



News Release

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GOVERNOR TO SPEAK AT CONFERENCE ON AGING ABOUT ENHANCING LIVES OF OLDER VIRGINIANS

(RICHMOND, Va.) — Gov. Terry McAuliffe will address the Virginia Governor’s Conference on Aging in Roanoke on May 22 at noon as representatives of government, business, nonprofits and academia gather to assess how well the Commonwealth meets the needs of older Virginians.

About 400 people are expected to attend the May 22-23 conference at the Hotel Roanoke to discuss Virginia’s growing aging population related to long-term care services and supports, safety and financial security and livable communities.

“There are 1.6 million adults in the Commonwealth who are over 60 years old. This population will expand to more than 2 million by 2030 as Baby Boomers like me continue to age,” said Jim Rothrock, commissioner of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services. “This conference produces recommendations for the governor and future policy makers on measures that could make Virginia the most age-friendly state in the Union.”

Hoarding expert and TV star Matt Paxton of Richmond will hold a workshop on creating solutions for families in transition and loss. Nationally recognized geriatrician Bill Thomas will kick off the conference with “Eldertopia: The Rise of a New Old Age.” Tuesday’s lunch plenary, “Disrupt Ageism” features gerontology specialists Ayn Welleford and Tracey Gendron. Other panelists will address topics such as access to transportation, caregiver leave policy, aging in place and the real estate tax deferral program.

“We need to emphasize the value of supporting older adults as they take charge of their health, explore new opportunities and activities, and continue to live independent lives,” said Marcia DuBois, director of the Virginia Division for the Aging.

The conference is hosted by DARS and Virginia Association of Area Agencies on Aging. The presenting sponsor is Dominion's EnergyShare program. Visit <http://vgcoa.com/conference-program-2> for program details.

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The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with community partners, provides and advocates for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. For more information, visit www.vadars.org or follow DARS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vadars or Twitter at @vadars.