



CITY OF KIRKLAND

City Manager's Office

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033

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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: David Wolbrecht, Senior Neighborhood Services Coordinator
Joy Johnston, Interim Communications Program Manager
Leslie R. Miller, Human Services Supervisor
Betsy Maxwell, Program Coordinator

Date: May 7, 2021

Subject: 2021 Older Americans Month Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaim May 2021 as Older Americans Month

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

According to recent census data, over 12,000 people living in Kirkland are 65 and over which is about 13% of Kirkland's population. The City of Kirkland supports many programs for older adults. The [Peter Kirk Community Center](#) gives people aged 50+ opportunities to create healthy and rewarding lives through a variety of activities and services. The [Kirkland Senior Council](#), an advisory group to the Kirkland City Council established in 2002, is a group of concerned citizens dedicated to keeping Kirkland a safe and vibrant community for residents age 50+. The Kirkland Senior Council has published the "East King County Resource Guide for Older Adults and Their Families", providing an array of resources in a variety of categories. To receive a copy of the resource guide, residents can email their name and address to Resourceguide@kirklandwa.gov and a copy will be sent to them.

Additional resources for older adults are available on the [City's website](#).

When Older Americans Month was established in 1963, only 17 million living Americans had reached their 65th birthday. About a third of older Americans lived in poverty and there were few programs to meet their needs. Interest in older Americans and their concerns was growing. A meeting in April 1963 between President John F. Kennedy and members of the National

Council of Senior Citizens led to designating May as "Senior Citizens Month," the prelude to "Older Americans Month."

Historically, Older Americans Month has been a time to acknowledge the contributions of past and current older persons to our country, in particular those who defended our country. Every President since Kennedy has issued a formal proclamation during or before the month of May asking that the entire nation pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. Older Americans Month is celebrated across the country through ceremonies, events, fairs, and other such activities. The theme for 2021 is "Communities of Strength."

Older adults have built resilience and strength over their lives through successes, failures, joys, and difficulties. Their stories and contributions help to support and inspire others. This OAM, we will celebrate the strength of older adults and the Aging Network, with special emphasis on the power of connection and engagement in building strong communities.

There are many things we all can do to nurture ourselves, reinforce our strength, and continue to thrive. Connecting with others is one of the most important—it plays a vital role in our health and well-being, and in that of our communities. From finding joy in small things and sharing our stories, to looking at the big picture and giving to others, join us in promoting the ways we are connected and strong.

More information about Older Americans Month can be found at <https://acl.gov/oam/2021/older-americans-month-2021>.

Program Coordinator Betsy Maxwell who works with the Kirkland Senior Council will be in attendance to accept the proclamation.

Attachment A: Older Americans Month Proclamation



A Proclamation of the City of Kirkland

Proclaiming May 2021 as Older Americans Month in Kirkland

WHEREAS, the Kirkland City Council established the Kirkland Senior Council in 2002 to act as an advisory group to the City Council to ensure that Kirkland is, and remains, a safe, vibrant community for residents age 50 and older; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland Senior Council is comprised of members who advocate for, support, and create programs and services that meet the needs of older adults;

WHEREAS, the Kirkland Senior Council continues to provide community leadership and advocacy on behalf of older adults, including creating an Eastside Resource Guide for Older Adults and Their Families, which can be obtained by visiting the Kirkland Senior Council webpage at www.kirklandwa.gov/seniorcouncil; and

WHEREAS, the City's Parks & Community Services Department offers a wide variety of services and activities at the Peter Kirk Community Center to promote wellness of body, mind and spirit of older adults in our community; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living has led the celebration of Older Americans Month every year since 1963; and

WHEREAS, the Administration for Community Living has set this year's Older Americans Month theme as "Communities of Strength", recognizing the important role older adults play in fostering the connections and engagement that build strong, resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland community becomes stronger and more resilient when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are encouraged to participate in an active civic life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Penny Sweet, Mayor of Kirkland, Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2021 to be Older Americans Month and urge every community member to recognize older adults and the people who support them as essential contributors to the strength of our community.

Signed this 18th day of May, 2021

Penny Sweet, Mayor

