Age-Friendly Livable Communities

Clark County Commission on Aging

May 19, 2014
Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging and Disability

What is community?

A NATION? A STATE?

A CITY?

A NEIGHBORHOOD?

A POLITICAL VIEW?

A RELIGION?
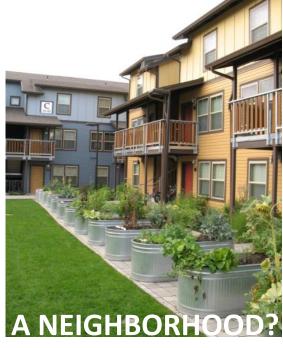
A CULTURE?

Commission on Aging's definition

"A livable community is one that has affordable and appropriate housing, supportive community features and services, and adequate mobility options, which together facilitate personal independence and the engagement of residents in civic and social life."
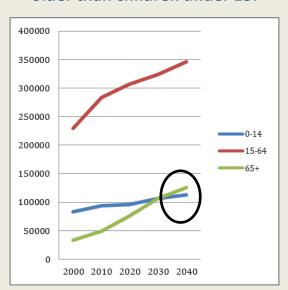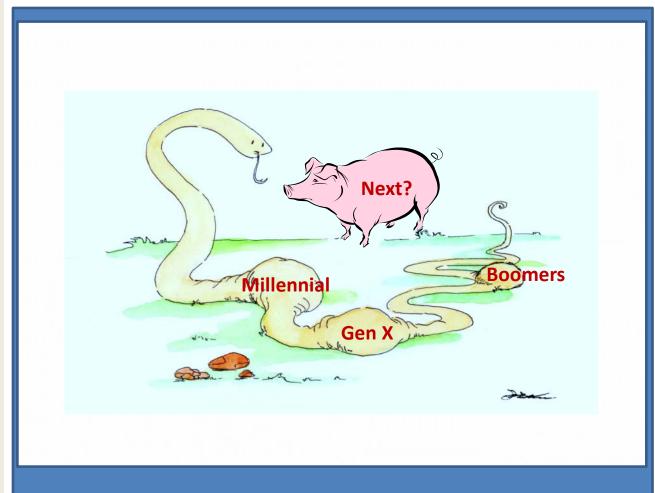
THE COMING AGE WAVES

How will this effect our community?

By 2040, there will be more people in Clark County 65 and older than children under 15.

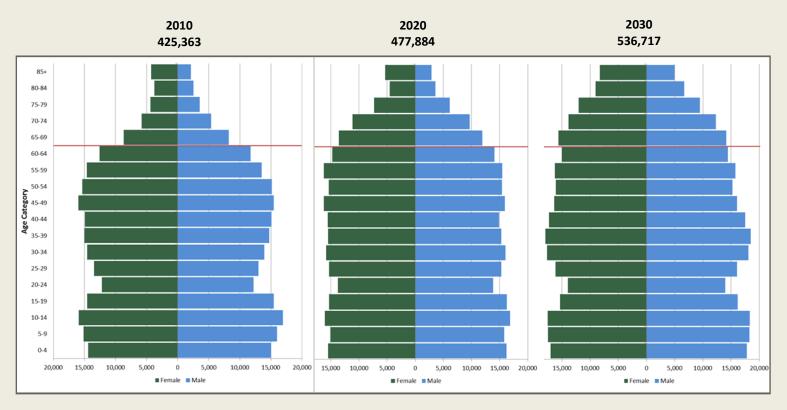*Source: State of Washington Office of Financial Management 2013*

THE COMING AGE WAVES

How will this effect our community?

Clark County, Washington
Population Forecast by Age Category and Gender

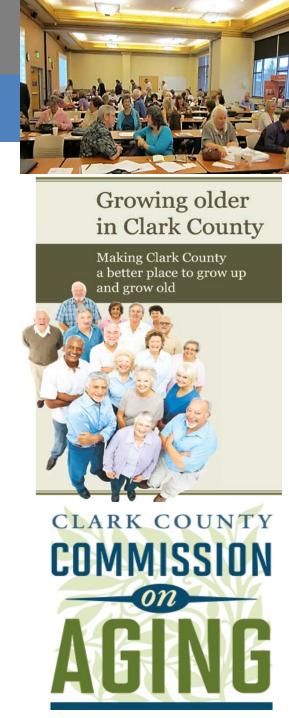| 2010	2020	2030
425,363	477,884	536,717

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

THE COMING AGE WAVES

How do we prepare for the waves?

- Aging Readiness Task Force
- Aging Readiness Plan
    - 91 strategies
    - Appoint a Commission on Aging
    - Retain county leadership
    - Recognize this effort is for all ages

Commission on Aging

Housing

Benchmarks

Community Engagement

Communication Advocacy Awareness

Transportation

Supportive Services

Healthy Communities

Housing

Provide a variety of housing that is affordable and adaptable to changing needs.

Project: Shared Housing

"The idea: Independent, physically capable seniors share housing in order to divide the costs, split up the chores, and enjoy some companionship... It's just like the "Golden Girls," only without Bea Arthur."
– The Columbian Newspaper (Editorial board) 3/13/14

What is it?

o Two or more unrelated people share a home

o Homeowner renting out a vacant bedroom

o Two or more people renting a home together

Benefits:

o Financial support

o Companionship

o Sense of security

o Aging-in-community

Housing

Project: Universal Green Design

What is it?

Ways to make a home more comfortable for a wide range of people.
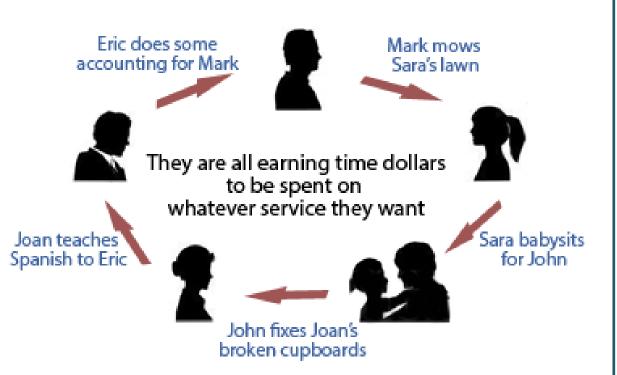
- No step entrances
- Open floor plans
- No step showers
- Wider hallways and doorways

Benefits:

- Enables people to "age-in-place"
- Eliminates challenges for visitors with mobility impairments
- Simplifies housekeeping
- Cost-efficient because it is energy-efficient

Community Engagement

Project: Timebanking

Eric does some accounting for Mark

Mark mows Sara's lawn

They are all earning time dollars to be spent on whatever service they want

Joan teaches Spanish to Eric

Sara babysits for John

John fixes Joan's broken cupboards

What is it?
- Similar to bartering
- Every hour of service = one hour of credit for service you need
- All services valued equally
- Online database allows members to indicate services they can provide and see what others offer

Benefits:
- Financial benefit
- Builds community
- Donation of time to others
- Allows flexibility in volunteering

Create healthier places in the built environment.

Project: 60+ Weatherization Project
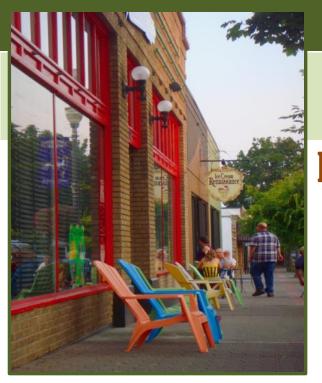

Boundaries of pilot neighborhood

What is it?
o Grant program for 60+ to reduce energy costs through weatherization improvements
o 10% participant buy-in, not to exceed $500
o Pilot neighborhood

Benefits:
o Enables aging-in-place through affordability of home costs
o Makes homes more comfortable

This home is being weatherized by
PROJECT ENERGY SAVINGS
One neighborhood at a time!
360-992-3345
www.clarkpublicutilities.com
Clark Public Utilities

Clark Public Utilities

Provide a variety of housing that is affordable and adaptable to changing needs.
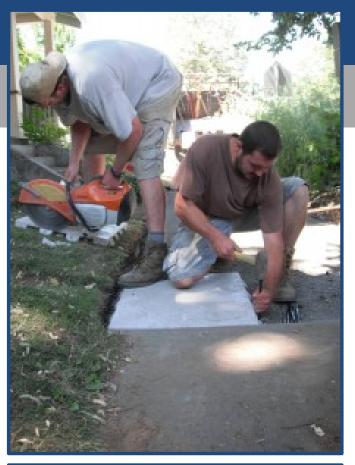*Create healthier places in the built environment.*

Project: Land use and zoning changes

What is it?
- Changes zoning codes to allow development of complete neighborhoods
  - Mix of housing
  - Services (jobs, stores, restaurants)
  - Schools and open/public spaces
- Changes codes to allow easier development of accessory dwelling units and duplexes
- Changes codes to allow assisted living facilities and co-housing developments in single-family residential zones

Benefits
- Allows more opportunity to "age-in-community"
- Encourages walking, promotes small business development, reduce reliance on automobiles, and increase social interaction and safety

Promote independence through a variety of mobility options.

Project: Volunteer Sidewalk Program

What is it?
o Allows volunteers to build sidewalks and walking paths using alternative materials other than concrete

Benefits:
o Opportunity to build safe walkways in a timely and cost-effective manner
o Increases health and safety of area residents and visitors

Promote independence through a variety of mobility options.

Project: Accessible Transportation Coalition Initiative (ATCI)

What is it?
- Bringing together all transportation providers in Southwest Washington to work on a plan to better coordinate transportation services

Benefits:
- Innovative mechanisms to stretch dollars
  - Creation of a mobility and resource management solutions program

Promote well-being, safety and independence through a variety of services.

Project: Telehealth/Telemedicine

What is it?
o The delivery of health related services using telecommunication technology

Benefits:
o Improves access to care
- o Minimize travel from home to doctor for rural residents
o Financial benefit
- o Families have decreased travel & out of pocket expenses, lost work, childcare needs
o Reduces cost of healthcare
- o Avoids risky, unnecessary and expensive transports

Promote a communication network that informs, Involves and empowers people and communities.

Project: Speakers Bureau

What is it?

o   Group of volunteers who raise community awareness about the Aging Readiness Plan, initiatives underway to combat challenges identified in it, and the Commission on Aging and its projects

Benefits:

o   Inform county citizens about available services

o   Raise awareness on issues affecting the community

o   Garner support to implement projects identified in Aging Readiness Plan

Opportunities for help

- **Universal Design**: Encourage the International Code Council to develop a regulatory framework for a *Universal Design Code, similar to efforts made toward Green Building code* – ask the WA Building Code Council to create interim standards.

- **Leadership/Coordination/Grant funding**: Start up costs for age-friendly community initiatives (i.e. Timebanking and Shared Housing programs)

- **Telehealth/Telemedicine**: Senate Bill 5708 and House Bill 1448 – providers need reimbursement for services

- **60+ Weatherization**: Continue funding the Community Energy Efficiency Program

For more information

Clark County Commission on Aging
Website: www.clark.wa.gov/aging

QUESTIONS

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ANSWERS