



Board of County Commissioners

County of Hunterdon
71 Main Street, Building #1
PO Box 2900
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Shaun C. Van Doren, Commissioner

Shaun.vandoren@co.hunterdon.nj.us

Hunterdon Commissioners Honor Older Americans In May

Senior Center Services Noted For Improving Quality Of Life

The Hunterdon County Board of Commissioners honored Hunterdon County's senior population, comprised of individuals aged 60 and older, by declaring May as Older Americans Month and adopted the Administration for Community Living's 2021 theme, "Connect, Create, Contribute," Commissioner Shaun C. Van Doren has announced.

Commissioner Van Doren, the Board's liaison for Senior Services, said, "Hunterdon County is committed to helping all individuals live longer, healthier and satisfying lives, and the Board and I recognize that Hunterdon's older adults have made countless contributions and sacrifices to ensure a better life for future generations.

Throughout 2020, when the state closed senior centers, the county still provided meaningful opportunities and programs for older county residents, creating a virtual schedule for seniors to participate in to enrich their lives.

The programs offered support the theme, 'Connect, Create, Contribute,' and gave our active seniors virtual ways to stay connected, be creative and contribute, safely from their home."

Meagan Q. O'Reilly, Human Services Administrator, said, "Virtual Senior Programs, such as Aerobics, Italian Lessons, Guitar Lessons and the Mr. Fix It program, where 327 volunteer hours were logged serving almost 150 clients, as well as more than two-thousand calls to the 'Information and Assistance' line were answered during 2020. Our Senior Center staff were on the job throughout the pandemic."

Laine Nauman, Senior Services Division Head, said, "Our successful implementation of a completely virtual platform was a lifeline for our Hunterdon County seniors who depend on the programs and services we provide. Our Senior Center staff, instructors and volunteers were instrumental in bringing these normally in-person programs to our senior community and I am grateful to them for their hard work and dedication during this unprecedented global health crisis."

"Commissioner Board Director Soloway recently called for a Senior Center Re-opening Task Force plan for the Center's re-opening and asked for a report citing the necessary health protections to keep visitors safe as a return to 'normalcy' ensues. I agree with the Director that now is the time, with safety in mind, to bring our seniors back to the center and continue with the vital programs and services which they rely upon," Commissioner Van Doren concluded.

For information on programs and services available, visit the Senior Center webpage on the County's website, <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging/seniorcenter.htm> or call 908-788-1361 for further information or to volunteer.