



# 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. Fairy Garden
2. Refuse to be a Victim
3. Library News
3. Bank Fraud
3. Friend's Lunches
3. Happy Hearts
4. Calendar
5. SINGO
5. Medical Emergency
5. Save Task Force
5. Health Clinic
6. Friends
7. Historical Society
7. Men's Group
7. Podiatry



# April



## 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.

## Caregiver Support Group

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 a.m.



Being a caregiver can be deeply rewarding, but it can also bring unique challenges and stress. You are not alone. We invite you to join our Caregiver Support Group, where you can meet others in the community who are going through similar experiences. This is a welcoming space to share concerns, talk openly, and connect with people who truly understand your journey. This group is not limited to Berkley residents. Caregivers from surrounding communities are encouraged to join us. Register today! This program will be facilitated by Lorraine Moniz, our Outreach Coordinator.

**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.*

## A NOTE FROM THE TOWN CLERK

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE TOWN OF BERKLEY POLLING LOCATION FOR BOTH OF ITS PRECINCTS (1 & 2) WILL CHANGE IN 2026  
FROM BERKLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL, 59 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
TO BERKLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL, 21 NORTH MAIN STREET.

THIS IS DUE TO THE CONSTRUCTION  
THAT WILL BEGIN ON THE NEW BERKLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL.

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

## Fun Fairy Garden

with Sue from the Garden Club

Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Join us to create your own whimsical Fairy Garden. You will be provided with a container, soil, three plants, a fairy and oodles of add-ons to stage the scene. A fairy door for you to decorate/paint is also included. Everyone's uniqueness will have you smiling!

Please remember to bring your garden gloves.



\$5 Berkley Residents  
\$10 Out-Of-Town  
Guests

Class size limited to 20 participants.  
Registration Required.  
(508) 821-3105

## Refuse to be a Victim

Kerrie-Ann Auclair  
Two Part Series

Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Join presenter Kerrie-Ann Auclair for two insightful sessions about personal safety. Learn essential steps to protect yourself and understand the importance of developing a personal safety strategy. This program will provide valuable tips and techniques to help you stay alert and recognize potential dangers.

There is no fee for this informative series!  
You are not required to participate in both classes. Register even if you can only attend one!

Reserve your spot today. (508) 821-3105

## Watercolor Painting

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

This watercolor class will feature a lovely iris in bloom, perfect for practicing color blending and developing your flower painting skills.



\$10  
Berkley  
Residents

\$20  
Out-of-  
Town  
Guests

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* "Stained Glass Art"



Create unique framed artwork using a "stained glass" technique. A variety of images will be available to trace if you are not confident with your drawing skills! You may also bring an image of your choice to class...

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 p.m.  
at the Berkley Senior Center

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

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

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

# FRAUD PREVENTION SEMINAR

[ backed by Bluestone ]

This program is different from the Scam Programs we have offered in the past. Join us and learn about BANK FRAUD first-hand!



### Presenation Overview

Alan Benjamin, Joyce Ferreira, and Brian Giampietro, three of Bluestone Bank's Branch Managers, will talk about Fraud Prevention. In this important seminar, you'll learn about some of the common scams, how you can protect yourself, and what to do if your information is compromised. You'll also hear how Bluestone Bank helps to protect our customers from fraud. Questions and an open discussion will be encouraged. Stop by—refreshments will be served!

### When

Wednesday, April 8th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### Where

Berkley Council on Aging, 1 N Main Street, Berkley, MA 02779

Registration Required (508) 821-3105



NMLS# 403265 | Member FDIC | Member DIF Equal Housing Lender

## The Friends of the Berkley Council on Aging Lunches

The Friends are back cooking up their delicious lunches for our community! These events are very popular and fill up quickly. If you register for a lunch, please be sure to let us know which one you are planning to attend. **Each lunch has its own registration.**

The fee is **\$5.00 per person** and there will not be a take-out option. All meals must be enjoyed in the COA.

**Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30**

Grilled Cheese and Minestrone Soup

*The registration for this meal is almost full!*

**Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30**

Pasta and Salad

Registration begins March 30<sup>th</sup>.

We expect a full house and will utilize a waitlist. If you register and can no longer attend, please contact the COA as soon as possible so that we can fill your spot. If you leave a message to register, we will call you back to verify that there is space available in the event you are registering for.

(508) 821-3105

## April at the Berkley Public Library!

Spring has sprung at the library! We have a Massachusetts State Parks Pass that can get you free parking for a day at a state park. We also have passes for Buttonwood Park that admit up to 4 people for free. Reserve a pass through our website or come to the library to check one out! For large print this month, we have three new books: The Bookstore Diaries by Susan Mallery, The Secret Lives of Murderers' Wives by Elizabeth Arnott, and The Things We Leave Unfinished by Rebecca Yarros. Stop by the library or give us a call to check them out or put them on hold!

berpl@sailsinc.org  
(508)822-3329

www.berkeleylibrary.org

## Happy Hearts Fundraiser



Join the Happy Hearts for their Annual Fundraiser Dinner at the Berkley American Legion on April 19<sup>th</sup>. This year's meal is spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread. Doors open at 11:00. The cost is \$15 per person, and raffle tickets will be available for a chance to win great prizes. This is a fundraiser and you do not need to be a Happy Hearts member to attend. To purchase tickets please email: [retta8617@gmail.com](mailto:retta8617@gmail.com)



# SOCK DRIVE

Help the MA Association of Public Health Nurses in supporting the Veterans Inc. Stand Down resource event for veterans & their families



COLLECTING NOW THROUGH FRIDAY, MAY 8TH!

Donation Box in the COA

# April

## 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** – April 1<sup>st</sup> & April 15<sup>th</sup>

**MOBILE MARKET** – April 22<sup>nd</sup> Call for details!

**HAPPY HEARTS** – Thursdays at 12:30

**FRIENDS OF COA** – April 1<sup>st</sup> & April 15<sup>th</sup>

**COA Meeting** – April 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 (Subject to change)

Events in BOLD require prior registration.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		1	2
		10:15 Friends Meeting 10:30 Grab n Go 12:30 <b>BINGO</b>	<b>Podiatry by Appointment</b> 10:30 Tai Chi 12:30 Happy Hearts
6	7	8	9
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 <b>1:00 Fraud Prevention</b>	10:30 Tai Chi 12:30 Happy Hearts
13	14	15	16
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 <b>3:00 Refuse to be a Victim</b>	10:15 Friends Meeting 10:30 Grab n Go 12:30 <b>BINGO</b>	9:30 COA Meeting 10:30 Tai Chi 12:30 Happy Hearts
20	21	22	23
<b>Closed</b> <b>Patriot's Day</b>	8:45 Yoga 10:15 Body in Motion 10:30 Tai Chi 11:30 Quilting <b>3:00 Refuse to be a Victim</b>	10:30 Grab n Go 10:00 Mobile Market 10:00 Blood Pressure Clinic 1:00 Men's Group <b>2:00 Medical Emergency</b>	<b>9:00 Watercolor Painting</b> 10:30 Tai Chi <b>11:00 Caregiver Support Group</b> 12:30 Happy Hearts
27	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 <b>11:30 Friends Lunch</b> <b>Grilled Cheese &amp; Soup</b>	10:30 Tai Chi 12:30 Happy Hearts

## When Every Second Counts: What to Do in a Medical Emergency

Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
2:00



Join Berkley Firefighter/EMT Liza Amaral for an informative presentation on what to do during a medical emergency. She will review important steps to take, how to stay calm, and how to respond until help arrives. Bring your questions and take advantage of this opportunity to learn from one of our local first responders. Coffee and doughnuts will be available.

Registration Required (508) 821 -3105

## SINGO!

Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>  
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.

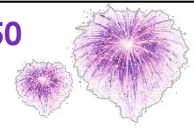
Registration Required.  
Please call (508) 821- 3105 or visit the senior center to sign up.

## Fuel Assistance

Fuel assistance is still open! If you have not applied or would like to see if you qualify the program runs through April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## America Turns 250

Save the Date  
June 28, 2026



Celebration on the Berkley Common  
More details are coming soon...

## Greetings from the SAVE Task Force

In addition to our bi-monthly meetings, the Task Force recently hosted community Forums with the Fire/EMS Department, Police Department, and the library. The goal was to help residents better understand what each department does and how possible budget cuts could affect the services they provide.

Most people are familiar with the obvious roles, firefighters responding to fires, police officers handling emergencies, and the library lending books. But each department does much more than that. (You can watch the past forums on our website, <http://sites.google.com/view/save-task-force/home>).

A common challenge across departments is staffing and pay. Berkley ranks among the lowest compared to similar towns when it comes to employee salaries. Even so, our staff continue to go above and beyond to serve the community.

For fire and police, the biggest concern with budget cuts would be slower emergency response times due to fewer staff on duty. Cuts could also reduce training opportunities and make it harder to retain employees.

The library would be affected in different, but just as important, ways. Hours could be reduced, and money usually raised to improve programs might need to cover basic operating costs instead. The library is more than a place to borrow books; it is a space for learning, connection and growth for residents of all ages.,

## KNOW YOUR NUMBER

# BLOOD PRESSURE, GLUCOSE &/OR CHOLESTEROL SCREENING

Wednesday  
May 27, 2026  
10 AM - 12 PM

Berkley Council on Aging



Screening available through Regional Public Health Nurse



Free Voluntary Screening  
Open to all.

Pre-registration is not required.

Be informed of glucose & total cholesterol levels.

Sample by fingerstick.  
Fasting not required.

Written consent for participation required.

# FRIENDS OF BERKLEY COA

## SAVE THE DATES

=====

For questions related to trips, please contact

Roberta Poli at

508 208 1634

[robertabeth@verizon.net](mailto:robertabeth@verizon.net)

Lunches are coming back!  
Registration Required

April 29<sup>th</sup>

Grilled Cheese & Soup  
(almost full)

May 13<sup>th</sup>

Pasta & Salad

**June 24, 2026**

**The Country Jamboree**

Lake Pearl, Wrentham, MA.

(self-drive)

The Country Jamboree is a nationally touring show that takes you down memory lane, featuring the greatest country music hits that you have known and loved through the years.

Now taking reservations

Cost is \$100.00 per person.

**July 15, 2026**

**Tall Ship Cruise**

Lunch at the Cheesecake  
Factory (bus trip)

Now taking reservations.

Cost is \$185.00 per person.

**August 12, 2026**

**Fosters Clam Bake & Show**  
(bus trip)

**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!

Reservations start April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Pennsylvania trip cost  
per person:**

**Double Occupancy: \$1025.00**

**Single Occupancy: \$1235.00**

**Triple Occupancy: \$995.00**

**October- Turkey Train**

(bus trip)



**June 1-3, 2026**

Now taking reservations. Join us for a 3-day 2-night adventure to New Hampshire's White Mountains. Stay two nights at Lincoln's Indian Head Resort with admission to two shows, a buffet lunch, two dinners, and two breakfasts. You will visit the impressive Castle in the Clouds, enjoy a luncheon cruise on Lake Sunapee, visit a local farm stand, and have time for lunch and shopping on your own at the Mill Falls Marketplace!

Included in trip cost: transportation, two nights of lodging, two dinners, one luncheon, two shows, two breakfasts, admission to the Castle in the Clouds, a luncheon boat ride, a welcome reception, dining room taxes and gratuities, and access to Mill Falls Marketplace.

**N.H. trip cost per person:**

**Double \$725.00**

**Single \$845.00.**

**Triple \$695.00.**

A \$100.00 deposit per person is required at sign-up. An additional \$150.00 deposit per person is due by March 1, 2026.

Final payment is due by April 1, 2026.

Please make checks payable to Friends of Berkley COA and in the memo of the check please write NH trip, June

**December- Holiday Classic  
with The Cartels.**

(bus trip)

Aqua Turf Club in CT.



# MOMENTS FROM THE MUSEUM

## A Timeline of Berkley's History

Berkley, Massachusetts was originally part of Dighton. Both towns have a history rooted in their early separation from Taunton. Dighton separated from Taunton in 1712 and 23 years later in 1735, Berkley was incorporated as a town separate of Dighton.

- **1675:** During King Philip's War, Edward Bobbet (Babbitt) became the first white man slain by Native Americans in the area. Legend says King Philip formed his confederacy on Conspiracy Island this same year.
- **1680:** The petroglyphs on Dighton Rock (then part of Dighton) were discovered.
- **1735:** Berkley was officially incorporated as a separate town, named after philosopher George Berkeley.
- **1790:** Shipbuilding began in the town, an industry that lasted for over 75 years.
- **1799:** The area known as Assonet Neck was officially annexed to Berkley from Dighton.
- **1849:** The Old Town Hall was constructed on Berkley Common.
- **1866:** The world's largest two-masted schooner was launched at Berkley Bridge.
- **1879:** Berkley annexed the village of Myricks from Taunton, significantly increasing the town's population.
- **1918:** The Berkley Public Library was built and funded by the Carnegie Foundation.
- **1950s:** The construction of Route 24 increased accessibility and development pressure on the rural community.
- **1951–1991:** The Golden Pheasant restaurant at the corner of North Main and Berkley Streets served as a popular local attraction until it was destroyed by fire.
- **1972:** The Berkley Historical Society was established to preserve and display town artifacts.
- **1977:** A new Town Seal, designed by students, was officially adopted.
- **2015:** A new Town Hall was completed, and the Old Town Hall became the permanent home of the Berkley Historical Society Museum.

Come visit the Berkley Historical Society Museum on Tuesday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Come on in and see Berkley history in person! There is no admission fee to enter, and volunteers are on hand to answer questions. The Museum is located at 2 No. Main Street, Berkley, MA

### Men's Group

Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

### Podiatry

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
By Appointment

**DO NOT FORWARD**

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID TAUNTON, MA  
PERMIT # 73

# VOLUNTEERS ★ N E E D E D ★

Bristol Aging & Wellness is recruiting compassionate community members to volunteer with our SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) Program. SHINE volunteers provide free, unbiased Medicare counseling that helps older adults and individuals with disabilities make informed health insurance decisions.



**Why become a counselor?**

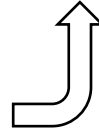
- Free SHINE certification training provided by Bristol
- Build valuable knowledge of Medicare and health insurance
- Flexible volunteer schedules
- Gain transferable skills in counseling, communication, and advocacy
- Make a meaningful, direct impact in your community!



Call for information:  
**505-676-5465**

**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.

*The distribution of this newsletter is made possible by a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Aging and Independence.*