



Proposal: Arlington Age 60+ Parking Permits

June 26, 2023



- Arlington older adults are able to enjoy a modern, accessible and program-filled Community Center thanks to the long awaited renovation in 2020-2022. Thank you!
- More residents than ever before are utilizing COA programs and services and attending the wide array of program offerings daily in the new space. There is no membership fee to “join” the Center but all residents who visit are given a scan card that is used each time they come.
- Many classes are offered at no cost and the max cost for any classes/programs/activities is \$3.



COA Program and Service Statistics

Serving Arlington Residents Age 60+

Pre-Renovation

FY20 Statistics

- 3,413 Social Work Appointments/Walk In Visits
- 7,170 Rides Provided
- 201 Active Volunteers
- 1,040 events/programs occurred
- 2,201 program/event participants
- 2,570 unique individuals served

Post-Renovation

FY23 Statistics (as of June 8)

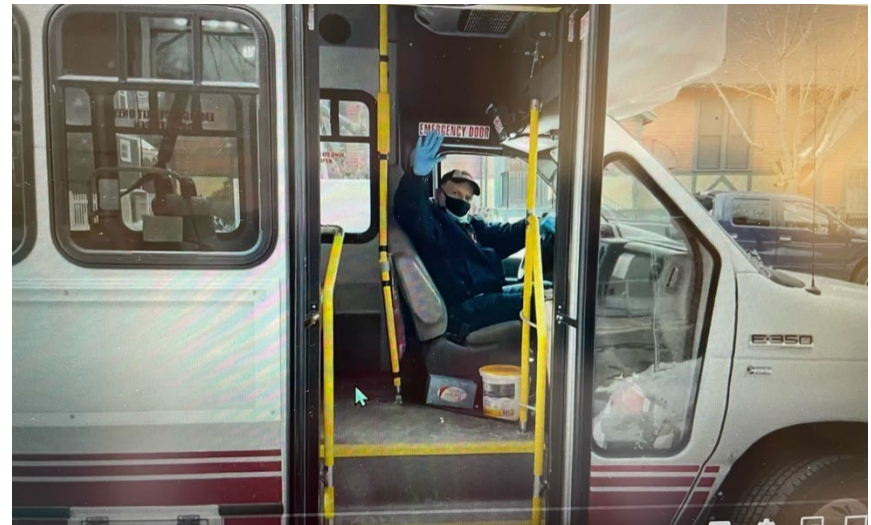
- 4,113 Social Work Appointments/Walk In Visits
- 8,779 Rides Provided
- 323 Active Volunteers
- 4,420 events/programs occurred
- 9,571 scan ins by program/event participants
- 3,971 unique individuals served





Parking was a challenge before...and is an even bigger issue now

- With the goal of improving the parking situation, the COA has:
 - Made all rides on the COA Van to and from the Community Center free of charge and applied for new grants to make up for the lack of revenue from Community Center van rides.
 - Hired two additional van drivers to accommodate more in town van rides and run two COA Vans on the road at all times the center is open.
 - Encouraged car pooling among regular class participants.
 - Continued to partner with ArlBel Taxi to offer discount taxi ride coupons.
 - Held trainings and programs on ride sharing services, like Uber.
 - Done more outreach around MBTA Senior Charlie Cards and the COA now offers walk-in assistance for this service.



Residents Explore Options

- After years of patience with frustrations around parking issues at the Center, a group of residents formed a committee to do research and brainstorm potential options.
- They learned about programs in surrounding towns and presented their findings to the COA Board in March.
- Pat O'Connell is here to represent that committee.

Towns who offer Parking Passes for Seniors

Town	Parking Pass	Comments
Belmont	Yes	\$5.00 per year -all meters and municipal lots
Winchester	Yes	Free- municipal LOT
Newton	yes	\$1:00 – for municipal lots – abide time limit
Medford	Yes	Free-all meters and municipal lots
Watertown	Yes	Free- municipal lot
Lexington	Yes	Free-All meters and lots

Watertown

Renew your Parking Permit

Either by calling the Senior Center on 617 972 6490, Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 4:30 pm, or by coming to the Senior Center with your driver's license and car registration. No appointment is required.

SENIOR CITIZEN
MUNICIPAL PARKING LOT

EXPIRES

DISPLAY INSIDE VEHICLE FACE UP ON
DRIVER'S SIDE DASH FOR VERIFICATION



TOWN OF
WATERTOWN

SENIOR PARKING PERMIT

Medford

Senior Resident Parking Permit

Senior residents of Medford (65+ years) are eligible for a free residential parking permit.

Please bring D.O.B. identification and a vehicle registration with your Medford address printed on it by the RMV (RMV Registration Replacement, RMV Residential Address Form, RMV Renewal Letter, and handwritten address changes will not be accepted).

Senior City (Meter/Municipal Lots) Parking Permit

Senior residents of Medford (65+ years) are also eligible for a parking permit that allows the vehicle to park at the parking meters, kiosk areas, and in municipal lots without paying at the site.

Please bring D.O.B. identification and a vehicle registration with your Medford address printed on it by the RMV (RMV Registration Replacement, RMV Residential Address Form, RMV Renewal Letter, and handwritten address changes will not be accepted).

Belmont

Parking Permits

Permits will be issued for 2023 beginning in January. All seniors over 65 years of age are eligible. For \$5., seniors can park for free at any metered spot and in all municipal parking lots in the town for 2 hours each trip. Please call 617-993-2978 to make an appointment to obtain or renew your 2023 permit

Proposal:

Arlington Age 60+ Parking Permits

- Managed and implemented by the Council on Aging
- Proposed Program
 - 2 year pilot
 - Interested residents will need to visit the COA during designated hours, or apply by mail
 - Limit of one sticker per address given to Arlington Residents age 60+, proof of address, age and vehicle registration required
 - No charge for sticker
 - COA to manage database and renewal process
 - Vehicles that have this sticker affixed would:
 - Not be charged while parked at metered spots or in municipal lots within Arlington
 - Not be ticketed for exceeding time limits along Maple Street and Academy Street (as long as vehicles are legally parked otherwise)
 - Parking stickers would not allow for overnight parking in any situation
 - Parking stickers can not be removed to share, must be affixed

Additional Considerations

- This program will certainly not solve all parking issues at 27 Maple Street but is an “act of good will for our seniors. Something we can do for them without any negative ramifications without much cost at all.”
- Training for Parking Enforcers would be necessary and COA staff would be willing to lead or assist with these efforts.
- Lack of parking is a main reason that residents provide when we ask why they haven’t visited the center or when we ask why they have stopped coming. Older adults who spend time socializing and participating in COA programs are engaged with their community and many say that they come every day just because it makes their mental health better.

Additional Considerations (cont.)

- Many of the residents that we serve are on fixed incomes and more than half are in the low-moderate income range. Unfortunately, every week we have visitors who receive a parking ticket while they are inside the Community Center for programming. Many residents enjoy coming in the morning for coffee, taking a class, staying for lunch and then participating in an afternoon program as well. This amount of time exceeds most if not all limits on Maple Street & Academy Street parking. A \$15+ parking ticket is not affordable for many of our older residents and unfortunately deters some from returning once they receive one.
- Why limit to one sticker per address? We acknowledge that driving personal cars is not the way of the future but want older adults who seek independence to be able to make a choice to drive if it works best for them.