

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Senior Issues presents its accomplishments, findings to the Saratoga Springs City Council

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SARATOGA SPRINGS — The Mayor's Advisory Committee on Senior Issues presented its annual report to the City Council Tuesday night, outlining its accomplishments from the past year as well as the results of a series of surveys conducted of local senior citizens.

"The percentage of the population that is 55 and older is growing significantly," committee member Jay Portnoy told the council, laying out census data that shows the percentage rose from 23 percent in 2000 to almost 30 percent in 2010. He said counting only people 18 and older — those eligible to vote — the population was nearly 40 percent.

"Hopefully that will help you focus your interest," he told the council as members of the public in attendance laughed.

In the last year, the committee had Saratoga Springs Post Office made wheelchair accessible, had a bus shelter installed in front of the Price Chopper on Route 50 and hosted a series of senior forums.

"We have seniors with needs and we have agencies that can help, but we find there is a disconnect," said Mary Zlotnick, chairperson of the committee. That is where the forums have come in.

The forums had representatives from groups such as the Saratoga County Office for the Aging, Legal Aid, Senior's Choice, Saratoga Hospital and 211-United Way.

"I've seen great progress and a considerable amount of effort on behalf of seniors (from the committee)," Mayor Scott Johnson told Zlotnick, thanking her and the committee for their work.

This year the committee has started work on emergency preparedness plans for seniors around the city. In addition, the group

will work to implement improvements outlined in walkability surveys it conducted, and survey more seniors to assess needs.

She said the committee is in need of volunteers and participants. "We're open to all ages of people to come help," she said.

The group meets the second Monday of the month at noon at the Senior Citizens Center of Saratoga Springs. For more information, contact Zlotnick at 336-8582 or mmzlotnick@aol.com.