

## Bannockburn Neighbors Assisting Neighbors (NAN) 2019 - 2020

NAN, incorporated as a 501©1(3) organization in early 2009, is one of 31 Montgomery County 'villages' that are operating or in development to support older residents who want to remain in their homes and community. After serving Bannockburn's founders and early residents, we are assisting a second generation of older neighbors and younger neighbors who need assistance. In 2019, approximately 18% of our neighbors were older than 65, an almost 2% decrease. Nationally, the older population remains the fastest growing segment in our country.

NAN aims to achieve its mission by offering educational and social programs that strengthen community, prevent social isolation and provide individual support to residents who request it. NAN is governed by a Board of Directors and services are provided by community volunteers. See [www.bannockburnnan.org](http://www.bannockburnnan.org) for information about NAN.

Requests for direct services decreased due to deaths and moves from Bannockburn by several of our older residents. Although Bannockburn Estates asked to join NAN in 2019, we have had few requests for direct services from those neighbors though they did participate in educational/social programs and in our Wise Elders program. Transportation continued to be provided and we were able to fill almost all transportation requests. Equipment donations are appreciated and requests for equipment loans, especially wheelchairs and walkers, increased. A policy to work with our residents and Suburban Hospital was developed and approved by NAN's Board to coordinate, support and monitor post-discharge care but no neighbor has requested that NAN coordinate with hospital discharge staff thus far. NAN Notes, a newsletter distributed on-line and posted on NAN's website, is distributed once or twice a month.

A major accomplishment has been development of new website that uses modern architecture and is much easier to manage than the old site. Please familiarize yourselves with it at [www.bannockburnnan.org](http://www.bannockburnnan.org). The Board thanks Rob Jenson, Christo Andonyadis and Suzan and Jim Mole for advice.

NAN continued to hold monthly social/educational activities until the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic. The Bethesda area villages increasingly invite one another to participate in such activities which has made for richer and more frequent offerings. We expanded our local trip program this year and often had a restaurant meal afterwards.

NAN has suspended in-person educational/social activities and will resume them when the pandemic subsides. NAN Notes, our newsletter, has been distributing information about a wide range of programs and updates from the County about resources available. Since its outbreak, requests for transportation and other services have decreased dramatically. In response to phone inquiries to our oldest residents, we organized a shopping program in which a single elder is paired with an individual shopper who shops

for that person on a regular basis. We were able to get masks donated and we distributed them upon request. Our Wise Elder program was started before the pandemic and we have continued it on-line with high school students interviewing elders virtually. Their presentations to the community have been postponed until fall when we hope that they can be at an in-person event at the clubhouse.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank JoAnn Krecke, our volunteer coordinator, for checking with our neighbors to make sure they are comfortable as they can be during these stressful months. We also want to thank Lynn Springer who retired from the Board for her many contributions to NAN.

NAN welcomes new volunteers, including Block Coordinators. We look forward to seeing you in the flesh when the pandemic subsides.

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Miriam Kelty  
President, Neighbors Assisting Neighbors (NAN)  
June 1, 2020