



THE BERKLEY BEACON

Town of Berkley
Council on Aging
1 North Main Street
Berkley, MA 02779

Our Offerings

Aerobics
Tai Chi
Quilting
BINGO
Yoga
Chair Yoga
Mah Jong
Body in Motion
Painting & Crafts
Coffee Talk
Presentations

Individual Highlights

1. Announcements
2. Painting
2. Jeopardy
2. Fall Fairy Planter
2. Friends Lunch
3. Library News
3. Open Enrollment
3. Vaccine Clinic
4. Calendar
5. Support Groups
5. SINGO
5. Happy Hearts
5. Podiatry
6. Friends
7. Historical Society



September



MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and support Berkley seniors to stay safe and active, participate in programs, enjoy life, and stay in their own homes for as long as possible.



Craft Fair

September 12th
9:00 - 3:00

• Vendors, Music, Food, & Raffles

Please join the Friends of the Berkley Council on Aging for a day of fun on the Berkley Common. Find the perfect gift or treat yourself. Come shop for local treasures!

Special Presentation!

Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Seniors

September 23rd at 1:30

This presentation will define artificial intelligence and demonstrate its benefits for seniors. It will explain how to use AI tools that help seniors, and discuss some of the most unusual uses of AI. Particular attention will be paid to the many dangers of AI so that seniors who use these tools will be aware of them.

The goal of the presentation is to empower seniors with knowledge, dispel fears, and inspire confidence to explore AI technologies that can significantly improve their quality of life, independence, and engagement with the modern digital world.

Henry Quinlan, a publisher, has been using AI both professionally and personally for three years. He is a member of the MIT Age/Lab as a Life Achiever.

Space is Limited! Sign Up Today!
Registration Required (508) 821-3105

CALL THE COA WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS @ (508) 821-3105

Watercolor Fall Painting

Thursday, October 15th at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome fall with watercolor. In this class, you will create a beautiful autumn landscape featuring birch trees surrounded by warm fall colors.



\$10
Berkley
Residents

\$20
Out-of-
Town

Robyn Q. Franczyk has been teaching watercolor for the past 30 years. She teaches step-by-step to all her students, both beginners and advanced. Come join in on the fun. Whether you are new to painting or have years of experience, this class is for you!

Registration Required (508) 821-3105

PAINT DAY *with Amy* “Autumn Harvest”

Fun Facts about Pumpkins:
The word “pumpkin” comes from the Greek word “pepon”, which means “large melon”.
Pumpkins were once considered a remedy for freckles and snakebites.
The “warts” on a pumpkin are actually a buildup of extra sugar in the pumpkin’s skin.

Lets paint together step-by-step!

Beginners welcome! No experience needed.
Give it a try & you will be amazed what you can do!



Thursday, September 17 at 2:45p.m.
at the Berkley Senior Center

1 N. Main St. Berkley 508-821-3105

\$10 for Berkley Residents
(\$20 for Out-Of-Town Guests)
includes all supplies & instruction

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!



Breakfast for Lunch

Wednesday, October 14th
11:30

(Doors open at 11:00)



The Friends of the Berkley Council on Aging invite you to join us at the COA for a delicious breakfast-for-lunch!

\$5 per person due the day of the lunch.

Space is Limited! Registration Required.
(508) 821-3105

Jeopardy

Wednesday, September 2nd
12:30

Test your knowledge and have some fun! Join us for an exciting live Jeopardy!-style game hosted by Kevin Richmond.

Teams will compete through multiple rounds of trivia with prizes awarded to winning teams. No experience necessary, just bring your thinking cap and come on in and join the fun.

Registration Required.
Please call (508) 821- 3105



Fall Fairy Planter

Thursday, September 3rd
9:30 – 10:30

Join us as we each create a Fall inspired Fairy Garden Container to take home. We will supply the container, soil, plants, fairies and oodles of trinkets. Please remember to bring your garden gloves

\$5 Berkley Residents \$10 Out-Of-Town Guests
Few spots left! Registration Required.
(508) 821-3105

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

October 15 – December 7



The Berkley Council on Aging's Outreach Coordinator is SHINE certified and offers one-on-one, unbiased guidance with:

- Understanding costs and coverage
- Comparing Medicare options
- Completing the enrollment process

Please call **beginning October 8** to schedule your Medicare Open Enrollment SHINE appointment.

508-821-3105

GET HELP PAYING MEDICARE COSTS

Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) may help pay Medicare premiums and other out-of-pocket costs. Depending on your income, an MSP may also lower your prescription costs. MSPs are not insurance plans.

WHO QUALIFIES?

2026 monthly income at or below:

Single:	\$2,993 per month
Married:	\$4,058 per month

THERE IS NO ASSET LIMIT.

Income limits change each year on March 1.

September at the Berkley Public Library!

Looking to learn a new language, do some research, or browse genealogical records? You can do all of this for free through our website!

Visit our website

(https://sails.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/berpl/) and click on the **eReference Resources** page under "Quick Links" in the left column of the page. From here you will find a plethora of links to a variety of topics. The topics are in alphabetical order, but if you scroll down, you will find "Transparent Language" where you can choose from over 120 different languages to learn. You can also find "American Ancestors" in our eReference Resources. Here you can search and find census records for ancestors. If you have any trouble finding these links, you are more than welcome to use our public computers and ask the librarians any questions that you may have. Happy learning!

New in large print this month, is "The Amateur" by Chris Bohjalian.

berpl@sailsinc.org
(508) 822-3329

www.berkleylibrary.org

ANNUAL VACCINE CLINIC

Work • School • Travel • Family • Health



Wednesday, September 30th | 1 PM–5 PM
Berkley Middle School
21 North Main Street | Berkley, MA 02779



GET VACCINATED!

YOUTH | ADULTS | SENIORS

Protect yourself and your loved ones with vaccines available at no cost with most insurance plans:

- COVID-19
- Pneumonia
- Shingles
- Hepatitis B
- Influenza (Flu)
- Tetanus
- RSV
- HPV

NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR?

Stop by the clinic for a free health screening.

MEET YOUR LOCAL PHARMACY TEAM

Ask a pharmacist questions about your medications and learn how to save with the Rx Savings Program and ExtraCare.

INSURANCE & PAYMENTS

Vaccines are billed through pharmacy insurance. Bring your pharmacy and Medicare Part D cards (if applicable). If coverage cannot be confirmed, you may decline or pay at the clinic (card, check, cash).

REGISTRATION STRONGLY ENCOURAGED

To register, scan the QR code below.



SCAN ME

HOSTED BY
Berkley Board
of Health

Supported by your local
 CVS
pharmacy

← ANNUAL VACCINE CLINIC INFO.

To register please scan the QR Code.
OR

Call Melissa Silverman who has the following office hours scheduled to help residents schedule and pre-register for their appointment.

09/04/26, 09/11/26, 09/18/26, 09/25/26

Call between 10:00 – 1:00
(774) 362-8457

Beyond Books: Discover Your Public Library October 28, 2026 at 1:30

Are you wondering what your public library can provide for you and members of your family?

Carol Buote from our very own Berkley Public Library will do a presentation on library services! She will also talk about hotspots for portable internet access and how to use them. And she will talk about how to use the Libby app for FREE eBooks and audiobooks.

Registration Required (508) 821-3105

September

ACTIVITIES & MEETING SCHEDULE



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

AEROBICS – Daily at 8 a.m. on Channel 95 & 96

TAI CHI – Classes held offsite at 3 Grove Street, Berkley.

BINGO – Sept. 16th Only

MOBILE MARKET – Sept. 23rd

HAPPY HEARTS – Thursdays at 12:30

FRIENDS OF COA – Sept. 2nd & Sept. 16th

COA Meeting – Sept. 17th at 9:30 (Subject to change)

Events in BOLD require prior registration.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	1	2	3
	8:45 Yoga 10:15 Body in Motion 10:30 Tai Chi 11:30 Quilting	10:15 Friends Meeting 10:30 Grab n Go 12:30 Jeopardy!	9:30 Fall Fairy Planter 10:30 Tai Chi 12:30 Happy Hearts
7	8	9	10
Closed Labor Day!	8:45 Yoga 10:15 Body in Motion <i>10:30 Tai Chi - Canceled</i> 11:30 Quilting Friends Penn. Trip	10:30 Grab n Go	10:30 Caregiver Support Group <i>10:30 Tai Chi - Canceled</i> 12:30 Happy Hearts
14	15	16	17
9:00 Italian 11:30 Aerobics 12:30 Coffee Talk 12:30 Mah Jong 1:30 Chair Yoga	8:45 Yoga <i>10:15 Body in Motion - Canceled</i> 10:30 Tai Chi 11:30 Quilting	10:30 Grab n Go 10:15 Annual Friends Meeting 12:30 BINGO	9:30 COA Meeting 10:30 Tai Ch 12:30 Happy Hearts 2:45 Painting with Amy
21	22	23	24
9:00 Italian 11:30 Aerobics 12:30 Coffee Talk 12:30 Mah Jong 1:30 Chair Yoga	8:45 Yoga 10:15 Body in Motion 10:30 Tai Chi 11:30 Quilting	10:30 Grab n Go 10:00 Mobile Market 10:00 Blood Pressure Clinic 1:30 A.I. for Seniors	10:30 Tai Chi 11:00 Grief Support Group <i>Happy Hearts off-site</i>
28	29	30	
9:00 Italian 11:30 Aerobics 12:30 Coffee Talk 12:30 Mah Jong 1:30 Chair Yoga	8:45 Yoga 10:15 Body in Motion 10:30 Tai Chi 11:30 Quilting	10:30 Grab n Go Friends N.H. Trip	Men's Group will not meet in September. Instead, we will offer A.I. for Seniors.



Supporting our Community, One Conversation at a Time Support Groups at the COA

This is a welcoming space to share concerns, talk openly, and connect with people who truly understand your journey. These groups are not limited to Berkley residents.

Register today! This program will be facilitated by Lorraine Moniz, our Outreach Coordinator.

Grief and Healing Support Group Thursday, Sept. 24th at 11:00 a.m.

Caregiver Support Group Thursday, Sept. 10th at 10:30 a.m.

Registration Required (508) 821-3105

This program/position is funded in part by a grant from Bristol Aging & Wellness Inc. through a contract with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Aging & Independence. Donations to our Outreach efforts are voluntary and always welcome.

During Medicare Open Enrollment, the Council on Aging will temporarily pause its support groups so our Outreach Coordinator, who is also a certified SHINE counselor, can meet with as many older adults as possible to review their Medicare coverage and plan options.

Halloween Candy Drive

The Council on Aging will once again be participating in the town's Trick-or-Treat Halloween event. We are asking for candy donations which may be dropped off at the COA through October 26th.



Northern Bristol County Public Health Alliance Diaper Drive



Help support the Giving Closet provide essential items to families in need. Baby wipes and size 4 and up diapers needed! A collection box is located inside of the COA. Please reach out to Sydney at sgarilli@berkleyma.gov with any questions.

Podiatry Appointment in the COA With Dr. Smith October 1st 9:00 – 11:00

Appointments will be billed through your health insurance. Patients are responsible for any copays associated with their visit.

SINGO!

**Wednesday, October 21st
12:30**

Bingo with a beat. Instead of calling out letters and numbers the DJ will call out singers and songs. Come on in and test your musical knowledge and luck. Have some fun and win some prizes. This one-hour event will replace our regularly scheduled Bingo for this date. While sign up is not required for Bingo, we are requesting that you sign-up for this special Singo session.

Registration Required.

The Happy Hearts Senior Club



The Happy Hearts had a great time this month singing karaoke, celebrating their president's birthday with a surprise party, and from the looks of this picture, practicing their selfie skills!



FRIENDS OF BERKLEY COA

SAVE THE DATES

=====

For questions related to trips, please contact
Roberta Poli at
508 208 1634
robertabeth@verizon.net

Friends Membership
Dues were due by
July 1, 2026,
for the 2027 fiscal year.

The Friends of the Berkley COA will host our lunches in the activity room from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sign up early! Space is limited! Eat in only. There will not be an option for takeout.

Ticket price is \$5.00 per person due on the day of the lunch.

If you register for a meal and can no longer attend, cancellation is requested so that we may fill your spot from our waitlist.

Upcoming Lunches:

October 14th

Breakfast for lunch
(registration begins in Sept.)

November 4th

Lasagna
(Registration begins in Oct.)

September 8-11, 2026

Penn Dutch (bus trip)

Visit Sight and Sound Theatre to see a performance of Joshua. Visit Kitchen Kettle, the Mount Hope Winery, the Amish Experience Tour & more!

Pennsylvania Trip Cost per person:

Double Occupancy: \$1025.00

Single Occupancy: \$1235.00

Triple Occupancy: \$995.00

Registration for this trip has now closed.



September 12th

Annual Craft Fair

9:00 – 3:00

Join us on the
Berkley Common

September 30, 2026

Turkey Train

Reserve your spot today!
(bus trip)

Only a few spots left!

Cost is \$154 per person

Payment is now due.

December 8, 2026

Holiday Classic with The Cartels

(bus trip)

Aqua Turf Club in CT.

Cost is \$125 per person
due with sign up.

Sing-along with The Glamor Girls, Santa & Mrs. Claus!

Registration starts 08/05 and ends 10/27 or when full. Seat is not guaranteed until payment is made.

September 16, 2026

10:15

Annual Friends Meeting
Elections will take place at this meeting.

The following Friends Board positions are up for election: president, vice president, secretary/clerk, and director. Only members with current memberships are eligible to vote.

Please make checks payable to

Friends of Berkley COA
and in the memo of the
check please write the
event you are paying for.



MOMENTS FROM THE MUSEUM

What Makes Berkley Special: Part Two

(1st – 3rd was printed in the August newsletter)

Fourth: I personally conducted a research project on the 7 schoolhouses that were used in the education of Berkley students. Part of my research included reading the School Reports found within the yearly Town Reports from the early 1800s. I consistently read in each yearly report that very early on in its history, Berkley had an excellent education program and was considered the best of all the surrounding towns. This still holds true today and results in many families choosing to move to Berkley so that their children will benefit from the excellent school education.

Fifth: Proudly and perhaps with a little bias, I must choose the fact that Berkley now has a beautiful 'new' historical museum. The efforts of many meetings with town officials and negotiations came to fruition when the Old Town Hall of 1849 was allowed to be used as a museum for the town. The building's location on the Common in the center of Berkley makes it very accessible to townsfolk. It is now open and brimming with artifacts of Berkley history. Included are the complete and well-preserved uniform and accouterments of Berkley born Civil War soldier, Corporal Levi L. Crane. His story amazes school children and adults alike.

In addition, I would like to say that although Berkley is small in size and likely not to even be noticed by people zipping down Rt 24, it is big on community spirit and support. Many have left Berkley to pursue further education and dreams but often find themselves returning when it is time to raise a family. They want their children to have the goodness of a small-town atmosphere, as they did when growing up in Berkley.

This timeline of Berkley history is based on knowledge as one who was raised in Berkley and as a person with a passion for history. Do come to visit the Berkley Historical Museum on Tuesdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The Museum is located at 2 North Main Street in Berkley, MA. It is located directly across the street from the Public Safety Building. Admission is Free!

Eden Jones

Discover the History of Myricks

**Tuesday, November 17, 2026
2:00 p.m.**

Please join us as Myricks historian Elwell H. Perry Jr. presents the history of Myricks. 1635 - 2025.

From its earliest beginnings as a 17th-century farming settlement through its storied 19th-century railroad history, the hamlet of Myricks has always been an interesting and vibrant community. Highlights will include historic photos from the Berkley Historical Society Archives, stories, folklore and maybe a railroad song or two.

Registration Required (508) 821-3105

This program will be held at the COA



September 17

Farmers Market - 4PM to 7PM

Concert on the Common
5PM to 7PM
featuring Move'n On

Funded in part by the  Mass Cultural Council

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

**NOT YOU?
PLEASE CALL
508-821-3105**



STAFF

Krista Celia, Director
Lorraine Moniz, Outreach Coordinator

Kcelia@berkleyma.gov
Lmoniz@berkleyma.gov

BOARD MEMBERS

Margaret Clark-Moroff, Chair Carol Buote Cathy Charette Arlene Medeiros Kathleen Strozyk

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: Berkley Council on Aging
Website: townofberkleyma.gov/COA

COUNCIL ON AGING HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Friday: CLOSED

NEWSLETTER REMINDER

To help us reduce printing costs and support a greener community, we encourage you to read our newsletter online whenever possible. If you would like to stop receiving the printed version or will be away from your residence temporarily, please call us to be removed from the mailing list. The digital edition is available each month on our website.

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