

Politicians and policymakers, the group maintains, should do what they can to keep this age group from relocating.

"New York State's 50-plus are a major force both at the ballot box and in the local and state economy – but many are worried about their futures here, and finances and affordability are major factors for them," said **Beth Finkel**, State Director (AARP/New York). **"We are working with lawmakers to help identify solutions to New York's looming billion-dollar Baby Boomer flight problem and tackle some of the key issues of concern to the overall 50-plus population."**

Longevity Economy - There's a name for the money older Americans spend and that which is spent providing services for them. AARP calls it the **"Longevity Economy"** and in New York, it's huge. According to AARP estimates, it's \$600 billion, supporting 53% of the state's jobs, 48% of its employee compensation and 44% of all state taxes.

Why do Boomers say they plan to move after retirement? The answers are not surprising and not that different from what seniors living in other urban states might say.

Worried About Housing - Forty percent say they have a concern about housing costs. Many have significant equity in homes that can be cashed out for the purchase of a less expensive home in a less-populous state.

Fifty-six percent said they are very concerned about property taxes. Taxes tend to be high in New York and other urban states. They're a lot lower in states like South Carolina, which is experienced a major of influx of Boomers from New York and the Washington, D.C., area.

Large majorities of fleeing Boomers say they are looking for improvements in health care, housing, transportation and jobs for older residents. Many retirees, after all, want to keep working after they retire. But instead of working at the job that has paid the bills all these years, they may be looking for something a bit more fulfilling.

AARP says states have the best chance of keeping their seniors from taking their money and leaving if they make staying put more worthwhile. **ggd ☺**



Mr. Charles Bell (97) Displaying City Of Warner Robins Proclamation (February 16, 2016 - "Charles T. Bell Day")

*** Please Bring This Newsletter With You To Our Meeting And Bring/Invite A Friend! ***

Choice

The Newsletter Of AARP Chapter 1952
(Houston County, Georgia)
— Established November 7, 1974 —
www.AARPChapter1952.org

April 2016
Volume 20 - 4
Monthly



Meeting Dates/Time: **Wednesday, April 27th** (10:00 a.m.) and **Wednesday, May 25th** (10:00 a.m.)
Location: Wellston Center - 155 Maple Street | Warner Robins, GA 31093

Officers	Names	Telephone	Board Of Directors	Telephone
President	Greg Davis	318-0471	Herminia McMahon (Chairperson)	953-2010
Vice President	Frank Gadbois	953-7788	Benedicta Edge	333-2310
Secretary	Vacant		James Erdmanczyk	217-1778
Treasurer	Marieta Magerkurth	922-2344	Peregrina Guillet	397-6691
"Choice" Editor	Greg Davis	318-0471	Soledad White	953-5700

Birthdays For April

Nancy Hardin 2nd Kashmiri Arora 15th Marieta Magerkurth 19th Connie Case 29th

Birthdays For May

Carmen Pettis 10th Carl Willingham 22nd Salcita Lindley 23rd Sara Williams 23rd
Jeanine Frey 27th

WE CARE

For each new morning with its light, For rest and shelter of the night, For health and food, For love and friends, For everything Thy goodness sends. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882). "Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4 NKJV Sick/Shut-Ins: Ivis Bedrick, Ruth Davis, Bessie Howell, Mary Lappano and Ned Sanders. We wish health/wellness to all current/past members, family members and friends. **ggd ☺**



Highlights From The March 2016 Meeting: Patsy Goff | Director/ Operations Manager - Perry/Houston County Airport shared history, programs and future/ongoing projects for the Perry/Houston County Airport. The airport was once jointly owned by Perry and Ft. Valley until the mid-1990s. When it became unfeasible for Ft. Valley to continue its more prominent role, Houston County stepped in. There are currently around 80 private aircraft housed at the airport, and there has been a waiting list to get hangar space.



Additionally, the airport is home to two flight schools and with funding in place, the county has already begun clearing and preparing the site for a new hangar for the Georgia State Patrol which will operate 24 hours a day/seven days a week! Goff talked about the increase in flights in and out of the airport due to the Guardian Center, the Purdue Chicken Plant and the major horse events at the GA National Fair/AgriCenter. The airport also hosts an Open House the first Saturday in November. To learn more about the Perry/Houston County Airport, call **478/987-3713**.

AARP Chapter 1952 Will **NOT** Have Our Regular Meeting In April! Instead - We Will Be **"Meeting/Attending" SPRING-O-O-O 2016!** Come Play Bingo! Lunch Provided By **"The B-B-Q Doctor!"** FREE to play! Prizes will be awarded! **Wednesday, April 27, 2016.** 10:00 a.m. - Noon. Lunch: 12:30 p.m. **Location:** Antebellum Grove Senior Living | 1010 Kathryn Ryals Road | Warner Robins, GA 31088. **RSVP by April 22, 2016.**

Please call (478) 953-0706

Mark Your Calendars: **Wednesday | 6/22/2016**

***** Membership Drive *** + Summer Picnic**



SPRING-O-O-O 2016! | Wednesday - April 27, 2016 | 10:00 a.m.
Location: Antebellum Grove Senior Living
1010 Kathryn Ryals Road (WR) | Tel: 478/953-0706



P.O. Box 7481
Warner Robins, GA 31095
www.AARPChapter1952.org
Tel: 478/318-0471



Members: Please UPDATE your local (Chapter 1952) membership ... still a “bargain” at only \$5.00/Year!
Advertisers/Sponsors: Your support of our newsletter is an exceptional value at only \$5.00, \$10.00, \$20.00, \$30.00 or \$40.00 **PER MONTH - PRORATED** and helps tremendously to offset printing/production/marketing expenses. *** **Special Rates/Web Banner Spots Available As Well** *** **Thank You ... Thank You ... Thank You!**

ALL: As Chapter President and Editor I'm open to suggestions for our newsletter!

So please, keep your membership status/information current and get your newsworthy information and/or photographs to me as soon as possible!

Sincerely,

Greg Davis ggd ☺ Tel: 478/318-0471 | E-Mail: gdavismail@gmail.com!



“Relevance!”

NOTE: With the exception of **November, December** and “**special events**,” our (monthly) meetings are held on the fourth (4th) Wednesday. As such, the newsletter is (usually) printed/mailed the third (3rd) Tuesday or Wednesday. We're **ALWAYS** “early” for the following month's special days/celebrations and SOMETIMES we're “early” for the current month's special days/celebrations as well. Upcoming **Meetings/Events**:

- Wednesday | 5/25/2016 | 10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon | **Program: Alesha Mathis/Houston County Meals On Wheels**
- Wednesday | 6/22/2016 | 10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon | *** **Membership Drive** *** | **Program: Denise Creel/ Middle GA Easter Seals + Summer Picnic**
- Wednesday | 7/27/2016 | 10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon | **Program: Jimmy Autry/Flint Energies**
- Wednesday | 8/24/2016 | 10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon | **Program: Blake Poole/Georgia Cattlemen's Association**
- Wednesday | 9/28/2016 | **TBD**
- Wednesday | 10/26/2016 | 10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon | **Program: Terry Berry/UGA Extension**
- **Monday** | 11/21/2016 | 10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon | **Program: Angela Bates/Ocmulgee National Park + Business Meeting**
- **Monday** | 12/19/2016 | 10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon | **Christmas “Meeting”**



Forget March Madness/NCAA Basketball ... I'm Talking 'Bout Granny Basketball - Senior Sports Beyond Ping Pong!”

What if you are a senior who wants to remain active, but doesn't wish to or think they can compete on the international stage? How do you start an athletic league in your community?

Well, **Barb McPherson**, President and Founder of the **National Granny Basketball League**, talks about her inspiration to start a league for women over 50 in her city of Lansing, Iowa.

“I was looking for a way to exercise and I realized that I didn't really like anything because it was either too hard of work or I didn't like it. I'm a people person – to go to a gym or something and be by yourself didn't appeal to me. So I was reading this article about how you should find something you really like to do, and the only thing I could think of that I like to do is basketball, but of course nobody else my age played. And there wasn't any way to do it.”

McPherson had played basketball as a high school student in 1962. At that time, basketball was the only sport that they offered for women in Iowa. According to McPherson, it was a small school phenomenon. *“Big schools still thought that [sports were] going to ruin [a girl's] reproductive system, if they were physical. Of course the people in Iowa, whose kids grew up working on the farm – the girls were out there swinging bales of hay and chasing cows, and reproducing at a phenomenal rate. They knew that that was not true,*



so that's why it caught on in Iowa.” Only a few colleges offered women's basketball, so at the end of high school **McPherson** stopped playing. However, companies like **Look** magazine used to sponsor women's teams as a way to lure female workers, and McPherson's sister was one of the Look basketball players.



Many of the ladies on McPherson's team, the **Grand Dames**, had never played basketball because their parents wouldn't let them, or they were from a big school that didn't offer it. *“They are just thrilled to death that they now have the opportunity.”*

McPherson says the Granny's have a wonderful time traveling to away games in Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Louisiana. *“Of course car rides are amazing. You just haven't lived until you've been in car with 5 other Grannys, because nobody can remember anything...we lose each other, and get lost. It's better now cause we have a GPS.”*

Granny Basketball teams play by rules based on basketball of the 1920's:

- No running or jumping, but hurrying is allowed
- No bare flesh may be shown. The Granny's wear bloomers, long sleeved blouses and stockings. If flesh is bare the player receives a technical foul.
- Women can join the league if they are 50 years old or over . The **Great Dames** have an age range from **50 to 86 years** old.
- You receive 3 points if you shoot underhanded (a granny shot). The name for the league was inspired by the shot, and not the fact that the Granny's are grandmothers, because some of them are not.

The games involve teams of six players. Two players from each side must remain in each of the three distinct sections of the court. Running and tight guarding are forbidden, and players can dribble only twice per possession.

Six-on-six basketball was an Iowa staple for girls for most of the 20th century, and it remained a source of pride long after the rest of the nation had adopted the five-on-five game. Six-on-six games were played exclusively from the late 1800s through 1984, when the style was challenged in court by three girls who argued that it damaged their chances for college scholarships.

The league has a Web site, www.GrannyBasketball.com, and **McPherson** fields calls almost every day from women who want to join. One woman, a retired United Airlines employee, flies in from Denver to suit up. *“You don't have to be a grandmother to play,”* **McPherson** said.

“You just have to be old. When we started off, people usually hadn't played for 40 or 50 years,” **McPherson** said. *“Everyone was so stiff and complaining. But now that we've been playing for a while, we're pretty snappy. We're getting some of our muscles back.”* ggd ☺

Boomer Flight: Another Reason For Cities To Worry

AARP Warns Seniors May Take Their Money And Move Somewhere Else

Detroit's bankruptcy has focused attention on the financial problems many cities face. Their costs continue to rise but their tax revenue simply can't keep up.

The collapse of the real estate market is one factor. Municipalities get a lot of their money from property taxes. Since the tax is based on the value of the property, it does down when the value of the property goes down.

And as every homeowner knows, the value of property has gone down over the last 5 years.

But there could be another threat to cities in the next few years that would compound those revenue problems. It has to do with demographics.

In recent years cities have enjoyed new popularity as young people have moved in, taking advantage of lower property values and a more vibrant night life. But young people, at the start of their careers, don't make and spend as much money as their parents' generation – the **Baby Boomers**.

Moving, And Taking Their Money - When the Boomers retire and no longer need to live in the city or its nearby suburbs, they could move, taking their money with them. That's what could well happen in the nation's largest city, according to **AARP New York**. **AARP** estimates that Boomers living in the state of New York would contribute \$179 billion to the state's economy if they remained in New York after they retired. But in a new report, the association found 60% of Boomers are thinking about leaving the state after they stop working.

“Think joining AARP makes you old? Get over it.”



AARP National + AARP Chapter 1952



☺ ggd and enjoy the newsletters in full COLOR! www.AARPChapter1952.org - and enjoy the newsletters in full COLOR! ☺