

Appendix

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Appendix C: Sturbridge Senior Center Newsletter article.

“A Message from our Town Planner for our Seniors.”

Sturbridge Council on Aging April 2018, page 6.

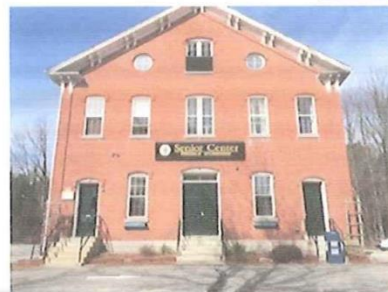
It's not the
years in your
life that count.
It's the life
in your years!

STURBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER

Sturbridge Council on Aging
480 Main Street (physical address)
P.O. Box 746 (Mailing address)
Fiskdale, MA



MAIN PHONE (508) 347-7575
FAX (508) 347-1758
NUTRITION PHONE (508) 347-5063
ELDER BUS (800) 321-0243



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Sturbridge COA

APRIL 2018

NEWS FROM SHINE APRIL 2018 **THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVELS HAVE INCREASED**

As a result of increases to the Federal Poverty Level, Eligibility Guidelines for Public Benefits Programs in Massachusetts have changed. MassHealth has increased the income limits for several programs you may be eligible for. The income to be eligible for MassHealth **Standard** has increased from \$1,025 for a single person to \$1,032, for a married couple it has gone up to \$1,392 from \$1,374. For another popular program MassHealth **Buy-in (this would pay your Medicare Part B Premium)** the eligibility income has gone up to \$1,386 from \$1,377 for a single person and from \$1,847 to \$1,872 for a couple. These increases also apply to **Full Extra Help** a program from Social Security that helps pay for your medications. You can qualify for **Partial Extra Help** if your income is below \$1,538 for a single person and \$2,078 for a married couple. If you feel you may be eligible under these new income guidelines feel free to call SHINE for more information.

"SHINE'S MEDICARE AND MORE" PROGRAM

The Central MASS SHINE Program is now sponsoring a monthly Cable TV program called SHINE's **MEDICARE AND MORE**, we hope your local cable channel will pick it up. This program is designed to educate and update MEDICARE beneficiaries and

A Message from our Town Planner for our Seniors:

The Town of Sturbridge Planning Department and Open Space Committee are in the process of updating the current Open Space and Recreation Plan that expires this May. An Open Space and Recreation Plan is a document that provides a plan for the "green infrastructure" of a community. This "green infrastructure" includes things such as water supply protection, open land, working farms and forests, wildlife habitats, parks, ball fields, recreation areas, trails and greenways. Just as the Town plans for schools, roads, water and wastewater infrastructure, locations for housing, and commercial and industrial areas to enhance the economic vitality of a community, the green infrastructure is equally important and requires careful planning.

We would like you to be part of this process. We are trying to gather public input from all age groups for this important project. There are several ways you can participate in this planning process. The first way to get involved is to enter our photo contest: simply send us a picture of your favorite open space or recreation area in town – it could be an image of scenery or a photo of an activity as it is taking place. The second way is to attend our Public Forum in Paige Hall of the Public House on **April 11th at 6:30PM**. Refreshments will be served and you will be able to vote on the photos (prizes will be awarded), hear a presentation on open space and recreation, and offer your input on things that are important to you.

Thank you for your participation,
Jean M. Bubon, AICP ~ Town Planner