

TOWN of TOLLAND COUNCIL on AGING

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

241 West Granville Rd.
Tolland, Massachusetts 01034

August 10, 2021

Hi Neighbors,

What a summer!! If we could trade a weeks weather with the West Coast it could be a win – win for everyone.

COVID Vaccine - Breakthrough infections, those occurring in vaccinated people, are still relatively uncommon, experts said, and those that cause serious illness, hospitalization or death even more so. More than 97 percent of people hospitalized for Covid-19 are unvaccinated. Below is data on Tolland and Granville's vaccinate rates. Since we share a ZIP code with Granville all the data is grouped together. The data is from mid July.

Age Group by years	Population	% of Total Pop	Individuals w/ at least 1 Dose	% Individuals w/ at least 1 dose	Individuals Fully Vaccinated	% Individuals fully vaccinated	% MA residents w/ at least 1 dose
12- 15	73	4%	35	48%	No data		57%
16-19	74	4%	47	64%	41	55%	64%
20-29	208	11%	92	44%	77	37%	67%
30-49	415	21%	194	47%	175	42%	78%
50-64	551	28%	295	54%	271	49%	86%
65-74	273	14%	209	77%	193	71%	93%
75+	146	7%	102	70%	96	66%	91%
Total	1964	100%	975	50%	853	43%	69%

CVS, Walgreens, and Big Y Pharmacies offer the COVID vaccination on a no appointment/walk in no charge to patient basis. The seniors in our area have done a pretty good job of getting the vaccine although we lag behind the state rate of vaccinations. If you know folks who have not yet been vaccinated, now is a good time to encourage them to get one.

Senior Tax Work off program, that we wrote about last month, where a senior could earn a credit of up to \$1500 by performing tasks for the town was defeated at the May Annual Town Meeting.

News & Notices - There is a new feature added to the Town's e-mailing program – Community News. To sign up for any of the Town's e-mail distributions go to: <https://www.tolland-ma.gov>; click on "Subscribe"; enter and confirm your e-mail address and select the items you wish to receive. Select one or more lists from the section below

Urgent Alert ☐ Emergency Information

News or Announcement ☐ Community News ☐ Tattler News & Notices

Meeting Minutes ☐ Board of Appeals ☐ Board of Assessors

☐ Board of Selectmen ☐ Broadband Committee ☐ Conservation Commission

☐ Council on Aging ☐ Finance Committee ☐ Library Trustees ☐ Planning Board

TOWN of TOLLAND COUNCIL on AGING

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

241 West Granville Rd.
Tolland, Massachusetts 01034

Take the "I am not a robot" test and click on "Subscribe Me". You will receive an e-mail asking you to confirm you want to subscribe; respond to that e-mail and you are good to go.

Also, the Police Dept. has a face book page: www.facebook.com/tollandpolice; the Fire Dept. has a face book page: www.facebook.com/TollandMAFire.

Concert on the Green – The "Tijuana Amigos" Band will be performing on the town green Saturday August 21 at 6 PM. Bring a chair and a picnic supper. Funded by a grant from the Tolland Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Watch **News & Notices** for more information.

Lunch at the PSC – The COA is once again serving Lunch at the PSC at noon on the second Tuesday of the month. Please join us for a light lunch and socializing. The next two lunches are scheduled for September 14 and October 12. If you are coming call 413 269- 4794 X129 so we can be sure to have enough food.

Hampden County Sherriff's TRIAD Program has given the COA a supply of File for Life folders. Each of us should have one of these on our refrigerator so if the First Responders have to come to our home they will have timely access to this critical medical information. In an emergency minutes matter.

FLU CLINIC – CVS will be coming to town to give a Flu Clinic on Oct 2, 2021 from 11am till 2pm for ages 3 and up. The flu clinic the COA ran in cooperation with CVS this past fall had more participants than ever before. No appointments are necessary. Watch **News and Notices** for a reminder.

BROAD BAND – Is still moving forward. An update from the Aug. 2 Comcast meeting with the Selectmen and Broadband Committee is inside this newsletter.

Our neighbors at the **Otis COA** have returned to their busy schedule of activities. More information is in the attached sheets.

There are several items of interest on the attached pages – some may make you smile, others may make you think.

If you need assistance accessing any senior services, be sure to contact Ann Skibski, our Outreach Worker, at 413 455-6595.

Keep well and keep smiling!

The Tolland Council on Aging

Broadband Update

On August 2 two representatives from Comcast updated the Selectmen and the Tolland Broadband Committee on the status of broadband in Tolland. My notes from this update are as follows.

Comcast has identified 522 residential dwellings in Tolland and has plans to make internet, telephone and cable TV available to 512 (98%) of these homes. Ninety eight percent exceeds their state mandated goal of percent of 96% of residents being served. How the remaining 10 homes can be serviced is being reviewed.

Comcast has submitted six applications to Verizon to lease space on their poles to string wire; all six of these applications have been approved and Comcast has paid the lease fees. Comcast has submitted six applications to Eversource to lease space on their poles to string wires; three of these applications have been approved and Comcast has paid the lease fees; the other three are pending and no issues are anticipated. Once all the applications are approved and the fees paid Verizon and Eversource will start the "make ready work"; moving wires and replace poles, as required, so there will be space for Comcast's wires. The big, uncontrollable and unknown, issue is how long the make-ready work will take. There are many communities in Western Mass starting to install broadband and Verizon and Eversource's resources to get this work done are stretched very thin.

The fiber will be attached to the poles in groups (nodes) and each node will go live as they are completed. They have pledged to get this done as the make ready work is complete. After the wire is strung Comcast will start hooking up homes.

Comcast will have a marketing campaign to inform Tolland's residents how to obtain Comcast services. This marketing campaign will include three public meetings, and, one of these will be broadcast over Zoom so our part time residents can join in; mailings; and knocking on doors. Residents will be able to "pre-sign up" for the services (internet, phone and cable TV) they want and this will put them at the top of the list to be hooked up when Comcast comes to their street. Those who are not pre-signed up will fall to the second priority. When installing your connection, the first 300 feet from the nearest pole to your home will be done at no charge. There will be a charge for beyond 300 ft. You will be advised of this fee.

Like all of you, I would like a date certain when reliable, high speed internet services will be available in Tolland. However, the work loads of Verizon and Eversource make this impossible. What the weather is like when Comcast starts their work will also affect the schedule. But I can say with some level of confidence that when the COA sends out the August 2022 Newsletter we will have Comcast service in Tolland.

Pat Storey
Clerk – Tolland COA

George F. Will: The abundant pleasures of turning 80

• May 9, 2021

"At eighty things do not occur; they recur." — Alan Bennett

Not necessarily. Surrendering to repetition is optional. Among the abundant pleasures of turning 80, in addition to being well beyond the danger of dying young, is this: Having become skillful at ignoring the merely recurring things, you have more brain cells to devote to other things worth noticing and trying.

"There is," as George Santayana said, "no cure for birth and death, save to enjoy the interval." So, as they approach the end of their intervals, 80-year-old martini drinkers — plucky octogenarians not intimidated by their busybody physicians — should expand their evening repertoire to include Manhattans. A ninth decade is a good time to acquire a new dog and name him Miles Davis, a tribute to the trumpeter whose magic it is never too late to discover. If 80-year-olds will make their smartphones' ringtones the beginning of Frank Sinatra's "Summer Wind," even spam calls will trigger a taste of perfection.

"Age," Montaigne wrote, "imprints more wrinkles in the mind than it does on the face." For geniuses like him, perhaps. But all 80-year-olds whose lives have given them the faces they have should select for their phones' wallpaper two photos of America's most eloquent face. One should be of Abraham Lincoln in 1858, the year of his debates with Stephen Douglas. The other should be the last photographic portrait of him, taken on Feb. 5, 1865. It captures what Walt Whitman called Lincoln's "deep latent sadness." These photos can be constant reminders, during today's serial hysterias, of the sorrow that has accompanied the pursuit of a more perfect union.

In 1941, life expectancy at birth in the United States was 64.8 (today, 77.8), only 6.8 percent of the population was over 65 (today, 16%), penicillin was on the horizon but the Salk polio vaccine was a dozen years distant, and most hospitals spent more on clean linen than medical technologies. Sixty-three percent of households did not have telephones, less than half the U.S. population age 25 and older had a high school diploma (today, 90%) and homosexual sex was criminalized in all 48 states. The nation has undergone a moral advancement — consider the casual callousness toward minorities of all sorts eight decades ago — as stunning as its material improvement.

Yet the United States' social hypochondria has deepened, and Americans' pain thresholds have lowered during the nation's advancement. Perhaps it is progress, of sorts, that status anxieties have displaced material deprivations in fueling the national pastime — no, not baseball: whining. But to be 80 is to have, beginning in the second half of the 20th century, lived through the emergence of today's therapeutic culture. It saturates a large class of painfully earnest Americans — expensively schooled but negligibly educated — who, when not extravagantly indignant about Lincoln and other supposed national blemishes, are preoccupied with their malleable identities and acute sensitivities.

This culture has had one inadvertent benefit: It provoked Peter De Vries (1910-1993), who relegated Mark Twain to the rank of America's second-wittiest novelist. "Rapid-fire means of communication," De Vries mordantly observed, "have brought psychic dilapidation within the reach of the most provincial backwaters, so that large metropolitan centers and educated circles need no longer consider it their exclusive property, nor preen themselves on their special malaises." AnWilld: "Once terms like identity doubts and midlife crisis become current," De Vries observed, "the reported cases of them increase by leaps and bounds." What fun De Vries could have had with "white fragility."

As Damon Runyon said, "All of life is 6 to 5 against." So, it is a momentous social achievement that those who turn 80 this month — they are only 18 months older than the president, who is only eight months older than Mick Jagger — must wait five more years to get the satisfaction of joining a decreasingly exclusive club: By percentage, this nation's most rapidly growing age cohort consists of those 85 and older.

To be 80 years old in this republic is to have lived through almost exactly one-third of its life. And to have seen so many ephemeral excitements come and go that one knows how few events are memorable beyond their day. (Try to remember the things that had you in a lather during, say, the George H.W. Bush administration.) This makes an American 80-year-old's finishing sprint especially fun, because it can be focused on this fact: To live a long life braided with the life of a nation conceived in liberty and dedicated to an imperishable proposition is simply delightful.

George F. Will is a syndicated columnist. His email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

BARBARA BERNARD

Springfield Republican
Laughter
Feb 25
**can be best
medicine**

I WOKE UP THIS MORNING and decided I would put forth some humor because any more thoughts about this isolation, COVID-19 and dopey people who won't wear masks is just too depressing.

So if you feel the same way, please read on:

- The devil whispered to me, "I'm coming for you." I whispered back, "Bring pizza."

- It's weird being the same age as old people.

- When I was a child I wanted to be older. This is not what I expected.

- Life to me is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.

- Chocolate is a way God tells us he likes us a little chubby.

- It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

- During the Middle Ages they celebrated the end of the plague with wine and orgies. Does anyone know if there's anything planned when this one ends?

- I see people my age mountain climbing. I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

- We can all agree in 2015 not one person got the correct answer to the question, "Where do you see yourself five years from now?"

- So if a cow doesn't produce milk is it an udder failure?

- I'm at that age where my mind thinks I'm 29, my humor suggests I'm 12 while my body mostly keeps asking if I am sure I'm not dead yet.

- Don't worry about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.

Bernard

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C1

- I don't always go that extra mile, but if I do it's because I missed my exit.

- You don't know how old you are until you sit on the floor and then try to get back up.

- We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads, and they weigh more. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

- I didn't think the chiropractor would improve my posture, but I stand corrected.

- What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own wound? Suture self.

- I know a man who is addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop himself.

- Police were summoned to a day care center where a 3-year-old was resisting a rest.

- A thief who stole a calendar got 12 months.

- A will is a dead giveaway.
- A bicycle can't stand alone. It's just two tired.

- The man who fell into an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.

- A dentist and a manicurist got married. They fight tooth and nail.

- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.

- Did you hear about the fellow who had his entire left side cut off? He's all right now.

- A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously.

- A duck's quack doesn't echo.

- At one time Donald Duck cartoons were banned in Finland because he doesn't wear pants.

- Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.

- Acupuncture is a job well done.

- Dijon vu is the same mustard as before.

- A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

- Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

- When two egotists meet it's an I for an I.

- Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

- In democracy your vote counts. In feudalism your count votes.

- If you don't pay your exorcist you get repossessed.

- Once you have seen a shopping center you have seen a mall.

- A lot of money is tainted. Taint yours. Taint mine.

- Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

- People who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.

- He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

- You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

- A midget fortune teller who escapes from prison is a small medium at large.

- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Barbara C. Bernard, of Holyoke, is a columnist for The Republican.

\$\$\$ for Senior Homeowners & Renters!

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR CASH or CREDIT FROM THE STATE IF YOU PAY RENT OR PROPERTY TAXES

The Massachusetts “**CIRCUIT BREAKER**” **TAX PROGRAM** is for qualifying persons age 65 or over whose property tax (or 25% of rent) exceeds 10% of their annual gross income. You may be eligible even if you receive a property tax exemption through your city/town.

Whether or not you owe taxes, you may be eligible for **cash or a tax credit of up to \$1,150 this tax year** - even if you did not file Massachusetts state income tax forms. This benefit equals the amount that your property tax (plus 50% of your Water and Sewer Bill*) or 25% of your rent exceeds 10% of your income up to a maximum benefit amount that varies by year.

To obtain the benefit, you must file for the 2020 tax year beginning in January 2021.

You may also file retroactively for any benefits you could have qualified for in the past three years. **The maximum credit you may receive for tax year 2020 is \$1,150; 2019 is \$1,130; 2018 is \$1,100; and 2017 is \$1,080.** The deadline for retroactive filing for tax year 2017 is April 15, 2021.

See if you qualify:

1. You must be **Age 65** or over by the end of tax year for which you are filing.
2. Your **Income** must not exceed the following (Including Social Security, and other income not ordinarily taxed in Massachusetts.)

Income for tax year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Single	57,000	58,000	60,000	61,000
Head of household	72,000	73,000	75,000	76,000
Married, filing jointly	86,000	88,000	90,000	92,000

3. Your **primary residence**, owned or rented, must be in Massachusetts.
Public Housing and subsidized renters are not eligible.
4. The **assessed value** of your home must not be greater than:
2017 - \$747,000; 2018 - \$778,000; 2019 - \$808,000; 2020 - \$848,000
5. **Homeowners:** Your property tax plus 50% of your water and sewer bill* must exceed 10% of your income. Multi-acre property owners: only one acre plus your home count toward your qualifying assessment. Consult your local assessor to compute assessment for application.
Renters: 25% of your annual rent must exceed 10% of your gross income.

Even if you don't normally file with the state, you are most likely due a check or tax credit from the Dept. of Revenue if you meet the above criteria. *If you have an accountant, ask for help with this year and /or previous years.*

For more information or assistance filing, call your local Council on Aging at _____ or call the Mass. Department of Revenue Customer Service at 1-617-887-6367 for information and forms. Or visit <https://www.mass.gov/guides/personal-income-tax-for-residents>

* Your water and sewer bill must be separate from your property tax bill.

OTIS, MA COUNCIL ON AGING 2021/22 SCHEDULE OF SENIOR TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

SENIOR CENTER IS OPEN

Open Monday and Wednesday
10 AM – 2:00 PM

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Every 3rd Wednesday 12:30 -1:30 PM

FOOT NURSE

1st Wednesday Each Month by Appointment

HAIRCUTS

Every 5th Monday by Appointment

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON

COUNTRY CLUB OF PITTSFIELD

Thursday, November 18, 2021

COST \$15.00 per person

Roast Turkey or Baked Salmon

KEVIN O'HARA

"THE DONKEY MAN"

Monday, December 6, 2021

"Christmas Story Collection"

Limited Seating – No Charge

EDWARDS TWINS

FRIENDSHIP TOURS/AQUA TURF CLUB

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

COST \$98.00 p/p - \$78.00 Self-Drive

Family Style Lunch

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

COUNTRY CLUB OF PITTSFIELD

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

COST \$15.00 per person

Baked Chicken Breast or

Prime Flat Iron Steak with Demi Sauce

GETTYSBURG & SIGHT AND SOUND

"DAVID"

THE TRAVEL GROUP

June 6 -June 8, 2022

COST \$480 p/p DOUBLE, \$460 p/p TRIPLE, \$590 SINGLE

CELEBRITY CRUISE TO CANADA

FRIENDSHIP TOURS/THE SHIP SHOP

13 Days/12 nights aboard Celebrity Summit

OVERNIGHT IN QUEBEC

Passport Required

September 21 – October 3, 2022

LIMITED PASSAGE AVAILABLE

For Sign-up call:

Center at 413-269-0100 Ext 107,

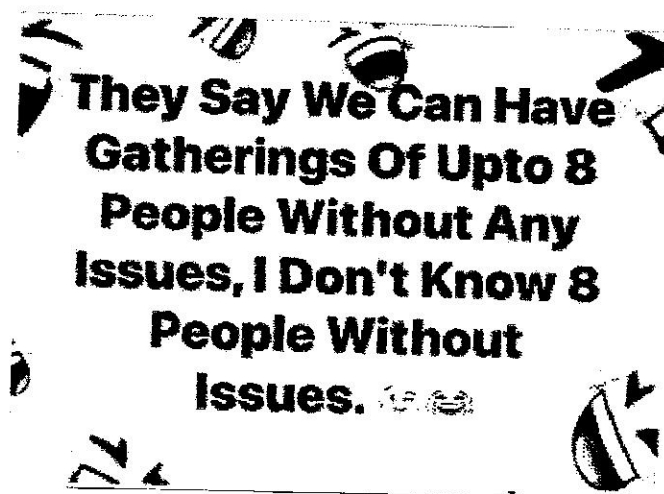
seniorsotisma.com

Ralph at 413-269-4094

or regleason@aol.com

DEPOSIT REQUIRED ON ALL TRIPS

IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP
August 21 – Concert on the Green with the Tijuana Amigos
September 1 Southwick-Tolland-Granville Schools start
September 6 Labor Day
September 14 COA Luncheon
October 11 Columbus Day
October 12 COA Luncheon
November 2 Election Day
WATCH NEWS & NOTICES FOR UPDATES



Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone call and check on me every day. He is from India and is very concerned about my car warranty.

Tolland Council on Aging
241 West Granville Rd.
Tolland, MA 01034