

OAKLAND MILLS LONGEVITY EXPLORERS CORNER.

By Paul Verchinski, Oakland Mills CA Senior Advisory Committee Liaison

At the July meeting of the CA Senior Advisory Committee, we received updates on two items: pickle ball courts and The Loan Closet. There are now two pickle ball courts located in back of the Columbia Ice Rink. The tennis courts have been repurposed for pickle ball. There is also a Howard County Pickle Ball Association that has about 150 members. They use both CA and County pickle ball courts.

The Loan Closet gave us an update on their work. They accept for reuse and you can get items such as: bathing aids, canes, wheelchairs, ramps, stair glides, walkers, etc. My wife recently had her friend break her ankle and lower leg and secured a walker for her. The Loan Closet is located in the Long Reach Village Center. They are open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday (9 - 4PM). They have processed over 5,000 items over the past year. The Loan Closet is looking for volunteers to clean donated equipment. You can volunteer for a few hours by registering at www.hocovolunteer.org.

As many of you know, the Howard County Aging in Place Property Tax Credit (AIPC) filing was extended to September 1. I submitted the required information in April and just got my property tax bill. The bottom of the bill showed the deduction for the AIPC. What I did not realize is that if you pay the CA annual assessment, you can also get a reduced CA assessment. (see #11 on the back of your bill from CA). I have submitted a copy of my Howard County Tax Bill to CA. You can send a copy in to CA or bring it in and they will make a copy at the CA reception desk. Do not pay the CA bill if you have received a property tax credit since CA prefers not to have to issue rebate checks. CA will send you a revised bill and you have 30 days to pay the revised bill. Apparently, CA uses some factor since I received a 20% reduction for the AIPC, but only a 13.5% reduction from CA. You need to apply every year to CA to get the reduction.

Just a reminder that Howard County has three property tax credits that help older adults to continue living in this high cost County. The AIPC, the Livable Homes Property Tax Credit - up to \$2500 annually (helps one to make changes to your house - a necessity since most homes are 2 story), and the 25% Senior Tax Credit (this credit is income dependent and can not be combined with the AIPC). To check your eligibility, the County on June 29 has a new on line tool that asks you questions (taxcredits.howardcountymd.gov). All of these County credits will also reduce your CA assessment, but you need to apply.