

End of Year Report SCAC- Senior Citizen Advisory Committee 2025

To: Mayor Donna Guariglia, Administrator Tim Quinn

From: Noel Robinson, Babara Sebiri Co-chairs

Members of the Committee 2025: Jeannette Coan, Rita Guibert, Edna Bruder McGrath, Noel Robinson, Barbara Sebiri, Judy Till, Mary Voehl, Janice Wood, Mayor Donna Guariglia

The SCAC Committee had another productive year. Work was carried out by its four hard-working subcommittees. We are pleased to highlight the work of our Community Center subcommittee that visited and surveyed nearby community centers and submitted a comprehensive report. A second achievement was the successful Senior Health Fair that took place on Sept. 27, 2025.

Enclosed are reports from our four subcommittees:

- Communications
- Community Centers
- Health Fair
- Website

In addition, the final report on Community Centers is enclosed. We look forward to an equally successful 2026.

SCAC Communications Sub-Committee End of Year Report 2025

Chair: Janice Wood Report prepared by Noel Robinson

The goal for the year was to continue efforts to have seniors in the Township become more aware of what the Township already offers and to inform them of upcoming events.

The Committee continued to distribute flyers in public venues regarding the Morris Township website to continue to market the "All Things Senior." Also included on the flyers are the computer literacy offerings at the County Library.

A major achievement was the rotating monthly ad in the Municipal Messenger featuring information relevant to seniors such as Smart 911, Special Needs registry, the Senior Club, the Knox Box, etc. The Committee will be continuing this initiative for 2026.

Over the summer the work of the Committee centered on the Senior Health Fair held on Sept. 27. The Committee developed an attractive flyer that they distributed throughout Morris Plains and Morristown. The flyer was also sent to the Municipal Messenger, Patch, Morristown Green, the Senior Club, and the Rotary newsletter. The Township also included the information on the electronic bulletin boards.

SCAC Community Centers Sub-Committee End of Year Report 2025

Chair: Edna Bruder McGrath

My sub- committee on the Senior Advisory Committee visited several Community Centers in surrounding Towns. The three selected Community Centers we chose to focus on were similar models to the one proposed by Morris Township. They were Community Centers with designated Senior Programs and physical space within the Center. The Centers we visited were...

- Livingston
- Randolph
- Summit

We submitted a report providing details of each Community Center with photos attached. Below is our Summary....

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION AFTER VISITING AREA COMMUNITY CENTERS

- Dedicated senior lounges with kitchenettes and even a gas fireplace.
- Moveable walls
- A stage
- Pull down screens for movies.
- Dedicated areas to hang coats etc.
- Water fountains for filling water bottles
- Multiple storage areas for tables, chairs, games, arts and crafts
- Kitchen with full size refrigerators, freezers, and warming oven
- Easily accessible bathrooms
- Arts and crafts rooms with sink
- Conference rooms with table and chairs

SCAC HEALTHCARE SUB-COMMITTEE END OF YEAR REPORT 2025

CO-CHAIRS: BARBARA SEBIRI AND NOEL ROBINSON

Much of the year 2025 was spent planning and preparing for our Health and Wellness Fair. This event was held at the Fairchild Firehouse in Morris Plains on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 10-12 noon.

The set up was done the day before by the SCAC Committee with the assistance of the maintenance staff and the Public Health Department staff.

We were able to get 48 signed in attendees. We had 17 vendors in various select categories such as Physical Therapy, Home Care, Assisted Living facilities, Atlantic Health was represented by various departments, Hearing Center, etc.

Marketing of the event was on the Morris Township website, posted flyers throughout town, Messenger, Morris Township Senior Club and their newsletter. We noted it would be a great idea to publicize this event when we do another to the Activities Directors at local assisted living centers as they are always looking for field trips for residents. Interestingly we did have a bus load attend from the Madison Sunrise facility.

One of the vendors noted that this event was good for him as he familiarized himself with providers of services for seniors that he could recommend to his patients.

We are looking forward to working more collaboratively with the Township Health Department in 2026.

Website Committee End of Year Report 2025

We began the year with a review of the website to check for missing/broken links and changes to content. Corrections were made and the following additions were made.

1. Food Rescue [Table to Table I-Rescue](#) was added to the Volunteering section.
2. The bookstore at the [County College of Morris Events](#)* was added to Theater.
3. The Housing section was updated with the following links and descriptions:
 - a. [Low and Moderate Income Housing](#) - Information on the Housing Partnership of Morris County with specific references to housing in Morris Township.
 - b. [Affordable Homes in New Jersey](#) An organization approved by the NJ Department of Community Affairs dedicated to assisting very low, low, and moderate income households find affordable housing in a fair and respectful manner.

We wanted to assess the usage of the SCAC Seniors Resources website so we asked Virginia Murphy if she could provide data analytics for us. The data provided by Virginia Murphy compared SCAC webpages relative to all of the township's websites. Some of the results were quite surprising!

For the period from January 1 to March 10, **Volunteering** was the most actively viewed site ranking 26 of 250 township sites with 871 views and 595 active users. **Lifelong Learning** ranked 68 of 250 township sites with 318 views and 232 active users and the **Senior Activities and Exercise Program** from Recreation Department ranked 66 of 250 township sites with 324 views with only 191 active users.

The year ended with several revisions to the website with the addition of Emergency information on the Health and Wellness section. Each link was annotated with detailed information on what the site could provide. Several links were moved for clarity and we also added two links: [Pioneer Productions](#), and [NJ Theater Alliance](#) to the Theater section, and the newsletter [This Week in Morris County](#) to the overall Social, Recreational, & Educational Activities Resources site.

We continue to monitor the website for corrections on a monthly basis and welcome recommendations from SCAC members for corrections and additions.

As communicated in our original document, the Senior Citizen Advisory Community focused their visits to community centers to towns/cities that were most similar to Morris Township in population size as well as having a similar model to be proposed by Morris Township and that is a community center with designated senior programs and space within the center. The towns we visited:

- Livingston
- Randolph
- Summit

Highlights Of Our Visit to Livingston Community Center

Observations on the physical setting:

- The lower level of the 2 story building is a shared space for the Community at large with the Seniors sharing the space. The Seniors use the space primarily during the day.
- There is a separate second building in a different location and is dedicated to fitness activities/classes.
- There is one large room with movable walls. The room can be adjusted to different configurations-for example, 3 smaller rooms or 1 bigger room with 1 smaller room, etc. Seniors usually use the bigger room for their Social events...with tables and chairs.
- There are 2 conference rooms and 2 classrooms available to Seniors, in addition to a living room and game combo type room.
- Kitchen- with medium size Refrigerator and professional size warming ovens. There is a popcorn Machine –for Movie nights.
- Storage-Large room with cages. Seniors have their own cage for storing important items.

Observations on dedicated human resources:

- Livingston Township has a significant Recreation department that services both the Community Center and their other recreation programs.
- Of particular interest to us is that they have one full-time professional (a Supervisor) that is dedicated to the Senior Programs and Preschool Programs.
- The Township also has a full-time professional to write grants for the Community Center (that includes grants relative to seniors).
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Highlights Of Our Visit to The Randolph Community Center

Observations on the physical setting:

- There is a very large central room with a stage for multiple purposes e.g. socials, classes & activities (chair yoga, line dancing, Bingo, card games, movies, presentations, etc.)
- The room can be divided by using folding doors.
- There is a very large pull down screen for movies, large screen TV, small refrigerator which is used when people bring their lunches for certain activities and coffee center,
- A table, prominently displays fliers for upcoming events e.g. monthly social, Murder Mystery Dinner, safe driver presentation, Senior Glee Club, monthly lunch outing, etc. Each Flier has a designated sign up sheet.
- A bathroom is located directly off of this room
- Also located directly off of this Central Room is a good size warming kitchen featuring a very large Freezer, a very large refrigerator, and a Pantry for storage.
- Near the Central Room is a very generous sized Conference Room with a coffee center, sink, flat screen TV that is also used for various activities e.g. sewing club, tech help from high school seniors etc.
- Also adjacent to the Central Main Room is a generous sized room for storing tables and chairs, etc.
- On the lower level is a room where the Center provides some non-perishable products to needy people/families and another room for additional storage.
- The grounds have a gazebo and a good size parking lot

Observations on Human Resources

- The Coordinator is dedicated to the senior programs with 50% of her time is spent on seniors. The Coordinator is eligible for overtime.
- The center houses one full time director, one assistant director, one full time parks & recreation services coordinator who spends half of their time for senior activities/events and to their half for town events/activities, one full time parks supervisor, finance director and one special events person and a full time secretary.

Additional Observations:

- The Randolph Community Center operates Mon – Friday and can be rented out over the weekends, which is a revenue generating opportunity for the Township.













Highlights Of Our Visit to Summit Community Center

Observations on the physical setting

- Two good sized gyms with movable walls.
- Senior lounge with adjacent room with tables, in addition to another fairly large space for various activities. The senior lounge features a fireplace, kitchenette, and a flat screen TV.
- Water Fountain to refill water bottles, but NO place to hang coats.

Observations on human resources:

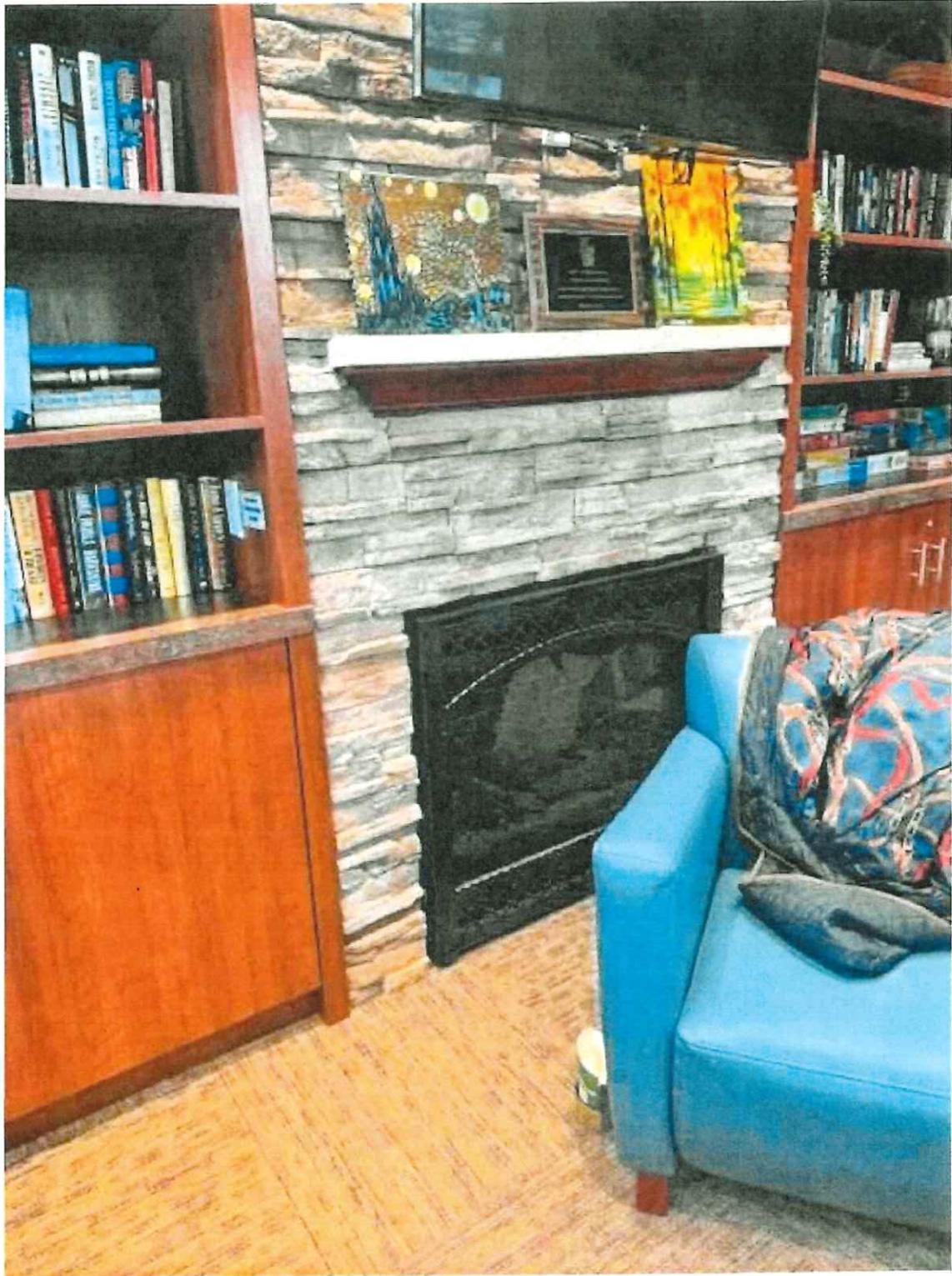
- One full-time person for seniors and kids activities.
- One director for recreation for the community center
- Two assistants the center
- One program director for children
- City of Summit has a grant writer

Additional observations

- The community center can be rented out over the weekends for revenue generation
- Programs included such activities as t'ai chi, canasta, pickleball, yoga











KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR **FUTURE** CONSIDERATION AFTER VISITING
AREA COMMUNITY CENTERS

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- Pull down screens for movies
- Dedicated areas to hang coats etc.
- Water fountains for filling water bottles
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- Kitchen with full size refrigerators, freezers, and warming oven
- Easily accessible bathrooms
- Arts and crafts rooms with sink
- Conference rooms with table and chairs

RECOMMENDATION FOR **IMMEDIATE** IMPLEMENTATION BY THE TOWNSHIP

The one resounding theme was the value of seniors to the three towns that was demonstrated by the dedicated employees they have for their senior programs. The SCAC strongly recommends that the Township dedicates either a full-time or part-time employee in the next fiscal year in order to help build the programs and offerings to our seniors and to demonstrate the value of senior citizens to Morris Township. It is evident that to build vibrant programs and develop further senior citizen participation a dedicated employee (s) is needed.