

MARBLEHEAD COUNCIL ON AGING

Supporting over 3,800 residents age 55+ with transportation, meals, outreach, fitness, wellness & lifelong learning

6,144 rides for seniors ↑41%

10,678 meals served to seniors

1,027 attended our educational events

18,834 fitness classes ↑16%

587 Medicare SHINE counseling appts

6,000+ volunteer hours = \$90K value

Did you know? 51% of registered voters (8,720) are age 55+ as of Mar 2026. In 2026, the eldest Baby Boomers turn 80, the youngest 62 — the fastest growing population for the next 20 years.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- **Transportation:** 4 COA vans; rides to medical, grocery, pharmacy, library & all programming
- **Outreach:** 1,839 calls; 85 active case management clients; 411 home & 622 office visits; 46 benefit applications; monthly support groups offered
- **Nutrition:** Grab-n-Go (3x/wk), Tuesday lunches, Pop-Up Café, St. Patrick's & Thanksgiving luncheons
- **Health/Wellness:** 48 blood pressure clinics, flu clinic (92 seniors), foot care (117 appts), free Parkinson's fitness classes
- **Fitness:** 12 class types with certified trainers & PTs; upgraded fitness center; 726 members participated in 18,834 classes
- **Recreation:** 929 participants in 6,779 events — Bocce (86 members), Curling, Bridge, Mah Jong, Golf, Cribbage, Quilting & Knitting
- **Community Education:** Medicare, legal, cybersecurity, MBTA, history & monthly Rep. Armini sessions
- **Veterans Coffee Hour:** Monthly; 12-26 vets/session; bi-annual breakfasts serving 136 veterans

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Bibbo Park dedicated** Aug. 2025 - 180+ attendees; state citations awarded; \$250,000 raised from Shattuck Fund, FCOA & private donations
- **Opening Minds Through Art:** Intergenerational dementia program pairing seniors with MHS students; featured in local media; continuing in 2026
- **MHS Film Club & Sports:** Chair Volleyball, Indoor Curling & Zumba with high schoolers; 9th Grade Volunteer Day (6,000 envelopes labeled)
- **Police TRIAD:** Formal MPD-COA partnership for senior wellness & engagement; offers Citizens Police Academy program
- **Home Safety:** 35+ evaluations; smoke/CO detectors with MFD; funded by MFHS (\$3,000)
- **Social Events:** Thanksgiving with the Masons, Veterans Breakfast with the Masons, St. Patrick's Day, Holiday Open House, Volunteer Luncheon & recreational tournaments
- **Anti-isolation trips:** Woodman's of Essex, Boston Ferry & Trolley Tour; monthly movies & day trips

THE CHOICE BEFORE VOTERS — WHAT EACH OPTION MEANS FOR YOUR COUNCIL ON AGING

✓ **INVEST in Marblehead**

Full Funding — Override Passes

- ✓ **Commercial kitchen fully operational (Tier 1)** — weekly meal planning, grocery shopping, monthly Traveling Chef & pop-up home-cooked lunch programs all continue
- ✓ **Nutrition/Laborer position retained (Tier 1)** — staff sets up/breaks down every class, manages all inventory, clears bocce court, cleans fitness equipment & gym floor, opens the Center each morning
- ✓ **Volunteer coordinator half-position maintained (Tier 1)** — schedules 100+ volunteers, runs Senior Tax Work-Off Program & provides office support for transportation coordinator
- ✓ **Tuesday lunch & Café program restored & expanded (Tier 1)** — ability to grow to a second lunch day and increase café lunches (space permitting); over 1,400 already served (Jan.-Apr.)
- ✓ **Transportation needs fully met (Tier 1)** — all 4 vans running M-F 8am-3pm; additional out-of-town drives for medical appointments; vehicle maintenance coordinated with Highway Dept & outside vendors
- ✓ **Full AV & technology support continues (Tier 1)** — senior tech assistance, online class support, sound system & audiovisual setup for every program maintained by nutrition/laborer staff
- ✓ **Part-Time Social Worker hired (Tier 2)** — expanded outreach capacity to support growing senior caseload, behavioral health needs & housing referrals
- ✓ **Funding for program supplies & equipment maintenance (Tier 2)** — supports arts, recreation, educational & wellness programming materials across all COA programs

✓ **Tier 1 provides level funding, the COA operates at full capacity — delivering the complete range of services, programs & staffing that Marblehead's seniors depend on.**

X No Override

Budget Cuts Take Effect

- X Tuesday lunch & Café program eliminated** — loss of the nutrition coordinator position means no meal planning, no grocery shopping, no weekly lunch for seniors who rely on it
- X Commercial kitchen becomes unusable** — pop-up lunches & monthly Traveling Chef program cancelled; a town asset sits idle with no one to operate or maintain it
- X Transportation requests cancelled** — loss of nutrition position also eliminates the backup MassDOT-certified driver; rides must be turned away
- X Program setup & maintenance eliminated** — no one to set up/break down classes, manage inventory, clean gym floor & equipment, clear bocce court, or open the Center
- X Volunteer coordination collapses** — 100+ volunteers go unscheduled; Senior Tax Work-Off Program at risk; office support for transportation coordinator lost
- X Technology & AV support gone** — no staff to assist seniors with technology, run online classes, or support sound systems; programs dependent on AV cannot run