A Call to Action: Fairfax 50+ Community Forums

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Please consider sharing any additional comments you may have on Creating a More Older-Adult Friendly Community by contacting DFSCommunity@fairfaxcounty.gov or calling 703-324-5411, TTY 711.

For information on services, recreational activities and engagement opportunities for older adults, call our Aging, Disability and Caregiver Resource Line at 703-324-7948, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

At this web page you can also subscribe to our e-newsletters, Fairfax 50+ E-news and Caregiver Corner Online, as well as our monthly Golden Gazette newspaper.
**Housing and Transportation Options**

**Community Strengths**
- The county has increased affordable housing and transportation options.
- The county’s growth strategy promotes pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods with easy access to shopping, recreation and transportation.

**Community Challenges**
- Most housing units lack universal design features and require retrofitting as residents age.
- Transportation alternatives are limited.
- Most neighborhoods lack sidewalks that access shopping and services.

**Possible Actions**
- Partner with realtors and builders to promote universal design.
- Work with county agencies to promote livable community planning.
- Partner with nonprofit groups and businesses to provide home modifications for people with disabilities.
- Annually report on efforts to coordinate and expand transportation options for older adults.
- Support the development of a Shared Housing program.

**Easy Access to Services**

**Community Strengths**
- The county plans across agencies to deliver an array of services for older adults and family caregivers and uses multiple channels to promote service awareness.

**Community Challenges**
- People wait to seek service information until there is a crisis.
- Older adults and caregivers want information about services provided by community organizations.
- With fewer younger workers, businesses must retain older workers and employees who are family caregivers.

**Possible Actions**
- Continue to support community village networks and the Neighbors Helping Neighbors concept.
- Encourage involvement of local businesses to
  - volunteer in the community;
  - develop initiatives to enhance services;
  - support their own caregiving employees, and;
  - develop flexible work policies to retain older workers.
- Promote the use of technology for health, safety and communication.

**Healthy Lifestyles and Community Engagement Opportunities**

**Community Strengths**
- The county has made significant progress in promoting older adult safety, healthy life style choices and opportunities for participation in community activities.

**Community Challenges**
- The number of health and mental health geriatric specialists is inadequate.
- There is a shortage of nurses and caregivers for older adults.
- Older adults need more opportunities to participate in social, recreational, educational and civic activities.

**Possible Actions**
- Encourage a nonprofit to establish an interactive virtual community for older adults and caregivers.
- Encourage creative opportunities, lifelong learning, and multigenerational engagement activities.
- Promote educational activities about elder abuse, domestic violence, and crime prevention.
- Develop a media campaign to promote a Lifelong Community.

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**Forecast for Ages 50 - 80+ in Fairfax County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ages 50-59</th>
<th>Ages 60-69</th>
<th>Ages 70-79</th>
<th>Ages 80+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>142,637</td>
<td>76,259</td>
<td>36,630</td>
<td>19,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>164,384</td>
<td>116,194</td>
<td>72,095</td>
<td>33,087</td>
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</tbody>
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**The Vision: Older Adults will have . . .**