

AGE STRONG COMMISSION'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston | **Emily Shea**, Age Strong Commissioner
Joseph Goncalves, Director of Volunteer Programs

617-635-4366 ● boston.gov/age-strong ● 1 City Hall Plaza, Room 271, Boston, MA 02201

Welcome to Boston's Age Strong Commission's Volunteer Newsletter!

There's so much volunteer activity going on at Boston's Age Strong Commission, so we've launched a monthly newsletter to keep you informed.



Age Strong PTWOP Volunteer
Priscilla LaFontaine

Inside, you'll learn more about our Older Adult Property Tax Work-off Program, our Work-off Volunteer Paula Gravalles, and the City of Boston's Archives Department.

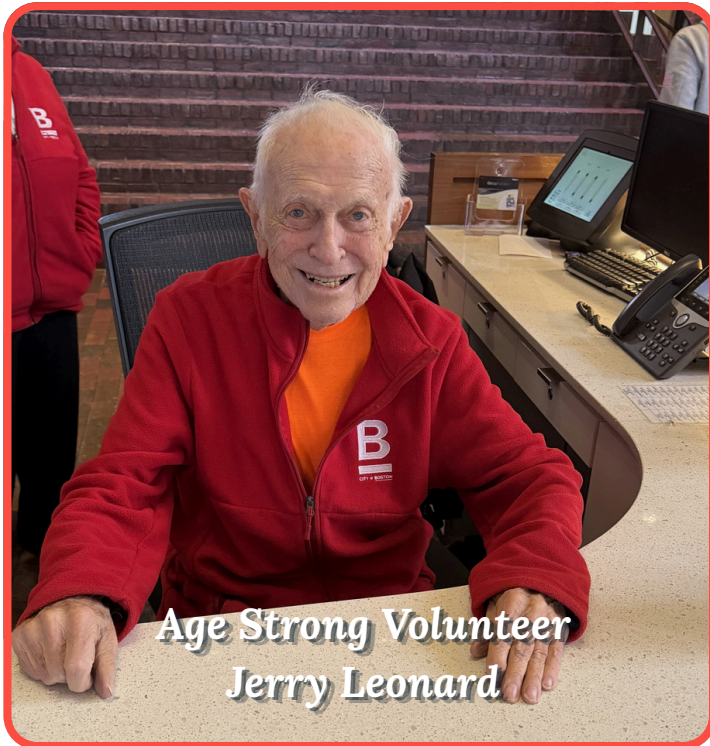
Are you interested in saving up to \$2,000 on your property taxes each year? Join Age Strong's Older Adult Property Tax Work-Off program!

Thanks for reading,

Joseph Goncalves

Director of Volunteer Programs
Boston's Age Strong
Commission

LEARN ABOUT AGE STRONG'S OLDER ADULT PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM ●●●●



*Age Strong Volunteer
Jerry Leonard*

Boston's Age Strong Commission runs a variety of volunteer programs where older adults can share their time and skills to support their community.

We currently seek volunteers for our Older Adult Property Tax Work-Off program, which gives qualified participants age 60+ the opportunity to volunteer up to 133.5 hours in exchange for a property tax reduction of up to \$2,000 per year.

Work-Off volunteers provide support to City of Boston departments, Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Libraries, and Boston Centers for Youth and Families in a variety of assignments. Some volunteers have:

- Assisted the registry department with greeting/directing visitors for weddings at City Hall
- Supported arrival/dismissal at Boston Public Schools
- Provided after school help at Boston Centers for Youth and Families
- Provided front desk support to many City departments
- Sold taxi coupons to older adults at Age Strong senior centers

... and more!

Why become a Work-Off Volunteer? Volunteering in this program helps lower your annual expenses, keeps you active and engaged in your community, and allows you to use your skills and interests to support both your fellow residents and the City of Boston.

Who is eligible? Participants must:

- be 60 or older by January 1, 2026
- income qualify: \$69,480 if you are single, and \$79,440 if you are married.
- have owned and occupied a residential property in Boston for at least three years, and
- own and occupy your property as a principal residence. If the property is subject to a trust, you must have legal title (you need to be one of the trustees and a beneficiary)

Key Dates

- Application Deadline: July 10, 2026
- Volunteer Work Completion Date: Nov 6, 2026*

*If you're approved for the program, you will only receive credit for work performed up to November 6, 2026 toward your fiscal year 2027 third quarter tax bill.

Interested? Please reach out to Libby Federici, Volunteer Program Coordinator, at 617-635-5741 or elizabeth.federici@boston.gov.

Age Strong's PTWOP Volunteer Coordinator Libby Federici giving a presentation at the East Boston Senior Center



MEET PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF VOLUNTEER PAULA GRAVALLESE



Age Strong Property Tax Work-Off volunteer Paula Gravallesse is 69 and has lived in the Orient Heights neighborhood of East Boston Boston her entire life.

Throughout her career, Paula operated a family restaurant in Salem and worked part-time at the Museum of Fine Arts (in members and visitors services) before she retired.

Paula has been an Age Strong volunteer since 2024, currently serving at Boston Centers for Youth and Families Paris Street Community Center in East Boston. She helps greet and register folks who visit the center, answers the phone, and helps with food distribution. She enjoys interacting with and helping folks who visit and call.

When asked why she applied to become a Property Tax Work-Off volunteer, Paula shared, “my taxes are high, so I wanted the opportunity to lower them. It’s a win-win. I love volunteering and saving money on property taxes is very helpful.”

“I get to meet new people,” Paula continues, “and to give back to my community. It also keeps me connected to the community.”

When asked what she’d say to someone considering volunteering, she says, “Volunteering is a great way to keep active. It’s nice to get out and to help. Volunteering makes me feel like I am part of something bigger than myself.”



Age Strong's PTWOP Volunteer
Paula Gravallesse

In addition to volunteering, Paula is an active member of the East Boston Senior Center. “I play Mahjong, belong to book clubs, and take part in exercise classes.”

LEARN ABOUT AGE STRONG'S VOLUNTEER PARTNER SITE: CITY ARCHIVES



Boston's City Archives has been an Age Strong volunteer partner site since 2024.

Established in 1988, The Archives and Records Management Division is part of the City Clerk's Office. Their mission is to preserve and provide access to Boston's municipal records. The records allow the public to review the work that Boston, as a municipal government, has done.



Volunteers at the City Archives assist Archivists with various projects helping to organize and provide access to historical records. Tasks may include scanning documents and photographs, rehousing materials into archival enclosures, and data entry. Our current volunteer project involves organizing, rehousing, and indexing photographic negatives taken by Fire Department photographers from the 1960s through the early 2000s.

Older adults may want to volunteer with the Archives Department because their work will help to ensure the preservation of Boston's history for future generations. The City Archives is a relaxing and hospitable environment for volunteers looking for quiet but important work. They're located in West Roxbury and have free parking on site. To learn more about Boston's Archives, visit boston.gov/departments/archives-and-records-management

VOLUNTEER TEAM IN ACTION ●●●●●●●●

Age Strong Volunteer Coordinator Libby Federici used the City’s E-Cargo bike to deliver over 1,600 envelopes to our partners at Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) for mailing to eligible homeowners, informing them about our Property Tax Work-Off program.



Age Strong's PTWOP Volunteer Coordinator Libby Federici

AGE STRONG SEEKS NEW VOLUNTEERS!

The Age Strong Commission offers four different volunteer programs to help older residents live their best lives, while aging in place.

AMERICORPS SENIORS RSVP PROGRAM

We match volunteers age 55+ with partner sites, including senior centers & food pantries, or train you to help residents learn English as a second language, prepare tax returns or facilitate opioid & scam prevention workshops.



BOSTON CITY HALL GREETERS

City Hall Greeters provide friendly assistance to residents visiting City Hall. Each volunteer has access to an iPad equipped with maps and other information to assist visitors.



PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF PROGRAM

Boston homeowners age 60+ may "work off" up to \$2,000 from their property taxes by volunteering their skills & knowledge to one of the City's offices, community centers, or public schools.



AMERICORPS SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

Senior Companion volunteers age 55+ help older adults with everyday tasks like getting to appointments & shopping, as well as providing respite care to care partners. Some volunteers may qualify for a tax-free stipend.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

CALL 617-635-4366 OR VISIT [BOSTON.GOV/AGE-STRONG](https://boston.gov/age-strong)

Age Strong's Neighborhood PROGRAMMING

BCYF Holland Community Center

Wed & Fri | 10am-1pm
85 Olney Street, Dorchester
(617) 635-5144

East Boston Senior Center

Monday-Friday | 8:30am-4pm
7 Bayswater Street, East Boston
(617) 961-3131

Veronica B. Smith Senior Center

Monday-Friday | 8:30am-4pm
20 Chestnut Hill Avenue, Brighton
(617) 635-6120

Codman Square Library

Tuesdays/Thursdays | 10am-1pm
690 Washington St, Dorchester
(617) 436-8214

The Elks Lodge #10

In partnership with Ethos
Tues, Wed, Thurs | 9am-3pm
1 Morrell Street, West Roxbury
(617) 323-1125

Dewitt Center

Mon & Wed | 10:30am-3pm
122 Dewitt Drive, Roxbury
(617) 275-7080

Union Church

Tues & Thurs | 9am-1pm
485 Columbus Avenue,
South End
(617) 536-0872

Spontaneous Celebration

Tuesdays/Thursdays | 10am-1pm
45 Danforth St, Jamaica Plain
(617) 635-4250

