



MEMORANDUM

Phone: 452-5377; 452-5213

Date: May 2, 2016

To: Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers

From: Patrick Foran, Director
Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director

Subject: National Older Americans Month Proclamation

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy designated May of that year as Senior Citizens Month, encouraging the nation to pay tribute in some way to older people across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter's Proclamation changed the name to Older Americans Month, a time to celebrate those 60 and older through ceremonies, events, and public recognition. For the 30th year, the City of Bellevue is celebrating National Older Americans Month. This year's theme is "*Blaze a Trail*" as older adults are blazing trails in all aspects of American life.

According to the 2010 US Census, the percentage of the population 60 years and older living in the United States is 18.5%. In King County, that percentage is 16.2%, and in Bellevue, the percentage of the population 60 and older is 19%. This number is expected to continue to grow as the percentage of people 45-60 years of age is currently 21.2%.

Over the past decade, City programs and services have been transforming to meet the changing needs of a healthier, better educated, and more diverse older adult population. The North Bellevue Community Center provides services such as the Community Dining program, Meals on Wheels, foot care, tax assistance, sessions on simplifying your life, support groups, and more. The center also offers programs such as computer classes, exercise, a Fitness Center, dance, financial and legal workshops, health lectures, music, language and culture, travel, cultural bridging, and lifelong learning opportunities based on ability and interest rather than age.

The South Bellevue Community Center offers a wide-range of programs and activities that focus on active lifestyles, as well as having a strong health and wellness component. Programs and services for older adults can also be found throughout the community at Robinswood Tennis Center, Bellevue Municipal Golf Course, Crossroads Community Center, Northwest Arts Center, Bellevue Aquatic Center, Highland Community Center, and the Hidden Valley Boys & Girls Club complex.

We invite Council, staff, volunteers, and all members of the community to join us in celebrating National Older Americans Month.

Attachments

Proclamation
Network on Aging 2015 Annual Report

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

PROCLAMATION

- Whereas;** Bellevue is a community in which 19% of its residents are 60 years of age and older; and
- Whereas;** Bellevue is committed to helping all individuals live longer, healthier lives; and
- Whereas;** The older adults in Bellevue have made countless contributions and sacrifices to ensure a better life for future generations; and
- Whereas;** We recognize the value of injury prevention and safety awareness in helping older adults remain healthy and active; and
- Whereas;** Our community can provide opportunities to enrich the lives of individuals young and old; and
- Whereas;** The President of the United States has designated the month of May as *Older Americans Month* and the theme “*Blaze a Trail*” as older adults are blazing trails in all aspects of American life.

Now, therefore, I, John Stokes, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **May 2016** as:

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

in Bellevue, and encourage every resident to take time this month to recognize older adults and the people who serve and support them as powerful and vital citizens who greatly contribute to this community.

John Stokes
Mayor