



42

CITY OF DANBURY

DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

DEPARTMENT OF ELDERLY SERVICES
COMMISSION ON AGING

Danbury Senior Center
Elmwood Hall
10 Elmwood Place
(203) 797-4686

Municipal Agent
80 Main Street
(203) 796-1513

Department of Elderly Services
Susan Tomanio, LCSW

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Description

The Department of Elderly Services seeks to improve the quality of life of Danbury citizens age 50 or better through the use of social, educational, spiritual, physical, creative, intergenerational, multicultural and animal/nature programs. It is the department's goal to put an end to boredom, loneliness, and helplessness through outreach and innovative and spontaneous program offerings at the Elmwood Hall Senior Center.

The municipal agent's office provides information, referral and outreach, assisting seniors with programs such as ConnPACE, the Medicare Modernization Act, Rent Rebate and a host of other benefits.

The SeniorNet Learning Center provides a friendly, low-risk environment where students age 50 or better can learn to use a computer and share computing experiences. SeniorNet strives to build a community of computer literate adults. A bi-monthly newsletter is circulated to thousands of seniors, keeping them up to date and informed.

The Commission on Aging is a nine-member appointed council of volunteers. The Commission offers guidance for the department and ensures that the department is enabled to provide valuable services and programs it currently offers.

A "Friends of Danbury Seniors" group, "The Prime Timers," continue to assist with the quality growth of the many programs sponsored by the department. They hold an annual fundraiser in October.

Accomplishments

The Department of Elderly Services continues to grow and expand. Currently operating out of two buildings, the Old Jail, which houses SeniorNet and the Municipal Agent's office and Elmwood Hall, which houses the new Senior Center. SeniorNet served 334 seniors offering 43 classes. The Municipal Agent's office served over 4,000 seniors with approximately 6,200 services. Elmwood Hall was visited by nearly 20,000 seniors who participated in 1,552 program offerings. This fiscal year, the department concentrated on creating new intergenerational, multicultural and animal/nature programs. We were proud to be featured in a national magazine called "The Bark" for our innovative Animal Assisted Therapy Program and partnership with Puppies Behind Bars.

Additional focus has been placed on moving forward with Phase II of the Senior Campus. The old Box Company has been purchased and Schoenhardt Architectural Firm has been chosen to design the expansion of Elmwood Hall. Upon completion all three programs of the department will be housed in one building making for one stop shopping to meet all the needs of Danbury Seniors.

Finally, close to \$20,000 has been donated or received via grants requests directly to the department or through our "Prime Timers, Inc. Friends of Danbury Seniors" organization. We look forward to continuing to serve all Danbury seniors in the future.