

Hub's Giving Tree Project Raises Over \$6,100 in December

AE/MS and Town distribute gift cards

Larry Chase
Andover Community Hub

What an amazing response we got from this generous community during the holidays! Through the Hub's second annual Giving Tree project in December, over \$6,100 was collected for people in need in Andover via 161 donated gift cards for groceries, gas, household needs, etc.

The gift cards collected were passed along mostly to the staff at AE/MS, with some going to the Town Office, to share with folks they know are struggling. By comparison, the initial Giving Tree project in 2020 attracted just shy of \$5,000.

A special shout-out goes to JJ's Market and Deli for collecting gift cards at the store in Andover Village, posting a flyer, and allowing informational handouts on the counter by the cash registers. JJ's was also the drop-off location for the Andover Turkey Trotters who donated several hundred dollars' worth of gift cards early on.

What a huge blessing for many local families! These gift cards will be given throughout the winter as families need them. Thank you to everyone involved, and best wishes for a healthy and happy new year!

Hub Offers AARP Income Tax Preparation Assistance

Tax-Aide is free, depending on age and income

Susan Chase
Andover Community Hub

AARP (formerly the American Association of Retired Persons) is again offering free income-tax preparation assistance to residents of Andover, along with free electronic filing, with a special focus on taxpayers who are 50 or older or who have low to moderate income. AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax-preparation service, and it operates across the country.

IRS-trained volunteers will be available at the Andover Community Hub on Wednesdays from February 2 to April 13. To participate, residents are asked to call 802 332-5065 to set up an appointment, to learn what documents and information they need to have available, or if they have questions as to their eligibility.

Volunteer Jeff North has said, "We will do any return that is not too com-

plex. Businesses with employees are beyond our scope. I'm glad to answer questions from anyone who is unsure of their tax-return complexity and whether or not we can help them."

The Hub is located at 157 Main Street, and the service will be offered again this year with COVID-related guidelines in place. When arriving for an appointment, residents will be asked to remain in their cars, to bring a cell phone if possible, and to have a mask available. A volunteer will meet them outside, interview them, and take their documents inside to prepare. Additional questions can be asked via cell phone or by the volunteer coming back outside.

AARP Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code. For more information about TaxAide and what kinds of returns can be prepared and what can't, you can check AARP.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/.

Andover Community Hub Program Lineup for February

Attendees required
to wear masks

Susan Chase
Andover Community Hub

After a several-week pause in programs due to the surge in COVID cases, the Andover Community Hub plans to be open for classes again as of February 1. The following is updated information on some ongoing classes and new offerings. Also see the Hub's ad on page 2 for a schedule of February programs and services.

Ballroom dance classes will be offered beginning on Friday, February 11 (postponed from January 14) from 7 to 8 PM, continuing for 10 weeks and including a variety of dance styles including swing, waltz, cha cha, foxtrot, and tango. Taught by Laura Kiefer and Gary Stanhope of Elkins, the first class is free to all, and the following weeks are on a drop-in, pay-as-you-attend basis, \$10 per person per class. Newcomers are welcome at any class; singles are also welcome.

Quilting 101 is an opportunity to learn basic machine quilting techniques, taught by experienced quilters Katherine Stearns and Brenda Lance. The next class is Saturday, February 12 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Offered free of charge. Participants are asked to bring their own sewing machines. To register and for other details, email KBStearns@icloud.com or call 603 491-0826.

A Sound Meditation series continues on alternate Mondays, February 7

and 21, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM, providing an opportunity to relax and meditate to the peaceful sounds of singing bowls and soft drumming as an antidote to the stresses of hectic modern life. \$15 per session. Taught by Shelby Nagy, who can be reached for further information at ShelbyCazier@gmail.com.

Interested in playing cards? There's interest in having a weekly card-playing time at the Hub for fun and socializing. Those interested can choose a time that suits everyone, but for starters residents can stop in during the regular Hub Coffee Hour on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 AM to chat with volunteer Leland Schneider about the card games they enjoy; or you can contact him at 970 846-4350.

Yoga classes at the Hub have an emphasis on breathing, inner focus, and strengthening the body for balance and function. Newcomers are welcome to join the Friday series already in progress from 8:30 to 9:30 AM on a drop-in basis at \$10 per session. For more information, contact teacher Maris Wofsy at Maris.Wofsy@gmail.com.

The Hub's COVID policy is to encourage anyone attending the Hub to be vaccinated and boosted and to require that all who participate in Hub programs wear masks and maintain social distance as much as possible.

For details or more information on any of the above programs, contact the Hub at TheAndoverHub@gmail.com or leave a message on the Hub's phone at 603 735-5509.



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