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Clayton County Board of Commissioners



PRESS RELEASE

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Clayton County to Host Walkability Study

County's new initiative has been created to better serve senior residents

Jonesboro- Clayton County Senior Services Department has partnered with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), the city of Morrow and the Georgia Chapter of AARP to hold a workshop to study the county and specifically the city of Morrow's live and walk atmosphere for older residents. The study will take place on Thursday, December 1, 2011, starting with an 8:30am registration at The National Archives in Morrow, located at 5780 Jonesboro Road in Morrow, GA. Various local community stakeholders have been invited to participate in the study which will have a vital role in the Clayton County Lifelong Communities Initiative.

This interactive one day study is a tool developed by AARP and Walkable and Livable Communities Institute to serve as an active living workshop that engages communities in making their streets and neighborhoods more walkable and livable. Dan Burden, the Executive Director of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute will lead the active-living workshop that helps participants to engage in hands-on planning and design. Participants will walk the area of focus with Mr. Burden to identify concepts to advance walking and active living in Morrow and Clayton County. Findings will be posted later to the county's Lifelong Communities website.

"In Clayton County, we find that 55% of the residents think that Clayton County is an excellent to very good place to retire, 82% own their home and 86% drive their own car", said Senior Services director Mary Byrd. "We also find that only 37% of the residents received a flu shot in the last 12 months, 50% do not get adequate exercise and 35% of older adults are obese. Stats also show that 57% had misinformation about long-term care and 84% do not have long-term care insurance. By creating lifelong communities throughout the county, as our residents continue to age, we will be providing them with a foundation in which to build healthier, productive lifestyles."

The new Lifelong Communities Initiative is designed to better serve older adults by allowing them to age in place. Lifelong communities will be designed to provide quality healthcare, an efficient transportation system, community based services, activities and businesses that are located in close proximity to where older adults live. With collaboration among businesses, local leaders, organizations and government agencies, the success of the Community will be achieved.

For additional information on Lifelong communities visit atlantaregional.com/aging-resources.

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