



Department of Aging and Disabilities

Pamela A. Jordan

Director

2666 Riva Road, Suite 400

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

441-222-4464

www.aacounty.org/Aging

County Executive John R. Leopold

For Immediate Release

Mary P. Felter, Public Information Officer

410-222-4464, Ext. 3051

mfelter@aacounty.org

Resident's Rights brochures available

Annapolis, MD (Oct. 11, 2011) – Two brochures on resident's rights in nursing homes and assisted living facilities and another brochure on the Ombudsman program protecting those residents are available from the Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities. The publications are released during October, which is National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month. This year's theme is "Welcome Home: Creating Connections Between Residents and the Community."

"It is a time to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices many long-term care residents have made to better our community and to call attention to the rights of residents in long-term care facilities," says Pamela A. Jordan, Department director. "We should value all ages in our communities, from the very young to the very old, but the oldest in nursing homes and assisted living facilities often feel isolated and excluded. They are still an important and valuable part of our local communities."

By listening to residents' voices, their lives are honored and they are treated with dignity and respect, Ms. Jordan says. "We encourage community members to visit those they know in a long-term care facility and to volunteer in a facility."

Such residents also need to be involved in community activities, such as Boy and Girls Scout functions, parades, fairs, and senior citizen activities. "They also can continue to take part in groups that they once belonged to, such as civic organizations, church, communities or school volunteer programs," she says.

The public can call the Ombudsman at the Department of Aging and Disabilities at 410-222-4464 for information, to volunteer, and to obtain free copies of the brochures. They are entitled "Resident's Rights in Nursing Homes/Rehabilitation Centers in Maryland," "Resident's Rights in Assisted Living Facilities in Maryland" and "Ombudsman: Your Resident Advocate." Visit www.aacounty.org/aging for information on the Anne Arundel County Department of Aging and Disabilities.

- *Making Life Better* -