



# The Village In Howard Newsletter

December 2021

## Editor's Note

The office will be closed Christmas Eve, Friday, 12/24. Any calls to the office during that period will not be answered until Monday, 12/27. The manager is out of the office the last week of December and will return 1/3/22.



## A Caring Community

Trips to the grocery store while assisting our full members with their grocery runs is one of the many services our volunteers willingly provide. While at the Freetown Giant, Patricia Levay, a service volunteer since 2020, is helping Janet Randle with reading a packaged fruit label. Several of our full members have visual issues and need assistance. Every day, our volunteers support our membership in so many ways. The Village in Howard is fortunate to have volunteers, like Patricia, so willing to pay-it-forward. Patricia has quickly become a very big part of TVIH's transportation volunteer team. Our member and non-member volunteers understand we are all stakeholders in the success of the Village's goal to allow one to age-in-place.

## Christmas Open House

Mary Ellen Shaeffer, a long time member of TVIH is a Christmas enthusiast. She has been decorating her home for the holiday since 1968 in the Woodmore area (now known as Folly Quarter). She always loved decorating for Christmas and one year her husband invited the neighbors to come and see her home. It grew from there to national recognition with articles documenting the

process in the *New York Times* and *Good Housekeeping*. When you visit the home, you will see intricate craft work of dolls she has made by hand. Throughout the years it has become more and more popular. However the pandemic has made her do it on a slightly smaller scale. She continues this tradition because she is used to being busy and it takes her about 3 months to complete the entire house. She would love for her village members to stop by and if you're in luck you may see some deer around as well. The official open house is 12/26 and 12/27 2-5 pm, but she is available during the week so feel free to coordinate a viewing if you cannot make the open house. Location can be found in the membership directory.

## Welcome to New Members Let's Get Acquainted



**Lorraine Malinowski** – West Friendship: She is the CEO of the HoCo Education FCU also the rescuer as well as the caretaker of 3 injured dogs and a cat. Should you need some cheering up she is happy to share some

cookie recipes.

**Frederick Shaw** – Columbia- He is a retired systems engineer and worked as a government contractor for NASA, NOAA, and the Air Force working on their satellite ground system programs. He enjoys hiking, bridge and is interested in finance and investing. He is long time fan of both the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens.

**Judith Wenning** – Clarksville



## Thanksgiving Basket Drive 2021: A Community Service

The Village In Howard contributed to the Howard County Association of Realtors Annual Thanksgiving food basket drive. The Village collected 7 baskets of food for HCAR to deliver to county residents in need. The baskets contained everything one would need to celebrate the day: corn, cranberry sauce, yams, green beans, stuffing mix, turkey gravy, instant potatoes, and a \$25 Gift Certificate to a local supermarket to buy a turkey or ham. 7 families in Howard County will be having a bountiful Thanksgiving. Fran Lorenzi, Kathy O'Rourke, Dee Sullivan, Cheryl Neely and Mary McGraw arranged the baskets and delivered them to HCAR to distribute with the help of Karol Hess. The members of the Village who filled the baskets with donations were Gloria Butler, Ron Putz, Jan Zerhausen, Sandra Farragut, Laura Thomason, Barbara Marley, Jane and Kim Sherman and all our members who so generously donated to make it a successful food drive.

— By Mary McGraw

## ON BOARDING TVIH Board Meeting October 27th, 2021

### New PowerPoint Presentation for Outreach- Marie Grunwell, Fran Dummett

Diane Minor and Yaa Ampofo have amended our PowerPoint used to attract and inform new members to make it more applicable to businesses. They have amended the logo and slogan for TVIH as well. The PowerPoint includes fees as well as the benefits of joining TVIH.

### Website Committee Update – Fran Dummett

The committee is concentrating on the home page and incorporating the new logo and motto. They are evaluating other Village websites to determine suggestions for changing the TVIH Website. TVIH will stay with Club Express for the redesign. Pete Brunner submitted a grant to Howard County Community services that could help assist with the cost of revamping the website.

### Financial Report & 2022 Budget – Pete Brunner

The Information Technology agenda now includes Web Development. We have requested funding from the County's Community Services Partnership Program to cover this expense (as well as some other related costs). If we are approved, we may not need further funding. Pete has identified several potential grantors and we will also need to work with Outreach to target business donors. Other committee budgets have been fully adopted based on funding requested from Committee chairs.

It is extremely important that the Board begin a discussion of future funding requirements as well as strategies to fully fund TVIH's ongoing operations. We expect income will fall short of expenditures in 2022. TVIH will be ending 2021 in strong financial condition so 2022 will not be a problem. However, we cannot sustain a budget deficit indefinitely. The Strategic Planning committee on funding will need to focus on long-term approaches to bringing income in line with expenses. We will need to look at membership dues (which are low compared with most Villages) as well as our special events, and annual fund drives. We will likely need to re-examine how we try to raise funds from the local business community. We need to consider 2022 as a year in which we repair the damage done to our fundraising abilities during the pandemic.

### Nominating Committee Report & Elections – Sarah Spence

Three Villagers were nominated for the three vacant Board Positions – Cathy Latham, Harry Glass, and Fran Lorenzi. Jim Bouscaren was nominated to replace Mary Pat Donelan as Tri –Director for operations. Resumes have been received and reviewed by the Board with a final vote at the November meeting and elected members will join the Board at its December meeting.

### Purchase of Chairs for Office – Marie Grunwell

After comparing the features and prices of office chairs at PVI vs Amazon vs Staples, the Board decided that they would purchase 3 chairs from Amazon which offered the best buy.



## **Holiday Party—December 18th – 3:00 to 5:30 PM – Joy Cheung**

TVIH will contribute \$150 to purchase sandwiches, vegetable garnish, desserts and beverages. The cost per person will be \$5. Registration deadline is 12/5. Individuals must register but will pay at the door. Registration will be limited to those with vaccinations. Because site capacity is limited to 35, there will be seatings at 2 and 3:30pm. The seating arrangements will be 2 tables in the front room and one in the back room. Those who prefer to eat outside can take their food and chair outside.

## **Annual Meeting**

The logistics of the virtual January meeting will be planned by the Executive Committee.

## **Club Express Boot Camp – 12/08/2021**

One fee covers anyone who enrolls from the Village. Coordination of requests should go through Pete Brunner and Yaa Ampofo. The website committee, Sarah Ziemann, Joy Cheung as well as the entire TVIH membership will be informed of this opportunity to increase their knowledge.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Communications/Outreach – Mary McGraw**

Diane Minor is doing a presentation at Ellicott City Senior Center. Mary McGraw plans to take the new TVIH slideshow and reach out to various businesses.

### **Program Committee – Sharon Neville**

The committee is attempting to offer in-person events in addition to current in-person happy hours, lunch bunch and Mah Jong. Members have suggested a program on crafts (Note the upcoming mosaic workshop). Pete Brunner attended the Commission on Aging, Howard County and learned it is in the process of submitting its age friendly Howard plan to AARP in the next couple of weeks. Terry Hanson will be the county coordinator. Perhaps Sharon could reach out to him to have a presentation on the plan and other activities.

### **Membership Committee & Pods – Kim Sherman & Karol Hess**

There are 150 associate members and 24 full members. These 174 members are drawn from 133 households. The members on the committee are working on making sure buddy assignments are working.

### **By-Laws Committee –Ellin Scholnick**

Elizabeth Johnson, Karen Michaelson and Ellin Scholnick have a first draft of a revision of the bylaws.

## **New Business**

There is concern about record keeping on our ways of operating because TVIH lacks a singular area where all the information about operations is held. Fran and Yaa have begun work on streamlining processes using Board minutes as a source of information. Every committee should have written procedures on how it works and what it does.

## **TVIH's Draft 2022 Budget— Membership Fees to Stay at Current Level**

Director of Finance, Pete Brunner, presented the draft 2022 Village budget to the Board of Directors at its October meeting. The Board is reviewing the budget and will vote on it at the November meeting.

The Board is aware that many of our members experienced financial concerns during the pandemic. Accordingly, the Board voted to freeze member dues for 2022 at current levels.

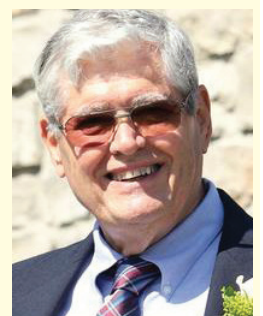
In 2020 and 2021, Village finances took a significant hit to our on-going fund sources. But TVIH was fortunate to qualify for emergency funding from Federal, State and County as well as local grantor sources. Some of these funds enabled TVIH to assist some of our members needing help during this crisis.

The availability of emergency funds (which will be unavailable in 2022) gives us a small cushion as we work to restore funding streams such as grants, support from local businesses and fund-raising programs such as a 50-50 Raffle, Bingo, and possibly other efforts.

## **Spotlight our Service Volunteers**

### **Jim Bouscaren**

Jim has been a TVIH member and transportation volunteer since 2018. His easy-going nature and willingness to help is often noted by others. Jim never objects to accepting a long drive and was one of a handful of drivers who continued to provide rides during COVID. When thanked by our coordinators, Jim frequently remarks on how interesting our members are and how he enjoys their chats. Jim's passions are his family, biking, and old cars. He is also a member of the IT Team and Board of Directors. Thank you, Jim, for all the miles and smiles.



## The Fundraising Committee Needs Your Help

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for raising 60 percent of the entire budget for The Village In Howard. The Committee does this by running programs such as the 50-50 Raffle, Bingo, Restaurant Nights, and the annual appeal. We need more help from members.

We especially need help to research and apply for grants. If you have any experience in this area or would like to learn, please contact Pete Brunner at [pjbrunner@comcast.net](mailto:pjbrunner@comcast.net).

Additionally, as many of you are aware, TVIH has established oversight groups as part of our Three Year Strategic Plan to work with and help provide guidance to our committees—including the Fundraising Committee. We need your ideas. If you would like to participate, please contact Pete.

## Supported Membership

Based on the recent survey results, there seem to be several members who are not aware that TVIH offers Supported Membership. This means a 50% membership fee reduction based on HUD income categories. One's information is held in complete confidence and all services provided are the same for all members. If you would like more information, please contact Yaa Ampofo, TVIH Office Manager, at 443-367-9043, and ask to speak with her personally regarding Supported Membership.

**How can Amazon make an automatic donation to the village everytime I shop on Amazon, and especially during the holidays?**

AMAZON SMILE is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice.



All you need to do is start your shopping at WWW.SMILEAMAZON.COM

Though 0.5% is not a large donation and it isn't intended to replace your regular charitable activities, AMAZON SMILE is still a great way to take advantage of a service you're already using and have a small donation made to the Village in Howard

AMAZON SMILE Set-up Instructions

**Step 1:** In your internet browser, Go to WWW.SMILEAMAZON.COM using your Amazon credentials (password, etc.)

**Step 2:** You will be directed to a page requesting you 'Pick Your Own Charitable Organization'

**Step 3:** In the Text field, type Village in Howard

That's it! Now with every purchase you make through WWW.SMILEAMAZON.COM your purchase will result in a 0.5% donation to the Village.

## "Undesign the Redline" Exhibit: Understanding More About Racism

This interactive exhibit led by a guide, helps to explain why a federal housing act of the mid 1930's contributed significantly to systemic racism by establishing legal guidelines for who was able to obtain mortgages and purchase homes in specific neighborhoods. While repealed several years ago, the racial discrimination shaped the demographic and wealth patterns of American communities. The exhibit has been in dozens of major U.S. cities and is returning to Howard County again.

This session will be held in the second floor of the Central Library's new Equity Resource Center on Thurs. Jan. 20, 2022 at 11AM. Registration required; maximum of 15 participants.

### PODS CORNER

If you find you want to join any pod or have any questions, please contact the Pods Committee at [pods@thevillageinhoward.org](mailto:pods@thevillageinhoward.org). We'll get you connected. TVIH members can login to the TVIH website and view pods information under the Resources tab. TVIH members

should keep an eye open for forum emails for forming pods and possible future pods topics. Once enough members show interest in a topic, the pod will start to form.

Total Pods running - 6 neighborhoods, 4 interests

Pods started in past month - 1 neighborhood (South Howard

County), 2 interests (women's, Outdoor #2)

Pods forming - 2 neighborhoods (Oakland Mills/Thunder Hill, Wilde Lake/Town Center), 2 interest (Elder Orphan, Photography)

# What to Do If Your Older Loved One Needs More Than Long-Distance Caregiving

If you're like many other people in the world, you've recently realized that your mother, father, or other senior loved one needs more attention and care than they are currently receiving. And if you don't live in the same area as them, your family has some decisions to make.

Should you move closer to your loved one, or maybe even move in with them? Should they move closer to you? Would your loved one thrive more in a senior living community or assisted living facility? Below, The Village in Howard covers these questions and more.

## Talk With Your Loved One

If you feel that it's time for your loved one to have a family member nearby, the first thing you should do is talk to your loved one. Go over all of their options to see what they want to do. For example, ask them if they would be willing to move closer to you; don't be surprised if they balk because many seniors are not crazy about the idea of such a major change. Even if it is for family, starting over in a new place as an older adult is hard. However, if they are open to the possibility of moving closer to you, you can research and go over all the possibilities.

For instance, if your loved one does not need extensive medical care, they might enjoy living in a community like The Village in Howard. If your loved one does need 24/7 attention and care, they might be best served by moving into an assisted living facility or nursing home. Another option is to help your loved one downsize to a smaller home in your area.

## Consider Renting

If you end up moving to the area in which your loved one lives, don't feel like you have to buy a home. There are actually many benefits to renting an apartment, condo, or another small home. For instance, you won't have to deal with some of the stress that comes with a big relocation, and renting will give you some time to prepare for purchasing a home (if that's what your goal is).

If your loved one lives in Columbia, MD, you could either move to Columbia yourself or to a nearby area like Alexandria, VA. This would still put you within a close distance to your loved one while also giving you a little bit of your own space. And there are endless living possibilities in Alexandria and surrounding areas!

## Look Out for the Signs

If you have a suspicion that your loved one needs more attention and care but are not confident enough in



your assessment to make big decisions going forward, learn some of the signs that you can watch for. If your loved one is not able to keep up with their self-care and hygiene routine, or if they are exhibiting signs of memory loss, that is usually a clear indicator that more care is needed.

Also, if you are worried that your loved one is unsafe in their current living environment, you should consider taking some steps toward getting them more attention and care. Significant weight loss, increased isolation, mood swings, limited mobility, and serious health conditions are also signs to look for.

## Remember the Challenges of Long-Distance Caregiving

There may be days when it seems like your aging loved one is just fine. But it is essential that you don't forget the signs of trouble you have previously noticed. It's also important to remember how difficult it is to care for your loved one from a long distance. Being a caregiver is stressful on good days, but when you are an hour or more from your loved one, it can make it nearly impossible to manage their care, not to mention the stress that comes with your responsibilities.

If there is an older adult in your life that needs more attention and care than they are currently receiving, it's essential for your family to start making moves. Remember to have a conversation with your loved one, and look into all of your living possibilities. By taking steps to close the distance between you and your loved one, everyone will benefit.

Would you like to read more helpful content or learn about our 55+ community? Visit [www.thevillagein-howard.org](http://www.thevillagein-howard.org) today!



## PLEASE NOTE: All Events Now Require Registration!

Register for an event on the online calendar.

When you register for a Zoom TVIH event, you receive the Zoom link two times. The first time is right after you register. You receive the second notice on the day before the event. If you cannot find the zoom link in your emails, go to the website and cancel your registration, then register again. The email link will be emailed to you within 2 minutes.

Reminder: Please remember to use the 'Cancel' button or phone the office, if you are unable to attend an event for which you've registered. This courtesy not only helps the event coordinator, but opens a space for others who may wish to attend.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon Neville, Program Chair

## Monthly Events



### Good Morning Howard, December 2021

**Date: December 1, Wednesday**

**Hosts: Fran Dummett and Harry Glass**

**Topic: How I Use the TVIH Website**

This is an open mic session. Everyone is welcome to participate in the discussions.

A team of volunteers are in the process of revising the 7 year old TVIH website. Fran Dummett is heading the efforts to bring a new "look & feel" to our website. She welcomes input and suggestions from members.

- How often do you look at the website? daily, weekly, never.
- Do you find the information you want easily?
- What info on the website did you find most useful?
- Do you like the photos?
- Do you find the 4 Forums helpful? (buy and sell, update, contractor referral, member sharing)

- Do you register for an event after looking at the website calendar, reading about it in the newsletter, receiving a reminder email in you in-box, or reading a forum message?
- What improvement/improvements would you like to see?
- Is there a new logo and motto that you would like to submit to Fran?
- What might be the best way to revise the motto and logo? Holding a contest?

**Dec. 2 at 7 pm.**

**Topic: Travel Talks — HAWAII**

**Description:** *Karla and John Castner will tell us about the true essence of the Hawaiian Islands, sharing their experience in living on Oahu in the 1990s, and looking at what Oahu, Maui, and Kauai have to offer based on their years as kama'āina (Hawaiian residents) and return trips back to paradise. Listen to their stories and share your own in this session that will leave you with an understanding of why the Aloha spirit, beauty of the islands, and cultural values and wisdoms of its native peoples have left a lifelong impression on the extended Castner ohana (family).*



**Date: December 3, Friday**

**Topic: Listen! Music lecture, Dionysus and Apollo**

**Instructor: Professor Tom Benjamin**

The creative tension between the expressive/emotional side of humans (and our arts) and the intellectual/classical side. These two aspects are often thought of as opposites, but we'll also consider the ways in which both are necessary (in life and in art).

**Date: December 8, Wednesday**

**Topic: HoCobyDesign, Future Land Use in Howard County, Session 2**

**Host: Paul Verchinski**

As a member appointed to the HoCobyDesign Public Advisory Committee (PAC), Paul has been involved with the Dept of Planning and Zoning and the consultant hired to develop the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) for the past year. The FLUM will determine land uses through 2040 in HoCo. The FLUM will be presented for HoCo Council approval in Jan 2022.

Paul will provide an overview of draft decisions made to date on the FLUM and how you may provide input regarding the FLUM.



Paul Verchinski

**Date: December 15, Wednesday**

**Host: Cheryl Arney**

**Topic: How Do You Build the Political Will for A Livable World?**

Cheryl will discuss Citizens' Climate Lobby's (CCL) efforts to do just that. Cheryl will describe the federal legislation that CCL supports to mitigate climate change. She'll also tell you about the ethos of the organization and how it has encouraged her to do things she never envisioned she could do six years ago when she started volunteering with CCL.



Cheryl Arney

**Date: December 22, Wednesday**

**Hosts: Kim Sherman and Jane Shaw**

**Topic: Looking at My 2021 Rear View Mirror, Memories and Learning Experiences**



Unlike a regular GMH session when a host speaks about a particular topic, this is an open mic session. Everyone is invited to speak. Please come to share one or two

of the most significant 2021 event/events in your life.

Did you fly to visit a relative? How did you keep your-

self and loved ones safe from COVID? Did you take an amazing mask-less vacation? Did you learn a new skill? Did you buy a new tech gadget? Did you re-connect with an old friend? Did you help someone less fortunate? Did you attend an in-person wedding/birthday party? Did you try a new recipe in your pandemic kitchen? We would like to hear your stories.

**Date: December 29, Wednesday**

**Host: Cathy Latham**

**Topic: Looking Through the Front Windshield of 2022**

Good Morning Howard offers Open Mic Day on Wednesday, December 29 at 9 a.m. With the New Year approaching, what's on your mind? Come and share your hopes, dreams, plans and goals for 2022. Maybe you

have a project like writing your memoir, or a goal of walking a mile a day, or becoming more active in TVIH. Do you plan to travel to see friends and relatives or to go to faraway lands? Join us for this lively conversation of ideas and dreams. What's yours?



### Newsletter Staff

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## Member Solicitation Policy

In order to ensure confidence and privacy, and to promote an open exchange of information among our members, The Village in Howard maintains a policy of non-solicitation of fellow members for the purpose of business development or marketing. Our organization provides opportunities to learn from each other, both at TVIH activities and informally. Using the directory to find names and contact information of other members is appropriate for this purpose. It is not appropriate to market or solicit business.

### SUPPORTERS:



If you have problems with, or need information on:  
Membership, email [membership@thevillageinhoward.org](mailto:membership@thevillageinhoward.org)  
Volunteering, email [volunteer@thevillageinhoward.org](mailto:volunteer@thevillageinhoward.org)

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