In this issue of “Spotlight on Aging,” I would like to profile Mr. Shelton Roseboro, one of the District’s most amazing citizens who has benefited from the District of Columbia Office on Aging’s programs and services. In addition to telling you a little about Mr. Roseboro, I would like to increase the public’s awareness, including employers, about the benefits of hiring older adults.

Shelton Roseboro is 58 years of age and spent 15 years working at the Library of Congress (LOC) as a microphotographer. In his position, he was responsible for photographing every piece of the library’s collection. You can imagine that with 15 years of experience, Mr. Roseboro became an expert in his job. As a microphotographer, he was a highly effective, dependable employee who performed his daily tasks with pride.

In fact, the LOC honored Mr. Roseboro with two incentive awards: one for quality and one for quantity. For the quality award, he was recognized for producing 22,000 exposures in approximately four to five weeks with only two remakes. Yes, you heard it correctly! He only made two mistakes out of a 22,000 item production. That is remarkable! For the quantity award, he produced 3,200 images in one day, and the standard for production was 1,750. This is very impressive, as well!

As the saying goes, “All good things must come to an end.” Because of the technology age, the LOC went from microphotography to digitizing all of its collection. Subsequently, this led to a reduction in force and Mr. Roseboro being released from employment with the federal government.

For the next 14 years, Mr. Roseboro was not in a career position, but instead, he took various jobs just to pay his bills. He worked jobs in security, retail and transportation, which were totally different from his work with the Library of Congress.

Fortunately, Mr. Roseboro connected with the Office on Aging in 2013, and I referred him to our Older Workers Employment and Training Program. After a short intake process, we put him in touch with our sister agency, the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), under the leadership of Mr. Rob Mancini.

At that time, OCTO was piloting an older workers employment program and was in search of potential candidates who wanted to return to work. The job duties consisted of managing the front desk,
Congratulations to Ms. Senior D.C. Toni Jackson ★ ★ ★

Ward 4 resident Toni Jackson was crowned Ms. Senior D.C. at the 2014 Ms. Senior D.C. Pageant. Ms. Senior D.C. was one of six contestants to compete in the event held to recognize the inner beauty, talent and community service of District women age 60 and older.

Ms. Senior D.C. was crowned wearing a pewter gray full length evening gown, made of tulle netting in a trumpet style. The gown was accentuated with shimmering flower appliqués. At the crowning she was also presented the award for Best Salesperson for her ad and ticket sales. During the talent competition, Jackson sang “On a Clear Day You Can See Forever” from the Broadway musical of the same title.

First Runner-up was awarded to Vernelle Cousins Hamit, who received a trophy for Best Interview. Hamit’s dark sapphire and sequined ball gown with stacked beading at the neckline won the award for Best Evening Gown. The winner of the award for Best Talent was Billie LaVerne Smith, who placed Second Runner-up in the contest. Smith, a retired government employee and church choir director, played her own arrangement of “All Because of God’s Amazing Grace” with hints of the old-time favorite “Amazing Grace.”

Each of the contestants voted, and Annie Cayaban Wilderman was named Ms. Congeniality. The native of the Philippines spoke of uniting young and old of all ethnicities during her talent presentation and philosophy of life.

Also competing during the event were Billye Jean Dent Armstrong, a race car driver and federal government employee and Janice C. Rice, retired government employee and community organizer.

Each of the contestants was judged on their personal interview, their philosophy of life, and their talent and evening gown presentations. An independent panel of judges made up of community representatives from the arts, entertainment and media scored the contest. The interview and talent segments each received 30 percent of the scoring, and the evening gown and the philosophy of life segments each received 20 percent.

Ms. Senior D.C. Toni Jackson will represent the District in the upcoming Ms. Senior America Pageant that will be held Oct. 26 to 30 in Atlantic City, NJ.

DCOA Vacancy Announcement

The Department of Human Resources has the following position posted for the D.C. Office on Aging: Deputy Associate Director ADRC - Vacancy Announcement No. 25537.

A Brief Description of Duties: This position is located in the D.C. Office on Aging (DCOA), which has the responsibilities for providing direction, and comprehensive programs and services of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to seniors, caregivers and persons living with disabilities in the District of Columbia. This position functions as Deputy Associate Director of the ADRC and principal advisor to the Associate Director of the ADRC.

Visit www.DCHR.dc.gov for a complete description and details on how to apply.

DCOA is Seeking Volunteers for its Intergenerational Program

Are you interested in volunteering to be a part of D.C. Office on Aging’s Intergenerational Program? Do you have what it takes to make an impact?

DCOA is currently seeking seniors interested in volunteering to build relationships with, mentor, and guide the District’s youngest learners in District of Columbia Public Schools’ (DCPS) early childhood classrooms. For more information on volunteering, please contact us at 202-724-5622 or send us an e-mail at DCOA@dc.gov.
Director's message
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Free six-week classes will help persons live with chronic conditions. Supported by the D.C. Department of Health and the D.C. Office on Aging, the classes can help persons with diabetes, heart disease, asthma, arthritis, cancer or any other chronic condition that may impact quality of life.

Workshops can also help you:
• Decrease stress, fatigue and/or frustration.
• Manage your symptoms effectively.
• Communicate better with your doctors.
• Make informed decisions about your treatment.
• Set and meet realistic personal goals.
• Learn healthier eating habits.

Register Now for a Living Well Workshop!
Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
D.C. Office on Aging, 500 K St NE
(Seniors, people with disabilities, and caregivers encouraged to register)
Contact Nita Sharma at 202-442-9129 or nita.sharma@dc.gov.

Free Workshops for Persons Living with Chronic Conditions

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton held her Senior Legislative Day at Dunbar Senior High School. Nearly 200 seniors were present and received a tour of the new building and legislative updates. Commissioners on Aging Nathaniel Wilson and Jacqueline C. Arguelles, Chairperson Rhode Island Thomas and Vice Chairperson Ron Swanda are pictured here with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and DCOA Executive Director John M. Thompson.

Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center celebrated the 10th anniversary of its Praise Gospel Choir. The group has sung at many locations in the community and at the center. Plaques were presented to the choir director Yvonne Kelly and the pianist Sarah Williams, who have both volunteered their time for nearly 10 years and are both retiring.

Hazel Charity, Amanda McDuffie, Jocelyn Lancaster and Barbara Bryant, participants at the Hayes Senior Wellness Center, display the jewelry made in their arts and crafts class. Classes are taught by Bernice Oden on Wednesdays. To find out how you can participate, call 202-727-0357 or stop by the Hayes Senior Wellness Center at 500 K Street, NE.

It is very amazing to see how Mr. Roseboro has grown professionally and personally in the last 18 months. This is not only a win for him, but also for the government, as he is giving the government his talent and strong work ethic. Older workers, like Mr. Roseboro, are a huge asset for their employers.

Job Search Training Systems, Inc. revealed that workers 55 years of age and older have a higher motivation rate as compared to individuals 18 to 29 years of age. Moreover, older workers have longer work histories and performance patterns, which are useful for employers to check into their backgrounds. Having had more years in the work world, older workers are more experienced with problem-solving and decision-making and have other transferrable skill sets that are very beneficial to employers.

If you are a senior and are looking for employment, you may be able to relate to Mr. Roseboro’s experience. I encourage you to connect with the Office on Aging’s Older Workers Employment and Training Program (OWETP) at 202-724-5626.

If you are an employer seeking talented, experienced professionals, I urge you to connect with OWETP, as well. We have a number of older citizens seeking employment, and I am confident that they can be an awesome addition to your team!
August events

3rd • noon to 6 p.m.
The Fifth Annual D.C. African Festival will take place at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Woodrow Wilson Plaza, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. Enjoy music, food, entertainment, storytelling, art a parade of flags and more. African attire is encouraged. RSVP by calling 202-727-5634.

4th • 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Iona Senior Service’s Early-Stage Memory Loss Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month. The group is for individuals diagnosed with early-stage memory loss and their family and friends. The fee is $15 per session. Limited scholarships are available. Call 202-856-9448 for a screening interview and to register. Iona is located at 4125 Albemarle St. NW

5th • 5 to 8 p.m.
Celebrate National Night Out at the citywide kick-off at H.D. Woodson High School, 540 55th St. NE. To learn more, visit http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/national-night-out or call 202-727-9099.

9th • 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Join in the activities at the MedStar Family Choice Family Fun Day at Shepherd Park (Intersection of Martin Luther King Avenue and Malcolm X Avenue, SE). For more information, contact Alice Thompson at 202-535-1321.

12th • 2 to 4 p.m.
Learn about promising developments that can enhance well-being and ongoing enjoyment of life as you age. At an Iona Senior Services program led by geriatrician E. Gordon Margolin, review the issues of diet, exercise, medical and mental care, and emotional/attitudinal adjustments that are said to keep life “worthwhile” and discuss the issues of applying the best current knowledge to these endeavors. The free session will be held at 4125 Albemarle St. NW.

13th • 11:30 a.m.
Information about financial abuse will be presented by the U.S. Attorney’s Office at the Kibar Nutrition Site, 1519 Islamic Way (4th Street) NW. For more information contact Vivian Grayton at (202) 529-8701.

14th • 11:30 a.m.
The Delta Towers Nutrition Site will hold a town hall meeting at 1400 Florida Ave. NE. For more information, contact Vivian Grayton at (202) 529-8701.

16th • 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center will hold its Annual Family & Friends Day/Open House. The center is located at 324 Kennedy St. NW. Call 202-291-6170 for more information.

16th • 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Join in the Broccoli City Fest, a festival that celebrates healthy living, at the St. Elizabeth’s East Gateway Pavilion, 1100 Alabama Ave. SE. For more information, contact Alice Thompson at 202-535-1321.

16th • 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
A health fair will be held at the Nigerian Embassy, 3519 International Court. For more information, contact Alice Thompson at 202-535-1321.

19th • 11 a.m.
Learn about rodent control at a presentation by the Dept. of Health at the Petersburg Senior Nutrition Site, 3288 Ft. Lincoln Dr. NE. For more information, contact Alice Thompson at (202) 529-8701.

21st • 10 a.m.
Come to the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired’s Friends Day. The center is located at 2900 Newton St. NE. For more information, contact Vivian Grayton at (202) 529-8701.

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Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination which is prohibited by the Act. In addition, harassment based on any of the above protected categories is prohibited by the Act. Discrimination in violation of the Act will not be tolerated. Violators will be subjected to disciplinary action.

The Office on Aging is in partnership with the District of Columbia Recycling Program.