

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Karen Wright
Executive Director

At this writing, we are halfway through autumn and despite mild temperatures, I know winter will not be far behind. It is astounding to me how quickly 2021 has passed.

2021 has been a challenging year for HomePorts. Although we seem to have weathered the worst of COVID-19, its long-term effects are still felt throughout the organization. We are grateful that we were able to host the 2021 Health & Wellness Expo at the Kent County Community Center on October 14. There are so many people and organizations that made it happen and I would like to take a moment to thank them.

At the top of the list are The Kent County Health Department and Kent County Parks & Recreation. Without either of them this event would not have been possible. Our sponsors, Amerigroup, Allstate Building Company, Heron Point, People Bank, Choptank Electric Trust, The Dixon Group, Eastern Shore Tents & Events, Kent County Commission on Aging, Living at Home Health Services, Rebuilding Together Kent County, Redners Market,

Seidenberg Protzko Eye Associates, Shore United Bank, the Town of Chestertown, Upper Shore Aging & WCTR are all to be thanked for their generous support. I would especially like to thank Fred Sherriff and the Chestertown Lions Club for stepping in and helping with set up, clean up, greeting and refreshments. I am humbled by your willingness to volunteer. Kent County is truly blessed to have such wonderful people helping when needed. Finally, I would like to thank the organizing committee: Muriel Cole, Jim Donaghy, Susan Eddy, Bill Flook, Chrissy Nelson and Courtney Sjostrom. It was nothing short of a miracle that we were able to pull this event out of the ashes of COVID-19. I'm looking forward to 2022 with optimism.

The fallout from COVID has affected our abilities on several fronts - fundraising, educational programming and servicing our members top the list. In this newsletter you will find a survey. It is also available online at <https://forms.gle/tZ32UMSFAWYRBmMi7>. We would be extremely grateful if you would take a moment and give us your opinions. We need to hear from you, our members, so we can go forward and do our best to fulfill your needs.

This spring we hope to bring back our fundraising dinner at Luisa's, but we can't do it without the participation of the community. The same goes for our educational programs and our volunteers' assistance to our members. To help bring HomePorts back to its pre-COVID condition, we are seeking volunteers who would like to volunteer as board members. Our board members serve a three-year term, attending approximately ten meetings per year. Voting members help to develop policies, operating procedures, and strategic plans; monitor our finances; evaluate our performance; and promote the services we offer. If you are interested in a challenging and fulfilling volunteer opportunity, please contact me, Karen Wright, Executive Director, at 443-480-0940 or email karen@homeports.org.



COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

To register for your booster, visit <https://www.marylandvax.org> or <https://covidlink.maryland.gov>. If you need assistance making an appointment or need a ride, please contact Karen Wright by calling 443-480-0940 or send an email message to karen@homeports.org. We are here to help!

COVID-19 BOOSTER ELIGIBILITY

If you received the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccination ...

Marylanders who received their second Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 dose at least six months ago may now be eligible for a COVID-19 booster shot. Based on the October 21 CDC recommendations, all providers may offer a Pfizer or Moderna booster dose to the following people:

- Marylanders ages 65 and older
- Marylanders ages 18 and older living in long-term care settings
- Marylanders ages 18-64 with underlying medical conditions
- Marylanders ages 18-64 working in settings that increase their risk for exposure to COVID-19:
 1. first responders (police officers, firefighters, EMT)
 2. healthcare workers
 3. congregate care staff
 4. education staff (teachers, support staff, daycare workers)
 5. food service workers
 6. agriculture workers
 7. manufacturing workers
 8. corrections workers
 9. US Postal Service workers
 10. public transit workers
 11. grocery store workers

If you received the Johnson & Johnson vaccination ...

Marylanders who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine are also recommended to get a booster if you are 18 and older and were vaccinated two or more months ago.

Additional notes ..

Eligible Marylanders may choose which vaccine they want for a booster, even if it is different from the original vaccine received. Visit covidvax.maryland.gov for additional information.

Any Marylander who presents to a provider that they are eligible for a booster dose is allowed to self-attest to eligibility. COVID-19 vaccine providers cannot turn away any individual who self-attests to eligibility for an additional dose or booster dose. Failure of an individual to “show proof” of eligibility may not be a reason that a provider does not administer an additional or booster dose.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Our mission at HomePorts is to do our best to fulfill your needs.

HomePorts Members ... we hope that you'll complete and return this survey. Your replies will help us assess our current services and programs. Once completed just drop your survey off at the HomePorts office or mail to us at HomePorts, Inc., Town Hall Building, 118 N. Cross Street, PO Box 114, Chestertown, MD 21620.

You can also complete the survey online at <https://forms.gle/tZ32UMSFAWYRBmMi7>.

1. Please put a check mark next to the HomePorts services and programs listed below that you have taken advantage of in the past and would again if offered:

Service:	I have used in the past	I would use again	Comments
Volunteer transportation			
Other volunteer assistance			
Educational programs			
Health Fair			
Monthly luncheon			
Service provider research			

2. Are your inquiries to HomePorts Executive Director, Karen Wright, handled promptly and professionally?

- yes no sometimes didn't use

Comments: _____

3. Are your inquiries to HomePorts Volunteer Coordinator, Sally Powell, handled promptly and professionally?

- yes no sometimes didn't use

Comments: _____

4. Has COVID affected your use of HomePorts services? yes no

If yes, how? _____

5. Are there programs or services that you would like to see HomePorts provide? yes no

If yes, what? _____

6. Apart from HomePorts, please list other institutions you rely on for aging-in-place support:

Please use the reverse side if you need space for additional questions, or comments.