

County Forum on Creating a More Aging-Friendly Community Ideas from June 26, 2013 Forum at McLean Community Center

Number of participants: 65

50+ Community forums were held across the county. The public was invited to participate in the process of developing the 2013/2014 50+ Action Plan. At most of the meetings, after a brief introductory session, the participants were invited to participate in two of five small group discussions focused on the following topics: Housing, Transportation, Community Engagement, Safe & Healthy Community, and Services. At the end of each small group session, the participants were asked to vote on the three ideas or initiatives that they thought were most important. The votes for particular ideas were totaled in the "Number of Votes" column of the forum data. Some smaller forum participants did not have the opportunity to vote.

TRANSPORTATION

COMMENTS	NUMBER OF VOTES
Provide a local bus service connecting neighborhoods (smaller buses on side streets/spoke system).	9
Provide better information on transportation alternatives.	8
Provide transport services to neighborhoods.	6
Raise/eliminate means testing for taxi vouchers.	5
Use school bus drivers for transportation during non-school hours.	4
Improve what's available when people can't drive.	4
Provide public transportation during non-peak hours.	3
Utilize meals-on-wheels drivers for other trips to grocery stores, doctors, etc.	3
Raise income ceiling for taxi vouchers, lower the ages accepted and provide more vouchers.	3
Create community bulletin boards both physical and on-line.	2
Make wider accessible parking spaces and provide more of them.	1
Prohibit snow being dumped in the accessible parking spaces.	1
Add more local bus routes that connect neighborhoods to the metro.	1
Have more volunteer drivers and develop a bartering system.	1
Develop neighbor helping neighbor system through community associations and schools.	1
Revise sliding scale for taxi vouchers.	0
Expand faith community bus use.	0

SERVICES (Group 1)

COMMENTS	NUMBER OF VOTES
Case management.	7
Have vetted contractors (handyman) that have a fair fee structure.	6
Provide assistance with applications. Have volunteers to assist in-person with completing forms.	5
Offer easier access to medical providers.	5
Channel 16 is available to promote services.	3
Pony express.	3
Create a hotline for advice on contractors and financial issues.	3
Offer a daily check-in service provided by churches and villages. Have local vendors.	2
Provide expanded daycare and health care.	2
Make available communications for non-computer literate individuals.	1

County Forum on Creating a More Aging-Friendly Community Ideas from June 26, 2013 Forum at McLean Community Center

SERVICES (Group 2)

COMMENTS	NUMBER OF VOTES
Have volunteers do small tasks such as lawn work and community services.	9
Consumer assistance is needed when individuals require privately provided services from service providers.	8
Encourage home owners associations to share information regarding neighbors using vendors.	7
Service clubs – home owners associations	3
Post information on bulletin boards in stores and pharmacies.	2
Willing to be friendly.	2
Home services for medication management need to be more flexible and have a less than 4 hour period requirement.	0

HOUSING (Group 1)

COMMENTS	NUMBER OF VOTES
Have concierge services with live conversation for people at home.	5
Provide senior housing with services for middle income as well as low income. Prevent isolation and loss of mobility.	4
Create "Pocket Neighborhoods" with easy access to shopping, parks, medical, etc.	3
Simplify information provided on websites e.g. Set it up so that you can type in your zip code and get access to local information.	3
Set aside 3% of new developments for low income housing for seniors.	3
Hoarding triggers ejection of residents. We need volunteers that can intervene prior to ejection.	2
Retrofit existing homes for accessibility (Home fit/AARP).	1
Provide ongoing education seminars.	0

HOUSING (Group 2)

COMMENTS	NUMBER OF VOTES
Current inventory of housing is not accessible or a single floor plan.	4
Home share/Shared housing: Match people with others that have space (4 or less unrelated people).	4
The county should pay home owners to house homeless people in their homes.	4
Provide information about downsizing – how to make that transition/how to approach it.	3
Build intergenerational housing.	2
Create villages. McLean has overall group hoping to have multiple street villages – promotes socialization, learning and recreation.	2
Seniors prefer one-on-one contact.	1

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SAFE & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

COMMENTS	NUMBER OF VOTES
Create "Friendship Cafés." Have game afternoons/nights for beginner, intermediate and advanced players.	5
Create socialization through technology to empower those who are depressed or alone.	4
Have a volunteer driver or a program seniors pay into.	3
Through the village concept provide opportunities for seniors to build relationships.	1
How do people who are non-tech savvy find out about utilization and learning options?	1
Create a virtual bulletin board.	0
Create a TGIF for mature, engaged, active adults "Older Hotties."	1
Leverage marketing programs that are already in the community.	1

County Forum on Creating a More Aging-Friendly Community Ideas from June 26, 2013 Forum at McLean Community Center

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SAFE & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

COMMENTS	NUMBER OF VOTES
Bridge the communication gaps with languages like Vietnamese.	0
Reduce the stigma around senior centers and improve transportation.	0
Depression is evident at senior centers and de-stimulating participants.	0
Improve negative stigma around the elderly.	0
Create intergenerational interaction.	4
Have volunteers include networking and fun activities.	2
Upgrade the quality of instructors who are invested in senior engagement at senior centers and other facilities.	2
Have volunteers give back to the community by volunteering.	1