

Highlights of County's Executive Ike Leggett's Senior Accomplishments

In This Year's Recommended Budget:

- Increase operating hours at County Senior Centers to pre-Recession levels
- Extend the Senior Transportation Partnership for senior door-to-door transport to senior centers
Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Adult Day Care and in-home nurse monitoring services.
- Expand income eligibility for Call N Ride program.
- Increase outreach on Senior Fire Safety
- Provide \$1.4 million to community groups helping seniors.
- Provide funding for development of more housing for seniors.

Over Eight Years:

- Held a Countywide Senior Summit and formed a high-level Senior Subcabinet to focus effective action on Senior Issues – even during the Great Recession when resources were tight.
- Supported the Senior Agenda, a blueprint for the future initiated by the County Commission on Aging.
- Supported the development of neighborhood “villages” (15 current or emerging villages) which involves a significant number of older adults in volunteering and funded a village coordinator position.
- Continued growth of intergenerational programs by JCA Heyman Interages Center, OASIS, and others. Recognized by Generations United as a “Best Intergenerational Community in the United States”.
- Opening of the White Oak Center with a senior wing, including a nutrition lunch program, which will enable additional participation by seniors in recreation programs.
- Significantly increased communication and outreach on County senior services through enclosures in the County's tax mailing to every homeowner household in the County, printing and distribution of the Senior Agenda and a brochure series on senior issues (Transportation Options & Caregiving the first in the series), bus ads, cable television, public meetings, and advertising.

- Supported the annual Jewish Council for the Aging 50+ Employment Expo to connect seniors to employers, benefitting thousands of County residents.
- Initiated the Falls Prevention Campaign, ranging from public education and fire safety to partnerships with County non-profits and hospitals and expanded Bone Builders classes with hundreds of participants.
- Acquired or preserved over 9,000 units of affordable housing. Future senior housing projects include over 600 units next to new Silver Spring Library, in White Oak, adjacent to Glenmont Metro and in White Flint.
- Invested in Fire & Rescue. Response times from 911 call to arrival declined 11 to 38 percent over the last seven years. Leggett has built five new fire stations in eight years, despite the fiscal challenges of the Great Recession. During the previous 12 years, when budgets were flush, only two new fire stations were built.
- Initiated a new senior transportation service, in partnership with the Jewish Council on Aging, which provides door-to-door transportation for seniors in need to County senior centers.
- Continued free Ride On and Metrobus service for seniors, Mondays – Fridays (9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) with seniors paying half fare during peak hours.
- Continued Call-n-Ride (CNR) program provides subsidized taxicab service for low-income seniors and people with disabilities.
- Constructed a variety of intersection and corridor projects to improve pedestrian safety for seniors by slowing traffic speeds and improving the visibility or operation of pedestrian crossings. These include, installation of bump-outs, pedestrian refuge islands, new crosswalks, pavement markings, traffic calming and restriping.
- Continued ongoing improvements to bus shelters including lighting, sidewalk improvements, installation of ADA ramps and pads to improve accessibility to passenger facilities for seniors.
- Conducted Pedestrian Road Safety audits of several intersections and implemented improvements to enhance access for senior pedestrians including, sidewalk, signage, lighting, and pedestrian signal improvements.
- Initiated Pedestrian Safety in Parking Lots campaigns.