

BROOKLYN SENIOR CENTER
2018 ANNUAL REPORT



January 25, 2019

Mayor Katherine Gallagher
Members of Brooklyn City Council
Brooklyn, Ohio 44144

Dear Mayor Gallagher and Council Members:

The following is the 2018 annual report for the Brooklyn Senior Center.

This report contains information regarding the staff, senior advisory council, volunteers and members.

Also included are statistics on the many services, programs and activities that are offered to our senior residents. As we move forward in 2019 our goal will be to continue to offer the services they have come to expect as well as offer new programs and activities to enhance the lives of the senior community we serve. We are always open to suggestions and community involvement.

The senior center is a lifeline to our residents and the community at large. It's a home away from home for them to gather.. It gives them a purpose as they come and socialize through the many classes and activities we offer. It has been proven scientifically that seniors need to keep active to live longer healthier lives. That will be our focus again in 2019.

I do also need to recognize my great staff and our crew of volunteers both of whom keep things running here and are the back bone of the senior center. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

I look forward to working with you in serving the seniors of Brooklyn.

Sincerely,

Karen Fratto
Coordinator
BROOKLYN SENIOR CENTER
CITY OF BROOKLYN, OHIO

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STAFF

- 1 Coordinator
- 1 Assistant Coordinator
- 1 Van Driver (Local Union #1099)
- 1 Independent Contractor Ceramics Instructor – (up to Twenty-Four hours per week)
- 1 Independent Contractor Part-time cook – (up to Twenty-Four hours per week)

ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board of seven adults, over 55, appointed at large representing various senior citizen groups in the community. The Senior Center Advisory Board meets on a monthly basis to discuss, as needed, any upcoming programs or activities. They also share any positive and/or negative comments (suggestions) from members in the organization.

VOLUNTEERS:

- Aerobics / Chair Yoga Volunteers
- Bingo Volunteers
- Blood Pressure Program
- Bocce Ball Committee
- Ceramics Program
- Chit Chat Newsletter
- Corn Hole Volunteers
- Crafts for Corner Store
- Health Screenings
- Income Tax Scheduling
- Indoor Garage Sale
- Librarian
- Meal Delivery Volunteers
- OHSHIP
- Quilting Group
- Reception Desk Workers
- Special Event Workers
- Sports - Tournaments
- Senior Advisory Board
- Volunteer Hour - Record Keeper
- Weekly Meals Crew (Thursday, Luncheon & Tuesday, Soup & Sandwich)

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS: 54 active volunteers

TOTAL NUMBER OF VOLUNTEER HOURS: 4,342

SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE SENIOR CENTER

- Absentee Voter Applications
- “Are You OK?” Program
- AARP Safe Driver Course
- AARP no cost Tax Service
- Blood Pressure Screenings
- Blood Sugar Screenings
- Cholesterol Screenings
- Computers Available
- Coupon Exchange
- Current Books and Magazines on Health, Travel, Hobbies and Fiction
- Energy Assistance Applications
- Flu and Pneumonia Shots
- Golden Buckeye Applications
- Hearing Screening
- Homestead Exemption and H.E.A.P. forms
- Income Tax Assistance (AARP)
- Large-type Reading Material in our Library
- Meals for the Homebound Program
- Medicare Assistance
- Power of Attorney and Living Will Forms
- Skin Cancer Screening
- Snow Removal
- Social Security and Medicare Handbooks
- Social Work Information and Referral Service
- Speakers on Health and Other Current Self-Help Topics
- Transportation - Senior Center Bus and Car
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Wheelchairs, Walkers, Canes and Crutches are available for loaning
- Xerox Copies (.10¢ per copy)

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS OFFERED BY THE CENTER

- Afternoon Films
- Art Classes
- Bingo
- Bocce Ball (Men and Women's Leagues)
- Book Review
- Card Games
- Ceramics
- Chair Aerobics
- Chair Yoga
- Corn Hole Coed Teams
- Corner Store Crafts
- Crocheting & Knitting
- Dominoes
- Exercise
- Flower Arranging
- Indoor Garage Sales
- Pool Playing
- Post Office-on-Wheels
- Hands on Demonstrations – food or crafts
- OSHIP Consulting for Medicare Open Enrollment
- Quilting
- Special Events (Dances, Women's Tea, Picnic's)
- Senior Olympics
- Sewing
- Speakers on Various Topics
- Soup and Sandwich Meal
- Tai Chi – temporarily suspended in the fall until teacher recovers
- Television and VCR or DVD free rentals
- Trips – Local Day Excursions
- Walking Program
- Weekly Luncheon Meal on Thursday
- Wii Bowling and other sports games

HOMEBOUND MEAL PROGRAM

The 2018 Homebound Meals Program is an ongoing weekday meal delivery program offered to qualifying Brooklyn residents. Meals are intended for persons over 60, not able to leave their home due to chronic illness, inability to drive, or inability to prepare meals safely for themselves. It is not intended to be a substitute for family care; therefore, it is for persons who have NO family living in the home or locally. There is sometimes a waiting list and all applicants are screened to see if they meet the qualifications. This meal is prepared by the kitchen of the Senior Citizen Resource Center, located at 3100 Devonshire Rd, Cleveland, Ohio. It is a government subsidized program and also funded in part by proceeds in the form of donations by the receiving residents. The recipient of the meals, or his/her family, decides on a donation amount. The suggested donation is \$1.00 per day and it is optional. The donation goes directly to Senior Citizen Resources in an envelope they provide the recipients once a week.

The meal consists of a hot dinner, a fresh piece of fruit, a milk and piece of bread or a roll. Some days it can be a cold sandwich type meal, but mostly it is a hot meal. It is delivered Monday through Friday, between 10 a.m. and noon. We have delivered more meals this year than last year with a total of 1,876 meals in 2018 delivered compared to 1,680 meals delivered in 2017.

Kathy Messeri is in charge of overseeing the Homebound Meal Program for the City of Brooklyn and works along with Senior Citizens Resources to ensure things run smoothly. There are five volunteers that deliver the meals five days of the week, each taking a day with an alternate as back-up and Kathy Messeri as the back-up driver. We are always looking to recruit volunteers that have a heart to deliver the meals to our residents in need. It is a very rewarding program. Kathy and all of the volunteers do a great job.

TOTAL Homebound Meals Delivered in 2018: 1,876

SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

Snow removal sign-up was held the month of September and late sign ups well into December. The cost for the program is:

\$40.00 per person/household

An income guideline is instituted for all new applicants

Guidelines are as follows:

\$36,300 maximum income for one person in the household;

\$41,500 maximum income for two person households;

\$46,650 maximum income for three person households.

If a resident is unable to come into the Senior Center because of illness, provisions are made for a "house-call" Anyone signing up after the initial registration time will be subject to a late fee of \$15.00, unless previous arrangements were made.

CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING CITY SNOW REMOVAL SERVICE

- Resident and all other occupants of your household must be 65 years of age or older;
- Residents meet income guidelines per Ordinance #2009-60 (listed above)
- Resident must own the single family home they live in;
- Current property Tax Bill must be presented;
- The driveway must be solid, no grass strip or gravel down the center of the driveway;
- Resident must agree to release the City, its servants, agents, and employees from any liability arising out of the removal of snow from their driveway.

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS THAT RECEIVED THIS SERVICE in winter of 2018/2019 = 289

PRIVATE SNOW AND GRASS SERVICE

The Senior Center also provides the names of people who shovel snow and cut grass. We supply the names of contractors with snowplowing or grass cutting for those who want to have a private contractor. Fees are charged by contractors and **must** be pre-arranged between contractors and resident.

PEOPLE SIGNING IN AT THE CENTER FOR PROGRAMS AND/OR SERVICES

Located at the front reception desk until April 1st was a daily sign-in sheet. We asked participants to sign in when they enter the building. This also helps us to track the usage of the various programs. Unfortunately, it's not 100% accurate as we have the sign in sheet at the front desk so many times they enter through the back door and do not sign in. When it is a major activity we try to have the sign in sheets there for them in the particular class / activity or in dining area.

In April 2018 we moved to a new scan in method and residents and non residents received a key fob card to check in. This method has proved to be much more accurate. We charged non residents \$12 annually to become members.

Brooklyn Residents & Non Resident Members visits to the Senior Center in 2018 = 15,637

NEWSLETTER / Chit Chat

We are proud of our bi-monthly mailing of newsletter “Chit Chat” which is mailed to a little over 900 Brooklyn resident seniors at no cost.

Non-residents may come into the Center for free copy if they are a member of the Brooklyn Senior Center

LPI is the company that prints and delivers the newsletter to the Senior Center free of charge. LPI solicits local businesses that advertise to defray the cost of the publication. It is printed in color. We no longer have to print on the ancient duplicator machine, which has saved the city on paper, ink, and time. Not to mention all the time it used to take with assembly. It now comes collated and folded. We have a great team of volunteers who then seal it and affix mailing labels. It is mailed from the downtown main post office bulk rate department for mailing. Average cost for the mailing is about \$225 every 2 months.

INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

Income tax assistance is provided by AARP and offered to all seniors regardless of income. Started on February 1st thru April 12th, volunteers are here Mondays and Wednesdays to provide this **free** tax service. It is made available to all age groups, but primarily services are to seniors. Electronic filing is also offered. It is a great service to the seniors!

Taxes prepared in 2018 - 304

“ARE YOU O.K.?”

This program is a daily call from the Police Department (Dispatchers) to Brooklyn residents who have signed up requesting this daily call, at a designated time of their choosing. If he or she doesn't answer the phone, the Dispatcher will call back in 15 minutes. If there is still no answer, an Emergency contact person, named by the resident, will be called to get a key to enter their home to see if they are in distress. If all of the above safety measures fail, the Police and Fire Departments will be dispatched to the resident's home.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

The Center continues to offer a variety of health screenings as they are made available by different Health organizations: Lutheran Hospital, UH Parma Hospital, Metro Health Center, Lifeline Screening Inc., and L.A. Christner Hearing Inc.. Some of the screenings are free and others have a fee. We actively pursue as many free or low cost screenings as possible.

Health care workers speak on various topics of interest to seniors as well as community residents. Over **300** residents attended the various lectures and over **600** took advantage of the screenings listed below:

Bone Density	Hearing Screening
Blood Sugar	Life Line Screening
Cholesterol	Flu Shots
Pneumonia Vaccine	Glaucoma/Vision

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

- UH Parma Hospital comes once a month on the first Thursdays from 9:30a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
- The Brooklyn Paramedics screen the third and fourth Thursday of the month.
- Brooklyn Pointe sends a nurse once a month on 2nd Tuesday of the month

TUESDAY SOUP & SANDWICH

On Tuesdays, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., soup and sandwich is available for **\$3.50**. This is the meal right before our bingo game. During the summer months, cold salads and sandwiches are served. In the winter we switch over to hot and healthy soups. This menu is planned for two months at a time. In 2018 we served **1,177 meals**.

THURSDAY LUNCHEONS

The Senior Center offers a luncheon on Thursdays. The cost of this full course meal is **\$6.00**. This menu is also planned for two months at a time. In 2018 **1,395 meals were served**.

TRANSPORTATION WITH THE SENIOR VAN

Door-to- door transportation is provided to Brooklyn residents who are 55 years of age or older and do not drive. Also included are handicapped or disabled persons, regardless of age. The van is in service Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Service is provided for medical appointments, shopping, personal errands and activities at the Senior Center or Recreation Center. Suggested donation is \$1.00

PASSENGER CLASSIFICATIONS:

TRIP PURPOSES:

Elderly – Ambulatory	2,692	Medical (3 days a week)	433
Elderly – Non-ambulatory	6	Shopping (2 days a week)	508
Other		Senior Center	284
TOTAL	2,698	Recreation Center	74
		Home	1,126
		Other	<u>272</u>
		TOTAL	2,697

2018 Totals
PASSENGER TRIPS: 2,698
DONATIONS: \$2,697.76

PURPOSE OF THE BROOKLYN SENIOR CENTER

- Develop, cultivate and bring together the human resources of the community in assisting senior citizens, handicapped residents and others with their problems.
- Encourage and work with public and private agencies in establishing facilities and programs in the city that deal with needs, such as social services, nutrition, transportation and health.
- Direct and bring together individuals willing to donate their time or services in helping others. This in turn helps them as they feel needed by others and take pride in their service.
- Develop and coordinate social, educational, and wellness programs and service opportunities for senior citizens, which will improve their quality of life.

IMPORTANCE OF SENIOR CENTERS IN THEIR COMMUNITY:

Senior centers are linked to their communities for all the support and services they provide. They are, in large part, reliant on the support of contributors, volunteers, community leaders and others for their continued success.

Senior centers offer a place to go for social activities, trips, volunteer opportunities, health screenings, health and consumer education, creative arts, exercise, wholesome meals and more.

Senior centers offer services that help their members maintain independence, while also providing opportunities for them to interact with each other and contribute to their communities. Senior centers provide meaningful and valuable activities. Senior centers are helpful in bringing key information to the residents to help them make informed decisions on the many challenges they face as they age.

THE SENIOR CENTER PHILOSOPHY

- Promote self-worth
- Promote positive image of older adults to the community
- Promote continued learning and mental growth
- Promote better health
- Provide needed social services
- Provide socialization and recreation
- Encourage volunteerism and service
- Foster community involvement
- Involve isolated elderly
- Improve the quality of life by exposure & involvement in creative and cultural arts
- Provide information on services for seniors available in the community

FINANCIAL REPORT
2018 Year End Totals

SOCIAL PROGRAMS AND RECEIPTS

Ceramic / Craft Fees	\$ 2,093.05
Exercise Class Fees	261.06
Corner Store & Greeting Cards	113.75
Luncheon Sales	12,492.27
Coffee Donation	1,134.98
Pizzelles	129.48
Newsletter	11.25
Food Purchase	283.19
Special Activities	7,423.00
Garage Sale, Room Rental	<u>3,330.00</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$ 27,272.03

CHARGES AND DONATIONS FOR SERVICE

Bus Transportation	\$ 2,697.76
Non Resident Membership	1,752.00
Copy Fees	32.55
Service Fees - Snow Removal	11,480.00
Late sign-up Fees Snow Removal	<u>325.00</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$ 16,287.31

GRAND TOTAL **\$ 43,559.34**