



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 18, 2015
To: Mayor Balducci 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 29th year, the City of Bellevue is celebrating National Older Americans Month. This year's theme is *"Get into the Act"*, in honor of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act.

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, 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, 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, and Highland Community Center.

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 2014-2015 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 “*Get into the Act*” in honor of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act.

Now, therefore, I, Claudia Balducci, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim **May 2015** 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.

Claudia Balducci
Mayor

BNOA 2014 - 2015 Annual Report

2014 Outreach Committee

1. Sponsored a Bellevue Network on Aging table at the following fairs:
 - Strawberry Festival – June 28 & 29
 - Bellevue Farmer’s Market – September
 - Crossroads Farmer’s Market – August
 - Chinese Information & Service Center Resource Fair – September 4
 - Elder Friendly Futures Conference-UW – September
 - City of Kirkland Senior Volunteer and Resources Fair - April
2. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation – June 2014, Bellevue City Council
3. Participated in Bellevue Essentials Fair at City Hall – October
4. Updated BNOA PowerPoint Presentation with current members and information

2015 Outreach Committee

1. In October, a member attended the King County Prosecutor's 10th Annual Conference on Abuse of Elders and Adults with Disabilities.
2. Provided BNOA marketing materials and resources to the Neighborhood News Toolkit.
3. Participated in Cultural Conversations.

2014 Advocacy Committee

1. Drafted and sent letters to Congressional representatives and senators regarding support for Older American Act and maintaining solvency of Social Security.
2. Submitted letter to Congressional House Ways and Means Committee record on Medicare Observation Status.
3. Presentation to City Council on Hearing Accessibility.
4. BNOA and Kirkland Senior Council (KSC) Members developed flyer on Hospital Observation issues for outreach activities and outreach presentation events in the community.
5. BNOA and KSC members met with Representative Judy Clibborn. She agreed to introduce a bill requiring notice of Medicare Observation Status.
6. Helped plan, publicize, and host the Eastside Legislative Forum with Aging and Disability Services, Eastside Human Services Forum, and KSC held at North Bellevue Community Ctr.
7. Coordinated with the Eastside Human Services Forum to develop the legislative agenda with issues affecting seniors.
8. Members attended the Senior Lobby Conference, October 2014 in Tacoma.
9. Spoke at City Council in November in support of “Hearing Assistance for Public Spaces”.
10. Members attended the Elder Friendly Futures Conference at the University of Washington.
11. Meeting with WA State Attorney General regarding proposed fraud legislation.

2015 Advocacy Committee

1. BNOA and KSC members testified before House and Senate Committees in support of HB 1186 bill introduced by Representative Clibborn to require notification of “observation status”. Unfortunately, HB 1186 was not passed out of the Senate Rules Committee.
2. Members visited state legislators in Olympia as part of Senior Lobby Day in February.
3. Wrote letters to Congressional Legislators encouraging reauthorization of Older Americans Act.
4. Members partnered with Aging & Disability Services on monitoring the Older Americans Act, which needs to be reauthorized because it provides funding for such items as congregate meals, caregiver support, ombudsman program, meals on wheels, and preventing abuse and neglect.

BNOA 2014/2015 Annual Report (Continued)

2014 Transportation & Housing Committee

1. Members reviewed the Housing and Transportation Elements of the Comprehensive Plan and developed a list of items to support in the update of the Plan.
2. Members took part in Sound Transit/City meetings focused on light rail station area design.
3. Members served on the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative.
4. Worked cooperatively with ARCH Housing to do the annual proofing and update of the Senior Housing website.
5. Members participated in the two part Eastside Human Services Forum Ending Homelessness Forum in June and August 2014.
6. Members attended the Aging & Disability Services Forum Transportation Forum at the Northshore Senior Center in September 2014.
7. Gathered info on Homeless sites for Men, Women and Children and distributed flyers throughout community sites with the information for those in need.

2015 Transportation & Housing Committee

1. Members submitted a statement of advocacy to the Bellevue Transit Master Plan.
2. Members met with area providers to keep informed of resources available for the community, in an effort to be knowledgeable and spread the word on these resources.
3. Update of ARCH Website for 2015.
4. Speakers from Bellevue Fire Dept.-Fires Cares Program and Bellevue Police Detective Jensen on Neighborhood Watch/Safety Tips/Fraud/Property Theft, etc.
5. Monthly updates for upcoming plans for affordable houses in Bellevue area provided by Janet Lewine, City planning staff.

Other

1. Members served on the City's Special Events Committee
2. Members served on the Aging and Disability Services Advisory Council
3. Members served on Eastside Human Services Forum Advocacy Committee
4. Members served on the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative
5. Member served on the Time Banks of Puget Sound Board
6. Members served as Long-Term Care Ombudsman and SHIBA volunteers
7. Member served on Bellevue Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of WA
8. Members served on King County Mobility Coalition for Special Needs Populations
9. Members served as AARP-Volunteer Special Events Coordinator for King County and Washington State Legislative/Congressional Liaison
10. Annual report: delivered to City Council during Older American's Month May 2013 & 2014
11. Older American's Month Proclamation May 2014
12. Member-completed the first City of Bellevue's CERT training (Community Emergency Response Team-continuing to serve in training/drills/ready to response/serve in community response as needed for my neighborhood/city and regional 2014-2015
13. Members-completed this month Bellevue Police Community Academy training-2015 plan to volunteer in community
14. Member attending Washington Alzheimer Association yearly conference 2014 & 2015
15. Members Block Captains for their neighborhoods 2014-2015
16. Member Bellevue Essentials Class graduate-2014
17. Fraud Fighters Team for AARP-2014-2015