Aging in Community:
The Village Movement

Pazit Aviv

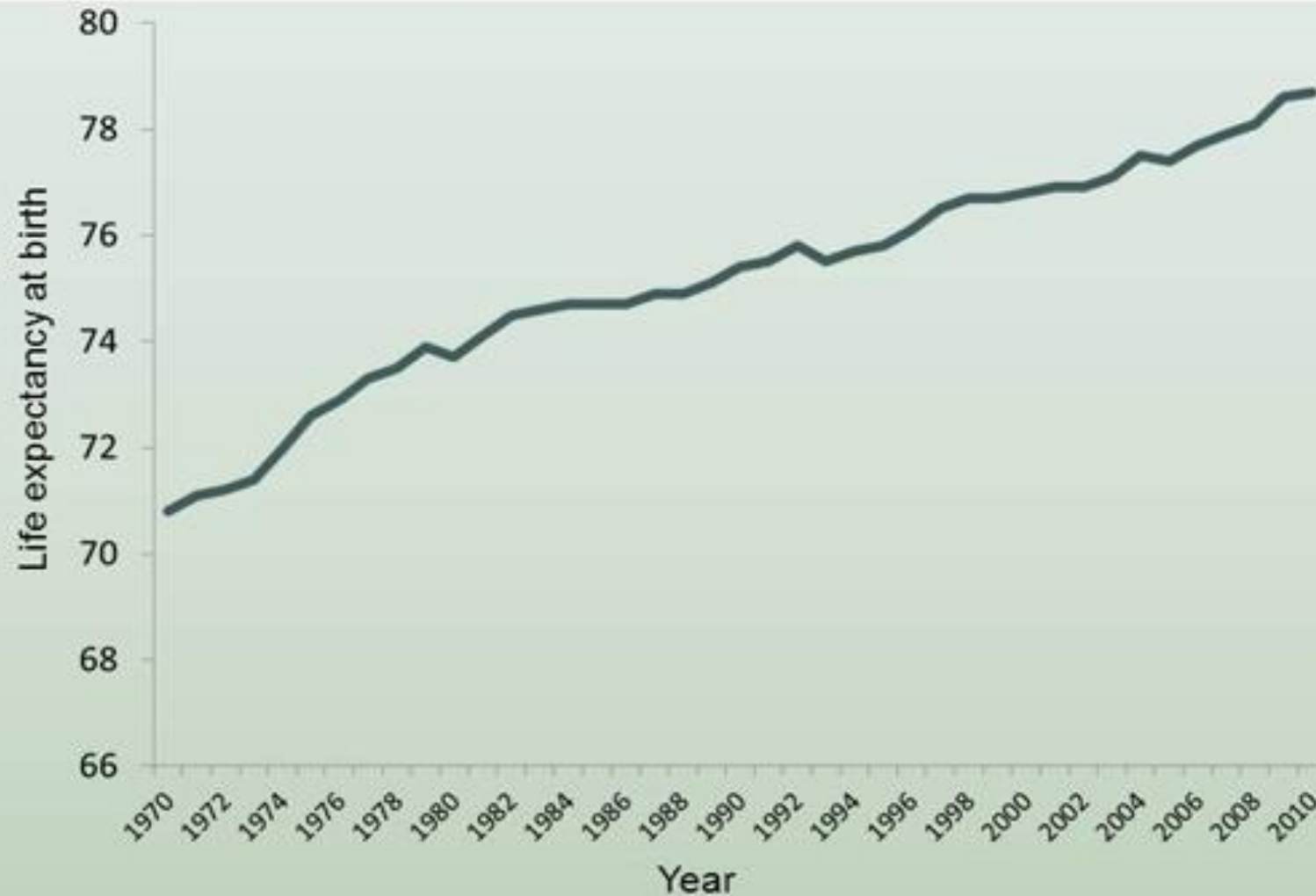**Village Coordinator**

Montgomery County Aging and Disability Services

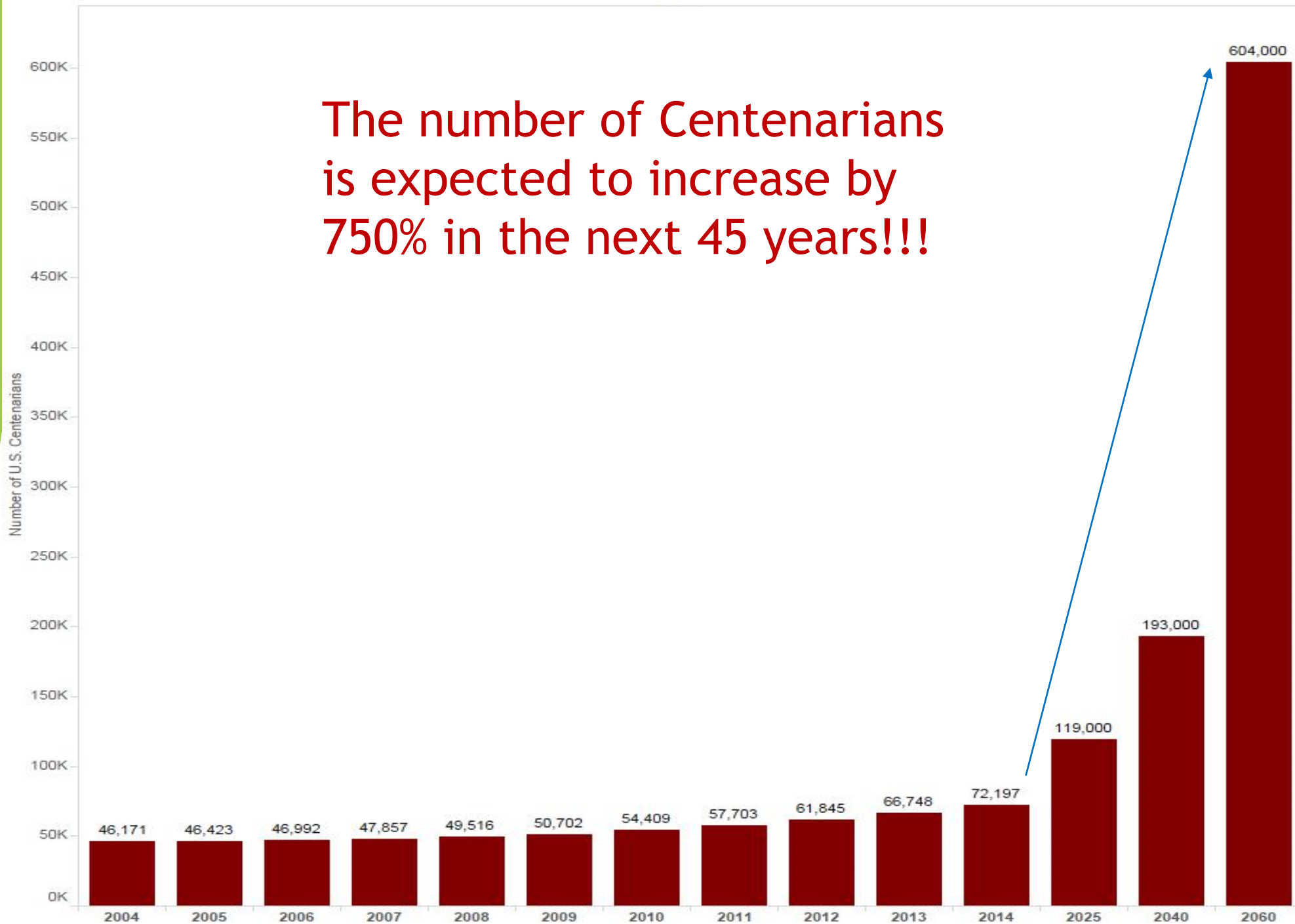# U.S. Life Expectancy

Adapted from: CDC National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol 60, No 4, January 11, 2012

Productive Aging

A philosophy of aging that views older adults as:

- An opportunity rather than a crisis

- A solution rather than a problem

- An asset rather than a burden

- A resource rather than a drain on resources; and

- A group that can make social, economic, cultural and spiritual contributions rather than simply an expanding portion of the population.

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What Does Aging in Community Mean?

- The choice to age in community is a call to action, not a preservation of the status quo.

- Considerations for your decision to age in community:

  - **Built environment**: Is the home accessible? What about public spaces?
  - **Social**: Do you have connections to keep you from isolation. Who will you turn to when you need help?
  - **Health**: Do you have access to quality providers? The ability to manage changes in your health status?
  - **Mobility**: What is the plan if you cannot drive any longer? Do you know the resources?
  - **Financial**: Do you know how much you will need to accomplish your goals? Do you have enough?

Our lost social infrastructure...

▶ Most suburban neighborhoods are not built with community life in mind. Cities are no different.

▶ Two-income economy created a vacuum in the neighborhoods – who is there to form the network?

▶ Modern life-style revolved around two hubs: work and nucleus family

▶ Many retirees feel the double loss of work and kids

▶ Monetizing mindset fails to recognize the value of the social fabric of communities.

▶ Lack of conscious investment caused disintegrated communities

We are at a unique point in time:

▶ Boomer generation entering retirement

▶ According to AARP study, close to 90% plan to age at their current home

▶ Many of our communities are not designed for aging in place

▶ Villages tap into people's desire for:

- autonomy and self determination
- Community and connectedness

What is a Village?

▶ A local, volunteer-led organization that brings people together and coordinates neighbors helping neighbors support.

▶ Communities design their own village based on their unique make up, interests, and needs.

▶ Some choose a multigenerational model.

▶ Services may include social engagement and a variety of support services.

Villages Services

- ▶ Social activities (meeting at local café, featured speakers, walking groups, book clubs)

- ▶ Volunteer transportation

- ▶ Referrals to services (vetted, member recommended, partner businesses)

- ▶ Limited in-home support (meals, laundry, home repairs, pet care and more)

- ▶ Computer help

- ▶ Friendly calling and visiting

- ▶ Much more!

Partved Partnerships

- Evolving partnership with formal aging service providers:
  1. AAA
  2. Hospitals
  3. Home care companies
  4. Care management
  5. Senior living facilities

- Other non-traditional partners:
  1. Home repair nonprofits
  2. Police, Fire, Consumer Protection agencies
  3. Recreation Centers
  4. Faith communities
  5. Libraries
  6. Technology Companies
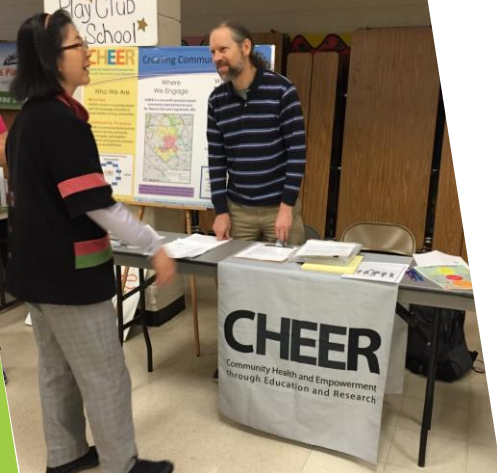
What Can You Do?

- Learn more:
  - National Village to Village Network
  - Washington Area Villages Exchange
  - Montgomery County Village Coordinator

- Consider referring your clients to their local village
- Find out if there is a village in your area and offer your help
- If there is no village, consider stating one

VILLAGES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY (FEB 2019)

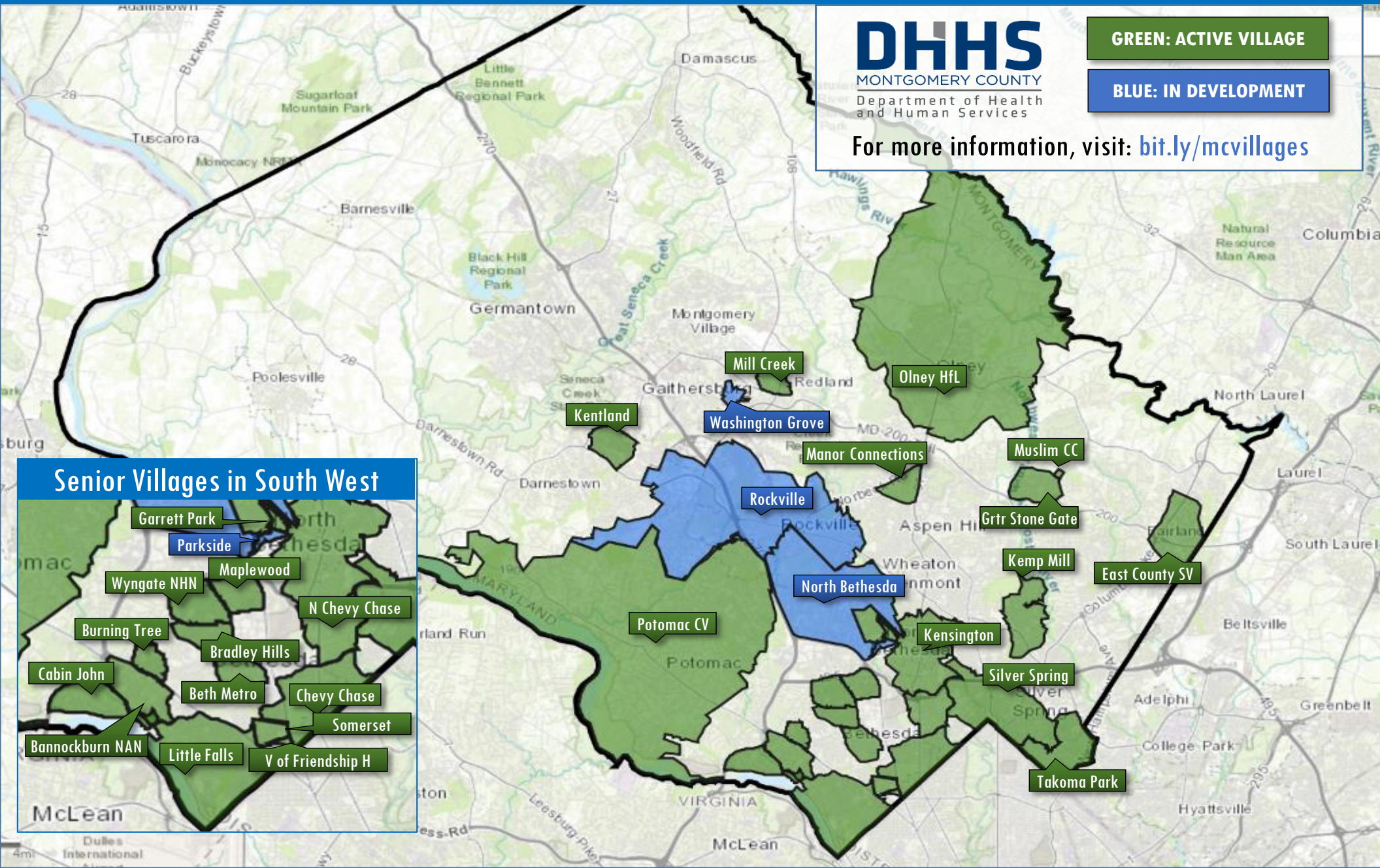GREEN: ACTIVE VILLAGE

BLUE: IN DEVELOPMENT

DHHS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Department of Health
and Human Services

For more information, visit: bit.ly/mcvillages

Mill Creek

Olney HfL

Kentland

Washington Grove

Manor Connections

Muslim CC

Rockville

Grtr Stone Gate

Kemp Mill

East County SV

North Bethesda

Potomac CV

Kensington

Silver Spring

Takoma Park

Senior Villages in South West

Garrett Park

Parkside

Maplewood

Wyngate NHN

N Chevy Chase

Burning Tree

Bradley Hills

Cabin John

Beth Metro

Chevy Chase

Somerset

Bannockburn NAN

Little Falls

V of Friendship H

Thank you!

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