

Special place for 55 and older New Jerseyans

Wayne center started in '96 with 10 members, now has 338

By **DEBRA WINTERS**
STAFF WRITER

WAYNE – The Wayne Adult Community Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary, having started out as a little-used entity whose membership has since swollen into the hundreds.

Also known as the “White House,” the center is in a building on the campus of Schuyler-Colfax Middle School, which it leases from the district. It’s staffed and managed entirely by volunteers.

The center has changed in many ways since it was formed in 1996, said Morris Stein, president. It began with 10 members who met monthly at the Fallon Elementary School for three years.

Currently there are 338 members.

Because the center’s building lease was paid for with a state grant, the group is open to all New Jersey residents. The center is operated by the Wayne Adult Community Center Inc. as a not-for-profit corporation. Day-to-day operations are governed by an executive committee that consists of the organization’s officers and other key individuals.

Some of the major functions at the center include complex card games such as duplicate bridge, contract bridge, Mahjongg Solitaire, pinochle and canasta, as well as activities such as a discussion group, a painting group and book club. Special yearly events include an art show, barbecue pic-

nic and a holiday party, according to Stein.

In addition, the center publishes a monthly newsletter with articles supplied by members and plays host to monthly big band dances in partnership with the Wayne Elks Lodge. Members also are gearing up for their annual barbecue in June with entertainment that will be held at the center.

“The center provides an avenue for people to socialize and make friends, many of [whom] get together outside the center. It’s really a delightful place to be,” said Stein.

The center’s board of directors contains notable people in the township, including municipal and school district administrators,

and they meet once a year in a room housed in the center aptly referred to as “The West Wing,” Stein quipped.

“We receive great support from the town, and residents here are fortunate to have such a great center in Wayne,” he said.

Looking ahead, Stein said he would like to see more activities implemented, including the resurrection of a computer class and possibly starting a yoga class.

“What we do is, we poll our members and find out what things they like to do, and we go from there,” he added.

Any New Jersey resident can join the center at age 55 or older; membership dues are \$25 per year or \$40 for two years. Donations



COURTESY OF MORRIS STEIN

Members of the Wayne Adult Community Center partying it up at the gathering place, which is celebrating its 20th year.

are \$2 per day of attendance, and the center provides free coffee, tea, soda and bagels daily. Volunteers of any age also are accepted.

Information about the center is available at wacci.net/.

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