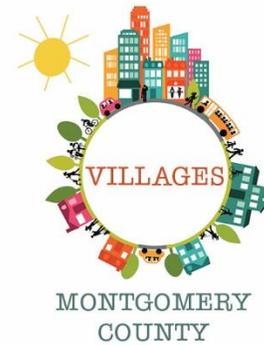


February 14, 2019

To: County Executive Marc Elrich
Councilmembers Andrew Friedson and Evan Glass

cc: Councilmembers Gabe Albornoz, Tom Hucker, Will
Jawando, Sidney Katz, Nancy Navarro, Craig Rice, Hans
Riemer



The many senior villages in Montgomery County thank each of you for meeting with us February 8 and 10 at our village meetings. We hope we were able to explain how through our grassroots work we have become an essential partner with the County – filling the gaps in serving seniors throughout the County with programming to combat social isolation, and providing in-home services and rides to allow seniors to remain in their homes and communities. Please allow us to further introduce ourselves to every Councilmember.

Montgomery County has 32 aging-in-place-villages operating or in development, which operate as non-profit organizations with very limited resources other than the power of their volunteers and thin staffing. Each village is unique based on the needs of its community, but all are grassroots nonprofits, started by neighbors working together. These villages represent the 20-30% of Montgomery County’s senior population, and their numbers are projected to keep growing.¹ Older adults’ health care and support needs are significant, with a large number living alone and experiencing social isolation and loneliness that affects their mental and physical health.

We are fortunate to have a growing number of villages in our County to help improve the quality of life of our seniors. Our villages provide a vehicle for intergenerational connections and enable seniors to continue being valuable and contributing members of their communities.

Through networks of volunteers we provide seniors with direct services such as:

- rides to medical appointments, to visit friends, to classes, to religious functions and to shop,
- help with small repairs and technology questions at home, and meals and assistance when returning from the hospital,
- ongoing group activities to combat social isolation like exercise classes, walking groups, game groups, fitness and educational classes,
- planned social outings, including to gardens, museums and theaters, and
- consultation on issues such as safety, living arrangements and the need for professional assistance.

We share resources for seniors and partner with other local organizations or providers, religious institutions, and County libraries and recreation centers to provide programming and connect

¹ The Montgomery County Trends Report, issued January 2019, notes that the County’s 65+ population is projected to increase from 77,500 in 1990 to 218,000 in 2030.

seniors with their community. Collectively, Montgomery County villages connected seniors with many thousands of rides, social contacts and in-home services last year.

These direct support services supplement County services and we are all proud to be able to partner with the County in this way. Our volunteer hours represent hundreds of thousands of dollars. To effectively operate, we rely on the support of the County in the form of County office or meeting space in libraries and community centers, County grants, and the leadership and assistance of the County Village Coordinator Pazit Aviv. With continued support, villages will continue to grow and serve more seniors, leading to vibrant inter-generational communities throughout the County.

We look forward to answering any questions about how we can effectively partner with the County moving forward. Thank you for your time.

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Bethesda Metro Area Village, Elizabeth Haile, Executive Director, director@bmavillage.org

Bradley Hills Village, Roberta Biegel, Vice President, robertabiegel@gmail.com

Burning Tree Village, Rhoda Barish, President, Board@BurningTreeVillage.org

Chevy Chase At Home, Catherine McCallum, Executive Director,

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Little Falls Village, Lisa Rosenthal, Executive Director, info@littlefallsvillage.org

Manor Connections, Barbara Emanuele, President, info@manorconnections.org

Maplewood Village, Mary Jo Deering, President, mdeering@starpower.net

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Potomac Community Village, Eddie Rivas, Director, info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org

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Villages of Kentlands and Lakelands, Fran Randolph, Chair of Planning Committee,

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