



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: March 22, 2012

To: John Szerlag, City Manager

From: Mark F. Miller, Assistant City Manager/Economic Development Services
Jeff Biegler, Recreation Director

Subject: Friends of Troy Seniors

This memo will update you on the status of the Friends of Troy Seniors group. This 501.c3 organization was formed in the fall of 2011 and they have taken responsibility for many senior programs that were jeopardized due to staff cuts. They are also developing a database of volunteers who will be able to help with a variety of senior programs and services. They are actively seeking corporate sponsors and holding fund-raising events. In addition, they have accomplished the following:

Office at Community Center: The City is providing office space and phone service at the Community Center for the Friends, and they opened their office in November 2011. They have three computers that were donated by Compuware. The office is staffed by volunteers Monday – Friday from 10 am – 2 pm who offer a friendly greeting and information to senior visitors.

Tax Appointments: Almost 500 tax returns were prepared here last year for low to moderate income seniors. Due to front desk staff cuts, the City can no longer schedule the appointments. The Friends have assumed that responsibility.

Document Shredding: This program was eliminated due to staff cuts. The Friends have picked up this bi-annual event that services approximately 200 seniors each time it is offered.

Flu Shots: The free event, held each fall and attended by 800+ seniors, was scheduled to be discontinued. The Friends found a sponsor to cover the room cost and also provided and organized the volunteers on the day of the event.

Brochure Rack: The Friends have assumed responsibility for the brochure rack rental. The City will continue to receive revenue equal to the amount we were receiving (\$1800). The Friends will sell the spaces, maintain the rack and keep any additional revenue they generate.

Reading Room: The Friends have assumed responsibility for the reading room – organizing the magazine subscriptions, puzzles, bulletin board, etc.



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Garage Sale: The Friends will co-sponsor the garage sale this year, providing volunteers on the day of the event and handling concessions, allowing the City to bring back this popular event after it was cancelled in 2011. We will split the revenue with the Friends.

Birthday Party: When the City discontinued purchasing the ice cream cups for the birthday party, Emerald Food Service agreed to donate bulk ice cream and the Friends took on the responsibility of serving it at the birthday party each month.

Blood Pressure: The Friends have taken on the responsibility of staffing the volunteer blood pressure program and lining up subs when needed. They are also looking at expanding the program to more than once a month.

Speakers: This is another program that was offered free to seniors that has been picked up by the Friends. When a sponsor approached me and offered to cover the room cost, the Friends agreed to do the legwork and set up the monthly speaker's series which will start in March.

Pizza Lunch: Due to budget cuts, the federally funded lunch program is now cancelled on federal holidays. The Friends are offering a pizza lunch on President's Day in February and will continue with this if it is well received.

Dances: Discontinued with the first round of staff cuts, the Friends are bringing back the dances starting on March 14. If well received, they will offer more dances.

Baked Goods: Forgotten Harvest was looking for a place where Starbucks could donate day-old baked goods. The Friends, due to their 501.c3 status, were able to accept these baked goods and willingly lined up volunteers to pick them up and serve them. Therefore, seniors visiting the Community Center are able to enjoy free baked goods twice a week.