

## Andover's booming with baby boomers

### Town gears new programs for them

BY COURTNEY PAQUETTE  
STAFF WRITER

ANDOVER — Nearly a quarter of Andover's population isn't getting the services they need.

BoomerVenture wants to fix that.

It's a series of programs geared toward providing baby boomers, those born between 1946 and 1964, with the tools they need as they edge toward retirement.

"It's a big need," said Karen Payne-Taylor, the BoomerVenture coordinator. "Most towns

have not adopted something focused on the boomers. Every phase the boomers have gone through, they've affected. We want to offer boomers great reasons to retire in Andover."

Payne-Taylor and Andover Senior Center Director Kathy Urquhart developed the program. They want Andover to be at the forefront in providing services to baby boomers. They've even trademarked the entire name "BoomerVenture," with

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Greg Rigby, center, helps prepare for the Andover Senior Center's new program, BoomerVenture. He's speaking about senior finances with Eileen Holzman, left, and Susan Big.

ANGIE BEAULIEU/Staff photo

## BOOMERS: Financial program offered tonight

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the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The name looks like neon lighting and has a peace sign in one of the O's, reflective of the "passion" of their generation, Payne-Taylor said. Payne-Taylor's husband designed and donated the brand.

"We hope that this will reach beyond Andover," Payne-Taylor said.

They hope other towns in the area and across the state adopt the program, which starts today with a class on planning finances called "Financial Fitness at 50+." Attendees will learn how to pay for their children's college, credit card debt and the basics of estate planning. All of the presenters are baby boomers from Andover.

There are about 70,000 people in the Merrimack Valley who are considered "mature workers," those over the age of 50. That's about 5 percent of the 1.4 million mature workers statewide, according to data provided by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission.

About 10 percent of the Merrimack Valley's baby boomers live in Andover. The goal of BoomerVenture is to give the more than 8,000 baby boomers here the resources to live the next phase of their lives to the fullest.

"Retirement is not going to happen in the same way anymore," Payne-Taylor said. "Just because we're finished raising kids doesn't mean we're at all interested in slowing down."

Urquhart agreed, "It's going to be a whole different lifestyle."

They'll tackle the tough issues, like caring for aging parents and

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The first two classes of BoomerVenture are coming up. Before and after each session, there will be an opportunity to suggest more ideas.

**What:** Financial Fitness at 50+

**When:** Today

**Time:** 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** 30 Whittier Court, first floor of the school administration building.

**Cost:** \$5

**What:** Gourmet to Go, preparing for holiday cooking

**When:** Nov. 6

**Time:** 7 to 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** 30 Whittier Court, first floor of the school administration building

**Cost:** \$10

For more information visit:

[www.boomerventure.com](http://www.boomerventure.com) or call Karen

Payne-Taylor at 978-623-8321.

planning retirement. But they'll also deal with the lighter side of being a boomer and hold classes in fitness and cooking. The cost of the courses will be minimal, between \$5 and \$10. They'll only charge what it will cost to hold the programs.

The first two classes will be in the school administration building during the evenings. The first couple of classes are going to be test classes, and Payne-Taylor welcomes new ideas.

And she welcomes anyone who might not consider themselves "old enough" to be a boomer to come.

"We're not checking IDs," Payne-Taylor said, laughing.

### Contact

Karen Payne-Taylor

978 623-8321

kpaynetaylor@andoverma.gov

### ASC

(Andover Senior Center)

36 Bartlet Street

Andover, MA 01810