

Leroy G. Walker, Sr., City Councilor
Ward 5
Age-Friendly Report 2019-2020

Good evening, Mayor Levesque, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, City Councilors and City Staff,

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, things had to change drastically with our Age-Friendly programs, but I am proud of what we, as a team, were able to accomplish. We found different ways to feed people in need, and gave them something to look forward to in these lonely, separated times. It was quite a challenge.

Beginning in August of 2019, our group raised funds by hosting the beverage booth at the Balloon Festival and we raised over \$1000.00 for the Age-Friendly program.

We held a Box Car Movie Night for kids, where the kids decorated boxes (provided by Agren Appliance) to look like cars, and showed a youth movie. It was enjoyed by all. Over 100 people participated.

On November 2, 2019, the ribbon cutting was held, opening the newly renovated Auburn Senior Community Center in Pettengill Park.

On November 24, 2019, we held an in-person Thanksgiving dinner, free of charge, to anyone who wanted to attend. There were approximately 150 people in attendance, and about 20 meals were taken home to those who couldn't attend. ReEnergy, Inc. donated \$500.00 to this event. Mike Small, of Small's Greenhouse on Summer Street in Auburn, donated beautiful poinsettias, valued at about \$200.00, for people to take home for the holidays.

On December 13, 2019, we held an adult Christmas Movie, "White Christmas", and served cookies and popcorn to all who attended. It was very well received. Approximately 50 people attended.

On New Year's Day 2020, we held an in-person meal of finger rolls, chips, pickles, olives, dessert and beverage to approximately 200 people. We showed a video count-down from New York's Time Square of the last 30 seconds of 2019 and handed out noise makers and hats to everyone. We had a puzzle, games, Corn Hole, and music for everyone to enjoy.

On January 20, 2020, we held our first bus tour with the City Link Bus Company, with Italian sandwiches being served, and a class on how the bus system works. Many people attended and were grateful for the information. About 20 people were present. Everyone had the opportunity to ride the entire bus route.

On January 22, 2020, we had a light lunch and movie, with popcorn being served. 52 people attended.

On February 14, 2020 – Valentine's Day, we held an in-person spaghetti and meatball dinner. Larry Gowell sang love songs and participants sang and danced. We had a full house on that day – 150 people.

On February 20, 2020, we had our second City Link talk, ride and Italian sandwich luncheon, with 27 people. Everyone took the bus tour.

On February 27, 2020, we had a beef stew lunch, followed by a movie. 65 people attended.

This is where things changed drastically.

On March 17, 2020, we would have held what would have become our last in-person dinner, a boiled dinner for St. Patrick's Day. We were not, however, able to hold this event due to the beginning of the Covid 19 virus. All of the food that was purchased for the dinner was given to the "Grab and Go" program, to be distributed by the recreation department.

On April 23, 2020, we were supposed to have a light lunch and movie, but had to cancel due to Covid-19.

On May 14, 2020, we had scheduled a Mother's Day lunch and movie with cake and popcorn, but had to cancel due to Covid-19.

On June 25, 2020, we planned a Father's Day light lunch and movie with cake and popcorn, but had to cancel due to Covid-19.

On July 23, 2020, we planned a Fun Day lunch with hamburgers and corn on the cob, with games like Corn Hole, board games, and more. This was cancelled due to Covid-19.

On August 27, 2020, we had planned a light lunch with games inside and outside. This was cancelled due to Covid-19.

On September 24, 2020, a light lunch and a movie with popcorn was scheduled, but cancelled due to Covid-19.

On October 22, 2020, we had planned a light lunch and a movie with popcorn. Cancelled due to Covid-19.

We also had a bean supper on October 17th, serving 41 people beans, hot dogs, bread, dessert and beverage. This was a "Stop and Go" meal, where people picked up their food and took it home.

On Halloween, the Hello-Ween program took place, serving over 500 children with candy and music at Little Andy Park, hosted by the United New Auburn Association and Age-Friendly Community Committee.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020, we held a "Stop & Go" full Thanksgiving dinner for all who wanted or needed one. Over 250 people picked up a meal and took it home to enjoy. This FREE meal was sponsored by ReSource Waste Services and Cure, owned by John Morrison. Over \$600.00 in donations came in.

Finally, on December 30, 2020, we hosted a combined Christmas and New Year's "Stop & Go" luncheon of finger rolls, chips, dessert and beverage. We served approximately 265 people from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Matt Leonard co-sponsored this event.

For all of the meals, donations were accepted and gratefully appreciated. In spite of Covid-19, we have managed to continue to connect with our community members and keep them engaged.

On February 14, 2021, Valentine's Day, we held another "Stop & Go" spaghetti and meatballs dinner. It wasn't the same as last year, because there was no entertainment, dancing or singing, but there was plenty of food and good will from all of our Age-Friendly board members and volunteers, who consider themselves privileged to serve their community. We served 285 people from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We received \$370.00 in donations and John Morrison (Cure) sponsored this event. It was a great success.

We are planning to offer movies again at the Senior Community Center in Pettengill Park on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. We plan to hold the first one on the third Wednesday of March, Wednesday, March 17th, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. There is no charge for the movies. No food will be allowed in the facility. People can bring their own beverages, according to the CDC regulations. Masks must be worn. Registration is required in advance, as we can only allow 30 people in the building at one time. Registrations will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

The Age-Friendly Community Committee wants to thank the Auburn Recreation Department and its staff for the great support to every one of our events. They have helped to make each one a great success.

Considering the fact that we have only been in existence for 2 years, with a pandemic taking place half-way through, we have successfully united our community and provided many people who have food insecurity and socialization issues with what they needed. It has been quite a challenge and we stepped up to that challenge. We've received many wonderful comments and thanks from almost every participant. We hope to continue for a long time to come with your support.

Thank you,

Jan Biron

On behalf of Leroy G. Walker, Sr., City Councilor, Ward 5