

BoomerVenture open for business

By COURTNEY PAQUETTE
 STAFF WRITER

ANDOVER — Karen Payne-Taylor had a woman call from New Jersey the other day, asking if she could enroll in the programs being offered at the town's BoomerVenture "campus."

The woman had read online about the programs being offered in Andover for baby boomers, and wanted to participate.

"I told her it would be a long commute," Payne-Taylor said, nevertheless happy that the program is drawing so much interest.

The town-run BoomerVenture is opening its "campus" Jan. 10 in the senior center — the first floor of the 30 Whittier Court building — dedicated to providing the town's baby boomers with food, fun, conversation and classes.

The campus, which will be open Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m., will offer things like light meals, chair massages, a game room and popcorn. Eight-week classes in exercise and yoga and a book club are also set to kick off next week.

Payne-Taylor and Andover Senior Center Director Kathy Urquhart developed the program, which kicked off in the fall with



Courtesy photo

Denise Boucher will teach an 8-week exercise class for baby boomers at the Andover Senior Center, starting Thursday.

classes on finances and cooking.

"I hope it will be a gathering place where people can think about their own wellness," Payne-Taylor said.

The program's creators want Andover to be at the forefront in providing services to baby boomers. They've even trademarked the entire name "BoomerVenture," with the Unit-

ed States Patent and Trademark Office.

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 THE CLASSES

What are the new classes and how do I sign up?

BoomerVenture's new session starts Jan. 10. The "winter semester," includes the following classes. They all start between 6 and 7 p.m. For more information visit www.boomerventure.com or call 978-623-8321.

- Energize with Exercise: create a workout regimen, focused on building flexibility and strength. Eight weeks, \$45.
- Serenity Yoga: gentle yoga practice, eight weeks, \$45
- Book Club: eight weeks, free

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.

"We have plans down the line to think about ways to offer these to other communities," Payne-Taylor said. "It's a really new program for the Merrimack Valley."

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