Elevating Aging-in-Community
in
Bellwood & Broadview

A Strategic Guide

January 2023

Aging in a Changing Region

Executive Summary

Bellwood and Broadview participated jointly in the "Aging in a Changing Region" program, funded by the RRF Foundation for Aging, and led by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Planning/Aging. Planning/Aging developed joint strategies for Bellwood and Broadview to elevate their support of Aging-in-Community. The recommendations are divided into categories: Communication; Coordination; and Collaboration.

Joint Communication Recommendations

- Elevate and promote Bellwood's and Broadview's commitments to Aging-in-Community
- Put out consistent and integrated messages about Aging-in-Community
- Designate Village departmental staff as Aging-in-Community point-persons
- Establish Aging-in-Community resource centers for information on existing older adult services and programming
- Incorporate older adults as resource-providers in inter-generational mutual support initiatives
- Practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior
- Consider developing "Aging-in-Community Handbooks"

Joint Coordination Recommendations

- Commit to taking a 'whole of government' approach to supporting Aging-in-Community
- Incorporate Aging-in-Community into key municipal conversations and initiatives
- View Bellwood's and Broadview's housing issues in part through Aging-in-Community lenses
- Ensure that existing housing programs are consistent with Aging-in-Community
- Investigate including "Missing Middle Housing" options in your existing housing stocks

- Investigate home-sharing as an option to support older adult homeowners
- Consider overall Housing Plans to coordinate and augment recent new housing successes
- Update the outdated Comprehensive Plans with plans that specifically support Aging-in-Community
- Take a "Big Picture" look at Bellwood's and Broadview's transportation services
- Leverage public realm improvement opportunities as important to Aging-in-Community
- Review municipal operations and programs for their Aging-in-Community consistency

Joint Collaboration Recommendations

- Establish Aging-in-Community Commissions to play ongoing policy and review roles
- More consistently engage with the network of existing service-providing stakeholders
- Continue to provide opportunities to connect directly with the external aging network
- Better incorporate the faith community in overall Aging-in-Community efforts
- Help establish and support a new sub-regional Aging-in-Community collaboration
- Attend the MMC's Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and other regional Aging-in-Community activities

The recommendations are fleshed out in this document. It is up to the Villages to review, select and prioritize from this list of recommendations and develop implementation plans. As Bellwood's and Broadview's conversations are still in the early stages, additional ideas, and strategies for supporting Aging-in-Community can and should be added to this list.

WHAT IS
AGING IN COMMUNITY?

Aging-in-Community *refers to a coordinated municipality-wide effort to support the evolving needs and interests of its aging population.*

Aging-in-Community *is inclusive of the narrower term "aging-in-place" which focuses on one's dwelling, using a broader, community-level lens to identify a set of plans, programs, procedures, and services that in combination help support its older residents.*

Aging-in-Community *is an important component of 'livable community' efforts that address the needs and interests of residents throughout their lifespans.*

Communities that support **Aging-in-Community** *are by definition 'age-friendly' and 'dementia-friendly' communities.*

Study of **Aging-in-Community** *programs throughout the United States identifies key indicators of likely success of a municipality's* **Aging-in-Community** *program:*

- *Issue champions among (but not overreliance upon) elected officials, staff leadership, and the overall community*
- *Dedicated human and financial resources*
- *Collaborations with key aging network and other community stakeholders*
- *Coordination between* **Aging-in-Community** *and other municipal priorities*

The "Aging in a Changing Region" Program

Municipalities throughout the metropolitan Chicago region – like regions throughout the country – are experiencing substantial growth in the number and percentage share of their older adult populations and are looking for strategies to help address these shifts.
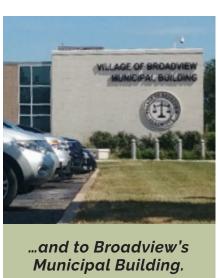
Three partner organizations – the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (*MMC, serving the Chicago region's 275 cities, towns and villages*), the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (*CMAP, the regional planning organization for Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties*), and Planning/Aging (*a consultancy focused*

on the intersection of city planning and the growing aging population) – received funding from the RRF Foundation for Aging to assist municipalities' support of Aging-in-Community. This program – "Aging in a Changing Region" (*AiaCR*) – builds upon the idea that wherever a municipality is currently in its support of Aging-in-Community, strategic guidance can help elevate its support going forward.

In 2021 and in 2022, MMC invited municipal participation in the AiaCR program. Interested municipalities submitted applications that combined an assessment of their Aging-in-Community goals and

work to date, and assistance they envisioned to help advance these goals. The 2022 Cohort of municipalities – Bellwood and Broadview (*participating jointly*), Highland Park, Maywood, Richton Park, and Yorkville – reflects the region's diversity in terms of geography, socio-economic factors, community type, and Aging-in-Community experience.

Welcome to Bellwood's Municipal Building...

...and to Broadview's Municipal Building.

✖ WHAT THIS DOCUMENT ISN'T

❌ **ISN'T** *a detailed physical plan document with specific infrastructure or other capital projects identified and costed out, with their implementation details outlined*

❌ **ISN'T** *a compendium of 'best practices' from other local or non-local municipalities – while identifying certain approaches from elsewhere can be valuable as references, anything planned for Bellwood and/or Broadview should be tailored to the specifics of Bellwood and/or Broadview*

❌ **ISN'T** *a write-up of a rigorous, data-driven assessment and planning process with a precise schedule for future evaluations and updates, as Bellwood's and Broadview's involvements with the AiaCR program were a qualitative assessment of current conditions and potential future efforts and strategies*

✔ WHAT THIS DOCUMENT IS

✅ **IS** *a practical strategic guide tailored to Bellwood and Broadview on how to elevate their current support of Aging-in-Community – designed to be used as an ongoing resource, not to gather dust on shelves due to its unreadability or impenetrability*

✅ **IS** *specific topical recommendations of further actions Bellwood and/or Broadview may choose to take, either through utilization of their existing resources, joining with other entities in collaborative activities, or by engaging external partners*

✅ **IS** *a working framework of specific action steps that Bellwood and/or Broadview can take to elevate their support of Aging-in-Community, and which can be modified, adapted, or augmented at any point to even better meet evolving community needs*
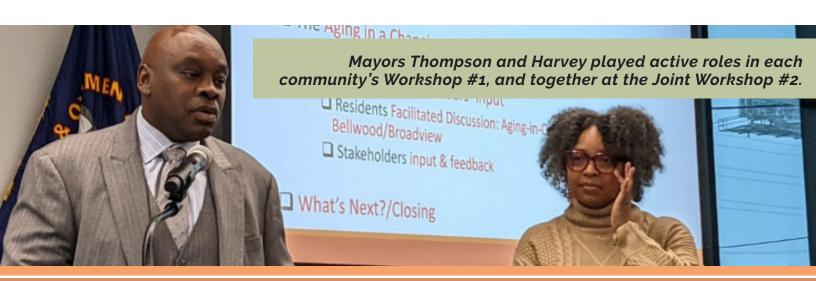
Bellwood's and Broadview's Joint Participation in the AiaCR Program – What Does This Mean?

This engagement was unique to the AiaCR program – in no other instances did two communities request to participate jointly. This joint participation made a great deal of sense considering the physical adjacency and the many social, institutional, and political linkages between Bellwood and Broadview. In addition, as the AiaCR program describes Aging-in-Community at a broad community level, and many of the important players who impact the quality of living and aging in each community provide services and resources to both communities, further justifying a joint approach.

A key component of AiaCR is a pair of public educational and strategic workshops. At each workshop, Planning/Aging provides a brief educational background to explain Aging-in-Community, framed in an intergenerational "livable communities for all ages" manner. Working with two communities jointly affected the logistics of this engagement, as the two municipalities requested and received separate Workshops #1 in each community, while they requested and received a joint Workshop #2. Throughout this -- as with all AiaCR engagements -- Planning/Aging coordinated with a Core Team of key municipal stakeholders to help plan the workshops. In this instance, Planning/Aging convened and worked closely with a joint Core Team composed of key staff and elected officials from both municipalities.

Most directly, this document is the sole AiaCR Strategic Guide document prepared for two municipalities jointly rather than for a single municipality. While most of this document refers to both communities, there are some specific recommendations that are tailored specifically to either Bellwood or Broadview. It is hoped that giving the municipalities insight into both the joint recommendations and the recommendations given uniquely to the other municipality enables ongoing strategic collaboration.

Mayors Thompson and Harvey played active roles in each community's Workshop #1, and together at the Joint Workshop #2.

Many of Bellwood's and Broadview's neighborhoods consist of tidy single-family homes on tree-lined streets.

Bellwood's and Broadview's Aging-in-Community Contexts

Population, Community Size and Land Use

While on the surface similar, Bellwood and Broadview do have some clear differences in terms of population, community size and land use. Bellwood's 2020 Census population was 18,789 people living within its 1,534.8 square acres (*approximately 2.4 square miles*), while Broadview is home to 7,829 people living within its 1,137.5 square acres (*approximately 1.78 square miles*). In terms of overall land use, 41.3 percent of Bellwood is zoned residential, and 16.6 percent is zoned either industrial or commercial. In Broadview, 30.3 percent is zoned residential, while 36.8 percent is zoned industrial or commercial.

In terms of demographics, with 65 and older population levels at or above Cook County's, as illustrated below, Bellwood and Broadview should both be viewed as typically aging inner-ring suburban Chicago municipalities. And considering their substantial 35- to 64-year-old populations, community aging should be seen as an ongoing feature rather than a one-time atypical circumstance. Broadview is older than Bellwood, and this has long been the case, as Broadview's median age in 2000 and today has ranged from four to eight years older than Bellwood's.

Age Cohorts, 2016-2020

	Bellwood	Broadview	Cook County
34 and Younger	48.9%	40.7%	47.0%
35 - 64	36.9%	39.9%	38.3%
65 and Older	14.1%	19.3%	14.6%
Median Age	36.1	44.1	37.0

Most of the older adult residents in both Bellwood and Broadview live independently throughout the community.

As in every community, most caregiver services are provided within an older adult's home.

Bellwood and Broadview are Steadily Aging

	Bellwood		Broadview		Cook County		CMAP Region	
	Count	*Percent*	*Count*	*Percent*	*Count*	*Percent*	*Count*	*Percent*
Under 5	1,375	7.3%	421	5.5%	315,368	6.1	508,895	6.0%
5 to 19	3,580	19.0%	1,359	17.7%	934,763	18.1%	1,624,354	19.2%
20 to 34	4,244	22.6%	1,347	17.5%	1,179,280	22.8%	1,781,246	21.1%
35 to 49	3,295	17.5%	1,377	17.9%	1.026,034	19.8%	1,688,609	20.0%
50 to 64	3,642	19.4%	1,691	22.0%	956,384	18.5%	1,625,883	19.2%
65 to 74	1,843	9.8%	923	12.0%	433,863	8.4%	713,897	8.4%
75 to 84	665	3.5%	283	3.7%	219,634	4.2%	348,205	4.1%
85 and Over	155	0.8%	276	3.6%	104,191	2.0%	160,449	1.9%
Median Age	36.1		44.1		37.0		37.7	

Housing Stock

Both Bellwood's and Broadview's housing stocks are significantly different from Cook County's overall housing stock, however, consisting much more of detached single-family homes (*Bellwood has 73.9 percent, and Broadview has 65.2 percent, vs. Cook County's overall 40.5 percent*), and it has way fewer homes in large (*20 or more dwelling unit*) buildings (*Bellwood has 1.1 percent, and Broadview has 4.5 percent, vs. Cook County's overall 18.8 percent*). Over three-quarters of Bellwood's and Broadview's housing is found in single-family or two-flat buildings (*Bellwood has 83.7 percent, and Broadview has 77.7 percent, vs. Cook County's overall 55.3 percent*). This means that the vast majorities of Bellwood's over 2,600 and Broadview's nearly 1,500 older adult residents live independently in such dwellings scattered throughout the communities, as opposed to only a small percentage who live in identifiable older

Some of the limited smaller multi-family residential buildings are 4-plex buildings.

adult residences, such as Bellwood's Senior Suites 89 units and Prairie View Apartments' 84 units (*soon to be joined by the under-construction Senior Apartments' 80 units*) and Broadview's Senior Apartment's 70 units.

Housing Type 2016-2020

	Bellwood		Broadview		Cook County		CMAP Region	
	Count	*Percent*	*Count*	*Percent*	*Count*	*Percent*	*Count*	*Percent*
Single Family, *Detached*	4,780	73.9%	2,085	65.2%	889,820	40.5%	1,719,774	50.3%
Single Family, *Attached*	300	4.6%	66	2.1%	115,249	5.2%	253,603	7.4%
2 Units	337	5.2%	334	10.4%	211,928	9.6%	237,178	6.9%
3 or 4 Units	419	6.5%	110	3.4%	232,291	10.6%	268,464	7.8%
5 to 9 Units	411	6.4%	320	10.0%	216,511	9.8%	266,933	7.8%
10 to 19 Units	76	1.2%	111	3.5%	102,644	4.7%	150,679	4.4%
20 or More Units	73	1.1%	145	4.5%	412,247	18.8%	494,837	14.5%
Mobile Home/Other	72	1.1%	27	0.8%	17,799	0.8%	28,748	0.8%

Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey five-year estimates
"Other" includes boats, recreational vehicles (RVs), vans, etc.
[CMAP Community Data Snapshot | Bellwood (illinois.gov)](illinois.gov)
[CMAP Community Data Snapshot | Broadview (illinois.gov)](illinois.gov)

Guidance Documents

Municipalities typically depend on their Comprehensive Plan and other plans, their Zoning Ordinance, and other documents for ongoing guidance as they work to progress towards meeting their civic goals and visions. But this seems less so the case for Bellwood and Broadview, as they are opportunistic villages, and their real focuses appear to be on identifying and taking advantage of specific entrepreneurial opportunities and visions to address key challenges such as economic development and infrastructure improvements.

Bellwood's first and only Comprehensive Plan was developed and approved in 2013, and it appears to serve a largely aspirational purpose. While it is a fine professional document, and it includes critical general goals like affordable and "multi-generational" housing, connectedness, livability, accessibility, and pedestrian safety, it does not make any specific references to Aging-in-Community, although it does contain several idealized target area redevelopment plans that could be seen as generally consistent refer with Aging-in-Community. Comprehensive Plans are seen to have a 10-year lifespan, and Bellwood's Comprehensive Plan includes a 10-year Implementation timeline, so the Plan is due for updating.

Broadview has an outdated Comprehensive Plan from 2006, which is not found on the Village website. The "Planning, Zoning and Site Plan Application" form refers to a Comprehensive Plan Designation (*Future Land Use Plan*), which is also not found on the website. As a practical matter, Broadview relies on its Zoning Ordinance and the land use and other regulations contained therein for overall protection of public health, safety, and welfare. As is the case with Bellwood's Comprehensive Plan, Broadview's outdated Plan contains a few statements generally consistent with, but no specific references to, Aging-in-Community. Broadview's Plan is certainly due for updating or replacing.

Public Transportation

Bellwood and Broadview residents benefit from several transportation services within the communities, including the Bellwood station on Metra's Union Pacific West line, and several Pace buses that travel along major arterial streets throughout both communities. Pace also offers curb-to-curb Dial-A-Ride services for Bellwood's and Broadview's older adult residents and people with a disability.

In addition, Proviso Township offers a free curb-to-curb Senior Ride Program for older adult Bellwood and Broadview residents who need transportation to and from medical facilities and other qualifying non-medical locations within Proviso Township.
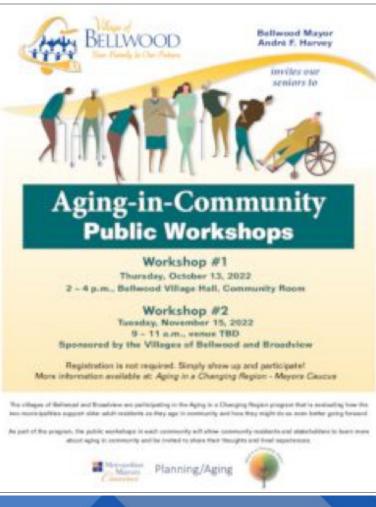
Bellwood's and Broadview's Aging in a Changing Region Engagement

Municipal Workshops

Planning engagements such as this one often include an assessment of a community's assets and challenges. The limited AiaCR scope required an informal streamlined assessment process, in which Planning/Aging spoke with community stakeholders, and reviewed guidance documents such as the community's Comprehensive, Housing, Transportation or other plans, and any other available, relevant municipal information.

This input helped to frame facilitated discussions that were the core of the public workshops: engaging residents to share their lived experiences and ideas as to how they think the community would be best able to support them in the future; and internal and other key stakeholders to consider ways they might be able to augment or modify their services and strategies to better support Aging-in-Community going forward.

The Core Teams in each community prepared beautiful Workshop flyers.

Bellwood's and Broadview's Public Workshops

- As joint AiaCR participants, Bellwood and Broadview requested that the public workshops provided to each AiaCR municipality be delivered in a hybrid manner, i.e.: with a separate Workshop #1 held in each community, and a Joint Workshop #2 for both communities together. This suggestion was accepted.

  Broadview's Workshop #1 was held on Wednesday, October 12th, and Bellwood's Workshop #1 was held on Thursday, October 13th. The joint Workshop #2 was held on Tuesday, November 15th.

- The attendance at each Workshop #1 was between 20-25 people, approximately one-half residents, and the other half a mix of municipal staff, elected officials and external stakeholders. At both workshops, key external partner stakeholder organization representatives introduced themselves, outlined their services available to Bellwood's and Broadview's older adult residents, and stayed after the workshops to talk with individual residents.

- The attendance at Workshop #2 was approximately 60, about two-thirds of whom were residents of both municipalities, with the rest municipal staff, elected officials and external stakeholders.

- The highlight of every workshop was a facilitated discussion – at the two Workshops #1 attendees discussed their perceptions of existing services available to Bellwood's and Broadview's older adult residents, and at the Joint Workshop #2 older adult residents shared their lived experience living and aging in Bellwood and Broadview, as well as what they identified as issues and challenges to their Aging-in-Community.

Broadview recently celebrated the opening of its new, affordable Broadview Senior Apartments community.

Key Input and Observations

Workshops #1 Input

The resident participants at the two separate Workshops #1 were notably different: Broadview's resident participants were independent-living older adults, while Bellwood's resident participants largely consisted of residents of one of the older adult buildings in town. This difference was reflected in the character of the Workshops' facilitated discussions, as the Broadview residents' input was largely external-facing, focusing on topics such as interactions with municipal departments, communications, and their participation with support programs and services that they sought out, while the Bellwood residents' input was largely internal-facing, focusing on concerns with the management and conditions within their current building, and their participation with support services and programs that primarily were brought into their building. Notably, because both communities have a mixture of older adult residents – some who live independently and others who live in age-restricted buildings – the Workshop #1 attendees in either community could have represented either group of residents.

There were, however, some common themes that were articulated in both Workshops #1:

- Economic insecurity, which was manifested as both fears of being priced out of current rental housing, and as there not being housing options within the community for those "in the middle" who do not qualify for financial assistance but cannot afford much of the community's market rate housing

- Tremendous appreciation for their mayors and their municipal governments' concern for and attention to older adults within the community, with specific acknowledgment of the responsiveness of community emergency services

- Many attendees avail themselves of the various public and privately provided

Resident attendees at Bellwood's Workshop #1 emotionally shared their lived experiences.

Workshop #1 attendees were a combination of residents, staff & elected officials, and external stakeholders.

The Joint Workshop #2 was very well-attended and quite lively.

Residents from Bellwood and Broadview provided insights at Joint Workshop #2, showing ways the two communities are similar.

transportation services, but considering these services' limitations and time restrictions, all attendees reported relying on private cars (*either their own or a friend or relative's*) for most of their trips

- Attendees confirmed that they (*and likely other older adult residents*) rely on a variety of informal and formal, both digital and hard copy, sources for general and or adult-specific information. There was some concern expressed about an overall lack of coordinated communication and information sharing, with many attendees indicating that they are often not aware of available events or programs

- Resident attendees expressed mixed feedback on community walkability and accessibility, with several specific connectivity gaps and maintenance concerns identified

- In both workshops there were references to various public safety concerns: due to a fear of crime, perceptions of a lack of safety in certain areas and at certain times, and due to unsafe or uncaring drivers. These concerns were often paired with recognition of the responsiveness, albeit overwhelmed nature, of local law enforcement.

- In general, resident attendees were committed to and proud of living in their community and they showed a real desire to be part of the community's future, notwithstanding the issues and challenges they identified

Joint Workshops #2 Input

The Joint Workshop #2 had a unique energy, due in large part to the diverse crowd consisting of residents from both Bellwood and Broadview, as well as both Mayors, key city staff, and a wide range

of external stakeholder service-provider partners. Much of the input from the older adult resident attendees at the Workshop was like input received at the twin Workshops #1 and focused on what they like about their current communities, and what they hoped would be improved to allow them to age-in-community even more comfortably and easily.

Among the things that attendees mentioned that they specifically appreciated about their communities included:

- The Proviso Township Handyman Program received several accolades
- The quality and responsiveness of village Police and Emergency Services
- The existence of some good affordable housing
- The availability of some good transportation services
- A high level of community walkability
- Convenient access to health care
- The availability of healthy home-delivered meals
- Specific older adult benefits such as the grass-cutting program to free vehicle stickers

Among the community elements that attendees indicated could be improved upon included:

- Information sharing, which several attendees indicated was a challenge for many older adults to locate. The consensus was that additional digital and hard copy one-stop information sources for older adults would be beneficial
- While about half the attendees said they planned to age in their current homes, the other half indicated that they will likely need to move to single-story, smaller, more affordable, and easily maintained homes. Most all agreed with the need for additional affordable home modification and accessibility improvement resources
- Some attendees indicated that while appreciating the proximity of public transportation, the distance or safety concerns about getting to the closest stops limited their potential use
- Several attendees mentioned their wish for additional nearby retail options
- As with every workshop, high taxes were mentioned, which Mayor Harvey explained are in good part due to taxing bodies other than the villages themselves

Another of Bellwood's and Broadview's lovely single-family home neighborhoods.

Resident Input Forms

In addition to the two public workshops, residents of all ages were invited to complete and submit a short informal survey document that gave them an opportunity to share their lived experience in Bellwood or Broadview. The Resident Input Forms were made available at various places and in various formats, including at the Village Halls, on the Village websites, at older adult residences, and elsewhere.

Over 150 Resident Input Forms were submitted, divided between the two communities, almost all were from respondents over 65 years of age, more than half of whom had lived in Bellwood or Broadview for several decades.

Some of the key takeaways from the Resident Input Forms included:

- Respondents receive their information from a variety of formal and informal sources

- About 1/3 of the respondents in each municipality report using an older-adult service, most often transportation, snow removal (*if available*), events, or discount programs

- Most respondents rely on private cars, with limited knowledge or use of public transportation services

- Respondents living in both single-family homes and older adult buildings indicated a desire to stay there if their finances and health allows them to do so

- Even those planning to stay in their current single-family homes showed an interest in single-level, smaller and lower maintenance housing options

Stakeholder Assessments

In addition to receiving input from residents, key internal stakeholders were asked for their views on how Bellwood or Broadview currently support Aging-in-Community. Between the two municipalities, 68 assessments from internal stakeholders – from across virtually all municipal departments – were submitted.

The key points from this stakeholder input included:

- Respondents indicated extensive staff knowledge of existing programs and services, such as Proviso Township's Handyman program, transportation services, snow shoveling/grass cutting, food programs, special events and others

- Respondents were concerned, however, that most residents do not have a good knowledge of existing and available older adult support programs/services

- Suggestions on how the municipality could improve support of Aging-in-Community included better informing older adults about existing programs, an expansion of successful programs like Handyman and snow shoveling, and providing more basic services (*such as housing, retail, and medical*)

RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR ELEVATING AGING-IN-COMMUNITY IN BELLWOOD AND BROADVIEW

✔ COMMUNICATION

Elevate and promote Bellwood's and Broadview's commitments to Aging-in-Community

Put out consistent and integrated messages about Aging-in-Community

Designate Village departmental staff as Aging-in-Community point-persons

Establish Aging-in-Community resource centers for information on existing older adult services and programming

Incorporate older adults as resource-providers in inter-generational mutual support initiatives

Practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior

Consider developing "Aging-in-Community Handbooks"

✔ COORDINATION

Commit to taking a 'whole of government' approach to supporting Aging-in-Community

Incorporate Aging-in-Community into key municipal conversations and initiatives

Update the outdated Comprehensive Plans with plans that specifically support Aging-in-Community

View Bellwood's and Broadview's housing issues in part through an Aging-in-Community lens

Ensure that existing housing programs and partnerships are consistent with Aging-in-Community

Investigate including "Missing Middle Housing" options in your existing housing stocks

Investigate home-sharing as an option to support older adult homeowners

Consider overall Housing Plans to coordinate and augment recent new housing successes

Take a "Big Picture" look at Bellwood's and Broadview's transportation services

Leverage public realm improvement opportunities as important to Aging-in-Community

Review municipal operations and programs for their Aging-in-Community consistency

✔ COLLABORATION

Establish Aging-in-Community Commissions to play ongoing policy and review roles

More consistently engage with the network of existing service-providing stakeholders

Continue to provide opportunities to connect directly with the external aging network

Better incorporate the faith community in overall Aging-in-Community efforts

Help establish and support a new sub-regional Aging-in-Community collaboration

Attend the MMC's Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and other regional Aging-in-Community activities

Recommendations for Elevating Aging-in-Community in Bellwood and Broadview

The following recommendations have been grouped into the broad categories of Communication (*and knowledge-sharing, both internal and external*), Coordination (*between Bellwood's and Broadview's different programs and goals*), and Collaboration (*with existing and potential partners*).

JOINT COMMUNICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Elevate and promote Bellwood's and Broadview's commitments to Aging-in-Community

It would benefit Bellwood and Broadview to clearly express their support for Aging-in-Community, as it is very difficult to find specific commitment to Aging-in-Community. At the present time, searches for "Aging-in-Community" on either Village's

Every municipal department plays an important role in supporting Aging-in-Community.

website yields only links to the workshops or the Resident Input Forms from this engagement. And while each website makes clear the Village's support for older adults (*referred to on both as "seniors," which may not be the preferred designation of these individuals*) this support is scattered and not always easy to locate.

A clear statement on the Village homepage such as *"Bellwood/Broadview actively supports Aging-in-Community!"* would set the tone, linked to a new standalone "Aging-in-Community" page where all older-adult targeted information would be gathered could be a streamlined way of conveying all relevant information, followed by a continuity of commitment and purpose on other Village webpages.

Put out consistent and integrated messages about Aging-in-Community

In conjunction with the recommended modifications to the Village websites, Bellwood and Broadview have opportunities to convey "whole-of-government" approaches towards Aging-in-Community, whereby support of older adult residents is purposefully integrated into the work of all municipal departments and sister agencies, and not isolated to any one entity in either community.

Designate Village departmental staff as Aging-in-Community point-persons

Both current Village websites suggest several ways for residents to express concerns or request services, either by

Stakeholder partners like West Suburban Senior Services continue to play an important role in supporting older adults in Bellwood and Broadview.

filling out a downloadable form or by contacting the appropriate department, depending upon the issue. Many residents with limited computer skills, however – including but not limited to older adults – may find this overwhelming or confusing and may search for what to do or who to contact on a department-by-department basis. Designating and publicizing a specific staff member in each public-facing department as their 'Aging-in-Community point-person' would make Bellwood's and Broadview's governments more efficient and more easily accessible to older adults. The departmental Aging-in-Community point-persons could meet regularly to learn from one another and identify ways to address common issues proactively and in a coordinated manner.

Establish Aging-in-Community resource centers for information on existing older adult services and programming

The public workshops underscored that Bellwood and Broadview residents often lack comprehensive knowledge of the existing older adult services and programming available to them. This lack of knowledge restricts the ability of older adult residents and their caregivers to avail themselves of valuable resources. While attempts are made to disseminate this type of information, a useful addition would be the establishment and maintenance of a one-stop resource center at which residents and stakeholders could learn about and access existing resources. These resource centers could initially be established by the new Aging-in-Community Commissions (see

below) with staff assistance, with provisions for their ongoing maintenance and updating established upfront. Hard copy resource information should be made available at each Village Hall with electronic information made available on the enhanced Village websites, as discussed above.

Incorporate older adults as resource-providers in inter-generational mutual support initiatives

Several workshop attendees expressed a desire for older adults to be viewed as resource-providers rather than simply as resource-users, and to share knowledge and skills accumulated over decades of living and working. They indicated that they would be interested to share knowledge with older adult peers, as well as inter-generationally with younger adults or high school age students, perhaps as part of a knowledge-swap wherein younger people could provide older adults with needed technology, computer skills, or household-related chores. These efforts could build upon and leverage existing youth mentoring programs and partnerships in both communities.

Practice anti-ageism in all municipal communications and behavior

Ageism is discrimination against older people due to negative and inaccurate stereotypes. Just as anti-racism is the practice of actively identifying and opposing racism, anti-ageism seeks out, calls out, and looks to change anything that perpetuates ageist ideas or behavior. While this is not currently an issue on either Village website, continue to consciously ensure that all references to Bellwood's or Broadview's older adults characterizes them as civic assets and resources to be leveraged, rather than viewing them solely through a needs-based or a medical lens. Most of Bellwood and Broadview's older adults live independently among the

Continue to seek out and nurture creative intergenerational engagement opportunities.

general population, rather than in buildings that specifically cater to and support older adults, so they should be celebrated for their independence and contributions to Bellwood and Broadview more so than for their dependence.

Consider developing "Aging-in-Community Handbooks"

Workshop attendees decried the scattered nature and difficulty of accessing necessary regional information for older adults and their caregivers. This concern was consistently raised in every workshop in all AiaCR municipalities. To address this need, AiaCR partner CMAP worked with 2021 AiaCR municipality Park Forest to develop an "Aging-in-Community Handbook" as a replicable template that could be used in other communities. In addition, CMAP developed a 'how-to' document that is intended to guide interested municipalities in developing and maintaining their own handbooks. Bellwood and/or Broadview may wish to contact CMAP to explore the idea of developing such a handbook.

JOINT COORDINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Commit to taking a 'whole of government' approach to supporting Aging-in-Community

Experience elsewhere indicates that a key success factor for building a robust Aging-in-Community program is positioning it within a whole of government framework, wherein diverse governmental departments and sister agencies coordinate in addressing shared issues or challenges, rather than delegating Aging-in-Community to a single department or agency. While this applies to any municipalities, it is particularly important for villages like Bellwood and Broadview that must utilize their human and financial resources creatively and efficiently.

Incorporate Aging-in-Community into key municipal conversations and initiatives

Aging-in-Community should become an important lens through which proposed or existing Village projects, programs or strategies are viewed and evaluated – regardless of whether the initiatives are seen as primarily benefitting Bellwood's and/or Broadview's economic re/development, infrastructure, sustainability, public safety, or other key municipal agendas. This evaluation should ask: how do or how would these plans, programs or strategies impact the older adult population, and how would they advance Bellwood and Broadview towards being a livable community that supports residents of all ages? In doing this, the Villages will find that impacts on older adults will often be consistent with impacts on their overall populations – this underscores the notion that support for Aging-in-Community is an important component of being a livable community for all ages.

Parks play an important Aging-in-Community role, and can provide intergenerational engagement opportunities.

The Public Library can provide various programs and services to help support Aging-in-Community.

Ongoing economic development efforts should also be viewed partly through an Aging-in-Community lens.

Update the outdated Comprehensive Plans with plans that specifically support Aging-in-Community

As both communities' Comprehensive Plans are outdated, they should be updated. It is recommended that these Comprehensive Plan updates specifically include Aging-in-Community, either as a standalone section, by specifically incorporating Aging-in-Community strategies and implementation initiatives within the Land Use, Housing, Mobility, and other chapters. Examples of exemplary such plans may be found in the Resources section below. There may be existing external resources to support this updating.

View Bellwood's and Broadview's housing issues in part through an Aging-in-Community lens

Bellwood and Broadview's older residents speak openly about housing-related concerns, such as affordability, their ability to navigate multiple-story single family houses, and upkeep challenges. With the majority of Bellwood's and Broadview's older adults living independently throughout their communities, viewing issues about the condition and affordability of Bellwood's and Broadview's housing stock in part through Aging-in-Community lenses will better identify older-adult related housing needs, help quantify gaps, guide housing-related policy decisions, and inform potential development and redevelopment planning.

Ensure that existing housing programs and partnerships are consistent with Aging-in-Community

Bellwood and Broadview already enjoy fruitful partnerships with key housing and economic development agencies, including the Proviso Township Senior Service's Handyman Program, the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the West Cook County Housing Collaborative, the North West Housing Partnership, the Cook County Land Bank Authority, the Illinois West Regional Enterprise Zone, and others. The Villages should maintain and expand these relationships and ensure that the benefits from these partnerships are integrated and consistent with their overall Aging-in-Community strategies and plans.

Bellwood is proudly awaiting the completion of the affordable Senior Apartments project, which was a major redevelopment effort.

Bellwood's Prairie View Apartments is a unique, affordable, older adult 'courtyard homes' development.

Investigate including "Missing Middle Housing" options in your existing housing stocks

The phrase "Missing Middle Housing" (*see the Resource Appendix for additional information*) refers to a spectrum of house-scale buildings with multiple units in walkable neighborhoods, some of which might fit Bellwood's and Broadview's housing needs and support Aging-in-Community. It could be a valuable exercise to utilize the Missing Middle Housing framework and check whether the existing municipal guidance documents will allow for Missing Middle Housing types to be added to the current housing stock.

Investigate home-sharing as an option to support older adult homeowners

Some workshop attendees mentioned interest in inter-generational home-sharing as an option that might support them as they aged in their current oversized homes, and as a feasible way to connect with students at the large nearby medical campus. Des Plaines-based Center of Concern (*see the Appendix for contact information*) has run its Home Sharing program for 40 years and has indicated its willingness to provide guidance on how to set up and run a home sharing program, if any Bellwood and/or Broadview organizations are interested in doing so.

Consider overall Housing Plans to coordinate and augment recent new housing successes

Bellwood and Broadview have both recently made great strides in diversifying their housing stock, with the recent and ongoing development of several significant new buildings, which have or will be adding overall several hundred units of affordable older adult housing, some with integrated services. There are a variety of other new construction and substantial rehab projects on sites throughout the Villages. Bellwood and/or Broadview should consider securing outside resources to establish Housing Plans either freestanding or linked to other guidance documents – to ensure that planned new housing meets Bellwood's and Broadview's needs, including providing a range of housing options, located appropriately to help support Aging-in-Community.

Take a "Big Picture" look at Bellwood's and Broadview's transportation services

Public workshop and Resident Input Form input confirmed limited utilization by many of Bellwood's and Broadview's older adults of existing Metra commuter rail, Pace bus, and Proviso Township's on-demand public transportation services, and it may be early to determine the market penetration of the newer Pace Dial-A-Ride services. The time may be right to take a big picture look at the service days/hours, routes, and marketing strategies of these various existing services, and potential additions to the transportation network such as a coordinated "volunteer driver" program to increase overall Aging-in-Community benefits. There may be existing external resources to support such an initiative, or it could be incorporated into the recommended updating of Bellwood's and Broadview's outdated Comprehensive Plans.

Leverage public realm improvement opportunities as important to Aging-in-Community

Bellwood's and Broadview's public realms and their overall walkability, accessibility and perceived safety are important elements of a livable community for all ages and their support of Aging-in-Community. Workshop attendees in both Bellwood and Broadview pointed out connectivity gaps and maintenance concerns in certain areas. Bellwood is currently involved with several specific corridor infrastructure and streetscape improvement projects, and Broadview follows an overall Capital Improvement Plan. All capital and infrastructure enhancement projects should be reviewed as to their Aging-in-Community impacts, and recommendations should be made as needed to better also leverage the projects' benefits to support Aging-in-Community.

Review municipal operations and programs for their Aging-in-Community consistency

Village and sister agency staffs should conduct system-wide reviews of their operations, ordinances, and programs to identify any wording or requirements that explicitly or unintentionally undercut support for Aging-in-Community, and work with the Aging-in-Community Commissions (see below) to remedy any findings. Even if these reviews do not unearth barriers, they may reveal opportunities for enhancements to foster broader community (*not limited to just older adult*) participation.

VILLAGE OF BROADVIEW
DIAL-A-RIDE
FOR SENIORS AGES 60 +

14409

THIS SERVICE IS FOR
BROADVIEW
SENIORS ONLY

OUR PROGRAM

Village of Broadview offers **Senior Dial A Ride Program** for residents at least **60 years of age** and over and or with a disability, that may need transportation to and from medical facilities and other qualifying nonmedical locations within the Proviso Township.

All residents must reside in the Village of Broadview. The Senior Dial-A-Ride Program is a curb to curb service.

BOOK NOW!
708-731-5502
Visit Our Website: **Broadview-IL.gov**

Bellwood and Broadview each have partnered with Pace to provide Dial-A-Ride on-demand transit services for older adults and people with a disability.

JOINT COLLABORATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Establish Aging-in-Community Commissions to play ongoing policy and review roles

Wide swaths of both Bellwood and Broadview should collectively "own" Aging-in-Community, and establishing new, ongoing Aging-in-Community Commissions would be invaluable to helping embed this commitment into Village practices and insulate them from potential future electoral changes. Ideally, these Commissions would include a range of public and private sector members representing a range of community stakeholders – sister agencies like the Bellwood Public Library, the Memorial Park District, the Broadview Public Library, and the Broadview Park District – and the numerous social services, health care, housing and community development organizations, faith communities, and residents including – but not limited to – older adults. These Commissions – which could build upon and formalize existing 'senior' clubs or groups – would be charged with setting their own operational rules; meeting regularly to provide an ongoing forum for coordinating Aging-in-Community activities; reviewing significant development/redevelopment proposals as to their impacts on Aging-in-Community; helping establish Aging-in-Community resource centers (*discussed above*) and preparing and presenting to the Village Council a 'State of Aging-in-Community in Bellwood or Broadview' annual update.

More consistently engage with the network of existing service-providing stakeholders

This engagement made clear that a two-direction knowledge gap exists between some of Bellwood's and Broadview's

Continue to draw upon the wisdom and experience within Bellwood and Broadview to help support Aging-in-Community.

elected officials, staff and residents, and the network of external stakeholder organizations that currently supports Bellwood's and Broadview's older adults and their caregivers with a range of support services. Efforts (*such as the new Aging-in-Community Commissions discussed below*) should be made to elevate awareness of these existing service-providers to engage with them better and more consistently, and to increase the volume of referrals to appropriate older adult Bellwood and/or Broadview residents and caregivers.

Continue to provide opportunities to connect directly with the external aging network

This engagement – and particularly the public workshops – provided good opportunities for local and regional aging network service-provider organizations to connect with Bellwood's and Broadview's municipal staff and elected officials, as well as directly with residents. Feedback from all sides indicated that this direct engagement was of mutual benefit, and ongoing such engagement is desirable.

Bellwood has already scheduled such an event in January of 2023; and Broadview has spoken of incorporating external stakeholders into their ongoing "Safety Saturday" events. Engagement with the external stakeholder network will also provide good ongoing staff training opportunities.

Better incorporate the faith community in overall Aging-in-Community efforts

For unknown reasons, Bellwood's and Broadview's extensive faith communities were virtually absent from this engagement, although many churches certainly play substantial roles supporting Bellwood and Broadview's older adults and their caregivers. For instance, Area Agency on Aging AgeOptions currently partners with several Proviso Township area churches in its Caring Together, Living Better program that provides resources and education to caregivers. Better coordination with the faith communities will only increase Bellwood's and Broadview's overall Aging-in-Community support level.

Help establish and support a new sub-regional Aging-in-Community collaboration

This engagement more than others underscored the potential benefits of a new intersectional collaboration, leveraging municipal and stakeholder partners, to continue the Aging-in-Community conversation. Numerous aging network organizations have already indicated their interest and support. In addition, Maywood also participated in the AiaCR program, and this recommendation was given to them as well, lending credence to a sub-regional collaboration. Other Proviso Township or near west communities may be interested as well. Rather than expecting Bellwood and Broadview or any single municipality to administer this new collaboration, an external partner would be appropriate.

Initial conversations with an ideal external partner – the Proviso Partners for Health (*PP4H*), a community-driven, multi-sector coalition promoting community health, health equity, and transformational systems change – were met with great interest, and PP4H is very interested in adding an Aging-in-Community "hub" to its current roster of programs to undertake this new collaboration.

Attend the MMC's Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and other regional Aging-in-Community activities

The quarterly Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative meetings typically include representatives of several dozen regional municipalities involved with Aging-in-Community activities and provide topical knowledge and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Bellwood's and Broadview's unique joint participation experiences with the AiaCR program during 2022 will be of interest to other municipalities – and not necessarily limited to within this region. Involvement with the Collaborative also serves as a good portal to other regional Aging-in-Community activities sponsored by a range of stakeholder entities, such as the bi-monthly American Society on Aging topical roundtables (*see the Resource Appendix for further resource information*).

Aging-in-Community Resources

Some excellent centralized document repositories at which to find aging-in-community resources are listed below – Bellwood and Broadview are likely already familiar with many of them. There may be some redundancies as certain documents may be included in multiple repositories. Some of these repositories will provide links to additional resources. Carefully evaluate any resources found for their applicability to Bellwood and Broadview's specific interests and needs.

Aging in a Changing Region Partner Organization Resources

Aging-in-Community - Mayors Caucus
The Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative and Aging in a Changing Region are the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus' two programs focused on helping municipalities issues related to their growing older adult populations.

AFCC REPOSITORY - Google Drive
This data repository is maintained by the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and includes both resource materials and documents developed for its Age-Friendly Communities Collaborative.

Home - CMAP (illinois.gov)
The Chicagoland Metropolitan Agency for Planning *(CMAP)* is the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for the seven-county metropolitan Chicago region, and develops and provides plans, programs, and other initiatives.

Aging in Place - CMAP (illinois.gov)
CMAP developed this Aging in Place white paper in 2016.

Planning Aging-Supportive Communities
This 2015 American Planning Association *(APA)* Planners Advisory Service report was primarily authored by Brad Winick of Planning/Aging. APA members can download the report for free, others are required to purchase it for $25.

Local/Regional Aging-in-Community Aging Network Organizations Serving Bellwood & Broadview

Home - AgeOptions
AgeOptions *(formerly known as the Suburban Cook County Area Agency on Aging)* is designated by the federal Older Americans Act and the Illinois Department on Aging as the planning and service agency for the 30 townships surrounding Chicago and supports partner agencies to provide a wide range of aging-in-community services.

Senior Services – Proviso Township
Proviso Township Senior Services offers a free transportation service, low-cost handyman services, and a medical equipment lending service to Bellwood and Broadview's older adult residents.

Solutions for Care | Aging in Place
For 50 years, Solutions for Care has been providing numerous in-home support, resource and informational, and other services for Bellwood and Broadview's older adult and disabled residents.

Making A Difference for Older Adults | Aging Care (agingcareconnections.org)
Aging Care Connections provides a variety of caregiver support services for Bellwood and Broadview's older adults and their caregivers.

West Suburban Senior Services – Chicago Methodist Senior Services (cmsschicago.org)
Recently made part of Chicago Methodist Senior Services, West Suburban Senior Services provides a range of services for west suburban older adults and their caregivers from its Bellwood office.

Proviso Partners - HOME
Proviso Partners for Health is a community-driven, multi-sector coalition promoting community health, health equity, and transformational systems change in the Proviso communities of Bellwood and Broadview, Bellwood, Broadview, and Melrose Park.

Aging-in-Community General Resources

ASA Roundtables
The local chapter of the American Society on Aging stages free bi-monthly topical Roundtables, often on aging-in-community topics. Currently being staged virtually due to COVID-19, they had previously been presented at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. Bonnie Ewald (**Bonnie_Ewald@rush.edu**) serves as the roundtable coordinator.

AARP Livable Communities Publications and Resources
This repository is the best location at which to explore AARP's many resources, including its Livable Communities and Public Policy Institute initiatives and publications, and the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

AARP Illinois
The AARP-Illinois state has a number of staff persons involved with advocacy and community engagement, and who may be able to provide linkages to AARP's extensive data resources.

Resources for Age-Friendly Communities | The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation
The New Jersey-based Taub Foundation includes aging-in-community as one of its primary focus topics and maintains a comprehensive and well-organized aging-in-community library.

Age-Friendly Resources | Grantmakers in Aging (giaging.org)
New York City-based Grantmakers-in-Aging is the preeminent membership organization for philanthropies focused on aging issues. It maintains a resource center full of GIA-funded and other resources.

Publications (usaging.org)
Washington DC-based US Aging *(formerly the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging – "n4a")* maintains an extensive searchable database of primarily n4a-sponsored reports and other documents.

Research (ncoa.org)
The Washington DC-based National Council on Aging *(ncoa)* provides research articles and other materials for older adults, caregivers, aging professionals, and advocates, primarily developed by ncoa staff and its partners.

Planning Resources

Search (planning.org)
(American Planning Association resources search results for "aging-in-community")
The American Planning Association maintains a resource library searchable by topic, including this link to aging-in-community resources.

Communities for All Ages | MARC
The Kansas City region's "Communities for All Ages" and "First Suburbs Coalition" programs are two of the country's preeminent regional and municipal Aging-in-Community programs. The program and its participating municipalities have developed a wealth of valuable resources.

Grandview 2030 by grandview1 - Issuu
Grandview, Missouri's 2020 Comprehensive Plan update specifically calls out throughout the document plan elements that meet Communities for All Ages specific recommendations for helping Grandview better support Aging-in-Community. This is one of the clearest examples of linking Aging-in-Community and a Comprehensive Plan.

Building a Community for All Ages | City of Raymore, MO
In 2017, Raymore, Missouri developed and adopted this fine standalone Aging-in-Community plan in part to achieve the highest (Gold) level recognition in the Communities for All Ages program. This plan specifically links to the city's previous plans.

Community for All Ages Plan by City of Lees Summit - Issuu
In 2018, Lee's Summit, Missouri developed and adopted this multi-sectoral plan that informs its Comprehensive Plan and other plans.

Transportation Resources

Transportation – Proviso Township
Information on Proviso Township's free curb-to-curb Senior Ride Program for older adult residents who need transportation to and from medical facilities and other qualifying non-medical locations within Proviso Township may be found here.

Bellwood | Metra
Metra route and schedule information, including the Bellwood station on the Union Pacific West line may be found here.

Search Results | Pace Suburban Bus (pacebus.com) and **Search Results | Pace Suburban Bus (pacebus.com)**
Route and schedule information for the various Pace buses that serve Bellwood and Broadview may be found here.
Pace's Dial-A-Ride service for eligible Bellwood residents can be reached at: (708) 345-4743.
Pace's Dial-A-Ride service for eligible Broadview residents can be reached at: (708) 731-5502.

Aging and Disability Transportation Overview | NADTC *(National Aging and Disability Transportation Center)*
The National Aging and Disability Transportation Center *(NADTC)* is a program initially funded in 2015 by the Federal Transit Administration and administered by Easterseals and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging *(n4a)*. Its resource center provides information on transportation for older adults and people with disabilities.

National Center for Mobility Management
The National Center for Mobility Management is a program of NADTC that focuses on and maintains resources on person-centered transportation services.

[Sidewalk Accessibility Tools (uic.edu)](#)
The University of Illinois at Chicago's Applied Health Sciences' Disability and Human Development department has partnered with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and other partners to provide a suite of Sidewalk Accessibility Tools and can help support communities to access and improve their existing sidewalk networks.

Housing/Aging-in-Place Resources

[North West Housing Partnership – Affordable Housing, IL (nwhp.net)](#)
This northwest metropolitan Chicago area suburban five-town collaborative runs several housing programs, including their Handyman Program which helps support aging-in-place and aging-in-community.

[Home Sharing | Center of Concern](#)
Des Plaines-based Center of Concern provides a broad range of services to support its mission "…to provide housing solutions, support services, and counseling for older adults, people with disabilities, and others in need, enabling them to live with dignity and independence." It manages a longstanding home sharing program throughout Cook County.

[IHDA - Illinois Housing Development Authority](#)
This state agency's mission is "to finance the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Illinois" and administers numerous programs to support lenders, developers, local government, nonprofits, community groups, homeowners, and renters in delivering and maintaining affordable housing.

[Home – CEDA (cedaorg.net)](#)
The Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. *(CEDA)* is one of the largest private, nonprofit Community Action Agencies in the country, and serves Bellwood and Broadview residents, providing a range of home weatherization and modification, and utility services.

[Missing Middle Housing: Diverse choices for walkable neighborhood living](#)
Opticos Design founder Daniel Parolek coined the term "Missing Middle Housing" to convey the provision of enhanced housing options for sustainable, walkable communities. This link provides examples and resources for consideration.

[Aging in Place Resources | Aging In Place Resources for Seniors Living at Home](#)
Aginginplace.com is maintained by its Oregon-based founder Patrick Roden, a nurse by training, and it maintains a comprehensive set of resources dedicated to supporting older adults aging in place.

[Welcome - HomesRenewed™ Resource Center](#)
HomesRenewed was founded by Maryland-based contractor and aging-in-place advocate Louis Tenenbaum and its website provides various aging-in-place materials and resources.

[Aging in Place: Growing Older at Home | National Institute on Aging (nih.gov)](#)
The National Institute on Aging is a program of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and has developed a database of aging-in-place resources.

Ageism Resources

Home (reframingaging.org)
The Reframing Aging Initiative began in 2012 as a shared initiative of eight national aging organizations to find out how the American public perceives of aging, and once it was determined that this perception was negative, developing an infrastructure of strategies and techniques to convey more positive and supportive messaging. This website offers many tools and resources.

Old School: Anti-Ageism Clearinghouse
This clearing house was established by anti-ageism activist Ashton Applewhite and her colleagues, and it provides free and vetted resources to help educate people about ageism and how to dismantle it.

Intergenerational Resources

Resources - Generations United (gu.org)
Generations United is the preeminent national advocacy and informational organization supporting intergenerational collaborations, programs, and policies. Established by a group of organizations that focused on different portions of the lifespan, it maintains a resource library.

Acknowledgements

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document itself was produced to be supportive of aging-in-community. All of the graphic details – font selection, a minimum 12-point font size, page layouts, the inclusion of graphics, avoiding the use of reversed-out text on light colored backgrounds, etc. – were made to make this document easily legible for anyone with visual sensitivity issues. Just as the body of this document makes the case that municipal decisions supportive of aging-in-community are innately supportive of livable communities for all ages, this document itself should be seen as innately supportive of readers of all ages.

One final aging-in-community recommendation is that all municipal documents, websites, social media postings, etc. should consciously strive to be easily legible for all viewers, including – but not limited to – older adults.