

PRESS RELEASE

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Pamlico Residents Working To Help Seniors 'Age in Place'

Nearly 90% of seniors across America want to remain in their own homes as they age, and a group of your neighbors in communities along the Neuse River is working hard to help local seniors do just that. Throughout the country, grass roots, volunteer organizations are forming 'Villages' – dedicated to helping seniors stay in their homes as long as possible. What is a "Village"? It is a group of neighbors who form a nonprofit, member driven organization that offers essential services such as transportation, companionship, assistance with basic household tasks, as well as maintaining a list of qualified providers for a wide range of paid services.

The Village movement began in Boston in 1999 when the Beacon Hill Village was formed. Today, there are over 200 Villages nationwide and another 150 in development. There are 2 in North Carolina and 5 in development. Here in Oriental, a group of residents has formed a small steering committee that has been investigating this concept for several months. The committee is now ready to present its ideas to the community and needs your feedback! What services do we want? What membership fees are we willing to pay for them? And, do we have people who are willing to volunteer to help seniors thrive in their own homes?

We are planning a series of presentations and urge you to come to learn and share your thoughts. The schedule of presentations is as follows:

- Tuesday, July 11 at the Town Hall in Oriental. You can attend at either 1 PM or 7 PM. Sessions will last about 1.5 hours.
- Wednesday, August 2 at Minnesott Golf and Country Club at 4 PM.

There are also a number of smaller sessions being planned in neighborhoods in Florence, Oriental, and other locations, so stay tuned for more details.

The steering committee will be gathering feedback from the community during the summer months. Based on this feedback, next steps will be developed in the fall.

If you have questions, please contact a member of the steering committee: Chris Scot (captchristopherscot@gmail.com), Mary Ann Parham (maparham47@gmail.com), Jayne Demers (jaynedemers@gmail.com), Donna Creech (rayscreekside@embarqmail.com), and Jan Mosca (janm11721@yahoo.com). We hope to see you at our presentation on July 11 or August 2.