

Minutes of the Commission On Aging Meeting  
Cedar Lane Apartments, Leonardtown, Maryland  
Monday, September 27, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER**

Start Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Cedar Lane Apartments, Leonardtown, Maryland  
Chaired By: Elfreda Mathis - Chair

**PRESENT**

**COA Members:** Bettie Broadhurst, Florence Lanham, Elfreda Mathis, Norma Pipkin, Peggy Reardon, Sheral St. Clair,

**Department of Aging Staff:** Lori Jennings-Harris, Director; Kim Clark, RSVP Office Specialist.

**ABSENT**

Sam Brown, Vicki Brown, Claudia Knowlton, Andree Wells.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Florence Lanham and seconded by Peggy Reardon; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the August 2010 as written was made by Sheral St. Clair and seconded by Peggy Reardon; all were in favor and the motion carried.

**CEDAR LANE BRIEF**

Janice Pruitt, Move In/Marketing Coordinator, and Calvin Boozer, Director of Facilities, gave a brief overview of Cedar Lane Apartments. Calvin Boozer gave a brief overview of the facilities' renovations and upgrades that are currently going on and those that are upcoming. Janice Pruitt gave a brief overview on the population and availability of space and answered any questions posed by the Commission on Aging members. A guided tour of the facility will follow the meeting today.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Friends of Ripple Projects:**

- 5K Run/Walk is planned for October 16, 2010. Elfreda Mathis will be attending as a representative of the Commission On Aging.

**Site Information Visits /Presentations:**

- The next site visit will be to the Hospice of St. Mary's. Dana DiGregorio will schedule the visit. Additionally a visit to St. Mary's Nursing Center should be scheduled after the facility has settled from the changes currently taking place.
- Peggy Reardon suggested a tour of the Taylor Farms Facility.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Victory Woods Ground Breaking:**

- The ground breaking for the Victory Woods Senior Housing Project is scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, 2010, at 1:00 p.m.

**Department of Aging Health Fair:**

- The Department of Aging Community Health Fair is scheduled for Friday, October 22, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hollywood Volunteer Fire Hall in Hollywood, Maryland.

**Long Term Care Awareness Forum:**

- The Department of Aging sponsored Long Term Care Awareness Forum is scheduled for Friday, October 8, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Dr. James A. Forrest Career and Technology Center in Leonardtown, Maryland.

**Dementia Care Conference:**

- The Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Conference, in partnership with the Department of Aging is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at the Waldorf Jaycees Community Center in Waldorf, Maryland.

**Caregivers' Conference:**

- St. Mary's County Department of Aging will sponsor the 2011 Annual Caregivers' Conference. It is scheduled for Friday, April 15, 2011. At this time the Department of Aging is looking for at location alternatives for this event.

**People with Disabilities Barn Dance to benefit the Helpful Hooves Equine Therapy:**

- Helpful Hooves Equine Therapy is hosting their fourth annual Fund-Raising Barn Dance to raise funds to support the program. It is scheduled for Saturday, October 9, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the St. Clair Farm in Avenue Maryland.

**CSM Wellness and Aquatics Center Grand Opening and Dedication:**

- CSM will be opening their new Wellness and Aquatic Center at the Leonardtown campus. The Grand Opening and Dedication event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Capital Improvement Process Update:**

- A small group of Commission members met with the staff of the Department of Aging to discuss the needs and the future of the Garvey Senior Activity Center. It was noted that a new facility may not be the best alternative for the Garvey Senior Activity Center. At this time, the Department of Aging is putting together a package of information to present to the Board of County Commissioners to show the needs of the center and what changes need to be made to the current facility to meet the current need. The information will also address future needs of the Department of Aging Garvey Senior Activity Center.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT****Loffler Senior Activity Center:**

- The reconstruction at the Loffler Senior Activity Center is now schedule for completion in April of 2011.

**NARFE Chapter Agreement:**

- The local chapter of National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) has an agreement with the Department of Aging for respite for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's Disease or other forms of dementia. NARFE has raised approximately \$20,000 to donate to this program. These funds will assist caregivers with respite and families who need assistance to purchase medication. The Department of Aging will work on guidelines for setting up this program.

**Men's Slow Pitch Softball:**

- The Senior Men's Slow Pitch Softball team played at Blue Crabs Stadium on September 14, 2010, before the official Blue Crabs game.

**PERSONNEL CHANGES**

- The candidate for the RSVP Project Manager position that was chosen declined the offer, so the Department is continuing the process to fill the position.
- The Department has set up interviews for candidates for the Community Program and Outreach Manager position opening.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

- Norma Pipkin noted that the Department of Aging website is well done and the addition of the "Welcome" video, starring Lori Jennings-Harris, is a wonderful addition. It is well put together and presented.
- Bettie Broadhurst attended a presentation which focused on "Old Memories", where older St. Mary's County community members presented stories and memories of St. Mary's County and its history. Bettie recommended a series or class presented by the senior community "I remember St. Mary's County in 1940...".
- Florence Lanham visited Sotterly Plantation which provided some very interesting information about the history of slavery in St. Mary's County.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25, 2010 at the Garvey Senior Activity Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn was made by Peggy Reardon and was seconded by Sheral St. Clair; all were in favor and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned 2:10 p.m. The Commission members then took a guided tour of Cedar Lane Apartments.

Prepared by:

Dana DiGregorio

Sr. Administrative Coordinator