

OPINION

Community Forum

Alexandria – A Livable Community for Seniors.

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Senior Services of Alexandria and AARP are cosponsoring a Community Forum: "Alexandria – A Livable Community for Seniors," and we want to hear from you.

As our population ages and people stay healthy and active longer, communities need to adapt. Alexandria is leading the way and taking steps to make our city a livable community for seniors — and people of all ages. Come to Beatley Library at 5005 Duke Street on Wednesday, June 21, from 10 a.m. to noon to hear about the ideas being considered for transportation, housing, employment, and community involvement. Members of the city's Commission on Aging will share updates on these plans, but the real focus will be on hearing from the community about what the priorities should be to en-

sure our seniors remain active and independent.

Alexandria has joined the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities as part of the World Health Organization's Global network. The goal of this

effort is to help communities become great places for seniors by adopting such features as walkable streets, better housing and transportation options, access to key services and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities.

The thought is that well-designed, livable communities help sustain economic growth and make for happier, healthier residents of all ages.

It is important that older adults take an active role in their communities' plans and ensure that their voices are heard. See AARPOrg/agefriendly.

The Community Forum is free and open to the public with light refreshments and plenty of parking. Registration starts at 9:30 a.m. Please RSVP online at seniorservicesalex.org or call Senior Services at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.