THE 50+ Connection
NEWS & EVENTS
Howard County Office on Aging and Independence
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Giving back yields benefits for OAI Volunteers


Walter Seymour, pictured above, has been a volunteer at the Elkridge 50+ Center for more than 20 years.

Volunteering is a powerful way for older adults to enhance their quality of life, improve their health and foster meaningful connections within their communities. Engaging in volunteer work can support a fulfilling and active lifestyle that benefits both themselves and those they serve. "Older adults in Howard County use their lifelong skills and experiences to make an impact in our community," says Chanelle Hinton, Volunteer Coordinator for the Department of Community Resources and Services and its offices. "Whether you're great at organizing, mentoring, technology, or simply being a friendly face, your unique skills matter."

For over two decades, Walter Seymour has volunteered with the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence (OAI), primarily at the Elkridge 50+ Center, sharing his 32 years of experience in the electronics industry and offering one-on-one support to older adults with devices like tablets, phones and laptops. As a Senior Planet instructor for the past three years, he now volunteers at other centers as well. According to OAI Digital Inclusion Specialist, Malarie Burgess, "Walter is truly a rockstar when it comes to teaching his peers all about confidence with technology."

"Bridging the gap between the 50+ population and the digital world can be challenging at times," Walter acknowledges. "It's important to meet each individual where they are and guide them to better understand technology and build their digital literacy. We celebrate their learning milestones together to boost their confidence," he says.

Walter leads Senior Planet classes on smartphone training (iPhone and Android), basic computer and tablet skills, operating systems (Windows, Mac, Chromebooks), digital photo editing, and other topics, including drone safety and regulations related to flying them, a personal interest of his. He works with Elkridge staff to plan and promote future programming and recruits other tech volunteers, working closely with them to offer mutual support and provide backup as needed.

"It is personally gratifying to me to enhance the lives of older adults in our community through technology," says Walter. "And it's personally rewarding to help strengthen OAI's support for older adults in our community, fighting isolation through companionship. In return, I gain a sense of purpose, increased social connection, improved mental/physical health, and enjoy opportunities to share my skill set with others."

There are many ways to volunteer, with different time commitments and roles to fit your schedule and interests. Read the current issue of DCRS' Volunteer Vibe newsletter to learn more about sharing your time and talents. For current opportunities, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/DCRSvolunteers.

From the desk of Calvin Ball, Howard County Executive



As more Howard County residents live longer, healthier lives, affordable and diverse housing becomes an even more vital need for our population. I recently signed into law CB3-2026, which expands opportunities for the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs). ADUs include small, detached cottages, garage apartments, townhome basement units and in-law suites.

Passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2025, House Bill (HB) 1466 required counties and municipalities to adopt local laws by October 1, 2026 authorizing the development of ADUs on qualifying properties, subject to specific requirements. We are well ahead of the State's deadline.

Furthermore, CB3-2026 builds upon the recommendations outlined in our Department of Planning and Zoning's (DPZ) HoCo By Design and the Department of Housing and Community Development's Housing Opportunities Master Plan. This legislation allows single family homeowners to either construct attached and detached ADUs or renovate existing space to accommodate an attached ADU, in various residential zoning districts.

Whether a first-time homebuyer, a community member in need of flexible living arrangements, or an older adult looking for a way to age in place, CB3-2026 allows for the creation of these smaller, lower-cost homes that meet residents where they are. This legislation is just one more way we are fulfilling our commitment to making Howard County the best place to live for all.

HOCO HOME SHARE

Glenwood 50+ Center
April 9, 2 – 3:30 p.m. | A03620.702

HoCo Home Share connects homeowners with an extra room with individuals seeking a place to live and promotes home sharing as a practical solution to address housing challenges and foster community connections. Join **Bridges to Housing Stability** to explore the benefits of home sharing and learn how to participate in the program.

April Events at Howard County 50+ Centers

Using Candlesticks Stock Analysis Charts

Glenwood 50+ Center

1st Mondays starting April 7, 3 – 4:30 p.m. | A03667.700

Explore stock analysis strategies with Candlesticks technical indicators and volume. Understand how candlestick charts offer visual clarity of price action, reveal market sentiment & psychology, track trend reversals or continuations, and more.

Improving Your Balance as You Age

Ellicott City 50+ Fitness Center

April 9, noon – 1 p.m. | A02201.701

Dr. Tammi Ford leads a free seminar to help aging adults improve balance through simple, practical exercises that can be done anywhere. Learn easy, hands-on techniques to strengthen stability, prevent falls and build confidence in everyday movement.

Showtime Singers

Bain 50+ Center

April 11, noon – 1 p.m. | A01541.700

The ShowTime Singers choral group is celebrating 23 years of high-quality, crowd-pleasing performances of songs audiences know and love, from Broadway and movies to jazz, blues, pop, and rock and roll. Call 410-313-7213 to register.

Fight Fraud: AARP Shred It Community Event

North Laurel 50+ Center

April 22, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Register: bit.ly/HoCo-AARP-Shred



OAI is partnering with AARP Fraud Watch NetworkTM to help protect you from identity theft. Just drive up, unload up to two large boxes and your documents will be shredded on-site, free of charge (no businesses). Questions? Call 877-926-8300.

Creating A New You

East Columbia 50+ Center

April 22, 2 – 4:30 p.m. | A04818.700

Join personal stylist Lita McKoy to refresh, refine, and reimagine your current wardrobe. Discover how to transform what you already own into a sophisticated new look. Bring one clothing item from your closet to restyle or accessorize.

Howard County
Office on Aging and Independence

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Senior Planet Presents: iPad Basics Workshop

Elkridge 50+ Center

Wednesdays, April 8 – 29, 10 – 11:30 a.m. | A20673.711

Led by Walter Seymour, explore how Apple iPad can help you navigate the internet in ways to enrich your life. Learn how to take pictures, use email, search the internet for information, download apps, and connect to people, organizations and interests that matter to you.

History Alive! Performance Show: Rosie the Riveter

Elkridge 50+ Center

April 22, 1 – 2 p.m. | $5 | A05511.700

In World War II, women joined the U.S. workforce by the millions, to replace men who had gone off to fight. Mary Ann Jung brings the story of Rosie the Riveter to life, portraying Rose Leigh Monroe, a worker at the largest aircraft factory in the world - Willow Run in Michigan.

Howard County History: Solving the Mystery of the Hobbs Schoolhouse

Ellicott City 50+ Center

April 30, 1 – 2:30 p.m. | A02649.701

Oliver Cromwell Gilbert escaped slavery from a Howard County plantation in 1843 and later recounted his journey in a memoir of his life. Learn how the Howard County Historical Society helped his great-great granddaughter explore his journey to freedom.

