

OAKLAND MILLS LONGEVITY EXPLORERS CORNER

It has been some time since I have last done a Senior Corner. "Senior" is now passe since the Howard County Government has rebranded its Senior Centers as 50+ Centers. Their research has shown that the Boomer generation dislikes the "Senior" description. I have moved in the same direction using the Longevity Explorers description as positive branding. Too many folks use "Aging in Place" which implies that you are stuck in place. Aging itself is perceived as a negative by the general population. So a new description for the 60+ era is needed.

For all of us that are afraid of or would like to use smart phones and tablets, I have discovered that AARP has on its web site interactive instruction that can be done at your own pace. The link is <http://aarptek.aarp.org/tablets-phones>

The CA Senior Advisory Committee (SAC) (yes we need to change the name) has been very active for the past year. We have testified sometimes successfully and sometimes not regarding the new CA budget. This is real money so it matters. We supported a dedicated Pickle Ball court in the proposed new Tennis facility in Long Reach. CA Board did not agree. I want to remind readers that the CA Board adopted an Older Adult Plan in April, 2014. We asked that CA hire a full time person for older adult issues but we will only get a half time person per the proposed budget. We also asked that both CA and Howard County utilize the University of Maryland Erickson School to review and advise on older adult issues since they are close by in Catonsville and deal with older adult issues. This has yet to happen. CA has supported The Village in Howard thru annual grants which we did recommend in the Older Adult Plan.

The Howard County Office on Aging (OA) recently released the "Creating an Age Friendly Community" (Plan). A presentation of the Plan was made by Starr Sowers Administrator of the OA to the SAC. The presentation is attached.

As some of you may know, I am also on the Oakland Mills Board and the Howard County Citizens Association Board (HCCA). HCCA sponsored an "Aging in the Community" Forum in 2013 (video available on www.howardcountyhcca.org), We have another Forum scheduled for April 16, Saturday, from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM at Slayton House in Wilde Lake. The Forum is free but you need to get a ticket thru Evenbrite since we have limited seating and this allows us to keep a count. The Flier is attached with info on where to get a ticket. You may also sign up thru the HCCA web site www.howardcountyhcca.org

This is an innovative format since we have gathered experts from Howard County who are experiencing the Longevity Bonus Years. It should be pretty informative. We have plenty of time for questions from the audience.

If you have any questions related to Longevity Explorers issues, please feel free to contact me at verchinski@yahoo.com. If you are interested, the SAC meets monthly usually on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 2:30 PM. The meetings are open but they are held in different locations so check CA's web site for the location. The April 21 meeting will be held at the Hobbit's Glen Golf Clubhouse.