

COUNCIL ON AGING

Eileen Griffin Wright, Senior Housing.....	2005
Brooke James, Public Relations/Outreach.....	2006
Doris Ettinger, Secretary.....	2006
Shirley Hansen, Treasurer.....	2006
Sheila Chmielowski, Director.....	2006
Irene Spencer, Outreach.....	2007
Susan Tripp, Editor.....	2007
Shirley Sefton, Transportation/ Meals on Wheels.....	2007
Barbara Brown, Police Liaison.....	2008
Ruth Johnston, News Correspondent.....	2008

The Council on Aging (COA) is a department of the municipal government established for the purpose of coordinating or carrying out programs that meet the needs of the aging. The council meets at Bolton Country Manor on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. with the exception of July and August. All meetings are open to the public. Observers and prospective new members are invited to any and all COA meetings. The members of the council are made up entirely of volunteer workers. All members are appointed by the Board of Selectmen and represent a cross-section of the community.

The COA's Office and Senior Center moved in April from the Town Hall to the Bolton Country Manor senior housing facility located at 600 Main Street. The Council's office can be reached at (978) 779-3313 or coa@townofbolton.com. Senior Center hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Thanks to the help from our townspeople and town employees, our move to the new facility went smoothly without a hitch. The council purchased needed furnishings and equipment for our new facility and managed to stay within our allotted budget. Set up of our office, library, nurse's office and community center was completed. Our senior center attendance has tripled from prior years. One reason is our move to Bolton Country Manor that has attracted many tenants from said facility. Various programs and services were offered and well received throughout the year.

Eileen Griffin Wright, Senior Housing COA member, resigned from her position on the board this year. Eileen worked for countless years and volunteered many hours to help the seniors of our community procure an affordable senior housing facility. Without her help, Bolton Country Manor would not have become a reality. Not enough words can be said to relate to Eileen our immense gratitude for all her help over the years. Barbara Brown was nominated and appointed by the council and selectmen in June. She will serve as a liaison between the council and the Bolton Police Department. With Barbara's background, the council believes she will be a great asset in helping to reach our goals by providing needed services to Bolton elders. Welcome aboard Barbara.

The council extends deepest sympathies to Doris Campbell's family as they mourn her passing. Doris passed away this November and was the chairperson of our Council on

Aging. She volunteered many hours to help the seniors of our community. She will be deeply missed. The members of the Council on Aging consider themselves fortunate to have had the chance to have known and worked with Doris. She will always have a place within our hearts and will never be forgotten. Doris will always live on in our memories.

The Sixth Annual Senior Picnic was held at Knox Trail Cub Scout Camp in July and once again was sponsored by The Friends of the Bolton Seniors. Several members of the "Friends" cooked the food, set the tables, served the seniors and cleaned up after the function was over. Thanks to the Friends and also to the Knox Trail Cub Scouts for offering their beautiful grounds. Our annual picnic was a huge success and everyone is looking forward to a repeat performance next year.

The COA distributes a monthly senior newsletter with the exception of July and August. This mailing is subsidized by a state grant and the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Susan Tripp, the council's editor, volunteers many hours to publish this newsletter which is distributed via bulk mail and is the main news source of senior activities and issues in the town.

Meals on Wheels, is one of the council's most valuable and successful programs. The program provides nutritious meals to the frail, the homebound, and all seniors throughout the year. Prepared on Tuesdays and Thursdays, these meals are often the most nutritionally balanced dinners received by recipients during the entire week.

Brooke James, our town nurse and member of the COA, delivers her homemade soup on Mondays to the Bolton seniors. At present time, Brooke delivers three gallons of soup and makes twelve delivery stops on Monday. Thank you, Brooke for all your hard work.

Another program for seniors is the distribution of surplus foods to those that meet the qualifications. The WHEAT van will continue to deliver USDA food commodities to the town hall for distribution the second Tuesday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The COA plans and provides for five to six bus outings during the year. Bus transportation is subsidized by the Town Grant and the Senior Citizens Association. Interesting visits to educational or historical sites invariably include a stop at a restaurant for lunch and entertainment.

The Senior Citizen Association meets at 1:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at the Bolton Country Manor except for the months of July and August. Typical meetings feature guest speakers and/or entertainment. A holiday banquet was held this year at O'Connor's Restaurant in West Boylston. This event is sponsored by the Council on Aging and funded by the Town Grant.

We would like to thank all those who volunteered their services and time to our elderly this year. It was and will always be greatly appreciated.

The elderly population is not seeking something beyond their needs. Rather, they are hoping that they may continue as Citizens of Bolton, with the same opportunities the elderly of most towns throughout the Commonwealth provide for their seniors. The Council on Aging speaks not only for the current population of senior citizens, but also for generations of seniors to come, in the quest for the continued support and kindnesses that were extended to us throughout year 2005.

**Financial Statement
July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005**

Salary

Appropriated	\$14,359.00
Expended	<u>\$14,046.48</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund	\$ 724.45

Expenses

Appropriated	\$5,500.00
Expended	
Purchase of Services	\$2,417.00
Supplies	1,523.67
Miscellaneous	1,533.35
Postage	70.28
	<u>\$5,544.30</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund	\$ 25.98