

Silver Streak

Vol. 8 No. 3

Senior Services of Alexandria

Autumn 2007

From SSA President

Much has transpired since our last issue of the “Silver Streak.” Our Executive Director, Eileen Longstreet, left us after nearly three years of dedicated service. Eileen will be able to spend more time traveling and visiting grandchildren. We thank her for her service and wish her well.

I am pleased to report that after a thorough search Janet Barnett is our new Executive Director. She will assume her duties in late October. Janet is known to many in our city since she has been the Deputy Director of Arts, Marketing and Special Services for the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities. Her strong planning and business skills, together with excellent leadership and interpersonal skills will be a tremendous asset to Senior Services in delivering quality services to our senior citizens.

As your new President, I have three goals for this year, they are:

1) We must become financially robust by continuing to focus on fundraising. In addition, we must keep on the path begun in the last couple of years, building an organization that is operationally sound.

2) We must increase our visibility at all levels of the community, including the thought leaders, the decision makers, and the “movers and shakers”, if you will – because seniors are the least likely group to ask for help when they need it.

3) We must undertake a greater message campaign about the tremendous benefits Senior Services brings to people in Alexandria who are *not* elderly.

Senior Services benefits all of Alexandria. And that is the message we must make known.

Senior Services of Alexandria Helps Older and Disabled Alexandrians With Daily Money Management

We all know of people who have been the victims of scams. But less is known about problems that older and disabled people have with day-to-day financial problems, such as keeping their check books straight, paying their bills on time, dealing with medical and housing expenses on limited incomes, and finding sources of help. Two examples:

Mr. E. was managing just fine with paying his bills until he had a debilitating stroke. After receiving medical treatment, he returned home to find late rent charges, a utility shut-off notice; medical and credit card bills, and health insurance forms, which he couldn't deal with. Credit card companies kept offering him new accounts with check writing ability and tempting rates for transfers of debts. So Mr. E. would write checks from his credit card account and deposit the money in his bank to pay his checks. Eventually the creditors caught up with him. He was in utter despair, and became very isolated, refusing to answer the phone for fear of receiving threatening calls from debt collection agencies.

Mrs. J., overcome with grief at the death of her pet, and generally depressed, forgot to reapply for welfare benefits. To her dismay she found that her monthly Social Security check was reduced by nearly \$100, the amount that had previously been paid by the state for her Part B Medicare deduction. Her checks started to bounce, and to add insult to injury, the bank was charging hefty fees, leaving her with very little money to pay her bills.

Moya Atkinson, Senior Services of Alexandria's Director of Daily Money Management Services helps people like Mr. E. and Mrs. J. Ms. Atkinson can be reached at 703-836-4414 ext. 14, or at moneymgmtalex@comcast.net.



Congratulations!

The Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington

Is pleased to announce that Senior Services of Alexandria has been chosen by reviewers for the 2007-08 Catalogue Selected from a field of 250 organizations the Catalogue calls Senior Services of Alexandria

“one of the best small charities in the Washington DC Region”

visit Senior Services of Alexandria online at catalogueforphilanthropy-dc.org

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Janet Barnett
Executive Director

Look who's talking



Rosie Borders:

Working at Senior Services has been a great job. I love speaking with the seniors and hopefully, the services I give them helps to brighten their day.



Donna Harrington:

As a DOT Reservationist for Senior Services of Alexandria, I work amongst some of the most caring and dedicated colleagues. In my free time, I enjoy doing crafts and spending time with my daughter, Lindsay.



Kenneth Burton:

It is truly a joy working at Senior Services of Alexandria. There are no words that can express the feeling I get for providing excellent customer service to DOT Customers'. Thank you all for your kind words and welcoming me to be a part of this great team.



Verdine Holmes:

Verdine Holmes has been an employee with Senior Services for a little over 8 years. She is a loving great-grandmother who resides in the City of Alexandria. She is an advocate for her family as well as her community.



Brenda Lazo:

I'm very caring and like to talk with people. I enjoy talking to our customers and appreciate their kindness and patience.

Camilo Marquez and Donna Clarke were absent for picture day.

All pictures on this page taken by Samantha Pipkin

Volunteer Spotlight

It is with our sad regret that Ms. Rita Duvall who was a tireless Meals on Wheels Volunteer passed away suddenly. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

We have so many wonderful volunteers that help deliver meals to the homebound seniors of this great city. We would first and foremost like to thank every single volunteer that helps deliver Meals on Wheels. In this issue of The Silver Streak we would like to spotlight a few of the groups who volunteer with MOWs.



Left to right: Keith Walker, Tara Blunt, Jason Harrison

Black Firefighters Association

Captain Moorehead, of Cameron Mills Fire station stated "We try to give back to the community in any way that we can. It has been over three years now that the Black Firefighters Association has been volunteering for Meals on Wheels. We continue to enjoy serving the community and challenge people to step up and become involved in organizations like Senior Services of Alexandria because one day you might need the services."

We would like to thank Bob Bussler and Rita Duvall who help to facilitate the Black Firefighters Association, when they are needed for MOW duty.

Romano's Macaroni Grill

Romano's Macaroni Grill has just recently joined the Meals on Wheels family. This is a nationwide restaurant chain that is a sponsor of Meals on Wheels all over the country. We are lucky to have the restaurants in this area join our dedicated team of volunteers. Each restaurant gives us a team of two, one day each month. Those chains that help supply volunteers are the Dulles, Franconia, Dale City, Fairfax and Reston restaurants. Not only do they supply volunteers, the Franconia restaurant also catered our 3rd Annual Meals on Wheels Volunteer Recognition Ceremony and we cannot thank

Volunteers from page 2

them enough! Edith Ferguson General Manager for the Franconia Macaroni Grill told us that her restaurant (who delivers the 2nd Tuesday of each month) goes out with one person from management team and one person from the restaurant staff to do their runs. She also said her teams think it is a pleasure to serve the community and Meals on Wheels helps them to appreciate what it truly means to give back.

We would like to thank all the management and staff members at these wonderful restaurants for helping to support Meals on Wheels. If you are hungry and want to have some delicious food, go to Romano's Macaroni Grill and thank them for supporting Meals on Wheels.

Weichert Realty

Weichert Realty has been serving Meals on Wheels for several years. They have about 24 agents who currently volunteer.

Julie Hall from Weichert Realty states "I know I speak for all of the agents in the office when I say that we are thrilled to be part of the Meals on Wheels program. We have all talked about how rewarding it is to make deliveries and have the THANK YOU'S come to us to quickly."

"The first time a new volunteer starts making deliveries, they come back to the office with a big smile and lots to talk about. They say that they feel so good about helping people with these basic needs and they are happy to be giving back to the community. It's easy, fun and rewarding. The elderly population is sometimes forgotten so when they get that THANK YOU, we both feel good (giver and recipient). Giving back is wonderfully satisfying! Making a difference in just a few people's lives makes your day better. It is that act of kindness that makes us feel meaningful and fulfilled."

Lastly, we are closer as an office because we do this volunteer effort as an office. We all talk about how busy we are with our business, but when it comes to giving back...this is important!

Do you think you have time to volunteer with Meals on Wheels? It only takes two hours once a month. If you have two hours to give back to the community, please call 703-836-4414 x 12 or email mowssa@comcast.net. This is a great volunteer opportunity for high school and college students, stay at home parents and seniors.



PRESENT:

Jennifir Bobsein, Julie Hall, Charlotte Swean, Bob Bazzle, Marianne Welds, Leslie Warrington, Christine Garner, Fred Smith, Dawn Gurganus, Sue Feintheil, Sandy Higinbotham, Susan Fitzgerald, Barbara Rosen, Kim Farina, Ann Shack, Terri Kritcher, Erica Carroll, Hal Sadler, Michael Seith, Chuck Harris, Mary Smith, Joe Davis.

MISSING:

Snehana Conway, Haydon Krumbholz, Shannon Lombardi

Save the Date!!

Founders Ball

"Honoring the Best"

May 17, 2008
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Alexandria

Honorees:
Founding Members of SSA
for our 40th Anniversary



For more information about this exiting event please call 703-836-4414 ext 10 or email; adminssa@comcast.net

Thank you to John Drummond for producing the Silver Streak Newsletter

DOT: Para-transit.....	703-836-5222	In-Home Care & Chore help:.....	703-836-4414, ext 13
Senior Taxi:.....	703-836-4414, ext 15	Meals on Wheels:.....	703-836-4414, ext 12
Employment Counseling.....	703-836-4414, ext 13	Money Management for Elderly:	703 836-4414, ext 14

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*For information about making a bequest in your will,
call 703-836-4414 Ext. 10
or visit www.seniorservicesalex.org*

Donations were made to SSA in Memory of

John Hughes

by June R. Springer

Rita & George Schmitt

by Grace Marie Schmitt

Karen Parsons Duncker

by Mary Kay Rose

Dr. Speck

by Mr. & Mrs. Allan R. Winn

Stephanie Anne Smith

by Mount Eagle Crabs

Donations were made to SSA in Honor of

Art Sauer's 60th Birthday

by Molly M. Frantz, Ann Elizabeth McGuirk,
Mr. & Mrs. James Paul Collins, Judith B. Douglas,
and Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Feldmann, Jr.

We are pleased to announce that The Alexandria Calendar 2008 has gone to press and will be available to the public in November when it will be presented to City Council. The annual Calendar of pen and ink drawings of Alexandria scenes, which has become a landmark in the city, is sold for \$12.00 each as a fund-raiser to help provide the many services of Senior Services of Alexandria. For further information, call (703) 836-4414, ext. 10 or Calendar Coordinator Judy Drewry at (703) 370-1948.

The Silver Streak is a quarterly publication of Senior Services of Alexandria.
Contributors: Brenda Walls and Samantha Pipkin. Production by John Drummond

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A Publication of

Senior Services of Alexandria

700 Princess Street-Mezzanine
Alexandria, VA 22314

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The mission of Senior Services of Alexandria is to provide comprehensive, accessible, and affordable services to seniors who reside in the City of Alexandria which support the independence and self-sufficiency that enable seniors to age with dignity in their homes and this community.