@huntingtonma.us or 413-512-5200.

Birthday Celebrations & BINGO



Winter Birthdays

Tuesday, February 13 at 1:00 p.m. at Stanton Hall
Everyone is invited to enjoy birthday cake to celebrate seniors with birthdays in December, January, and February.

Spring Birthdays

Tuesday, April 9 at 1:00 p.m. at Stanton Hall
Everyone is invited to enjoy birthday cake to celebrate seniors with birthdays in March, April, and May.

Town Administrator/Selectboard	413-512-5200	Highway Department	413-512-5204
Board of Assessors	413-512-5201	Library	413-512-5206
Board of Health	413-512-5211	Planning Board	413-512-5214
Building Commissioner	413-512-5210	Police Department	413-512-5213
Collector	413-512-5208	Town Clerk	413-512-5209
Conservation Commission	413-512-5214	Treasurer	413-512-5202
Council on Aging	413-512-5205	Water & Sewer	413-512-5207
Fire Department	413-512-5206		

The printing and distribution of this newsletter is made possible in part by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Sarah The Fiddler



performing at

**Hilltown Memory Café
Stanton Hall
26 Russell Rd., Huntington**

**Wednesday, May 8
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Join us for an afternoon of toe-tapping fiddle music with Sarah the Fiddler. Sarah's musical journey began at the age of 4 when she started violin lessons using the Suzuki Method. By the age of 6, she was introduced to fiddle music and began competing in fiddle contests all over New England. Her grandparents suggested having a signature look....so she was known as the girl with the little red hat. Eventually it was her playing that was being recognized as she won hundreds of competitions.

These contests and festivals instilled Sarah's passion for old-time music as she learned and played along side some of the best old-tymers. Even her fiddle was given to her by New England fiddler Willie "Uncle Willie" Lapman and carries a history of over 200 years of song.

The moment her bow touches the strings, Sarah's passion for music is evident. Combining her influences of Old-Time, Irish, World and Classical music, Sarah takes her audiences on a musical journey from old-time sing-alongs, to lively polkas and rousing reels.

This program is made possible in part by a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services through funding under the Federal Older Americans Act and by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



Hilltown Mobile Market: Fresh & Local!

www.hilltownmobilemarket.com



Hilltown Memory Café

Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, Huntington

Every Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Art, Nutritional, and Educational Activities

~ Live Music ~

February 28 - Pioneer Valley Fiddlers

March 27 - Wild Thyme

April 24 - Jack & His Guitar

May 8 - Sarah The Fiddler

~ Art Instruction with Therapeutic Artist Lori Bocon ~

Caregiver Support Group Held Every Week

Open to residents from any community with or without memory issues.

The Huntington Council on Aging also offers outreach services that support elders and their caregivers with information and resources. This includes assisting with identifying benefit programs and making home visits. Please contact Caregiver Support Coordinator/Facilitator and Outreach Coordinator Crystal Wright-Partyka at 413-685-5283 or email caregiveroutreach@huntingtonma.us for more information or to sign up for either program.

If you need transportation to the programs, please call FRTA Van Driver Richard Homan at 860-836-1844 to schedule an appointment by 6:00 p.m. the day prior to your ride. Appointments should be made as far in advance as possible to ensure availability. An application needs to be filled out prior to riding the van. Please call 512-5205 to have one mailed or emailed to you. The fare for the van ride to the Memory Café or COA office is \$1.50 round trip.

These programs are made possible in part by a grant from Highland Valley Elder Services through funding under the Federal Older Americans Act and by a grant from the Huntington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



Community Tag Sale

Saturday, June 1

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Town Common & Stanton Hall



Spaces are available for a suggested donation of \$10 on the Town Common and \$15 inside Stanton Hall. Vendors must provide their own tables, chairs, and tents for rain/sun protection. No items shall be left behind. Set up will start at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Please call 512-5205 to reserve a space by May 27. Location of spaces will be on a first come, first serve basis the day of the sale. In case of rain, the event will be held on Sunday, June 2.

Music in Montgomery

Montgomery Town Hall, 161 Main Road, Montgomery MA.

Every Thursday, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Feb. 1	Eva Capelli & Friends
Feb. 8	Ravenwood
Feb. 15	Ed Bentley & Friends
Feb. 22	Larry Southard
Feb. 29	Hilltown Hallbillies
Mar. 7	Eva Capelli & Friends
Mar. 14	Ed Bentley & Friends
Mar. 21	Barry Searle, Sarah Miller, & Pete Rzasa
Mar. 28	Larry Southard

Central Hampshire Veterans' Services

240 Main Street, Suite 4, Northampton, MA 01060

413-587-1299

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Office Hours at Huntington Town Hall

4th Thursday of the Month from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Local and Commonwealth of Massachusetts benefits:

- Applying for Mass General Law Ch. 115 financial assistance benefits for qualified individuals
- Applying for state annuity for 100%-service-connect veterans
- Applying for state/local veterans property tax exemptions
- Assisting with local veterans property tax work off programs

Federal benefits/programs:

- Veterans Administration healthcare registration
- Filing for service connected disability compensation
- Filling non-service connected pensions
- Filing for burial benefits
- Filing for dependent death benefits
- Obtaining gravestones and markers
- Obtaining military records
- Filing for military medal replacements



In addition, we provide assistance/referral services for:

- Issues relating to homelessness, health, education, and employment.
- Fuel Assistance applications
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) applications



Brown Bag Pick Up

people over 55 and documented disabilities qualify

**Every Third Friday, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Stanton Hall**

Applications are available at the Post Office,
or by calling 512-5205 to have one mailed.

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