

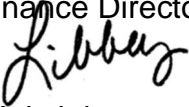


M E M O

DATE: November 21, 2016

TO: Mike Geisel, City Administrator

COPY: Craig White, Finance Director

FROM: Libbey Tucker 
Assistant City Administrator

RE: Chesterfield Older Adult Task Force Update

Since its establishment in 2012, the Older Adult Task Force has continue to grow and thrive and has developed many educational programs and events for our 55+ community. I wanted to bring to your attention two particular items. One is the need for a City Council Liaison from the F&A Committee and the other is regarding a new senior transportation service. I have discussed the liaison position with Councilmember Tilman and he is agreeable to serving in this capacity. He will need to be officially designated as such at the next F&A meeting.

The lack of senior transportation services in the region has been identified as a need to be address by Chesterfield's Older Adult Task Force and was also identified in St. Louis County's Age Friendly Community Action Plan. Over the past several months, two members of the Task Force and I have been participating in a steering committee relative to a senior transportation service called ITN or Independent Transportation Network. Other communities or entities participating in the steering committee include St. Louis County, Richmond Heights, University City, Creve Coeur, the St. Louis NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) and a retired staff person from East West Gateway.

Independent Transportation Network (ITN) is a national non-profit transportation system that has been in existence for over 20 years, meeting the transportation needs of America's aging population. It currently operates a very successful operation in St. Charles County and will be expanding service to a defined area in St. Louis County. ITN is membership-based and utilizes volunteer drivers to provide affordable, high-quality, door-through-door and arm-through-arm services for seniors aged 60 and over and adults who are visually impaired. Individuals purchase annual memberships for \$50 or \$75 per couple and are provided rides to anywhere they want to go within the service area for any reason, 24 hours, 7 days a week at a cost of only \$1.50 per mile

with a \$2.50 pick-up fee. No money ever exchanges hands with the drivers and customers receive a monthly itemized statement.

The service is provided by volunteers and some part-time paid drivers who are screened with a criminal background check and motor-vehicle check. Drivers provide references, are thoroughly interviewed, screened and trained. Friendly volunteers will take passengers for any reason, anywhere, anytime within the service area. They will meet customers at their door, help with packages, wheelchairs and walkers, and ride together in the front seat. Just like a giving a friend a ride!

Utilizing data provided by St. Louis County, concentrated population areas of older adults (25% of the population or more) were found along the mid- and west-County corridor. Therefore, for the pilot program, the service area will generally be Highway 109/Edison to the west, Manchester Road to the south, Page Avenue to the north and McCausland/Skinker to the east. Residents living within specific zip codes within those boundaries are eligible for the service. After an 18-month trial period, expansion of the service area will be considered.

The target start for the program is spring of 2017. Currently, ITNGateway is raising funds and seeking grants for operational costs for the service. The dispatching function will be based out of available office space in Chesterfield City Hall during our business hours and there may be one or two permanent ITN vehicles parked on the outer limits of our parking lot when not in use. Again, all other vehicles utilized are the private vehicles of the volunteer drivers. Volunteer drivers are also being sought, with a minimum commitment of only 5 hours per month. Volunteers can earn credits that other family members or friends can use for ITN's services or can get reimbursed for mileage.

The Steering Committee and the Task Force are excited about this service offering for our older adults. This information will appear in the December issue of *The Citizen* newsletter and we anticipate a high-level of interest. Interested parties can e-mail info@itngateway.org or call me personally at 636-537-6721. More information about the service currently offered in St. Charles County can be found at www.itnstcharles.org. There is no action required by the F&A Committee; we simply wanted City Council to be aware of the program as the awareness campaign begins. I am happy to answer any questions.