

## Scituate receives MassHousing grant funding

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The town of Scituate was awarded grant funding from MassHousing for the fiscal year 2017.

MassHousing is a quasi-governmental agency focused on affordable and sustainable home ownership. The agency is the hub of Massachusetts hoarding task forces, bringing together representatives from towns around the Commonwealth to seek ways to assist community members with addressing clutter or hoarding problems.

“Our team has met over the past three years to work on this important public health issue,” said Laura Minier, clinical social worker and Manager of Social Services. “I’m fortunate to work with a group of dedicated professionals who have created resources to assist residents impacted by clutter.”

Efforts to date have included a public education forum and panel discussion, “In Pursuit of a Life Less Cluttered,” in April 2016, a four week Clutter Reduction Support Group that met in June 2016, and three “Buried in Treasures” Clutter Reduction Support Groups that met in October 2016 through February 2017.

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 11, “Helping the Helpers: Supportive Approaches to Decluttering” will be presented at the Scituate Council on Aging, 27 Brook St. The evening will feature a screening of a short hoarding documentary, an overview of hoarding disorder, and the fundamentals of a coaching role in the context of hoarding and clutter reduction. Discussion will follow. Attendees will be provided with information about resources available on the South Shore and in the Boston area.

Beginning in late March, the Town will offer three new support groups – each structured to follow content in the book “Buried in Treasures – Help for Compulsive Acquiring, Saving, and Hoarding.” Two groups will be facilitator-led and the third will be peer-led.

The facilitated groups, “Buried in Treasures: Decluttering in Action,” will focus on goal setting, motivation and skill-building to curb acquiring and reduce clutter, and long-term success. These groups will meet every other week for eight sessions from March to June. An evening group will begin from 6:30 to 8 p.m. April 4 at the Scituate Senior Center. A daytime group will begin from 2:30 to 4 p.m. March 30 at St. Mary’s Parish Center, 2 Edward Foster Road. Groups will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis and will be offered free of charge. A number of Buried in Treasures books are available to borrow for the duration of the group sessions or the book may be purchased online

before the first group meeting. The groups are open to the entire south shore community.

To learn more information or enroll in a group, call Laura Minier, manager of Social Services, at 781-378-1653 or [lminier@scituatema.gov](mailto:lminier@scituatema.gov). Programs are co-sponsored by the Scituate Hoarding Response Team, MassHousing, and the Scituate Council on Aging.



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