



BLCP CONNECTIONS

An E-newsletter to keep you connected to the Burlington Livable Community Project.

June 18, 2008

Livable Community Project Secures \$100,000 in State Budget

One of the Burlington Livable Community Project's primary recommended action items received a boost in the legislature this year. Thanks in part to the efforts of Burlington State Representative Mark Larson, the legislature appropriated \$100,000 to help fund a supportive housing demonstration project in the New North End to be managed by Cathedral Square Corporation. The funds are to be used as matching funds for grants to conduct research on cost-efficient and quality services in senior housing. This is a critical first step in a long-term program to provide a new model for neighborhood-based preventive and supportive services in Burlington. The work will proceed with the assistance and oversight of the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living. Funds will be used to develop a model program, to be implemented at Heineberg Senior Housing, a Cathedral Square Corporation property. The intent is for these services to eventually be available to residents of the surrounding neighborhood.

Explore and Expand Your Creative Potential

UVM's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is hosting *Creativity in Later Life* a two-day conference, June 27 and 28 on the UVM Redstone Campus. According to Osher Director Deborah Worthley, "Creativity manifests itself in many ways, and a goal of the institute is to better understand how and why tapping into our creativity influences a positive view of our later years." The event's keynote speaker will be Dr. Gene Cohen, a well-known expert on aging and director of George Washington University's Center on Aging, Health and Humanities. His speech, "Creative Potential, Psychological Growth and Positive Brain Changes with Aging," will be held at 7 p.m. Friday in the Southwick Hall/Music Building's Recital Hall. Sponsored by UVM's Forum on Aging lecture series, the speech is free and open to the public. No registration is needed to attend just the keynote lecture.

Cohen's keynote address will set the stage for a full slate of interactive, informal workshops presented by university professors, emeriti faculty, and working artists. Those who wish to attend Osher's first annual summer institute may register by visiting <http://www.learn.uvm.edu/osher> or calling (800) 639-3210. The \$100 registration fee includes workshops and the keynote address on Friday, and workshops and lunch on Saturday. Scholarships are available. Dinner on Friday evening is available for an additional fee.

Can Vermont Afford To Grow Old?

Some 150 people turned out at UVM's Davis Center June 3rd for AARP's forum entitled "Can Vermont Afford to Grow Old?" The open public forum was held to explore the impacts on Vermont as the Baby Boomer generation ages. Moderated by State President Jim Leddy, the forum examined the implications for individuals and the state of a rapidly aging population.

Economist and UVM professor Art Woolf outlined the current demographics and the projected impacts on social programs, the workforce, tax burdens and the economy as a whole. Woolf stressed the decline of the working age population and the growing percentage of the population over age 65 as a troubling combination. He emphasized a focus on economic growth and development as a needed response.

Barbara McIntosh of the UVM School of Business Administration and a national authority on older worker issues made the case for the how productive older workers will alleviate some of the burdens expected as the population ages. With 3 out of 4 workers planning to work beyond age 65, it is critical that Vermont employers focus on retaining and attracting valuable older workers. She demonstrated that this segment of the population will play an increasingly critical role in the workforce and economy.

Finally, Lisa Davis, senior vice president and a policy expert at AARP's national office, lent a national perspective to the debate, detailing the real stresses on the American family, such as health care costs and personal financial challenges. She stressed that cutting programs is not an answer, but that fixing the health care system, improving quality of health care, making it easier to work later in life and save for retirement as some of the areas that need the attention of leaders and policymakers -- both in Vermont and Washington, D.C. Davis described the Divided We Fail initiative that includes a coalition of AARP, the National Business Roundtable, Service Employees International Union and the National Federation of Independent Businesses who have joined together to call for bipartisan action by Congress and the next president on affordable health care for all Americans and lifetime financial security. Divided We Fail is seeking to ensure that health care and financial security are at the top of the national agenda for action. For more information, go to www.dividedwefail.org.

Win a Dinner Cruise on the Spirit of Ethan Allen

AARP Vermont is entering new subscribers to BLCP Connections in monthly prize drawings. This month's prize is a dinner cruise for two on the Spirit of Ethan Allen. Help us spread the word and forward this message to your friends. To subscribe go to www.blcp.org and click "Sign Up for Email Updates." The deadline for this month's drawing is June 24th.

Save the Date for a Double Celebration!

AARP Vermont's Grand Opening and 50th Anniversary Celebration will be held Thursday, July 17, 5-7 p.m. at AARP's new state offices, Courthouse Plaza, 199 Main Street, 2nd Floor in Burlington. Join us for live music, catered hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, and good company to celebrate AARP's 50th anniversary and our move to Burlington. The event is free and open to the public.

