

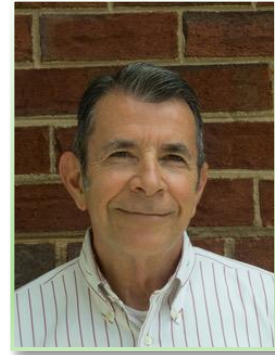


# VILLAGE VIEW

October 2018, Newsletter

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Four years ago, the two co-founders of Charlotte Village Network set out to create an organization to serve older adults so they could remain in their homes as they age. That organization became a reality and now serves fourteen (14) older adults through the services of over 30 volunteers and a board of directors with elected officers. Our membership goal for next year is 50; in 2020 our goal is 150 members. The needs in Mecklenburg County are great, as indicated in the chart below.



	People 50+	People 65+	65+ Living in poverty
North Mecklenburg	21,131 (26.9%)	7,070 (9.8%)	278
<b>Charlotte</b>	<b>177,559 (24.2%)</b>	<b>62,016 (8.5%)</b>	<b>4,961</b>
Mint Hill/Matthews	17,745 (35.7%)	6,951 (14.0%)	316
Steele Creek*/Pineville	2,269 (30.4%)	1,240 (16.6%)	130
Total in Mecklenburg	230,893 (25.1%)	81,113 (8.8%)	6,002

It is with great pride that I pass the baton to Mary Ellen Fleming, the newly-elected President, Cindy Hostetler, Vice-President, Kim Gossage, Treasurer and Heather Porter, Secretary. I have confidence that they will lead this organization to new heights!

**Jim Kimbler**

Past President, Charlotte Village Network

## VILLAGE TOPICS

### The Village Concept

In recent years, older adults in communities in the United States have begun to gather together in their own neighborhoods to develop innovative, grassroots peer support organizations designed to help members age in place. The most widely known of these organizations is Beacon Hill Village, a consumer driven, membership association started in 2001 by a group of older adults living in the Beacon Hill neighborhood of Boston. Currently there are nearly 200 of these grassroots neighborhood-based associations throughout the United States, and hundreds of others are in formation. In return for annual dues, members of these associations, many of which are known as "Villages," receive a variety of services and support (e.g., transportation, grocery shopping, referrals to home care and other discounted services, care coordination, volunteer opportunities, social and cultural events) specifically designed to

help them age in place and avoid readjusting to new surroundings at a time that comfort and community are paramount to us. These "Villages" have received substantial media attention, an online Village-to-Village network [www.vtvnetwork.org](http://www.vtvnetwork.org) has been established, and there is ongoing research at more than a dozen universities or global corporations to define our future needs.

Existing Villages report an average of 154 members per organization, but the number varies widely and exceeds 400 members in dense urban areas. Villages predominantly serve individuals age 65 and older, who constitute more than 90% of the membership in these organizations. Less than 1% of Village members are age 49 and younger, and another 7% are between the ages of 50 and 64. Among Village members, females outnumber males by two to one, a higher sex ratio than found in the U.S. population age 65 and older.

## Request for Service Providers

Our opportunities are not just for members and volunteers. We need service providers to include in our Resource Referral Network. If you know of a professional working for themselves and would like to recommend they be included, please email their business name, contact information and professional field (electrician, carpenter, house cleaning service, etc.) to [info@charlottevillagenetwork.org](mailto:info@charlottevillagenetwork.org) so we can build our Resource Referral Directory.



### CHARLOTTE VILLAGE NETWORK LEADERSHIP

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mary Ellen Fleming**, President  
**Cindy Hostetler**, Vice President  
**Kim Gossage**, Treasurer  
**Heather Porter**, Secretary  
**Alison Starkey**, Board Member  
**John Reiter**, Board Member  
**Deryl Smoak**, Board Member  
**Brittany Kearney**, Board Member  
**Joe Giordano**, Board Member

#### ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Jay Buinicky**, Carolina Senior Transitions  
**Jaynie Segal**, Waltonwood Cotswold  
**Ken Fleming**, First Light Home Care  
**James Young**, CPA  
**Tracy McGinnis**, Southminster

#### TEAM LEADERS

**Executive Director:** John Reiter  
**Office Operations and Requests for In-home, Transportation and Technology Services Requests**  
**Outreach/Marketing:** Mary Ellen Fleming  
**Volunteers:** Jeanne Bellew  
**Programs:** Alison Starkey  
**Finance & Operations:** Kim Gossage  
**Fundraising:** Shaun Ferguson  
**Webmaster:** Jay Buinicky  
**Evaluation:** Pat Nash

## PAST EVENTS

### Seniors and Scams – How to Protect Yourself

Last month, Charlotte Village Network hosted an Educational Afternoon Tea about Seniors and Scams at Southminster on September 18. Officers from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department shared the latest scams, how to identify them and how to protect yourself.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Volunteer Appreciation Lunch – Thursday, November 8

Join us as we celebrate our volunteers on Thursday, November 8 from 11:30am to 1:30pm at Maggianos in South Park.

4400 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28211

RSVP to [info@charlottevillagenetwork.org](mailto:info@charlottevillagenetwork.org)



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### Movie Matinee – Tuesday, October 16



Join us for a matinee at Cinemark Movies 10 in Matthews. Matinee tickets are \$1.75 each. We will meet there at noon (many of the movies start at 12:30-12:45). No RSVP, but let us know if you need a ride. The theater is located at 9508 Northeast Court, Matthews, NC 28105.

[Click here for Showtimes](#)

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### Games and Snacks in Cotswold, Saturday, October 20 – 2 - 5pm

Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon of Fun and Games at Gaynor Arms Community Room at 4527 Gaynor Road, Charlotte, NC. Feel free to bring a guest and your favorite game to play!

RSVP to [info@charlottevillagenetwork.org](mailto:info@charlottevillagenetwork.org)



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