

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Stephanie Sullivan
Executive Director

As most of you know by now, my family and I are leaving the Eastern Shore, moving to Severna Park, Maryland, at the end of June. My hope is to be able to say a personal good-bye to all of you before I leave. HomePorts is a very special organization and I feel honored to have been a part of it. I have enjoyed and will miss serving members and working with the volunteers, providers and board members.

While I am sad to be leaving my post at HomePorts, I am also excited to share with all of you that the new Executive Director of HomePorts is Virginia Cooper. Virginia holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Westminster College and has extensive experience in finance, adult education, and local non-profit groups. For the past five years she has been a Community Health Educator for the Kent County Health Department. Virginia, her husband, and three sons have lived in Chestertown for 24 years. She is familiar with HomePorts as one of our volunteers and she was also a member of our symposium planning committee.

Virginia and I will be working together in June. We are both committed to make this a smooth transition. Please join me in welcoming Virginia to HomePorts! And thank you all for making these last two years so fulfilling and memorable for me!

What's Up?

June 13 & 14
MVA On Wheels

June 14
HomePorts Educational
Program at Town Hall
10:00 am

June 18
Music In The Park
7:00 pm

July 4
Independence Day

July 19
MVA On Wheels

Note:
*There will be no HomePorts
luncheons until Fall.*

MUSIC IN THE PARK - SEASON DEBUTS JUNE 18!

Chestertown's Music in the Park Summer Concert Series in Fountain Park will begin June 18 with a performance by the Chester River Chorale. The program begins at 7:00 pm and ends at 8:30 pm. The park concerts are free and no tickets are needed. A limited number of folding chairs are available, so if you want to be sure of a seat, bring your own chair. If it's a muggy night, you might want to bring your own mosquito repellent too.

The popular series was started in the mid 1990's by Marge Fallow, who ran the program until three years ago when Jane Jewell took over as Director. Butch Clark runs the technical side, handling sound and stage. "We try to have a variety of groups ... Big Band, Bluegrass, Jazz and Choral Groups, both local and regional," Jewell said. "We usually have a brass band around the 4th of July, this year on July 2nd," she said.



Fountain Park, Downtown Chestertown

The concerts are every other Saturday in June, July and August. The complete schedule will be in the **Kent County News**. In case of rain, the concerts will be at Emmanuel Church, across the street. The weather generally cooperates. We haven't had to cancel or move a concert in the last two years, Jewell said. Although the concerts are free, the program relies on donations from the local community.



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HOMEPORTS PROGRAM ON HEARING ... A GREAT SUCCESS!

One of HomePorts missions is to provide quality educational programs for its members and the community at large. Its May 4th presentation on "Communicating with the Hearing Impaired" certainly met that goal. Doctor of Audiology, Barbara McLendon, shared a lot of important and useful information with the 35 plus attendees and provided helpful tips on speaking with the hearing impaired.

Nearly 35 million people in the US have hearing impairment but only one in four of those uses a hearing device. Research has shown that there is a direct relationship between impaired hearing, overall health and well being, and the quality and quantity of social interaction, so it is important to pay attention to changes in hearing.

Dr. McLendon discussed common sense ways to enhance communication with a hearing impaired person. Perhaps the most important tip was to always face the person you are talking to and to not turn away while speaking.

A hearing impaired person needs to see your face. It is not uncommon to hear someone speak in a raised voice or even shout when speaking with a hearing impaired person. While this may seem logical, it actually can distort speech, so the tip is to speak naturally, clearly and distinctly, and at a normal rate of speech.

Copies of Dr. McLendon's presentation are available in the HomePorts office if you are interested in more information. Contact Stephanie Sullivan at the office.

Volunteer Meeting June 14 @ 10:00 am Town Hall

This training session will cover volunteer experiences such as illness, falls, accidents, and other unexpected or emergency situations. Working with individuals with memory impairments, and communicating with individuals with hearing impairments will also be explored. Most important will be the maintenance of confidentiality.

Book Review

By Louise O'Brien

What's Happening to Grandpa?

*By Maria Shriver
Little, Brown & Company
2004*

A recently acquired book in our HomePorts lending library, this beautifully illustrated book is a truly touching and poignant story for the grandchildren of an Alzheimer's patient. It's full of practical advice on how to relate to the patient and should be of interest to any age group. Ms. Shriver describes the sensitive feelings and thoughts that naturally occur when a loved one develops the disease. She uses terms that will help family members understand, accept, and cope. At the end the author includes several pages of resources for families affected by Alzheimer's.

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