

Proclamation

Today, January 29, 2014, it gives me great pleasure to announce that 2014 will officially be known as the "Year of the Senior" in Putnam, a special year to publicly honor you for your wisdom and experience.

It is particularly poignant that 2014 should be hailed as the "Year of the Senior" as Putnam has the fastest growing senior population in the State of New York. Those of you aged 60 years and older now account for 1 in every 4 residents in our county.

You, our seniors, are among our most valuable residents. You are our parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. You are our veterans and our first responders. You are our teachers, our mentors, our business leaders and highly valued volunteers working for our not-for-profits.

It was documented by the NYSOFA that volunteer work done by approximately one-fourth of Putnam's almost 12,000 seniors, many of whom participate in our Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, amounted to 56,298 in donated hours at a value of \$1.6 million.

2014 is also a milestone year for the Putnam County Office for the Aging as it marks its 45th anniversary. Through the many programs offered by OFA - Adult Day Services, Home Delivered Meals, SNAP, RSVP and others - Director Patricia Sheehy and her staff continue to provide you the opportunity to age in place. Through their efforts, you may gather to enjoy exercise, arts and educational programs, nutritious lunches and each other's company. Their goal, and the goal of this Administration, is to afford you the opportunity to enjoy an active, involved and productive life as you progress through the continuum of aging.

This year we will move forward to keep you mobile by means of our revamped public transportation system, to improve your Carmel Friendship Center, and to build one in Cold Spring. We will also celebrate you monthly by honoring one senior from every town and village for their contributions to their community.

May all of you enjoy a happy and healthy 2014, the "Year of the Senior."

MaryEllen Odell

MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Executive

January 29, 2014

