Supporting Older Adults in Our Community

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What is a Village?

- The village model helps join community members together by coordinating neighbor-helping-neighbor volunteerism focused on strengthening older residents' community connections and offering them assistance accessing available services and supports.

- The "village movement" celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2022. It began in Boston in 2002, when a group of older adults organized around the common goal of remaining in their own homes and staying engaged in social activities within their neighborhood. There are approximately 300 villages nationwide

- A village is <u>NOT</u> a replacement of existing local government services/supports, home health care providers or other existing community services .

DC, Maryland, Virginia Village Stats

- 20 Villages: State of Virginia (incl. 9 NOVA Villages- Fairfax, Fairfax City, Arlington, Alexandria)

- 17 Villages: District of Columbia

- 43 Villages: State of Maryland

Why the City Created the Fairfax Village

- According to 2025 data, approximately 30% of the city's pop are 50 or older.

- 1500 City housing units have been owned by a single owner for 25+ years.

- Village provides a low barrier, community-connected, low-cost option to supporting city residents "aging-in-place".

- *"While 76% of Americans ages 50 and older say they prefer to remain in   their current resident or community as long as possible, just 59% anticipate they will be able to do so." (2018 AARP Survey).*

- *Pandemic lessons learned.*

Fairfax Village in the City Mission Statement

This joint effort of City staff and community volunteers will assist residents aged 55 and up and those with disabilities to age-in-place within the City of Fairfax community. To that end, the village works to build personal connections between neighbors, share useful information, and facilitate access to area services.

Fairfax Village in the City Operational Structure

- Parent sponsored organization (city=parent)

- Full time Village Coordinator. Coordinator is City of Fairfax employee.

- City provides "back-office support" of Village along.

- Advisory Board (3 at appointed at large members/ up to 15 member

- Membership is free to City of Fairfax residents

- Volunteers are recruited and vetted.

- Relationship with NV Rides/ Ride Scheduler platform (COG- Enhanced Mobility Program grant funds Jewish Community Center/NV Rides)

Stakeholders Included in the Village Advisory Board

- City Council Member (Stacey Hardy-Chandler)
- Young at Heart Senior Center member representative
- Commission for Women representative
- City representative to the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging (COA)
- A representative of a nonprofit organization whose mission is outreach and service in the Fairfax area
- City representative to the Coordinating Council on Aging and Adults with Disabilities (CCAAD)
- Representative from local business community (Central Chamber of Commerce)
- Representative from faith-based community
- 3 At-Large Resident Members (appointed by City Council

How Community Volunteers Support Our Members

- ✓ Rides/transportation to medical services, grocery shopping or appointments.
- ✓ Checking in with other seniors by phone and/or home visit.
- ✓ Simple home repairs; such as, changing a hard-to-reach light bulb, fixing a leaky toilet, replacing a protruding floor tile, etc.
- ✓ Technology assistance (computer, tablet, phone).
- ✓ Basic yard work.
- ✓ Assistance with organizing/downsizing.
- ✓ Educational information/opportunities.
- ✓ Social activities.

Fairfax Village in the City Impact (March 2024-April 2025)

As of April 2025:

- The Fairfax Village has 131 members (current)

- The Fairfax Village has 60 vetted volunteers (current)

- Volunteer service requests: 501 (year)

- Mileage Driven by Volunteers: 1736 miles (year)

- Volunteer Hours: 1568 hours (year)

- Total Value of Volunteer Time*: $54,551 (year)

  Based on $34.79/hour- *2024 Independent Sector estimate

Value of Developing a "Village"

- Coordination with Adult Protective Services/Area on Aging.
- Frequent 911 callers (Community Respond Team).
- Internal City Staff Concerns (Treasurer, Code Administration, Fire Department.
- Coordination with concerned residents and out-of-area family members.
- Calls to Human Services Department. (opportunities for service connection)
- Social connections matter!!!!!!
- "*Economically efficient model for aging*"

Resources for Villages:

- Village-to-Village Network
  www.vtvvnetwork.org

- WAVE (Washington Area Villages Exchange
  www.wavevillages.com

- Virginia Villages Collective

QUESTIONS
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