ELDER FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES ARE FRIENDLY FOR EVERYONE!

Research shows the majority of older persons wish to age in place among family and friends.

ELDER FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES ARE FRIENDLY FOR EVERYONE!

How Can I Become Involved?

Individuals or service groups and organizations can become involved in making the Orange Communities elder friendly and friendly for everyone! Contact Orange Community Education and Recreation at 216-831-8601 for more information or visit our website at www.orangerc.com.

www.orangerc.com

Orange Community Education & Recreation • Orange City Schools • 52800 Chagrin Blvd • Pepper Pike, OH 44124

What Makes a Community Elder Friendly?

An elder friendly community is one that ensures its oldest residents feel a sense of safety, belonging and involvement in the community. It assumes a community that values its elders will also be a strong community for all generations. An elder friendly community has critical assets in place that improve lives of older adults and those around them, including:

- Sense of personal safety and security at home and in the community
- Ease of mobility to get around, within and beyond the community
- Needed support and health/medical services are available and located near populations who utilize them
- Varied lifelong learning and enrichment opportunities

Task Force & Sub-Committee Members

- Mayor Bruce St. Amour, City of Pepper Pike
- Lucy M. Alexander, Orange Senior Center
- Mayor Yolanda E. Broadie, Woodmere Village
- Lois Calderwood, Senior Independence
- Sister Kathleen Cooney, Ursuline College
- Florence Davidson, City of Pepper Pike
- Mayor Charles M. Degross, Moreland Hills
- Mayor Kathy Mulcahy, Orange Village
- Cindy Eickhoff, Orange Board of Education
- Albert Fanning, Woodmere Village
- Jane Finley, R.N.
- Maria Foschia, Orange Senior Center
- Laura Guentner, Orange Community Education and Recreation
- Joyce Holbert, Woodmere Village
- Thor Larsen, Orange Village
- Daniel Lukich, Superintendent, Orange City Schools
- Katherine Malmquist, Orange Library
- Terry McHugh, Garfield Memorial United Methodist Church
- Luellen McMahon, G.N.P.
- Susan Renda, Moreland Hills Village Council
- Rabbi Daniel Roberts, Orange Village
- Lori Rosenberg, Cuyahoga Community College
- Rosella “Monk” Schendel, Moreland Hills
- Bob Seaton, Orange Senior Advisory Council Association
- Jean Seaton, City of Pepper Pike
- Mayor John D. Wheeler, Hunting Valley
- Margie Wheeler, Hunting Valley
- Sister Barbara Jean Sever, Ursuline Sophia Center
- Fred Severn, Garfield Memorial United Methodist Church
- Janus Small, Elder Friendly Municipal Consultant
- Gretchen Smith, Hunting Valley
- Ryburn Taylor, Orange Community Education & Recreation
- Art Treuhauft, The Keyes-Treuhaft Company
- Marge Wasielewski, Realty One
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By 2010, the largest segment of America’s population will be 65 years of age or older.

The number of Americans over age 65 will more than double between now and the year 2030—from 35 million to over 70 million people. During that same time, the number of Americans age 55 and over will also double from 60 million today to over 107 million people. The average American’s life span is now 83 years and the likelihood that an American who reaches age 65 will survive to age 90 has risen to 25% in the last 40 years.

As these unprecedented changes take place throughout our country and in our own backyard, communities across America are examining the livability of their neighborhoods for their elders and for all residents, regardless of age.

Cutting edge communities, like those of the Orange School District, are positioning themselves today to proactively address the many challenges associated with these incredible changes. This unparalleled opportunity to understand and address current and emerging needs of our communities’ elder friendliness, was established to accomplish Elder Friendly Community Building, and elders serve as a resource to our community based on their experience, education and civic-mindedness. The mission of the Task Force was to better understand how elders in our communities live...what issues are important to them...how the community provides services and establishes physical environments in relation to elders needs...and, what our communities’ views and values are in relation to older adults who live in or visit our communities.

The Orange Elder Friendly Communities Initiative?

In 2005, the Orange Community Education & Recreation department received a $25,000 Elder Friendly Community grant from The Cleveland Foundation as part of their Successful Aging Initiative. Serving as the lead organization, Orange Community Education & Recreation collaborated with the communities of Moreland Hills, Orange, Pepper Pike and Woodmere in this ground-breaking project designed to examine assets and challenges related to our communities’ elder friendliness using an assessment guide developed by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. As one of six community consortiums chosen by The Cleveland Foundation to participate in this project, our major objectives were (1) to develop and implement an elder friendly community building process that would result in a community-wide strategic plan to enhance elder friendliness; and, (2) to provide feedback to The Cleveland Foundation on our process so it could be shared and used by other communities.

The largest concentration of emerging elders (age 45-59 years) in Cuyahoga County is found in the Orange Communities.

The Elder Friendly Task Force identified the following strengths and assets already in place that serve to make us “elder friendly”:

- abundant opportunities for elders to be engaged in all aspects of community life
- elders serve as a resource to our community based on their experience, education and civic-mindedness.

The Orange Elder Friendly Community Building Project designed to examine assets and challenges related to our communities’ elder friendliness using an assessment guide developed by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. As one of six community consortiums chosen by The Cleveland Foundation to participate in this project, our major objectives were (1) to develop and implement an elder friendly community building process that would result in a community-wide strategic plan to enhance elder friendliness; and, (2) to provide feedback to The Cleveland Foundation on our process so it could be shared and used by other communities.

What Are The Strengths & Assets of Our Orange Communities?

The Elder Friendly Task Force identified the following strengths and assets already in place that serve to make us “elder friendly”:

1. Raise awareness of existing strengths and assets for elders
2. Enlist and involve elders in dialogue to share views on key issues relating to mobility, housing and community services.
3. Advocate for diverse housing options and housing related programs and services
4. Develop new community-based programs and strengthen and adapt existing programs to meet changing needs of elders
5. Enlist and involve volunteers of all ages to assist in the implementation of this strategic plan for elder friendliness.

The Orange Communities cover 25 square-miles of urban, suburban, and rural geography, with most homes built before 1950.