



## DIVISION OF SENIOR SERVICES/ LIFELONG MONTCLAIR

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### Accomplishments

#### Senior Activities at Edgemont Park House

During our first full year of operation of Senior Activities at Edgemont Park House, we fielded **1351** calls and welcomed **6665** walk-ins and program participants. We also hired a part-time Senior Citizens Coordinator, Michelle DeWitt, in September. Michelle develops and schedules the activities at Edgemont and composes our bimonthly newsletter.



#### The MILL

The Montclair Institute for Lifelong Learning is an initiative of Lifelong Montclair. The MILL is funded in part by Partners for Health Foundation and the community and is a collaborative effort of the Montclair Public Library and its Adult School Department, the Montclair Art Museum, the Montclair History Center, and Montclair State University. In 2017, there were **1926** registrations for **69** classes, representing a nearly 50% increase in number of students and classes from 2016.

#### Montclair Senior Bus

After less than a year of operation under EZ Ride, we saw ridership increase significantly with the daily average tripling. In the forthcoming year, the Senior Bus Roundtable, an ad hoc group consisting of interested seniors, plans to increase outreach efforts to further maximize ridership. By providing access to grocery stores, the bus improves food access for seniors.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and the Roundtable has time for public comment at each of their meetings so that riders know that their feedback is valuable. Collaborating with EZ Ride has meant that we are able to be more responsive to needs of our seniors by implementing a demand-response system and making modifications to the stops as needed.

## SIT

During 2017, we sold 613 taxi voucher booklets, an increase of over 20% as compared to 2016's 500. We also developed a pilot for 2018 where the administrative burden on both the Health Department and the riders is reduced; riders reserve rides with participating companies and request the senior discount of 50% at the time of their reservation.

## Senior Water Discount

We collaborated with the Department of Utilities and the Tax Collector's office to increase awareness of the existing 25% water discount available to eligible Montclair senior residents.

## Senior of the Month

We launched a Senior of the Month program in May in collaboration with the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and TV34. Each month, a Montclair resident 55+ is featured on flyers throughout town, in the Montclair Local, and on TV34.

## Lunch, Learn, Ask

Through collaboration with Matthews and Company Realty, we have developed a monthly program at Edgemont aimed at providing information about efforts in our community to improve all of the World Health Organization's 8 Domains of Livability. We also partner with community businesses to provide complimentary lunches to the attendees. Most importantly, the majority of the program's time is set aside for seniors to ask questions of the speakers.

Recent sessions include:

- *Garden State Equality's Pledge & Protect Program* where participants found out more about Garden State Equality's LGBT health and wellness education and advocacy work and how they are working to help LGBT elders in our community.
- *Care at Home New Jersey's Technology for Homebound Seniors* discussing how Care at Home NJ is addressing the needs of our homebound seniors and their caregivers through innovation and evidence-based practices.

## Newsletter

We continued the printing and distribution of our newsletter, distributing 1000 newsletters every other month. The newsletters are printed at no cost to the Township, and the cost-sharing clause in our contract with the printer yielded nearly \$2000 paid to the Township.

## Expansion of Lifelong Montclair Partner Network

In 2016, we added 3 new partner organizations to our existing partner network, expanding its size to 33 partner organizations in total. The new additions include the Montclair History Center, United Way of Northern New Jersey, and WanderPolo & Siegel.

## Age-friendly Designation Requirements

In the fall of 2017, the Director of Senior Services/Lifelong Montclair presented the Lifelong Montclair Age-Friendly Action Plan for public feedback then presented it to the Township Council. The plan was submitted to AARP/WHO, and the Director of Senior Services/Lifelong Montclair is making the requested minor edits to the plan in 2018.

## Honors and Awards

- Filmed a segment of *Life & Living with Joanna Gaggis*. Air date TBD
- Invited to speak at a Montclair Rotary meeting
- Collaborated with and presented in several communities working toward age-friendliness
- Invited to present at the International Foundation for Aging's Global Conference on Aging in 2018
- Invited to present at the NJ Foundation for Aging's Conference in 2018
- Invited to present at the Southeastern Area Agencies on Aging Association's Conference in 2018
- Funding applications:
  - 5310 grant through NJ Transit, which would offset half of the cost of the Montclair Senior Bus
  - Evaluation funding through Partners for Health (approved)
  - 3 year case management funding through Partners for Health (invited to submit full application)

## 2018 Priorities

- Implement the Planning in Partnership grant for a part time case manager to provide preventive counseling and assistance to Montclair seniors (pending grant award)
- Present at IFA, NJFA, and SE4A
- Host Changing Aging tour featuring Dr. Bill Thomas
  - Secure funding from interested foundations
  - Collaborate with Montclair State University
- Develop a call-in program for our filmed Montclair Institute of Lifelong Learning class so that homebound seniors can participate
- Coordinate with other Township departments to complete outstanding projects