



Established 1771

CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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 Brian Bock, Vice Chairman
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COUNTY MANAGER

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Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners Proclaiming May 2014 as Older Americans Month

WHEREAS, since 1963, the United States government has recognized May as Older Americans Month—a special tradition to acknowledge the importance of our older population. Now more than half a century later, the nation, state and Chatham County are choosing to pause again to honor our older citizens for their many contributions and to call upon all of us to assist any seniors who need help in their later years.

WHEREAS, each year there is a national theme for Older Americans Month. For 2014, it is aptly *Safe Today, Healthy Tomorrow*. There are many keys to safe, secure and healthy living in one's later years. This includes guarding against abuse, neglect and exploitation—which is why the coinciding period of Elder Abuse Awareness (from May 9th – June 16th) is so important. Access to quality physical and mental health care is certainly another important factor as is remaining actively engaged in the community for as long as possible. While there are certainly others, near the top of the list is the prevention of falls.

WHEREAS, in 2012, 84 percent of unintentional fall-related deaths in North Carolina occurred among adults over the age of 65. More than half of older adults who died as a result of a fall were 85 years or older. Many of those who fall require care in a skilled nursing facility. The personal, social and economic cost of falls is enormous. That is why the Chatham County Council on Aging joins others in promoting the importance of home safety, arranging for the building of ramps and installation of grab bars and the use of other assistive devices, and offering such evidence-based programs as A Matter of Balance to reduce the fear of falls and increase physical strength and activity levels.

WHEREAS, Chatham County is one of fifty-nine counties in North Carolina to have more residents age 60 and older than 17 and younger. With more than 18,500 older residents, Chatham County values their many contributions to our communities and is committed to promoting their health and safety and supporting their active and independent living.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, wish to join the Chatham County Council on Aging and others in honoring our older citizens, and do hereby proclaim May 2014 as Older Americans Month and commend this observance to all community members.

Adopted this, the 19th day of May, 2014.



 Walter Petty, Chairman
 Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



 Lindsay K. Ray, Clerk to the Board
 Chatham County Board of Commissioners