

## OOB Community Friendly Connection

The OOB CFC was designated as an AARP Age-Friendly Community in November 2017. OOB CFC immediately embarked on a community-wide survey to assess community priorities for quality of life and livability. We received an astounding 639 responses in our small town with 109 from high school students and administration, and the majority of the remainder from residents age 50 and above. From the survey approximately 20 goals emerged, each of which address one or more of the eight domains recommended by the World Health Organization. We prioritized these goals and developed a phased-in plan to implement them over the next three years.

OOB CFC has accomplished several of goals already, such as:

- **OOB CFC website with a link available on the Town Website**
- **OOB Community Friendly Connection Facebook page**
- **Enable AARP to live stream Age Friendly events held in OOB Town Hall**
- **70+ Property Tax Rebate Program**
- **Sand 4 Safety Program distributing winter sand to residents in need**
- **“What’s Up” Event Information Call-in Line to be coupled with our “coming soon” Electronic Message Board**
- **Huge Imagine, Dream, Believe Community Awareness Event June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018**
- **Establishing the Senior2Senior Program**
- **The “Simple Solutions” Mobile Adaptive Toolbox**

The OOB CFC has appointed a "Senior2Senior" Team Leader, an enthusiastic and highly experienced retired educator, who is currently working with the Rec Dept., Library, all 3 schools, and Oceanwood, a Therapeutic Recreational Camp and Conference Center to help connect already existing programs, offer OOB CFC Volunteer assistance as programs grow, while creating additional programs to bridge the inter-generational gap between older and younger adults and enhance the sense of community we all grew up with--knowing the value of every person, no matter what age. This program is changing its name because we have programs that involve many different grades in our local schools.

OOB CFC has multiple projects underway, including:

- **Resource Guide.** The OOB CFC Resource Guide subcommittee has collected and logged all the data for our Local Resource Guide. The entire Core group will review the information and assist in adding to categories that may need more contacts.
- **Making Memories Project.** The OOB CFC is committed to capturing our rich local history through videotaping life experiences of older residents. We approached the local 6th grade class that was looking for a Community Project and they are really excited about being part of the Making Memories Project. We are developing an event consisting of several videotaping stations within the Loranger School. Refreshments will be available. Teams will consist of students and older adult volunteers, with students videotaping and interviewing while the older volunteer connects with the interviewee to make them more comfortable and assist in

the interview. This project will be highlighted at an upcoming AARP Statewide Conference in June 2019.

- **Team Better Block Project.** The OOB CFC worked closely with Team Better Block to identify an area within our Town to hold an effective demonstration with a primary focus being revitalization. Working with Town officials and Team Better Block, the Atlantic Courts/Washington Ave area has been selected to target for a June, 2019 demonstration. This is a unique opportunity for a collaborative effort by the Town, Rotary, Eagle Scouts, the VFW, committed Town residents, and a property owner, all focused on rejuvenating a block in the heart of this neighborhood.
- **Call In Line.** As part of our Senior2Senior program, in an effort to positively impact isolation, an info call in line is scheduled to launch in late April. The target audience is older adults who may feel challenged using a computer to find out what's going on in Town. They can call a local recorded line, updated weekly, with information about events happening and how to get more information. Our electronic message board will help to further spread the word. Posters with little cut offs at the bottom with the number will be put in every housing complex as well as local stores, the library, bank, etc.
- **70+ Tax Rebate Program.** Working with our Town Manager and Town Council, a new 70+ Property Tax Rebate program has been adopted for 2019. We've held seminars, manned tables with information on Election Day and have had posters in all housing complexes. The interest and participation has been exceptional.
- **Veterans Walk and Donations to assist Veterans.** OOB CFC has coordinated with the Saco Veterans 2K Walk personnel to assist during their May 15th event. We have also posted two locations where people are able to take a star with items to purchase and donate to lend a hand to a Veteran in need.
- OOB CFC intends to connect with Rotaries and Interact Students for two projects. As a result of a recent meeting held with 2 Rotaries and our Interact Club (a student community service club associated with Rotary), two initiatives were identified that would benefit from collaboration. Both initiatives are still in the planning stages. The first is a Handyman program coupled with rides for shopping for older and/or handicapped people in our community who need transportation for groceries and medical appointments. The anticipated organization of this project will have the requests for services come to an OOB CFC volunteer who will coordinate the services with the Rotary and track progress.
- **Community Garden.** The second initiative, also in the planning stages, is to facilitate collaboration between with our local Community Garden, and a Rotary to have 9 plots with raised beds providing accessibility for older adults and/or those who may be handicapped. The concept is to have accessible raised plots to enable people with walkers or wheel chairs to access to tend the plot.
- **Friends of the Libby Memorial Library/High School Students Liaison Program.** This program is still in it's planning stage. At this time, 4 students from the OOB High School have volunteered to meet with the FOLL to collaborate to identify programs and initiatives of possible interest to High School students.