

Age-Friendly Maple Grove Community Connectors Meeting

Friday, February 14, 2025 | 9:00am-10:30am

Attendees: Patty Anderson, Len Langkau, Deb Stock, Sharon Noble, Bill Tiedemann, Pat Schwalbe, Gabie Clark, Jen Olson, Katie Bonjean (Artesa MG Rush Hollow), Liz Faust, Jennifer Monson (Economic Development Manager, City of Maple Grove), Lydia Morken

Welcome, Introductions, Overview

- **2025 meeting invitations:** A new calendar invite was sent by Liz on Tuesday, 2/11. The event is called “Age-Friendly Maple Grove Community Connectors Meeting,” and this is what we will use going forward. Old calendar invites should be deleted.

Action Plan: Implementation Update

- **Housing**
 - Team is planning a housing tour for late winter/early spring.
 - Jennifer Monson noted that she and Joe Hogeboom discussed this tour and suggested that if the goal is to focus on age-friendly and highlight housing for older adults, it should be tailored more to Council members, mayor, and planning commission.
 - Stops could include market rate (SilverCreek on Main), affordable (Woodland Mounds), and the Fernbrook/County Road 30 site. At each site we’d visit inside the building and see a unit.
 - Team will continue to discuss.
 - Several meeting attendees expressed interest in attending a tour; there may be potential for a second event for this audience.
- **Communications**
 - Website redesign: This team sent a scope of services to Avallo for the website redesign and have received a bid; the project should be underway soon.
 - We’ll plan articles in City Focus and Osseo-MG Press to roll out new site
 - We’ll reach out to AF MG members for input/ideas related to what services and information should be highlighted.
 - AF MG will be featured in the next issue of MG Magazine – keep an eye out.
- **Social and Civic:**
 - Focus areas remain inter-generational programming and cross-promotion of events
 - On Jan. 27 Liz and Pat held a tour CROSS Services; 13 people attended this deep dive into what CROSS offers. For many this was their first time visiting CROSS.
 - March 1-April 6 is Minnesota Food Share, a statewide campaign to help food shelves.
 - This year in Maple Grove, CROSS is partnering with the police and fire departments to open up Fire Station 2 so people can drive through and drop off donated food. FD and PD staff will be there to collect it, and this year

they will also have police cars and fire trucks on hand for kids to check out as part of the event. CROSS has a great relationship with the PD and FD.

- This will be the fourth year of the inter-generational garden started with help from AF MG. Sixteen raised garden beds in metal troughs on wooden stands. It is a partnership between the Senior Center and the Teen Center.

- **Community Support and Health Services, and Emergency Prep:**

- [File of Life](#) – continuing to explore how to expand availability of this resource in the community
- Exploring model efforts from other communities – in this case, exploring potential collaboration with CARE Resource Connection.
- Emergency prep program: At the library, planning a program related to how to prepare for an emergency – including what services are provided by Hennepin County and locally. Shannon at Fire Dept. is going to help. Open to ideas about what to share. Reach out to Gabie if you have something.

Team Updates

- **Pat Schwalbe, CROSS**

- Pat was invited to be on a panel at an event hosted by the [Minneapolis Area Senior Workers Association](#) (MASWA) on March 27. They meet monthly at Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley. Members are largely various senior service providers. (Jen Olson noted she is a member.)

- **Gabie Clark and Sharon Noble – MG Library:**

- Weekly craft program and new book club both well attended.
- Held first genealogy session, which was well attended and attracted a more diverse mix than usual. Will continue on the second and last Thursdays of the month.
- Library will be tabling at [Keeping the Spirit Alive: The Conference for Caregivers and Those Supporting a Loved One with Dementia](#) hosted by Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis. Sunday, April 27, 2025 at Adath Jeshurun Congregation – Minnetonka. Free and open to all.

- **Jen Olson, SilverCreek on Main**

- People moving into town homes.
- Starting to plan for a couple of big events:
 - Longest Day – Alzheimer's annual fundraiser, June 25, 2025
 - SilverCreek on Main's 10-year anniversary celebration – Sept. 20, 2025

- **Deb Stock, Alzheimer's Association volunteer**

- Four caregiver support groups running now; Deb leads three of the four.
- A newer one for people living with dementia; this is finding its groove. AF MG can help promote if there is opportunity to boost awareness and attendance.
- Memory Café continues with about 12 people per month attending.
- At this point about 60 people served per month. That's a lot of caregivers.

- **Bill Tiedemann, Trellis (Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging)**
 - Working to provide technical assistance to Live Well at Home and Dementia Grantees, as well as Age-Friendly MN grantees.
 - Working on Action Teams for Multisector Blueprint for Aging
 - Planning a course for nonprofits on fundraising, governance, finance, etc.
- **Kate Bonjean, Artessa Maple Grove at Rush Hollow**
 - Cooperatives need to sell 60% of their units before they can open. Working on that right now. This will be a community for residents ages 62 and over.
 - Includes one-level slab on grade townhomes; also some villas.
 - They recognize the emotional process of leaving a longtime home – being a resource for the people are experiencing that.
- **Liz Faust, 55 Forward:**
 - Working on summer programs
 - Cara Anderson joined the 55 Forward staff in December to replace Brenda Krapfl, who retired after 20 years.
 - Program attendance is very steady – back to normal, pre-COVID numbers.
 - Just last week started talking about Community Center redesign project related to senior programs. Liz is pushing for multi-purpose rooms to offer the most flexibility.
- **Lydia Morken**
 - Age-Friendly Minnesota preparing to launch [Action Teams](#) to lead implementation of Minnesota’s [Multisector Blueprint for Aging](#). Subject matter experts and representatives from relevant fields and organizations are welcome to join; numerous topics being tackled. [More information here](#); [sign up here](#).

News from the Field

- **[Age-Friendly Ireland](#)** – Ireland has a country-wide initiative, one of the most robust globally.
 - Lydia shared several photos of aspects of this effort – including Hidden Disability parking space, multi-generational toilet stalls, and transportation service for helping people visit tourist sites.
- **[Hidden Disabilities Sunflowers/MSP Airport](#)**
 - The Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport (MSP) also uses the sunflower, now an internationally recognized symbol of hidden disabilities (such as dementia, autism, brain injury, hearing or vision loss, etc.)
 - MSP has worked on becoming a dementia-friendly airport. The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower program is part of that.
 - Wearing the sunflower (on a lanyard or bracelet, for example) indicates to airport staff that you may need additional assistance during travel.
 - Travelers can pick up a lanyard at the airport or request one be mailed to them ahead of time. There are no prerequisites for asking for or wearing an item.

Next meeting: Friday, May 9, 2025, 9:00am-10:30am