

## The Southborough Senior Sensation

Volume 23\* Issue 01

January/February 2023

Senior Center 9 Cordaville Rd. Southborough, MA 01772 (508) 229-4453

Fax (508) 229-1783 www.southboroughseniors.com

### **OPERATING HOURS**

Monday - Friday 8:30am - 3:00pm

Pam Le Francois

Director

### Cynthia Beard

Outreach Coordinator

### **Peg Leonard**

Program Manager

### Leslie Chamberlin

Clinic Nurse

### Lorraine Caporale

Administrative Assistant

### Ellen Miller

Administrative Assistant

### **Doug Peck**

COA Chairperson

### **Bob Myers**

FRIENDS President

**Bay Path** 

Meals on Wheels 508-573-7200

**MWRTA** 

DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSPORTATION 508-820-4650



~Wishing you a Safe & Healthy New Year~ Pam, Leslie, Cindy, Lorraine, Ellen & Peg



### **Director's Corner**

Hi Everyone,

I am writing this right after thanksgiving but while you are reading this newsletter I need to say happy holidays! A new year will hopefully bring you some new programs to try. Despite the possibility of not so great weather we have scheduled a full slate of programs for you that I hope you will enjoy. Also if you are in need of assistance or services please reach out to us.

All the best for the New Year!

Pam

### The Senior Center will be closed on the following dates



January 2nd January 16th February 20th Holiday for the New Year Martin Luther King Presidents Day

### Please Be Advised

If the Southborough Schools are Closed or Delayed due to inclement weather conditions, the Senior Center is closed that day and all programs will be canceled. Please watch the news or listen to the radio before venturing out. Please do not drive if you are at all concerned with the road conditions. We want you to be safe!



### Date for Registering for "ALL" Programs:

Starting at 10:00am: ---->

Do not leave any Program Registrations on Voicemail, please connect with a <u>staff member</u> to register for all programs at all times.

~Thank You For Your Understanding~

When signing up for the programs in this newsletter, please review our Program Registration Policy on page 2.

### FRIENDS OF THE SOUTHBOROUGH COUNCIL ON AGING

2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP (January through December)

The Friends of the COA is a non-profit fundraising group that supports our Senior Center. They help to pay for many of the events held at the senior center and help purchase supplies and furnishings. This is a small group of people who work very hard on Fundraising Events. If you are interested in helping out with our events, please contact the President of the Friends, Bob Myers at the Senior Center.

This current membership is for the calendar year January – December 2023

Membership is \$15.00 per year (per person) —form is on the back page

### Senior Center Programs

The Senior Center programs are often subsidized or funded through the town budget and/or the Friends of the Council on Aging. Suggested donations are voluntary contributions to the Friends of the Council on Aging. All donations made to the Friends are always used to support the Senior Center. Please sign up for all programs starting with the date and time on the front page of the newsletter. Make your check(s) out to <u>Friends of the Southborough COA</u>.

### **Program Registration Policy**

- \* Payment for programs needs to be made one week after signing up or unfortunately you will be taken off the list.
- \* Cancellation for programs requires one full weeks' notice or we are unable to give refunds.
- \* Cancellations for Bus Trips require <u>two full weeks</u>' notice or we are unable to give refunds.
- \* We are obligated to prepay all the costs to our caterers, presenters, buses and tickets, etc. for all our programs.

### **Please Note:**

Every effort is made during the writing and production of this newsletter to assure the accuracy of the information included. There are times when we inadvertently leave something out, make an error or the information we received has changed after the printing. Always feel free to contact the Senior Center if you have any questions regarding a program. (508) 229-4453

### **Program Payment Policy**

We understand writing separate checks for each program is not ideal. But due to our current accounting system and checks and balances requirements, it is the way we must continue to proceed. We ask for your understanding by continually assisting us in this process.

### <u>Important Notice—Please Read</u>

- \* We require a call if you have signed up for a program and find you are unable to attend.
- \* We appreciate your consideration so there are not "the day of the event empty seats" due to no shows (this happens a great deal, especially "No Charge" programs.)
- \* We understand there are times when things come up on the day of the event and make it difficult for you to attend (but please do your best to let us know).
- \* There are continuous waiting lists for all our programs. Knowing you are not attending a program will give us the opportunity to call the next person on the waiting list who would be thrilled to attend. Thank you for your understanding.

### **Chocolate Tasting 101**

January 18th - 12:30pm Suggestion Donation — \$6.00

Did you know that eating chocolate releases endorphins that make you happy? Why not try it for yourself? Come experience an array of experts from Cocoa Beantown and Therapy Gardens. Milk, Dark and LOW SUGAR chocolate will be offered for sampling. Learn about ingredients, processing, and where cocoa pods are grown. Information on where to locate hard-to-find gourmet chocolate will also be shared.

Light lunch will be served so you will have enough room for your *Chocolate*! Offering Chicken Salad and Tuna finger Sandwiches with Potato Salad from TJ's Spirits of Ashland.

### Bingo

Wednesday, January 25th at 1:00pm

Come join us for a wonderful afternoon of Bingo, fun, and prizes. Our Bingo Leader, Bob Myers will start selling cards promptly at 1:00pm. Bingo will begin once everyone has their cards.

Snacks will be provided at break time!

### **Cooking Demonstration**

Wednesday, February 1st at 11:30am Suggested Donation \$3.00

Comfort food good for your heart and soul. What's better than a warm bowl of creamy tomato soup and a gooey grilled cheese sandwich on a cold winter day. Join Hannaford dietitian Heidi McIndoo, MS RD, to enjoy these yummy dishes and find out how they benefit your heart. Plus, top it all off with some chocolate banana cake. Space is limited—sign up early.

### Game Day at the Senior Center

Wednesday, February 22nd - 11:00am - \$3.00

Sign up for our first Indoor Game Day at the Senior Center. Game options will include Corn Hole, Pool, Ladder Toss, Card Games, Board games (Cribbage, Chess, Checkers, Scrabble) and more (if you have a game you would like to share—just let us know). Pub Food will arrive from TJ's Spirits of Ashland to enjoy while playing in your favorite game.

### EXCITING NEWS on Medicare Savings Programs

Effective January 1, 2023, MassHealth has expanded the income and asset limits for all three of its Medicare Savings Programs.

The Senior Buy-In (QMB) pays Medicare Part B Premiums, Medicare Advantages deductibles and co-pays as well as qualifying individuals for a federal program – Extra Help, which helps with drug plan premiums and co-pays. The new income limits will be Individual Monthly income of \$2,151/Couple \$2,899.

The Buy-In (SLMB) pays Medicare Part B Premiums and qualifies individuals for Extra Help. The new income limits will be Individual \$2,378/Couple \$3,204.

Qualified Individual (QI-1) same as above for assistance from MassHealth. The new income limits will be Individual \$2.548/Couple \$3,433.

The asset limits will not be known until the end of December but will be in the range of Individual \$33,600/ Couple \$50,400. If you think you may be eligible for one of the three plans, make an appointment in January with Carolyn MacLeod, our SHINE counselor here at the Southborough Senior Center.

# January 2023

# Southborough Senior Center

Monday Tuesday Wednesday
08:30a Strength Class 08:30a Yoga-Pilgrim Churo 08:45a Adv Tai Chi 11:00a Songsters 12:00p Bridge
9         10         11           08:30a Walking Group         08:30a Strength Class         08:30a Walking Group           10:00a Health Clinic         09:30a Yoga-Pilgrim Church         10:00a Phone Legal Advice           10:15a Stretch Class         09:45a Adv Tai Chi         12:30p Movie Matinee           01:00p Bereavement         12:00p Bridge           01:00p Knitting Club         12:00p Bridge
08:30a Closed in 08:30a Strength Class 08:30a Walking Group Observance of Martin Luther 09:30a Yoga-Pilgrim Church 12:30p Chocolate Tasting King Day 09:45a Adv Tai Chi 10:1
28         24           08:30a Walking Group         08:30a Strength Class         08:30a Walking Group           10:00a Health Clinic         09:30a Yoga-Pilgrim Church         01:00p Bingo           10:00p Knitting Club         12:00p Bridge
90 08:30a Walking Group 08:30a Strength Class 10:00a Health Clinic 09:30a Yoga-Pilgrim Church 10:15a Stretch Class 10:00a Technical Assistance 12:00p Bridge

# SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

# February 2023

# Southborough Senior Center

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	-	2		3
			08:30a Walking Group	08:30a Strength Class	10:00a Dull Mens Club	
			11:30a Cooking Demo	09:45a Adv Tai Chi	10:00a Health Clinic	
			03:00p Trailblazers Meeting	10:00a Mah Jongg	11:15a Canasta	
				12:30p Chair Yoga		
2	9	7	8	6	-	10
	08:30a Walking Group	08:30a Strength Class	08:30a Walking Group	08:30a Strength Class	10:00a Dull Mens Club	12:00p Cub Scout Valentine
	10:00a Health Clinic	09:30a Yoga-Pilgrim Church 10:00a Phone Legal Advice	10:00a Phone Legal Advice	09:45a Adv Tai Chi	10:00a Health Clinic	Bingo
	10:15a Stretch Class	09:45a Adv Tai Chi	12:30p Movie Matinee	10:00a Mah Jongg	11:15a Canasta	
		12:00p Adult Coloring	01	12:30p Chair Yoga		
		12:00p Bridge				
12	13	14	15	16		17 18
	08:30a Walking Group	08:30a Strength Class	08:30a Walking Group	08:30a Strength Class	10:00a Dull Mens Club	
	10:00a Health Clinic	09:30a Yoga-Pilgrim Church 09:00a Encore Bus Trip	09:00a Encore Bus Trip	09:45a Adv Tai Chi	10:00a Health Clinic	
	10:15a Stretch Class	09:45a Adv Tai Chi		10:00a Mah Jongg	11:15a Canasta	
	01:00p Bereavement Support Group	12:00p Bridge		12:30p Chair Yoga	01:00p Book Club	
	01:00p Knitting Club					
19	20	21	22	23	2	25 25
	08:30a Center Closed in Observance of Presidents Day	08:30a Strength Class 08:30a Walking Gi 09:30a Yoga-Pilgrim Church 11:00a Game Day 09:45a Adv Tai Chi 10:00a Technical Assistance 12:00p Bridge	08:30a Walking Group 11:00a Game Day	08:30a Strength Class 09:45a Adv Tai Chi 10:00a Mah Jongg 12:30p Chair Yoga	10:00a Dull Mens Club 10:00a Health Clinic 11:15a Canasta	
26	27	28				
	08:30a Walking Group	08:30a Strength Class				
	10:00a Health Clinic	09:30a Yoga-Pilgrim Church				
	10:15a Stretch Class	09:45a Adv Tai Chi				
	01:00p Knitting Club	12:00n Bridge				

# SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

### Movie Matinee

### **Elvis**

### Wednesday, January 11th

As one of the most iconic rock stars of all time, Elvis Presley (played by Austin Butler) rose to the top of the music charts like a rocket. The film follows the life of the rock and roll icon, singer, and actor, Elvis Presley, told from the perspective of his manager, Colonel Tom Parker (played by Tom Hanks), whose financial abuse of him is a major focus of the film. Rated PG-13 and is 2 hours and 40 minutes long.

### Where the Crawdads Sing

Wednesday, February 8th

Where the Crawdads Sing tells the story of Kya, an abandoned girl who raised herself to adulthood in the dangerous marshlands of North Carolina. For years, rumors of the "Marsh Girl" haunted Barkley Cove, isolating the sharp and resilient Kya from her community. Drawn to two young men from the town, Kya opens herself up to a new and startling world; but when one of them is found dead, she is immediately cast by the community as the main suspect. Rated PG-13 and is 2 hours and 5 minutes long.

We will be serving lunch at 12:00pm before each movie. January — Offering a Nantucket Chicken Salad Sandwich on Wheat Bread or Egg Salad Wrap brought to us by Festive Breads of Northborough, and February we will offer your choice of Turkey Sandwich or Chicken Caesar Wrap from Roche Brothers.

Feel free to bring your own lunch or just come at movie time!

Suggested Donation—\$6.00 for each lunch—served at 12:00pm - no charge for just the movie

Movies will start at 12:30pm Please sign up on registration day at the front desk or call (508) 229-4453



### Adult Coloring & Lunch - Tuesday, February 7th-12:00pm



Lunch will be Lasagna and Caesar Salad brought to us by TJ's Spirits of Ashland Suggested Donation—\$3.00

Come join our fun Adult Coloring group beginning with a nice lunch. You will view a variety of books to pick out your coloring option to start your creation. All supplies will be available or feel free to bring your own. This will be a nice time to eat, chat and enjoy coloring together. There are lots of conversations and laughter. Give it a try. We would love to have you participate.

### Bereavement Support Group

Mondays. January 9th & February 13th

The Bereavement Group will meet from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. This group is open to all grieving the loss of a loved one.

The <u>Worcester Talking Book Library</u> loans reading materials in accessible formats, including large print, braille, and digital talking books. Massachusetts residents are eligible for these free services if they struggle to read traditional print materials due to a visual, physical, or reading disability. Patrons can access items via postage-free mail or by download to the free BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download) app.



### Technology Help is Here!

Tuesdays, January 31st & February 21st — 5 one hour time slots
These sessions will be one on one with a Sayva Technology Specialist
Appointments will begin at 10:00am — No Charge



Are you getting the most of your smartphone, E-Readers, Laptops, Tablets, Alexa or Zoom or just frustrated? No worries, we have help, SayvaServices LLC, a local company, will be coming to help answer all your questions and show you tips and tricks to get the most of your devices. SayvaServices will give you ways to navigate different features that you may not know you even have access to using. Bring your electronic device with you to your session. Feel free to sign up again if you have attended a prior session.

### Fitness at the Senior Center

Please sign up for the following classes on Registration Day. There is a Suggested Donation of \$3.00 per class. A basket will be in the room for your donation. Please call the Senior Center for details on any of the classes listed below and to make sure there is space available.

\*\*\*Many Medical Insurance companies offer a Fitness reimbursement for classes attended during the year. Please see Pam LeFrancois at the end of your yearly enrollment period to have this form signed. If you are new to any of our fitness programs – please stop by the front desk to fill out a registration form.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Day of the Week</u>	<u>Tíme</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
Stretch Break	Monday	10:15am	<b>Sharon Gallant</b>
Strength	Tuesday & Thursday	8:30am	<b>Sharon Gallant</b>
Chair Yoga	Thursday	12:30pm	Rebecca Reber
Advanced Tai Chi	Tuesday & Thursday	9:45am	Jeanne Friswell
Yoga	Tuesday	9:30am	Michelle Landes
(The Yoga class above	e will take place at the Pilgrin	Church, 15 Comm	on Street, Southborough

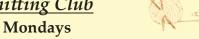
### Games, Cards, Knitting, Dull Men's Club, Book Club and Billiard Play

The following programs are opened to all. Please review the calendar in case of any changes and to see what programs are on-going, weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.

<u>Program</u>	Day of the Week	<u>Tíme</u>
Bridge	Tuesday	12:00pm
Senior Songsters	Tuesday	11:00pm
Mah Jongg	Thursday	10:00am
Canasta	Friday	11:15am
Book Club	Friday	1:00pm
Billiard (Pool) Play	Daily (not on large program dates)	8:30am — 3:00pm
Knitting Club	Monday	1:00pm
Dull Men's Club	Friday	10:00am
Walking Group	Monday (Trottier Track) &	8:30am
( <u>Depending on Weather Condition</u>	s) Wednesday (Southborough Cemetery)	8:30am



### Knitting Club



January 9th & 23-February 13th & 27th 1:00pm

Thank you to Dr. Heather Alker, our Board of Health Director for Volunteering to lead our Knitting Club. We are thrilled to bring it back. Please call to let us know you will be attending for planning purposes. Beginners Welcome-Supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring a creation you may currently be working on. It will be a welcome site to see our knitters back at the Senior Center.

### Annual Southborough Cub Scout Valentines Day Bingo Lunch

Saturday, February 11th at 12:00pm

Southborough members sign up and enjoy this fun lunch and bingo game sponsored by our Southborough's Cub Scout Pack 26. The Cub Scouts will take your lunch order, their parents will be busy in the kitchen fulfilling the orders and the cub scout will deliver it for your to enjoy. This will be followed with an enjoyable Bingo game.

Southborough residents only.

### **Bus Trips**

### Wayside Inn

Thursday, January 26th

Suggested Donation—\$23.00

Bus will leave the Senior Center at 11:30am and return at approximately 3:00pm

Sign up and enjoy a luncheon at the quaint Longfellow's Wayside Inn. The bus will leave the Senior Center at 11:30am proceed to Colonial Gardens to stop for a pick up and then off to the Wayside Inn. Please choose one of the following: Yankee Pot Roast, Chicken Picatta or Boston Baked Scrod. After lunch, we will make a stop at the Wayside Country Store followed by our return to the Senior Center.

### **Encore Casino**

Wednesday, February 15th Suggested Donation-\$10.00

Bus will leave the Senior Center at 9:00am and return at approximately 3:00pm

Encore is located on the beautiful mystic Boston Riverfront. Upon arrival an Encore Representative will greet us with a \$20.00 free slot play card. Please bring your Wynn card if you have one—if you do not—you can get one with your license in the casino. Lunch will be on your own. Encore does have a Café area offering options as well as many various restaurants. Make sure you bring your license in order to claim all your winnings.

### Town Information from Southborough Town Clerk, James Hegarty

The Annual Town Census will be mailed to every household in early January. You can return the census in person, drop it in the Town House mailbox, mail it, or take a picture and email it to <a href="mailto:census@southboroughma.com">census@southboroughma.com</a>.

- \* The Annual Town Meeting will be held in the auditorium of the Trottier Middle School on <u>Saturday</u>, March 25, 2023, at 1:00PM.
- \* The Annual Town Election will be held the in the gymnasium of the Trottier Middle School on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, from 6:30AM to 8:00PM. For this election, there won't be any in-person Early Voting but anyone can request a ballot be mailed to them so they can Vote by Mail! Go to 01772clerk.com to download an application or call us at (508)485-0710 x 3005 and we'll mail an application to you.

Here are the most common baby names:

1965 – 1980 Jennifer and Michael – 1981 – 1996 Jessica and Michael –

1997 – 2012 Emily and Michael — 2013 – present Olivia and Benjamin

Please call us at (508) 485-0710 x 3005 if you have any questions.

### MCOA Walk MA Challenge 2022

Thank you and Congratulations to the <u>31 Walkers</u> participating in the MCOA Walk MA Challenge – 16,141.76 MILES! Great job, everyone.

If you'd like to participate in the <u>Winter Walkers</u> program organized through the Southborough Senior Center please email me at <u>skiess2@verizon.net</u> to register and you're all set to go! We have regularly scheduled group walking on Mondays at the track by Trottier School at 8:30 and Wednesdays at the Southborough Cemetery at 8:30. Both are loops so if you don't see anyone just start walking and you're bound to run into us. Or feel free to walk on your own schedule wherever your feet want to take you. If you would like a walk journal I'd be happy to email you a sheet for recording your miles walked. Thanks, everyone! Give yourself a wonderful start to 2023 and keep moving. Sandy Kiess

Stop by <u>The Falconi Pit Stop</u> on Tuesdays located at 29 Boston Road (Route 30), Southborough to purchase your gas. This is a <u>full service</u> gas station open 7 days a week, Monday through Friday 6:30am to 7:30pm, Saturday and Sunday 8:00am to 4:00pm. Spread the word to your friends and families. Mr. James Falconi donates <u>5 cents</u> of every gallon purchased on <u>Tuesdays</u> to the Senior Center.

Thank You Mr. Falconi

Tuesday is now "GAS" day!

### HEALTHBEAT

Nurses Clinic: Monday & Friday 10 -1

By Leslie Chamberlin R.N.

<u>Medical Equipment Available</u>: Silver walkers, shower chairs and benches, Depends.

Accepted Donations: Shower chairs, rollator walkers with bench, Raised hand bars for toilet.

We do NOT need: commodes, silver walkers, canes or crutches. You can call the front desk to ask if your donation is needed. Please no drop-offs without checking first. All equipment we do not take can be dropped at the Swap Shop.

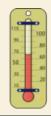
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<u>Future Program Topics</u> If you have any interest in learning about Pelvic Floor Therapy for weakness in the bladder or colon please speak to Leslie. I always welcome suggestions for future topics you would be interested in learning about.

See you soon, Leslie

### Need Help Paying Heating Costs???

Help is available! The Fuel Assistance Program helps income eligible households pay a portion of their heating costs. If your gross income falls within the limits shown below, you may be eligible! You may also qualify for electricity discounts and weatherization programs.



### Deadline to apply is April 30, 2023

For a single household, the maximum gross income is \$42,411 For a household of two, the maximum gross income is \$55,461 To apply make an appointment with Cindy Beard 508-229-4453



### PROGRAMS AND MORE ~ Peg Leonard

Happy New Year to all. I just want to personally thank those of you who made donations to the organizations that were listed in the last newsletter. While writing this newsletter, I am happy to say that I have delivered well over 100 toys to the Toys of Tots organization. I am absolutely thrilled and want all of you to know how appreciative this organization is with your generosity.

We conducted our first in-house Veterans Day Celebration at the Senior Center since 2019. I would like to personally thank Steve Whynot for all his help announcing the celebration to our local Veterans who assisted, along with Steve with the Opening Flag Ceremony. Thank you to our own Southborough Songsters for the beautiful tributes to each of the Armed Forces. Another special thank you to Bill Harrington who was our Master of Ceremonies for the day. Our tables were decorated with beautiful Flag themed centerpieces from one of our local Girl Scout troops, we appreciate their efforts.. Proved to be a wonderful day honoring all our Veterans. Also in line with that, we held our first in-house Holiday Party since 2019. It was a wonderful time. Warmed our hearts to see lots of our members dancing and singing up a storm. We enjoyed beautiful Holiday themed centerpieces decorating our tables, again made by our local girl scouts. Also brightening our day was a surprise guest visit from Santa Claus and his Elves.

I hope you enjoy what we are offering in this newsletter. Wishing you health, safety and happiness.

<u>AN IMPORTANT UPDATE</u> — <u>REAL ID</u> Credential Won't Be Needed Until 2025 to fly Domestically or Enter Some Federal Facilities. U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended REAL ID full enforcement date to May 7, 2025

### Mirick O'Connell Legal Clinic

Southborough Access Media Station (S.A.M.) Programs

Presented by Attorney Arthur Bergeron Verizon FIOS Channel 38 and Charter Channel 191

### Make a Resolution

This program will air daily during the month of <u>January</u> on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 11:00am and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 2:00pm

Does your estate plan still work? This year, make a resolution to review your existing estate plan to make sure it still works for you. Your health or financial situations may have changed. Attorney Arthur Bergeron will review key considerations when reviewing your estate plan.

### Things to Consider in your 60's

This program will air daily during the month of <u>February</u> on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 11:00am and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 2:00pm

For most of us, our 60's is a time when we either retire or are considering retirement; and, when our income stops growing but perhaps our assets are substantial. In this program, Attorney Arthur Bergeron will broadly discuss when you should apply for Social Security and Medicare; whether to start pulling tax-deferred funds before your RMD kicks in; estate tax planning for those with more than \$1M in assets; and, Long-Term Care Insurance (LTCI).

### Virtual Legal Phone Advice from Attorney Arthur Bergeron

Wednesdays, January 11th & February 8th

10:00am to 10:45am (4-15 minute sessions)

Attorney Arthur Bergeron, who has given seminars at the Senior Center on a wide variety of elder law topics, will now offer free services by phone from 10:00am to 10:45am. Attorney Bergeron will talk with interested Southborough seniors to give you free individualized legal advice. If you would like to sign up, please call the senior center at (508) 229-4453 to book a 15-minute advice time slot.



### **BayPath is now Springwell**

Providing MetroWest families of all income levels the resources necessary when facing the challenges of aging. On July 1, 2022, BayPath merged with Springwell.

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Learn more at www.springwell.com





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ATTORNEYS

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Arthur P. Bergeron 508.860.1470 abergeron@mirickoconnell.com





Watch our elder law legal clinics on YouTube: "ElderLawFrankAndMary"



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Please verify your address label information. If corrections are needed, please call the Senior Center.





Elder Law with Frank and Mary by Arthur P. Bergeron

Arthur P. Bergeron is an elder law attorney in the Trusts and Estates Group at Mirick O'Connell.

### AN EASY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: REVIEW YOUR ESTATE PLAN

Happy New Year! Reviewing your estate plan is a simple "resolution" that shouldn't take much time, and may actually save you time, aggravation, and money down the road. Ask yourself some questions:

<u>HEALTH CARE PROXY</u>. Is the agent you named still alive and healthy? Have you named an alternate in case there's an emergency and your primary agent is not around? Most importantly, make sure they understand all of your wishes.

<u>DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY</u>. All seniors should have one so that someone you trust can handle your affairs if you become incapacitated. If you already have a POA, is the person you designated as your agent still the one you want?

ASSETS. Have your assets increased/decreased? Remember, the initial Massachusetts tax rate on assets over \$1M is 40%. Many people now find themselves with assets worth over \$1M because their house value significantly increased. Your estate plan may need to be adjusted accordingly.

<u>HEALTH STATUS</u>. As we age, our risk of needing additional care increases, and so does the need to plan for that. If you anticipate that your health situation will change over the next year, you may want to restructure your assets now.

These topics are unsettling for many, but hoping they go away or that they take care of themselves is not a plan. Don't wait for things to go downhill, resolve to have a strategy in place that fits your needs. Then, review that plan. For more information, visit Frank and Mary's YouTube channel, <a href="https://www.youtube.com/elderlawfrankandmary">www.youtube.com/elderlawfrankandmary</a>. These programs also air on SAM (Verizon 38; Charter 191), along with "Frank and Mary in Southborough," where Doug Peck and I address common issues facing seniors and available resources. If you have any questions, please contact me at (508) 860-1470 or <a href="mailto:abergeron@mirickoconnell.com">abergeron@mirickoconnell.com</a>.

## FRIENDS OF THE SOUTHBOROUGH COUNCIL ON AGING CALENDAR YEAR 2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

The Friends of the COA is a non-profit fundraising group that supports our Senior Center. They help to pay for many of the events held at the Senior Center and help purchase supplies and furnishings. To become a "Friend of the Southborough COA" member, please complete the form on the right. Priority for certain special limited seating events may be given to Southborough residents regardless of "Friends" membership status. Please call (508) 229-4453 if you have any questions.

January to December 2023

Membership is a Suggested Donation of
\$15.00 per year. Per Person
Name
Address
Phone
E-mail (s)
()
Friends 2023 Membership Donation
Date