Revised

ESTABLISHING VILLAGES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

A POSITION PAPER PREPARED FOR A MONTGOMERY COUNTY

GOVERNMENT MEETING ON AGING-IN-PLACE INITIATIVES,

JANUARY 21, 2009

Harry M. Rosenberg, Leslie Kessler, and Barbara Filner[1]

Burning Tree Village in Bethesda, Maryland, became operational in the winter of 2008, when we responded to our first request for assistance, which was from an 81-year old neighbor who has a variety of needs including moving her trash cans on a regular basis, friendly visiting, and transportation to medical appointments when her children cannot drive her. Filling that simple request by neighborhood volunteers – through our "village" – represents the culmination of an organizing effort of almost two years. Based on our experience, this paper has four purposes: (1) to identify ways in which Montgomery County government can facilitate developing and maintaining villages such as ours that are designed to facilitate "aging in place," (2) to describe what we consider to be essential conditions to establishing villages, (3) to present strategic issues that we believe need to be addressed in developing villages, and (4) to provide highlights of our own experience in developing Burning Tree Village. We believe that grass roots initiatives like ours, with Government encouragement and facilitation, can contribute to the quality of life of not only seniors but of all citizens in our County.

ROLE FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County government has been very supportive of our efforts to develop, implement, and promote the village concept. Initially, the Montgomery County Commission on Aging helped us field our survey of needs and resources. Since then, the

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Montgomery County Regional Services Center in Bethesda has provided our village with a grant ($4,000) that helped us meet our logistic needs, and they continue to generously provide photocopying services. This has been an invaluable help.

Based on our experience over the past two years, we believe there are many opportunities for County government to promote the development of villages, including the following:

1. Provide technical assistance in developing questionnaires to establish need and to identify neighborhood volunteers, and helping disseminate the questionnaire.
2. Provide technical assistance in analysis of the survey.
3. Provide assistance with photocopying.
4. Provide start-up grants.
5. Provide legal technical assistance to establish non-profit organizations and to help develop documents to achieve tax-exempt status.
6. Provide workshops for problem solving and information exchange.
7. Provide technical assistance in developing software to maintain and update a data base on volunteer capabilities, volunteer assignments, requested services, and request dispositions.

The basis for these recommendations is described in the sections that follow.

ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS FOR ESTABLISHING VILLAGES

We believe that there are certain prerequisites to establishing villages. While government can and should play an important role, we believe that the major organizing and operational effort must be exerted at the grass roots level, that is, within the neighborhood or community. Consequently, we believe the following are essential ingredients to making villages happen in Montgomery County and elsewhere:

1. Leadership and commitment. From our experience over the past two years, we believe that it is essential to have a core of neighborhood leaders – an organizing committee if you will – who are willing to give time, energy, and effort to create a village.

2. Collect information about neighborhood resources. It is essential, we believe, to conduct a survey to find out who in the neighborhood is willing to volunteer services and what particular skills they have to offer.[2]

3. Communication mechanisms in the neighborhood. There has to be an effective way to communicate with neighbors. This can be by telephone or email, as well as using volunteers to distribute flyers. Information about telephone numbers and email addresses should be part of the neighborhood survey.

4. Strategic decisions. Strategic decisions have to be made on a number of issues among which one of the most important is how to link volunteers with those who request services. There are different ways in which this can be accomplished as discussed below.

5. Funds. Some funds are essential to operate the village. At a minimum, funds are necessary for photocopying, renting space for meetings, possibly for a telephone, and for legal filings if the village is to become incorporated, and, therefore, eligible for grants.

6. Liabilities. Liability issues can arise. Even when a kind-hearted neighbor helps another neighbor, something can go amiss. For example, there can be an accident in a car, in a home, or on the sidewalk. Volunteers and the village need to be cognizant that liability issues can arise.

These are the six considerations we believe are essential to get a village underway.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

Initially, the steering committee of Burning Tree Village reviewed and discussed the experience of a number of village experiments, in particular Beacon Hill Village in Boston and Capitol Hill Village in the District of Columbia. Two aspects of these villages concerned us: one was the relatively high costs associated with having a paid executive director; the other was the relatively high annual membership fees, the two being inter-related. In the case of Beacon Hill Village, we knew that high costs had led to financial

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[2] A copy of the survey form used by Burning Tree Village and results of our survey are available on request to the authors.

crises, and that high membership fees could be exclusionary in neighborhoods with a range of household incomes. Addressing and resolving these and other issues constituted our agenda for many months. Based on our experience, we have identified a number of issues or strategic decisions that are likely to confront any community that wishes to establish its own village.

The issues include the following:
- Management
- Membership fees
- Population Served
- Scope of services
- Pace of development
- Linking supply and demand
- Operating protocol
- Communications
- Promoting participation
- Fund raising
- Developing forms and guidelines
- Feedback, quality assessment, and record keeping
- Liability issues
- Technical assistance

Management. A crucial decision is whether to hire an executive director (on a part-time or full-time basis) or whether to take a different approach to managing the village. Some organizations, for example, are entirely volunteer-based. There are undoubtedly advantages to having an executive director. An executive director can continuously promote and sustain the mission and operations of the organization. In the case of Burning Tree Village, our steering committee felt that it would be premature to hire an executive director in the absence of information about the demand for services. Further, having a committed Board of Directors – a number of whom are retired – we felt that initially we could use our volunteers and Board to manage and operate the organization

without incurring the liability of hiring and paying an executive director in the absence of a major, sustained income flow. We were determined to keep expenses down. And we were extremely fortunate to have the support of Montgomery County, which provided us not only with a grant for our first year of operations, but also with continuing photocopying services – a major expense during our start up.

Membership Fees. In contrast to Beacon Hill Village, we wanted to avoid having high membership fees. We wanted everyone in our community to be able to participate and for no one to be excluded based on ability to pay. By keeping expenses to a minimum, we felt that we could have anyone in our community join and decided to charge no membership fees and to rely on donations.

Population Served. The implication of "aging in place" is that the population to be served is the elderly. Nevertheless, we broadened the definition of the target population to include those with disabilities. We felt that this was consistent with our mission of helping neighbors and that it would not greatly stress our volunteer resources. Some other villages have broadened their target population to include the younger population, which has very different sets of needs such as baby-sitting.

Scope of Services. We envisioned our scope of services as consisting, ultimately, of the following components: (1) neighbor-to-neighbor assistance, (2) concierge services, that is, a single source of recommendations of vendors (such as plumbers, electricians, etc.) (3) medical component, (4) educational services, (5) and social services. Neighbor-to-neighbor assistance would draw on the strong spirit of volunteerism that our survey revealed. Concierge services are envisioned as initially at market prices, but ultimately at discounts. The medical component – possibly in partnership with a hospital – would consist of wellness services (such as blood pressure testing), possibly health aides at a reduced cost through a preferred provider, and possibly gerontological services. Educational services would include seminars on such relevant topics as home modification and reverse mortgages. Social services could include socials, neighborhood walks, coffees, organized trips, etc. In defining our scope of services, we ruled out providing emergency services for which there are other available mechanisms such as the local Rescue Squad and the police.

Pace of Development. Because of our decision to rely on Board members rather than hiring an executive director, our pace of development has been slow, deliberate, and incremental; we have concentrated on developing and implementing one component at a time beginning with neighbor-to-neighbor assistance. We also implemented a quasi-concierge component: instead of having a single telephone number at which we would identify for the caller the name of a reliable vendor, we distribute to our community an annual printed list of recommended vendors based on the experience of neighbors and friends (this is called "Neighborhood Services Exchange: Services Recommendations, Winter 2008.") Further, we agreed that we would initially delimit our service area to our immediate neighborhood, even though we had expressions of interest from outside.

Linking Supply and Demand. A key decision in implementing a village is how to link volunteers with those requesting services. Our research revealed a number of alternative approaches. Thus, Beacon Hill Village and Capitol Hill Village have staff who match volunteers against requests for assistance and links requesters with preferred service providers. Alternatively, in Montgomery County, a local charitable organization named Bethesda Help, which provides services to a low income population, uses volunteers and an answering service to respond to requests without paid staff.

A third alternative, which Burning Tree Village chose as an initial approach, is to partner with another organization that links volunteers with those in need. In Montgomery County such an organization is The Senior Connection, which focuses in particular on providing transportation. The Senior Connection agreed to partner with Burning Tree Village as a clearinghouse for at least some services, and has generously provided training to our volunteers and those of Bannockburn (a nearby neighborhood). Burning Tree Village has adapted training materials developed by The Senior Connection for its volunteers. To reciprocate, some Burning Tree Village volunteer drivers have agreed to help provide transportation services to an assisted living facility near our neighborhood, through the Senior Connection clearinghouse.

Operating Protocol. The way Burning Tree Village meets the needs of our neighbors is as follows: Both those volunteering their services and those requesting services are encouraged to contact any member of the Board of Directors, who provides the requestor

with the appropriate form. The information on the form is entered into the Burning Tree Village data base and also is faxed to The Senior Connection. Those requesting services are given the phone number of The Senior Connection and are told to call The Senior Connection in advance to request a particular service. If the requested service is not within the scope of services provided through The Senior Connection, The Senior Connection refers the request back to our President, who assigns the request to one of our volunteers. After service is provided, we ask that the requester and the volunteer provide us with feedback.

Communication and Publicity. To develop the organization as well as reach out to the neighborhood, good communication is essential. Burning Tree Village does this through several means including email, a weekly neighborhood electronic newsletter, and house-to-house flyers. In addition, in September 2008, we held a "launch" presentation to 60 residents of the area in a meeting room rented from a nearby house of worship, followed by a launch presentation to 20 additional residents at the home of our President. One of our members has developed a fledgling website that describes our organization, and is being upgraded to provide a number of functionalities, including links to forms and to County resources.[3]

Promoting Participation. Promoting Burning Tree Village in the neighborhood and in the broader Bethesda community is an on-going effort. It requires publicity material as well as outreach to organizations in the community such as the Chamber of Commerce. In November 2008, we did house-to-house leafleting. In addition, beginning November 2008, we initiated small social gatherings on a block-by-block basis. At these social gatherings, we have at least one member of the Board who makes a brief presentation and responds to questions. We have had about a dozen of these block gatherings to date. At the September launch and the November block socials, forms were made available to join the village, to make donations, to volunteer, and to register for services.

Fund Raising. Fund raising will become an integral part of our activities. It is encouraged through our brochure (Appendix I) and our website www.BurningTreeVillage.org

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[3] Richard Fong, Cyberix Web Services. Email: Webmaster@Cyberix.us

Because of our low expenses and the generosity of Montgomery County, as well as donations by our members, we are financially viable. Nevertheless, we shall emphasize fund raising as an on-going effort through our Board and a committee to which we shall assign that responsibility.

Developing Forms and Guidelines. We have developed three forms: (1) Join Burning Tree Village, (2) Volunteer, (3) Register for Services. In addition, working with the Senior Connection we have developed a set of guidelines for volunteers that meets the requirements of the Senior Connection and yet takes into account the special characteristics of the "village" context.

Feedback, Quality Assessment and Record Keeping. We consider it essential to ascertain how well services are being performed. Accordingly, we intend to contact our service requesters a week about after they have received services to get feedback. We also request monthly reports on services provided by our volunteers. This information will be part of the public record, and will appear in our annual report. Feedback from our neighbors also informs our continuing efforts to improve our operating protocol and the quality of our services.

Liability Considerations. Helping one's neighbor seems innocuous enough, a humanitarian effort. However, liability issues can arise. For example, in the unlikely event that the recipient of services falls during transfer into an automobile, or is injured while under the assistance of a volunteer, there is a potential for a law suit. Two protections exist for volunteers in Burning Tree Village: (1) Maryland has "good Samaritan" laws that are favorable to volunteers and would provide, ultimately, some protection. (2) The Senior Connection, with which Burning Tree Village is partnered, provides its volunteers with liability insurance. We have been told by The Senior Connection that to date (from 1968), they have in fact never had to invoke their insurance.

Technical Assistance. Burning Tree Village, as a matter of principle, believes that as the first "village" in Montgomery County it should share its experience and promote the village concept. Accordingly, we provide technical assistance to any neighborhood or individual that asks for assistance in organizing a village. We have responded to about a dozen of such requests and have made about half a dozen presentations to a number of

communities including the Bannockburn community, the Bannockburn Civic Association, Fleming Park, Fallsmeade, Somerset, and Carderock Springs.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Timeliness. Developing and implementing a village takes time. It may require many meetings for a steering committee and, later, a Board to achieve consensus on the best approach to take. There are many strategic decisions to make. In addition, going through the legal process of establishing a corporation and achieving tax exempt status is not only time-consuming, but requires a collaborative relationship with an attorney who can, with a clear understanding of the village mission, help develop legal documents that articulate the goals of the organization and help avoid pitfalls that might hinder incorporation and tax-exempt status.

Web-based Utilities. We believe that the Internet can greatly facilitate the creation and operation of villages by putting the volunteer data base on-line to make and track assignments. Burning Tree Village is working with a web designer, who is helping develop a system that builds on the spreadsheets that we now use to maintain our records of volunteers and those who request help.[4]

Meeting Space. It is helpful to have a meeting space for not only monthly or bimonthly meetings of the village steering committee or Board, but also for social and educational events. For our Board meetings, we meet in Board members' homes, often on a rotational basis. For larger neighborhood meetings, to date we have rented space at a nearby house of worship. Many neighborhoods like our own do not have a common space other than the public schools, which are available for a modest fee and with some lead time.

Supply and Demand. We were encouraged by the results of our survey which showed a high level of volunteerism in our neighborhood. However, we have been disappointed by the low level of requests for assistance. This is not for want of publicizing Burning Tree Village. On the contrary, we have publicized our aging-in-place initiative widely, first, with our survey a year ago. Since then, we have publicized with house-to-house flyers, and currently with block-by-block hosted gatherings. We have asked ourselves why our

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[4] Ibid.

residents, some of whom have obvious physical infirmities and no longer are able to drive, are not asking for assistance with greater frequency. We conjecture that there may be a number of reasons: (1) In the absence of a village, many residents have made other arrangements to meet their needs such as calling on children, friends, or immediate neighbors. (2) Some residents can afford to hire others to meet their needs for transportation and other services. (3) As we live in a culture of "self-reliance," our neighbors may be reluctant to ask for help. They may be unwilling to get others involved in their life affairs. They may prefer privacy, even at the cost of social isolation. Our sense is that it will take some time before villages make inroads in our culture of self-reliance.

MAJOR STEPS IN ESTABLISHING BURNING TREE VILLAGE

Beacon Hill Village as an Inspiration. A seminal article in the AARP Bulletin appeared in December 2005. Entitled "Declaration of Independents," the article described a social experiment in Boston called "Beacon Hill Village," in which a group of seniors established an organization to help one another "age in place," that is, remain in their homes as long as possible.[5] The article ignited interest in many communities throughout the United States, where the growing population of seniors faced similar challenges to remaining in their homes as they aged and their strength and physical mobility declined. The article caught the attention of a number of residents in our neighborhood who hoped that we might initiate a similar effort. Other communities throughout the United States were also inspired by the Boston experiment, and soon were organizing similar initiatives as widely reported in the media.[6] In the Washington area such efforts began to take shape in a number of neighborhoods including Capitol Hill, the Palisades neighborhood of

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[5] "Declaration of Independents," AARP Bulletin, December 2005, pp. 14-17.
[6] "Aging at Home," New York Times, February 9, 2006.
www.nytimes.com/2006/02/09/garden/09care.html
"A Grass-Roots Effort to Grow Old at Home," New York Times, August 14, 2007.
www.nytimes.com/2007/08/14/health/14aging.html
"Neighborhood Starts Program to Help Seniors," Bethesda Gazette, July 23, 2008.
http://www.gazette.net/stories/072308/bethnew203252_32365.shtml

Georgetown, the Watergate apartment complex, Dupont Circle, Mount Vernon, and in the neighborhood near the Burning Tree Elementary School in Bethesda.

Many of these so-called village initiatives looked to Beacon Hill Village for not only inspiration, but also for guidance. Indeed, Beacon Hill Village capitalized on its visibility by developing a technical guide (available for several hundred dollars) and training seminars to help other communities establish their own villages. The Beacon Hill Village model is a non-profit membership organization. Its members pay about $600 per year individually or $850 per family. In return, they are provided with a variety of services including names of preferred vendors (e.g., electricians, plumbers) who provide discounted, quality services, hospitals that provide wellness programs, and activities that promote social interaction and learning. Beacon Hill Village partners with a major hospital in the Boston area; it accepts donations and grants to help defray costs and to subsidize membership for low income households. Important aspects of Beacon Hill Village are a strong volunteer component and a "grass roots" base.

One of the greatest contributions of Beacon Hill Village is to demonstrate the feasibility of these aging-in-place initiatives. As measured by renewal rates, Beacon Hill Village with a membership numbering about 85 percent has been successful. On the other hand, it has highlighted some issues of viability, in particular the cost of developing and maintaining the infrastructure of such organizations.

Beginning Burning Tree Village. For Burning Tree Village, the initial step was to assemble a group of interested neighbors who were willing to review and discuss the experience of different approaches drawing in particular on the experience of Beacon Hill Village and Capitol Hill Village. In the spring of 2007, about a dozen interested neighbors – many of whom belong to our local garden club – began discussing how to develop an aging-in-place effort for our neighborhood. We felt that a systematic survey of the neighborhood to determine interest was essential. We designed the survey[7] and,

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[7] The survey form is available on request to the authors. One of our Board members – Allan Williams – played a major role in designing the form.

with the assistance of the Commission on Aging in Montgomery County, the survey was copied and mailed to our neighbors in November 2007. At the same time, we used information from the 2000 U.S. Census of Population to determine the demographic characteristics of our neighborhood.

We also began our efforts to establish ourselves as a non-profit corporation in the State of Maryland and to request designation from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501(c)(3) organization, so that donations would be tax deductible, and so that we would qualify to apply for grants from government and foundations. To address these complex legal matters, we were fortunate to obtain the pro bono services of an attorney in our neighborhood with special expertise in non-profit law.[8] That attorney, working closely with one of our Board members,[9] helped us develop Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, and the IRS application for tax-exempt status. We were incorporated in April 2008 with the State of Maryland, and, in November 2008, applied to the IRS for tax-exempt status.

Our steering committee, meeting at least monthly, also discussed what to name our organization. Our preference was Burning Tree Village; "Burning Tree" because the local elementary school, Burning Tree Elementary School, is a focal point of our community, and "Village" to link our efforts with the burgeoning national aging-in-place movement. After research, we found that the name "Burning Tree Village" was not in the list of corporations in Maryland. In addition, using the Internet, we found that the name was used by a real estate developer in Oregon, and in Maryland. We contacted both organizations to secure assurance that they would not challenge our use of the name "Burning Tree Village."

Results of the Demographic Analysis. Burning Tree Village is comprised of 440 households near a local elementary school – the Burning Tree Elementary School, which is the only definable community focal point. The neighborhood has no active civic

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[8] Spirer Law Firm, P.C., Bethesda, Maryland 20814. http://www.spirerlaw.com

[9] Board member Barbara Filner chaired the committee that discussed issues associated with incorporation and served as the Board liaison with Julian Spirer of the Spirer Law Firm.

association. It does have other institutions that provide some community identity and cohesiveness in addition to the school, namely a garden club, a Neighborhood Watch, a community electronic newsletter, and a community directory. The boundaries of our community are arbitrarily defined, but are compatible with the local election district. Economically, the community is mixed; it includes many brick homes built in the 1950's largely for commuters in the employment of the Federal government, as well as some considerably more expensive homes built since the early 1990's. The approximately 1,300 residents are a mix of younger families and older families. About 21 percent of the population is aged 65 years and older. A number of households with older residents are occupied by a single adult, often a widow. Only 10-percent of the households are non-white, mainly Asian. In terms of educational attainment, over half the adult residents have at least a bachelor's degree, about twice the national average. The average household income is three times the national average but about 10 percent of the households have an annual income of less than $50,000, based on the 2000 U.S. Census. Our neighborhood is similar to other neighborhoods of Bethesda, which are characterized by excellent public schools and by their proximity to Washington, D.C.

Results of Neighborhood Survey. After a follow-up effort by telephone, the survey response was 21 percent, which was sufficient to do a meaningful analysis separately for the population over and under 65 years of age. The survey revealed that 84 percent of the households with seniors want to remain in their homes as long as possible, that two-thirds of the seniors have family members nearby to assist them, and that the types of help that the seniors would like include home maintenance, housekeeping, snow and leaf removal, gardening, assistance with bill paying and tax preparation, and transportation to medical appointments. (The survey form and the survey analysis are available by request to the authors.)

An important finding was that almost half (48 percent) of the respondents, regardless of age, are willing to help other neighbors. The services most frequently volunteered are friendly visiting, grocery shopping, transportation to medical appointments, and telephone check-ins.

CONCLUSION

Based on our activities over the past two years, we are convinced of both the merit and the feasibility of having "villages" in suburban settings such as those that abound in Montgomery County. We believe, further, that the demand for services will increase as neighbors hear about positive experiences, and gain confidence in the volunteer resources that neighbors can and wish to provide. We believe that Montgomery County government can and should offer technical and financial assistance to encourage development of villages.

APPENDIX I. BROCHURE FOR BURNING TREE VILLAGE

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors Age in Place"

Become part of Burning Tree Village, a new nonprofit organization for our neighborhood to help our senior and disabled neighbors age in place. Burning Tree Village is nondenominational and open to all neighbors, regardless of age. There are no fees or dues. It is based on the concept of neighbor helping neighbor.

- Become a volunteer
- Receive supportive services that will help you stay in your home as you age
- Participate in social and other community-based activities.

Mission
Burning Tree Village (BTV) helps neighbors remain in their homes as they age ("age in place"). We do this through volunteer activities and through partnerships with other organizations that will complement our volunteer activities. By engaging all residents in these activities, BTV enhances the quality of life of the entire community.

Planned Activities
Most will be provided by volunteers at no cost:
- ❖ Transportation (to medical appointments, shopping, cultural events, etc.)
- ❖ Grocery and other shopping
- ❖ Friendly visiting
- ❖ Information on resources provided by Montgomery County, nonprofit organizations, social service organizations
- ❖ Light home-based chores (changing light bulbs, setting clocks, hanging pictures, etc.)
- ❖ Social and educational events
- ❖ Annual paper copy of the publication "*Neighborhood Services Exchange: Recommended Services"*
- ❖ Weekly electronic neighborhood newsletter *"Neighborhood Services Exchange"* and occasional *"Neighborhood Watch Updates"*

Additional benefits planned for the future
- ❖ Hospital partnership(s) for wellness programs
- ❖ Facilitated access to a variety of professional services (home health care, home maintenance, etc.)
- ❖ Educational and social activities

Background
According to AARP statistics, nine out of ten Americans over the age of 50 want to stay in their homes they age. That desire, along with the difficulty of tasks such as home repair and driving, has led to the formation of "aging in place" communities in which neighbors help one another stay more safely in their homes by sharing their abilities. Neighbors in our community began developing Burning Tree Village in 2007, and we were incorporated as a nonprofit in April 2008.

We plan initially to focus on volunteer activities, and gradually to expand our services through partnerships with hospitals and other organizations. There are no fees for joining or receiving

services. Contributions to help defray administrative expenses such as photocopying, postage, renting meeting space, accounting, etc. are appreciated.

Partnership with The Senior Connection
To serve as a clearinghouse for our volunteers, we are partnering with a nonprofit called "The Senior Connection," which has helped coordinate volunteer services in Montgomery County for many years. Senior Connection is funded in part by Montgomery County, by an interfaith consortium, and by donations. Senior Connection is helping us not only with volunteer coordination, including transportation coordination, but also with training volunteers and keeping records of services provided.

How to Request Services
To request services, please contact any of our Board members, listed below, and request a "Register for Services" form. The Board member will deliver the form, help you complete it (if you wish), and will ensure that the form is faxed to The Senior Connection, which will register you. Once registered, you may call Burning Tree Village c/o The Senior Connection to request a specific service, at tel. 301-962-0820.

BURNING TREE VILLAGE, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
   President, Leslie Kessler, Deep Creek Court, 301-526-2251
   Vice President, Harry Rosenberg, Richard Drive, 301-229-4406
   Secretary, Odile Jennings, Beech Tree Road, 301-229-5232
   Treasurer, Amy Rider, Beech Tree Road, 301-365-0839
   Nancy Aronson, Winterberry Place, 301-229-9239
   Jane Meleney Coe, Pawtucket Road, 301-320-5083
   Barbara Filner, Richard Drive, 301-229-9243
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LEGAL COUNSEL
   Julian Spirer, Esq.
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   Tel. 301-654-3300
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BURNING TREE VILLAGE, INC.

Email: BurningTreeVil@aol.com

Website: www.BurningTreeVillage.org

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact one of the Board members.

Form to Join or for Additional Information

Please complete both sides of this request form, then tear off and mail:

___I would like to join BTV

Please send me more information on
___ Volunteering with BTV
___ Receiving services from BTV

Name (Title, First, Middle, Last)

_____

_____

Address

_____

Bethesda, Maryland 20817

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Date of Birth _____

Names of Other Household Residents Who Wish to Join:

(1)_____

(2)_____

(3)_____

Contributions
Burning Tree Village is free, because we do not want resource constraints to be a barrier to receiving services and participating. To sustain Burning Tree Village, we shall depend in large part on voluntary annual contribution to support administrative costs and underwrite social and informational events organized by BTV.

Suggested contributions are as follows:

- Good Neighbor …Up to $99
- Supporter…$100-499
- Sustainer…$500-999
- Founder…$1,000 and over

If you wish to make a contribution, please write a check payable to Burning Tree Village, Inc. BTV is a nonprofit corporation and has applied with the IRS for status as a 501(c)(3) organization. Once we receive a favorable ruling by the IRS, donors will be notified and their contributions will be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Amount Contributed _____

_____ Check here if you wish your contribution to be anonymous in published listings.

Please mail this form with your contribution (if any) to
Burning Tree Village, Inc.
c/o Amy Rider
8404 Beech Tree Road
Bethesda, MD 20817