

END-OF-YEAR REPORT 2024 SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Noel Robinson & Barbara Sebiri, Co-Chairs

Members 2024: Jan Coan, Rita Guibert, Edna Bruder-McGrath, Barbara Morris, Mary Voehl,
Janice Wood, Mayor Donna Guariglia

In our third year the Committee continued to support and advocate for the senior citizens in the Township. Our work during the year is summarized in the four sub-committee reports attached here.

Here are some of the highlights of our work this year:

COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE (Janice Wood, Chair):

- Worked to publicize the Township web page on Senior Resources and Activities.
- Through publicity, encouraged Township seniors who need to improve their computer and cell phone usage skills to take advantage of free sessions at the County Library.
- Developed a flier to encourage traffic to the Senior page on the Township website and carried out its distribution.

HEALTHCARE SUB-COMMITTEE (Barbara Sebiri, Chair):

- Reviewed the results of the 2023 SCAC survey and focus groups regarding health issues.
- Decided to partner with the Township Health Dept. and Parks and Recreation internally and Atlantic Health and The Morris County Division on Aging externally.
- Centered on several areas of concern and interest to seniors, including aging in one's home.
- Organized and presented the highlight activity of the year, the well-attended October presentation by Atlantic Health Healthy Aging coordinator Rebecca Abenante, "Aging in Your Own Space."
- Attended the large and comprehensive Morristown Health Fair in September to gather information and ideas.
- Made preliminary plans to co-sponsor with the Township Health Dept. a Senior Health and Wellness Fair in 2025.

TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE (Noel Robinson, Chair):

- Undertook a survey of senior transportation in surrounding communities in anticipation of the Township acquiring a bus for senior transportation.
- Reviewed state, county and local resources related to transportation for seniors.
- Conducted a telephone survey with 11 towns to ascertain what their transportation services were and how they operated their bus or buses.
- Followed up with 5 towns that have comprehensive bus services.
- Presented our recommendations for a senior bus at a Township Committee meeting in September.

WEBSITE SUB-COMMITTEE (Mary Voehl, Chair):

- Cooperated with the Township Health and Recreation Depts. to promote their activities.
- Worked with the SCAC Communications Sub-Committee to promote the website.
- Maintained and updated the current links on the Senior Resources and Activities webpage on the Township website.
- Completed a total revamping of the visual and performing arts resources on the website.
- Added a very visible home link on each page.
- Succeeded in having one major link for Senior Resources directly on the Township's home page.
- Noted that through Google Analytics of the 250 links to sites on the Township website, the SCAC line ranked 57 and the Senior Citizens Resources link ranked 128.
- Focused recently on adding affordable housing information to the website.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025:

We look forward to welcoming one new member. The Communications and Website Sub-Committees will continue with ongoing work. The Transportation Sub-Committee has been disbanded. The Healthcare Sub-Committee will have a pivotal role next year, and there will be a new Community Center Sub-Committee.

So far for 2025 the two main new initiatives will be as follows:

1. To work with the Township Health Dept. to sponsor a Senior Health and Wellness Fair in Fall 2025.
2. To survey and visit area Community/Senior Centers and to draft a report evaluating best practices and submitting recommendations for our new community center.