

Opinion/Letter: Center's transition is applauded

Letter to the Editor Oct 6, 2018



I wanted to thank Melissa Castro, author of “What do you mean by senior?” (The Daily Progress, Sept. 16 in print) for commenting in her column on the fact that the Senior Center changed its name to The Center.

It is important to note that this change was not made lightly. I served on The Center’s board for six years (2013–2018) and was president for two of those years. During my tenure, a name change was discussed, and the members and community were surveyed throughout that time. I applaud the current board for moving forward with this decision.

While the organization’s mission of promoting healthy aging hasn’t changed, generational expectations have. The Center will be moving from its current location on Hillsdale Drive to the Belvedere community and, as Melissa noted, the new name is part of that evolution.

Along with enhanced programs and events offered for older adults, The Center will become a much-needed multigenerational meeting place conveniently located just off East Rio Road. There will be a Greenberry’s coffee shop and a Sentara Martha Jefferson primary care clinic. A planned second phase to house a gymnasium will increase The Center’s capacity for serving a range of ages, allowing kids, parents, and grandparents to enjoy each other’s company — another important reason for the name change.

I am proud to have served the Senior Center in this time of positive transition and look forward to watching The Center continue to make a very positive impact on our community.

Michael Guthrie, Albemarle County

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