



Fellowship Square

Reston Affordable Housing Community Hosts National Night Out Event To Focus on Unique Local Safety Concerns of Older Adults; Build Relationships with Local Police

As the population ages, police are often on the front line of geriatric healthcare emergencies. While people age 65+ experience the same crimes as the rest of the population, fear of crime is higher in older adults than younger populations and can lead to social isolation.

July 26, 2022 – Reston, VA – Police and public safety workers will join older adult residents of Reston’s Hunters Woods Fellowship House for a [National Night Out](#) (NNO) community building event on Aug. 2nd. Unique among the many NNO events scheduled across Reston and Fairfax, the Hunters Woods Fellowship House event will be focused on the unique safety needs and concerns of seniors. Hunters Woods Fellowship House provides affordable housing to 300+ older adults (aged 62 and older) who live on extremely limited fixed incomes of approximately \$10,000 per year.

“Our older adult residents exercise on local Reston paths, visit local parks, frequent local businesses, and rely on public transportation. They are a fixture in our vibrant community. They can be true champions of public safety initiatives, while at the same time often fear being the victim of a crime because of their age. The opportunity to build relationship with Reston’s police and public safety officers and engage in dialogue is important to our seniors. Equally as important is the opportunity to thank officers for their service to our community,” said Christy Zeitz, CEO of Fellowship Square.

The Hunters Woods Fellowship House will host a NNO bar-b-que from 4:00-7:00 PM on its [recently renovated](#) property for residents and their family members, friends and neighbors. Visiting police and public safety officers will encourage residents to engage in conversation, ask questions and share concerns. Hunters Woods residents were particularly spooked by a June [murder on a Reston trail](#) less than half a mile from their apartment building. Many community-wide public safety discussions and educational events have ensued, and the National Night Out event will enable more opportunities for seniors in Reston to discuss concerns with police officers, connect with community members and commit to working together to preserve neighborhood safety.

Police, Older Adults, Crime and Public Safety

Enabling and growing police precincts relationships with older adult residents of the community is an increasingly important element of public safety. As the U.S. population ages, police are more and more often on the [front line of geriatric healthcare emergencies](#) as first responders. Older adults are [particularly vulnerable](#) to certain [types of crimes](#) because they are commonly socially isolated, tend to live in urban areas, depend on public transportation, and follow predictable behavior patterns. While research shows that people age 65+ experience the same crimes as the rest of the population, [fear of crime](#) is higher in older adults than younger populations and can lead to social isolation.

About National Night Out

Focused on crime prevention and community building, [National Night Out](#) is a unique event celebrated each year on the first Tuesday of August to promote positive police-community partnerships and neighborhood comradery to make all neighborhoods safer places to live. NNO programs are held by thousands of communities in all 50 states. Officers from local police departments visit with as many neighborhood gatherings as possible to engage in dialogue, build relationships and celebrate the strength of local communities.

About Fellowship Square

Fellowship Square, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is one of the leading local providers of affordable housing and services to low-income seniors, owning 670 units (240 of them jointly) and serving more than 800

older adults. Through HUD funding and vouchers, residents of Fellowship Houses – many who live on Social Security or Supplemental Security Income alone, with an average annual fixed-income of \$10,000/year – pay no more than 30 percent of their income toward their housing costs, including rent and a utility allowance. Through professionally managed apartment communities, programming, and services, Fellowship Square ensures that residents have the support they need to live independent and fulfilling lives even in the face of serious obstacles, such as the high costs of housing in the greater Washington DC area. For more information on Fellowship Square housing options, volunteer opportunities or donations, contact fellowshipsquare.org, 703.860.2536 or info@fellowshipsquare.org.

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