



THE OAKHAM HERALD

April 2023

Published by the Oakham Council on Aging

Mission Statement: It is the mission of the Senior Center Council on Aging to identify the total needs of the community's Senior Citizens, to link services to those needs and to improve the quality of life of our seniors by providing an active outreach program, providing intergenerational opportunities for community involvement, and providing services as needed.

OAKHAM SENIOR / DROP-IN CENTER:

HOURS: Mon thru Thurs, 11 am-12:30 pm

CLOSED: Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays
major holidays, school snow days.

PHONE: 508-882-5501

Activities Coordinator: Melanie Silva

COA BOARD MEMBERS:

Chair: - seeking -

Vice-Chair: - seeking -

Treasurer: Lucy Tessnau

Secretary: Priscilla McGlynn

Members: Rick Hendra
- seeking -

Alt. Members Pauline Dwelly
Jane Pease

Assoc. Members: Jan Pierce

BACK DOOR CAFÉ:

Coordinator: Jan Pierce

Volunteers: Pauline Dwelly
Diane Rochette

NEWSLETTER: Rick Hendra
Lucy Tessnau

APRIL EVENTS:

Corn Hole Tuesdays, Coffee & Cards

Every Tuesday from 10 - 11 am at
the Church for now.

Coffee Wednesdays - with friends! social
hour – Every Wednesday 9 - 10 am

1st Wed: Recipes & Restaurants

Last Wed: Where to? Field trips?

Movie Wednesdays – after lunch:

4/12: "Singing in the Rain" (G)

4/19: "Bedtime Stories (G)

Zumba: Every Tuesday and Friday, from
10:30 - 11:15 am in the voting room

Blood Pressure Clinic: April 13 from 11 till
11:45 am

Podiatry Clinic (by appointment only):
April 24th. 3 app'ts left. Call Lucy .

April 7: Lunch & Learn – lunch at 12:15pm,
then Sam(antha), our Town Librarian will
speak with us. Library cards available!

Looking Ahead:

May 5: Lunch & Learn with Donna Bartlett,
on managing meds, contraindications, etc.

May 24: Bravehearts Opener! 10:30 am –
speak with Melanie if interested.

EVENTS TO PLAN FOR:

We have been contacted by Bemis Farms Nursery explaining the events that are open to the Sr. Centers for this Spring, Summer, Fall and Christmas. Tina suggested that we set out our choices of dates and of flower designs now. For Christmas, we've already chosen the **Christmas Centerpiece Surprise with Tina on Dec. 11**, at 1:00 pm. Note that, as expected, prices have increased; but we are trying to keep our costs down per person.

You can check out the different workshop choices on website at www.Bemis.biz Let us know what you'd like to work on!

And don't forget: we're on for "**The Magic of Christmas**" this November at the Sound and Sight Theater in Lancaster, PA. Flyers and further information are available at the Sr. Center - or call Melanie for details.

SPRING HAS ARRIVED!

And so has the time for Spring cleaning. If you locate any items you wish to get rid of, please **keep in mind the Annual Town Yard Sale this year on Saturday, August 26**. The Sr. Center will set up a table inside and will be happy to accept donations to our sale. Items can be brought in on the Wed, Thurs and Fri prior to the yard sale. More information will be coming in the next few months. Volunteers will be needed in August to help set up and to mark prices. Please sign up with Melanie and the COA if you can lend us a hand.

LUNCH & LEARN :

On Friday, April 7, we will have our first Lunch and Learn event: a light and simple lunch served at 12:15p.m. followed by a speaker. This time we will **welcome Samantha Carlin, Oakham's own Librarian**. She will share what is new at the library, what's coming up, and programs you might not know about. And she will make you a library card if you don't have one. Lunch and Learn will take place the first Friday each month.

MOVIE WEDNESDAYS:

Two films to be shown this month, one an old classic, the other for kids and their grandparents during school vacation:

"Singing In the Rain", the classic musical comedy from 1952 with Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor, Rita Moreño, and Cyd Charisse. Lots of dance! Rated G.

"Bedtime Stories", a fantasy comedy starring Adam Sandler, Keri Russell, Teresa Palmer, and Russell Brand. Rated PG.



IN SYMPATHY...

Oakham lost two fine men in March, a day apart, two men who were well known and loved locally and beyond. On March 13, **Robert Lee Lajoie** – "Bob" to most, "Bobbie" to those old enough to remember – died while recovering from surgery for lung cancer. He was only 62.



He was son to Lionel – "Lee" – and Earlene Lajoie, brother to Richard Lajoie and Susan Hutchinson, all of whom have

homes nearby each other on Old Turnpike Road. Bob and Rich worked with their Dad at Eagle Trucking for years before starting their own company, Lajoie Brothers Trucking, which they successfully owned and operated for over 25 years. Theirs is a tight family one can only envy.

Bob graduated from Quabbin High School in '79, then went on to Tri-State U. in Indiana,

where he continued to run track. He was athletic, good at any sport he tried. He just loved playing – even if it was just him and the kids at a family gathering – and the fun he had was infectious.

He married his high school sweetheart, Lisa Brown, and they made a beautiful couple. They enjoyed the ocean and took trips to Cocoa Beach, Cape Cod, and Bar Harbor together with their three children: Samuel, Eric, and Abigail.

Though he often spent long hours on the road, Bob was always there for his kids' school and sports events, and he was an active member of the Oakham Congregational Church, serving as trustee for many years. Bob Lajoie was a big part of the Oakham community and his funeral at the Church was quite the traffic jam.

Bob Lajoie leaves behind his wife, Lisa; sons Sam (fiancée Kristina) and Eric (wife Jordan) and his daughter, Abby (husband Tom). Also his mother, Earline, and his sibs Richard (partner Pam) and Susan (husband Greg) and grandkids Andan, Ezra, and Killian.

Bob Lajoie will be long and widely missed. Our deepest condolences to the family.



We're also missing **Wayne Baldwin**, who passed away on March 18th. Wayne was born in Worcester, raised in Sutton, and served in the U.S. Navy

From 1960 – 64. There he “developed a passion for hydraulics” and later became a certified Control System Engineer. He went to work at Norton Co. in Worcester upon his discharge, and there met and wedded Susan Letiecq. They soon moved from Worcester to Oakham, to a house on Lake Dean, where they raised their family.

Beyond his workaday career though, Wayne had a calling to serve God and spread His word. He founded and served as pastor of Crossroads Ministries here in Oakham for eighteen years. He did prison ministry work for over 40 years until he became ill at the end. He was open and generous of the spirit, always willing to share God's word and help anyone in need.

His official obit says he was “an extraordinary, selfless man who could create and fix anything, an inventor, creative thinker, writer, communicator, a comedian, and Jack of all trades”. He worked on his cars and his inventions around the house. He loved “Maine, lobster, steamers [and] blueberry pie”. He knew the spirituals and he knew classic rock and roll, too. But most of all, he was devoted to God and his family.

Wayne leaves Sue, his wife of 56 years, and their three children: Tracy Marusak-Kraus (wife Eva) of Worcester, Eric (wife Deborah) of Oakham, and Deirdre (fiancé Joseph Balencourt III) of No. Brookfield. Also, grandchildren Suttan and Nathaniel Marusek of Worcester and Nicholas R. Baldwin of Oakham. And he left siblings, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. Our deepest condolences to them all.

Oakham Council on Aging
2 Coldbrook Rd. #6
Oakham, MA 01068

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THE VIRTUAL JUKEBOX: A Monthly Feature



The “Hits of Our Lives” Juke continues to review the #1 hits in different years when we were young – this month, looking at the years ending in 5 and 0 ('55, '60, '65, etc.) – featuring hits from Tennessee Ernie Ford to Three Dog Night to Linda Ronstadt.



Wii!

Yes, Wii! We now have the Wii program set up. Come try your hand at bowling, tennis, or golf. Next best thing to being there. Fun, interactive, and indoors on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Friday mornings.