

# THE 50+ Connection

NEWS and EVENTS from the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence

Department of Community Resources and Services

Volume 7, No. 7 • July 2017

## The Loan Closet Helps Residents Age in Place

Faye and Paul Greene are one of many couples in Howard County whose lives have been positively impacted by the availability of durable medical equipment through the Loan Closet. The couple recently shared their story in a video with County Executive Allan H. Kittleman and Aging in Place (AIP) Program Manager Mary Becker. “The Loan Closet has made it possible for my husband to get around the house much more easily,” says Faye Greene. “Plus, having a stair glide installed enabled Paul to go up and down the stairs whenever he wants.” (View the video at [www.howardcountymd.gov/loancloset](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/loancloset).)

Since moving to a new, larger facility in the Long Reach Village Center in May 2016, the Loan Closet has served over 2,000 individuals and handled 5,000 pieces of donated equipment. The most popular items are transport wheelchairs, tub transfer benches, and commodes.

“The response from the community has been fantastic,” says Mary Becker. “This success is not just about a piece of equipment. The Greenes represent many aspects of being helped by the Aging in Place team, including home modifications consultations by our contractor/retrofit specialist, a home safety visit by an occupational therapist and Senior Care in-home aide assistance, in addition to equipment from the Loan Closet.” Loan Closet staff take the time to educate families about finding solutions to make their homes more accessible, the proper use of assistive equipment, and how to modify tasks to allow Howard County homeowners options to

safely remain in their homes. Please call 410-313-0363 to make an appointment and discuss your specific needs.

Community support continues to play a key role in the Loan Closet’s success. Many Howard County residents in need of medical equipment may not be able to afford these items, or they may only need equipment for a short period of time, while others have medical equipment they no longer need. The Loan Closet brings these two communities of people together.

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### A Message from Howard County Executive **Allan H. Kittleman**

Earlier this Spring, I announced that the deadline for residents applying for a tax credit designed to assist them “age in place” has been extended to September 1, 2017. As of May 12, the

county had received 1,374 applications for the credit.

I extended the deadline because there are many residents still interested in taking advantage of this credit and because of a change made by the state legislature to expand those who qualify as retired military.

As they age, Howard County’s older adults and retired military deserve the opportunity to remain in the homes where they built their lives and raised their families. This tax credit lessens their tax burden, giving them greater financial flexibility and incentive to stay in their homes longer.

Residents are eligible for the Aging-In-Place Tax Credit if they are 65 or older and have either lived in their dwelling for 40 years or are a retired member of the military. The credit may be granted for up to five years as long as the property owner remains qualified. The Aging-in-Place Tax Credit provides a 20 percent tax credit on up to \$500,000 of assessed property value. A property owner cannot receive this credit and the Senior Tax Credit simultaneously.

While new applications won’t be processed in time for the credit to appear on the initial billing mailed on July 1, amended bills will be mailed to qualified homeowners. If payment has already been made, a refund will be generated.

As the county’s older adult population continues to grow rapidly, I want to assure you that I have their best interests at heart. We will continue to examine available options to help all residents live well and thrive in our community for as long as possible. Have a happy and healthy summer!



AIP Occupational Therapist, Carly Shilling (right) and RetroFit Specialist, Chris Muller (left), assist Howard County resident and Loan Closet client, Paul Greene, with the stair glide simulator. Home modification/safety consultations and equipment demos are available on site at the Loan Closet by appointment.

# Is That “Home For Rent” for REAL or Another Scam?

By Rebecca Bowman, Administrator, Howard County Office of Consumer Protection

This summer, millions of Americans are planning to move to a new rental home or apartment. They may be recent college graduates looking for their first home or parents who wait for summer break to minimize disruption for their school-aged children. It can be an exciting time, but you need to be careful not to fall victim to a fraudulent rental scam.

## How the Scam Works

You search for an apartment or house using a listing website such as Craigslist or Zillow. When you find one that's of interest, you contact the listed owner or representative. The contact patiently answers questions, negotiates the price and goes over who is responsible for maintenance. They have you sign a lease and request a security deposit and one month's rent. Once you pay, however, they disappear and you realize that there was never an actual home to rent. In some cases, victims have arrived with a moving truck at their new home only to find out that the listing was fictitious, their money is gone and they have no place to go.

Fraudsters are pros at making rental listings appear legitimate and providing the details necessary to gain your confidence. Some rip off actual apartment listings so that the pictures, addresses, and details of the unit all check out.

## Tips to Avoid Being Scammed

- Never pay a security deposit or first month's rent by wire transfer, pre-paid debit card or gift card. Such payments are no different than paying cash, rendering them impossible to trace, and leaving you little recourse if you fall victim to this scam.
- Don't pay for anything before you see the inside of the rental unit. Many scammers will come up with convenient excuses, so insist on seeing the unit before you pay. If the landlord or representative hesitates or refuses, it is very likely a scam.
- If you are moving to a new area and cannot visit before the move, ask a friend to look at the apartment. If you don't know anyone nearby and cannot inspect your new home before paying a deposit, do some research on the listing agent or the management company.
- Be wary of leasing an apartment from a long-distance point of contact and/or one that offers to mail you the key once they receive payment. This is a red flag of a scam. Communication will suddenly end once they receive your money.
- If you suspect that you have become a victim, report it immediately to the Howard County Office of Consumer Protection by email at [consumer@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:consumer@howardcountymd.gov) or by phone at 410-313-6420 (voice/relay).

For more information on this or other consumer topics, or to request this publication in an alternative format, contact the Howard County Office of Consumer Protection at 410-313-6420.

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

### QUESTIONS? DISPUTES?

IDENTITY THEFT • LANDLORD/TENANT • FINANCIAL ABUSE • FRAUD SCAMS • SECURITY DEPOSITS • PRODUCTS • SERVICES



Howard County Office of  
**Consumer Protection**

6751 Columbia Gateway Dr., Columbia 21046

PHONE **410-313-6420** (VOICE/RELAY)

EMAIL **[consumer@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:consumer@howardcountymd.gov)**



[www.howardcountymd.gov/consumer](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/consumer)

## Loan Closet

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“Our staff and volunteers work together to make every day a little easier, and a little more affordable for those in need,” says Vanessa Hughes, Loan Closet coordinator. “We are always looking for volunteers to clean, inspect and repair donated medical equipment.” Volunteers must be 18 or older; if interested, contact Karen Giese at 410-313-0363 or email [kgiese@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kgiese@howardcountymd.gov).

With support from its community partners, including the Way Station, Rotary Club of Columbia and Rebuilding Together, the Loan Closet will continue to provide refurbished equipment and resources for older adults, caregivers, children and adults with disabilities to improve their overall quality of life.

The Loan Closet is located in the Long Reach Village Center, 8775 Cloudleap Court, Suite #11, in Columbia. The hours of operation are Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and by appointment. To verify equipment availability, call 410-313-0363 in advance or email [loancloset@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:loancloset@howardcountymd.gov).

## Share the of Your 4-legged Friend!

If you are interested in volunteering, or wish to receive a FREE evaluation for your pet, contact:

**Ingrid Gleysteen**, program coordinator  
410-313-7461 • [igleysteen@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:igleysteen@howardcountymd.gov)

**July 6 • 7 to 9 PM**



**Howard County  
Paws 4  
Comfort**

Touching Hearts... One Visit at a Time

**Bain 50+ Center**

**5470 Ruth Keeton Way  
Columbia 21044**



Howard County Office on  
**Aging and Independence**

The 50+ Connection is published monthly by the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence.

This publication is available in alternate formats upon request. To join our subscriber list, email [kahenry@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kahenry@howardcountymd.gov)

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# Be a **FRIEND** of the **50+EXPO!**

## Sign Up TODAY to Receive Your **FRIEND OF THE EXPO** Gift Package!

- One **RESERVED** seat for "The Capitol Steps" (11 a.m.)
- One **ADMISSION** ticket to the 50+EXPO!
- One **EXCLUSIVE** "Friends" raffle ticket for a grand prize basket of goodies!
- A "Friends" **RECOGNITION** badge to wear at EXPO!
- Only \$20/person

A portion of the proceeds from **Friends of the EXPO** will benefit the Vivian Reid Community Fund.

**Thank you for your support!**

Become a Friend of the EXPO today!

Contact **Jeanne Davis** at 410-313-6410 or [jwhitedavis@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jwhitedavis@howardcountymd.gov)

**Seniors Together**  
CONNECT • LEARN • GROW

**SUMMER LUNCHEON**

Thursday, July 20 • 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**EGGSPECTION**

6010 University Blvd., Ellicott City 21043

\$21/person includes soda, tea or coffee and gratuity, plus raffle drawings!

RSVP NO LATER THAN JULY 13 to Elaine Widom

410-313-7353 (VOICE/RELAY) • [ewidom@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ewidom@howardcountymd.gov)



Saturday, September 9 • 10 am to 3 pm

**North Laurel Community Center**

9411 Whiskey Bottom Road, Laurel 20723

For vulnerable adults (18 and older) who would otherwise not have access to quality, affordable treatment.

**INFO: Miriam Bennett at 410-313-6028** (VOICE/RELAY) OR [mbennett@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mbennett@howardcountymd.gov)



## Don't Miss the 2017 Howard County 50+EXPO!

Friday, October 20  
9 am - 4 pm

Wilde Lake High School  
5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia, MD 21044

**Preparedness**  
**Information**  
**Education**

**\$1 ADMISSION**  
to benefit the Vivian Reid  
Community Fund

- 170+ Exhibitors
- Engaging Seminars
- Lively Entertainment
- Dynamic Presentations
- Flu Shots and Health Screenings
- Resources for All Stages and Ages



410-313-6410 (VOICE/RELAY)  
[www.howardcountymd.gov/aging](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aging)

#HoCoEXP017  
[facebook.com/HoCoCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/HoCoCommunity)

## SENIOR DAY AT THE FAIR

### Howard County Fair 2017

**FREE ADMISSION** for **ADULTS 62+**  
**Tuesday, August 8 • 10 am to 3 pm**

**VISIT the ACTIVITIES BUILDING**  
for **FUN THINGS to DO... RAIN OR SHINE!**

- Healthy Aging Programs
- County Services Information
- Demos and Entertainment
- Bingo, Games and Prizes

**JOIN US FOR  
SOME FUN  
AT THE FAIR!**



**Howard County Office on  
Aging and Independence**  
[www.howardcountymd.gov/aging](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aging)

# Howard County 50+ Centers CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

**JULY 2017**

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Go to [www.howardcountymd.gov/50pluscenters](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/50pluscenters) for a complete list of events, programs and services.

## Bain 50+ Center

**Tuesday, July 11 • 11:00 a.m. — Omega Phi Psi's Connecting with the Community Party**

Meet the fraternity brothers at their annual party featuring live music, entertainment and door prize drawings. Lunch will be served; nominal donation applies. Reserve lunch by July 5 at 410-313-7213.

**Tuesday, July 18 • 10:00 a.m. — Opera Goes to Hell, Part 1**

Dr. Sam Stern's two-part opera series will focus on operas of the well-known Faustian legend. \$13/person; register by July 13 at 410-313-7213.

**Wednesday, July 19 • 1:00 p.m. — The Social Security Administration (SSA) Concert Band**

This concert band features 35 current and retired SSA employees, other federal agencies and the private sector, led by Director David Silberberg. Enjoy concert band music including marches, show tunes, jazz, and more. Light refreshments served. FREE. RSVP to 410-313-7213.

## East Columbia 50+ Center

**Wednesdays, July 19 to August 9 • 1:00 p.m. — Astrology: Personality and Soul**

Join Linda Furiate to understand your nature through Astrology; use the elements to learn about your inner emotional nature and what makes you unique. \$43/person; register: 410-313-7680.

**Wednesday, July 19 • 10:30 a.m. — Summer Floral Design**

Create a floral display using the bounty of your summer garden under the guidance of a local garden club. \$5/person; register at 410-313-7680.

**Tuesday, July 25 • 7:00 p.m. — World Language Café**

Experience an evening of conversation and culture. Speak a language you know or one you are learning at 17 different tables. FREE. Register at 410-313-7680.

## Elkridge 50+ Center

Temporary Location: 5660 Furnace Avenue, Elkridge 21075

**Friday, July 7 • 10:30 a.m. — Independence Day Fish Fry**

Celebrate America's independence with a fresh fish fry with all your favorite side dishes. Enjoy music, plus games and prizes after lunch. \$3/person plus lunch donation. Register at 410-313-5192.

**Friday, July 14 • 11:00 a.m. —**

**Let's Dish: Cucumber Veggie Salad**

Our nutrition specialist will create a healthy, summer lunch. Watch and learn how to prepare a new dish for the hot summer months. FREE; donations accepted. Register at 410-313-5192.

**Tuesday, July 18 • 10:00 a.m. — Free Hearing Screenings**

Hearing loss is common as we age, but there are things you can do to help prevent it. Learn about hearing loss, risk factors and treatment, and get a free hearing screening. Register at 410-313-5192.

## Ellicott City 50+ Center

**Friday, July 14 • 1:30 p.m. — Greeting Card 101**

**Friday, July 21 • 1:30 p.m. — Card Crafting: Quilt Cards**

Beginner and advanced paper crafters will create handmade greeting cards in these classes. \$9 per class + \$3 supply fee. Register at 410-313-1400.

**Wednesday, July 19 • 11:00 a.m. — The Aging Eye**

Older adults are at a higher risk of developing age-related eye diseases. Join Andrew Hammer, MD, ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon from Baltimore Washington Eye Center to learn more. FREE. Register at 410-313-1400.

**Tuesday, July 25 • 12:30 p.m. — Desert Echoes**

Seth Kibel, an award-winning woodwind specialist, and Tom Teasley, a globe-trotting percussionist will present a unique musical collaboration, as well as discuss their varied instruments and musical backgrounds. FREE. Register: 410-313-1400.

## Glenwood 50+ Center

**Friday, July 7 • 11:00 a.m. — Astronomy Talk**

Join Dr. Joel Goodman to learn about the Great American Solar Eclipse coming up on Monday, August 21. Find out what causes a solar eclipse and where to go to safely view one. FREE. Register at 410-313-5440.

**Wednesday, July 19 • 10:00 a.m. —**

**Civil War Series: Women in the Civil War**

Professor Jenny McClendon will discuss how women participated in the Civil War. FREE. Register at 410-313-5440.

**Friday, July 21 • 10:00 a.m. — John Brown's Raid**

Join National Park Service Ranger Brad Berger for an informative discussion about John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry, West Virginia during the Civil War. FREE. Register at 410-313-5440.

## North Laurel 50+ Center

**Wednesday, July 12 • 11:00 a.m. — 4<sup>th</sup> of July Summer Jam**

Celebrate Independence Day with a Paul McCartney tribute, performed by award-winning musician, Jed Duvall. Special lunch to follow. \$3/person plus lunch contribution. Register at 410-313-0380.

**Tuesday, July 11 and Thursday, July 13 • 1:00 p.m. —**

**Anything Goes Clay Workshop**

Learn clay hand-building and sculpting techniques as you explore ideas to create a one-of-a-kind piece. \$45 (includes materials). Register at 410-313-0380.

**Tuesday, July 11 • 10:00 a.m. — Know Your Numbers**

Find out what your blood pressure numbers are; learn about healthy and unhealthy ranges, and the difference between systolic and diastolic pressure. FREE; presented by a registered nurse. Register at 410-313-0380.



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