

*City of Taunton
Office of the Mayor*



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Mayor O'Connell Thanks Community for Outpouring of Support for Seniors on Valentine's Day

Taunton, MA . . . Today Mayor Shaunna O'Connell thanks the community for an outpouring of support for Taunton seniors on Valentine's Day.

Last month, the Mayor's Office put out a request to the community for Valentine's cards. Working in conjunction with the Council on Aging, the Mayor's Office committed to collecting 1,000 Valentine's cards for Taunton senior citizens.

"The Valentine's cards have been pouring in. We have been receiving them from individuals in the community, as well as from schools, businesses and organizations," said O'Connell. "This was truly a group effort and it shows how much we can accomplish when we pull together."

As of February 12th, the Mayor's Office had received over 2,000 Valentine's cards. The cards will be distributed to seniors all over Taunton. The Council on Aging will distribute the cards to seniors who are homebound, as well as those who live in senior housing and those who are part of their elder outreach. Cards will also be distributed to seniors who attend the Council on Aging's Brunch To Go that has been postponed to March 1st due to weather concerns.

Charlene Bonenfant, Director of Human Services/Council on Aging, said, "The Council on Aging is thrilled to spread the love to our community seniors and are so thankful to those who took time out of their busy day, out of their classroom learning time, or out of their agency's time to shower our seniors with expressions of support and kindness during these unprecedented times."

The Mayor personally brought Valentine's cards to all of the Taunton nursing homes on Friday afternoon. With COVID-19 safety precautions in place, the Mayor was not able to visit with nursing home residents, but the cards will be distributed to residents by each facilities' Activities Director.

"These cards will be a nice surprise for the elderly. To know that they are remembered and cared for on Valentine's Day will mean so much to them. The pandemic has been especially hard on our seniors. I am deeply humbled by the generous outpouring of support for our seniors from our community and from neighboring communities," said Mayor O'Connell.

In addition to many individual residents, the following schools, businesses, and organizations all contributed to this effort:

Bennett Elementary School
Bishop Connolly High School
Boys and Girls Club of Taunton
Boy Scout Troop 40
Bristol-Plymouth Technical School
Friedman Middle School
Galligan School
Girls' Inc of Taunton
Holy Trinity School
JROTC (Taunton High School)
Leddy School
Martin Middle School
Old Colony YMCA
Our Lady of Lourdes School
Riverhouse Restaurant
St. Mary's Catholic School
Taunton Alternative High School
Taunton High School
Taunton Public Schools/Superintendent's Office

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