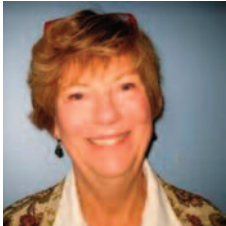


MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Muriel Cole
President

*Home, the spot of earth supremely blest,
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest.*

If you're like me, you're less and less eager to have workers at your house ... making noise, tromping in and out, mumbling explanations that you don't understand or feel the need to know. As much as I want my surroundings to be safe, clean, and functional, I don't relish that disruption, dust, and dissonance in my life.

But I recently met a woman, who has become a HomePorts provider, who is an expert on interior design to ensure safe and healthy surroundings. She makes the point that your environment significantly affects how you feel. Research shows that patients heal faster with comfortable design, in homes that put fewer stresses on the senses.

My point here is that, while it can be a chore to find, cope with, and pay people to spruce up your home, it can be worth it for your well-being. Consider a coat of paint on the bathroom walls, a few new colorful shrubs or perennials outside, a grab bar on the shower wall. A day of inconvenience perhaps, but a lift to your body and soul! HomePorts members have access, with one phone call, to over 60 local providers who we have personally interviewed and can recommend. If you are interested in becoming a member, you will be joining over 80 households (which translates to 130+ members) who, from our recent survey (see article on the reverse side), are very pleased.

Lastly, we need volunteers to staff our table at the Chestertown Farmers Market on sunny Saturdays. It is fun and easy. Call us to sign up for a 1-2 hour shift.

Mark Your Calendars!

May 6
Gershwin On The Fly
Fundraiser
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Mainstay
Rock Hall

June 12th
Power Over Pain:
You've Got What It Takes
2:00 pm
The Municipal Building
*This is one presentation
that no one should miss!*

amazon.com

If you're shopping at Amazon.com, please remember to use the link on the HomePorts website (www.homeports.org). Every purchase you make earns a donation to HomePorts!



James M. Lavin, Vendor Coordinator

MEET JIM LAVIN

Jim Lavin and his wife Anne arrived in the Chestertown area in 2001 from the Philadelphia area, where he had spent most of the last 40 years as a Manager of Pharmaceuticals. His love of computers and software brought him into his current business, which now occupies a good deal of his free time. Based on a recent survey of HomePorts vendors and providers, Jim intends to slim down those listings to remove inactive vendors, and increase the future effective utilization of those currently performing services.



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MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS FOR 2011

In February and March, members received a survey requesting information about services used and member satisfaction. A total of 56 households responded for a response rate of almost 70%. Respondents averaged 78 years in age with 66% of them in their 70s or 80s. The majority of household members were female (57%) and 29% of members households included someone living alone without a spouse or partner. Here are some of the highlights:

Paid Services

- 57% of members used paid services an average of 4 times
- the 3 most frequent of 15 types of services used were handymen, landscape services, and transportation
- 88% of members were very satisfied with services

Overall, 83% of members agreed that HomePorts membership would enable them to continue living longer in their homes, 95% were satisfied with their membership, and 98% would recommend HomePorts to a neighbor or friend. Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey!

FREE WORKSHOP ON HELPING SENIORS - APRIL 26 - 10:00 AM TO NOON

What is it like to have low vision or a hearing impairment or to have difficulty walking? Aging Simulation Sensitivity Training will be held on April 26 on the second floor in the Chestertown Town Hall. The workshop is designed to raise awareness among those who deal with the public. It is also appropriate for geriatric workers, students, caregivers, and volunteers of all ages.

Sponsored by the Kent County Commission on Aging, the workshop is presented by the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center. According to Audrey Wahl, Project Coordinator, "After the session, people who attend have a better understanding of the need for patience and compassion when interacting with the elderly or disabled of any age."

Assistance from HomePorts Volunteers

- 23% of members received assistance from volunteers an average of 4 times
- the overwhelming majority of assistance consisted of rides (e.g. to doctor's appointments, shopping, etc.)
- 100% of members were satisfied with volunteer services

Other Services

- 48% of members attended educational seminars
- 100% of members received the HomePorts newsletter
- 41% attended the 2011 Healthy Aging Symposium
- 34% attended a monthly Stammtisch (Dutch-treat luncheon)

Workshop Goals:

- Better recognize barriers to communicating with older people
- Become aware of behavioral clues that can affect decision-making
- Experience the effect of sensory losses such as impaired vision, hearing, and mobility
- Recognize one's own personal attitudes toward aging and the elderly

To register, call 410-778-6000. Refreshments will be served.