



Aging-in-Community: Bensenville -- Workshop #2

NOVEMBER 3, 2021



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Today's Agenda

- **Welcomes** – Village President Frank DeSimone/Village Manager Evan Summers
- **Introductions**
 - o Bensenville residents (tell us your name & how many years you've lived in Bensenville)
 - o Municipal/community stakeholders
 - o Aging Network stakeholders
 - o Metropolitan Mayors Caucus staff
- **Aging-in-Community presentation**
- **Facilitated Discussion: Aging-in-Community in Bensenville**
 - This is the most important part of today's workshop – your input about living & aging in Bensenville



The “Aging in a Changing Region” (*AiaCR*) Program

- Designed to **help municipalities** throughout the metropolitan Chicago region **support community members aging in their communities**
- Led by the **Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and Planning/Aging**
- Supported by a grant from the **RRF Foundation for Aging**
- The **2021 Cohort of Municipalities** consists of: **Bensenville**, Calumet City, Hawthorn Woods, Mount Prospect and Park Forest

Question: **What is meant by “a changing region”?**

Answer: **One which is aging, as is ours (& almost all others in the US).**



Today's Workshop's Main Goals

- Provide general educational background on “Aging-in-Community”
- Hear community input about living & aging in Bensenville
- Help build general support for & buy-into Aging-in-Community as this conversation grows into an ongoing community-wide initiative



My Brief Introduction

- A lifelong Chicagoan, I worked for several decades as a **city planning consultant** (*managing open space, strategic, downtown, community & corridor plans & projects for public & private sector clients*)
- 10 years ago, I established **Planning/Aging** to **focus on the intersection of community planning & the aging population**
- Now I consult, publish, teach & advocate/advise municipalities & organizations about **Aging-in-Community**



Aging-in-Community: Putting it into Context



What is “Aging-in-Community” & how does it relate to “Aging-in-Place” & being an “Age-Friendly” Community?

- “Aging-in-Community” is a general term for an evolving set of municipal **commitments, strategies, programs, plans and projects** all intended to support older adults aging within the community
- **“Aging-in-Community” takes a broad community-level view**, using a broader lens than does the more dwelling unit-specific view of the term “Aging-in-Place”
- A community’s **“Age-friendliness”** can also be thought of as how well it supports **“Aging-in-Community” – the two phrases are compatible**



Aging-in-Community is an Important Part of Being a Livable Community for All Ages

- How a community helps **older adults meet their basic needs** goes a long way to answering how well it **supports Aging-in-Community**
- How well a community helps **all residents meet their basic needs** goes a long way to determining **its overall quality-of-life (or livability)**
- Therefore, **how well a community supports Aging-in-Community should be viewed as a key component of its overall quality-of-life**



What Do Older Adults Typically Want in their Community?

- (According to a recent American Planning Association survey*) **Many of the same things that younger people typically want in theirs:**
 - **Appropriate, accessible & affordable places to live**
 - The ability to **get around easily & safely**
 - Well-located, designed & maintained **places to go & to gather**
 - Access to a range of needed **goods & services**
 - The ability **to feel & to be engaged** in what goes on in the community
 - A municipal **government that is responsive, supportive & provides good services**

*"Investing in Place for Economic Growth and Competitiveness: A Research Summary", American Planning Association, 2014



What Else Might Older Adults Need in their Community?

- Some older adults may also need **specific support services** – health care, companionship, caregiving, home care, etc. – that are often provided by “the aging network”
- The **aging network** includes township & municipal human services, regionally-coordinated services, not-for-profit & faith-based service providers, health care providers & businesses, and “informal caregivers” (*often family members*)
- Key **local aging network representatives** are here today to introduce themselves & share information about their **support services available to Bensenville residents**



Aging-in-Community in Bensenville



Bensenville has Recently Aged & Will Continue to do so

Age Cohort	Bensenville			DuPage County	CMAP Region
	2000	2006-2010	2015-2019	2013-2017	
19 and under	27.9%	29.4%	23.3%	25.8%	26.0%
20 to 34	26.8%	23.4%	25.7%	19.0%	21.3%
35 to 49	21.6%	22.1%	17.4%	19.9%	20.2%
50 to 64	12.4%	15.2%	19.4%	21.3%	19.3%
65 to 74	11.3%	9.9%	14.2%	8.2%	7.6%
75 to 84				3.9%	3.9%
85 and over				1.9%	1.7%
Median Age	32.2 years old	33.4 years old	36.1 years old	39.1 years old	37.0 years old

- Bensenville has significantly aged over the past 10-15 years, is aging comparably with DuPage County and the CMAP region, and is likely to continue to do so
- 1 in 3 Bensenville residents is currently over 50 years old, up ~10% from 2000



Hearing Internal/Key Stakeholders & Community Input on Living & Aging in Bensenville

- At & in preparation for Workshop #1 on October 27th, **Internal/Key Stakeholders** shared their **perspectives on how well Bensenville currently supports Aging-in-Community**
- Community Input – **hearing your input on living & aging in Bensenville is the main focus** of today's **Workshop #2**
- We will **analyze all of this input & incorporate it into our forthcoming recommendations document**



Focusing on Aging-in-Community in Bensenville

- Several of Bensenville's **guidance documents** (*such as the Comprehensive Plan, the Strategic Plan & other related planning & goal-setting documents*) **have touched upon or been consistent with Aging-in-Community**, but none have focused upon it
- There had been **little community discussion specifically focused on Aging-in-Community** in Bensenville...
- ...until last week's Workshop #1 & today's Workshop #2!



Facilitated Discussion

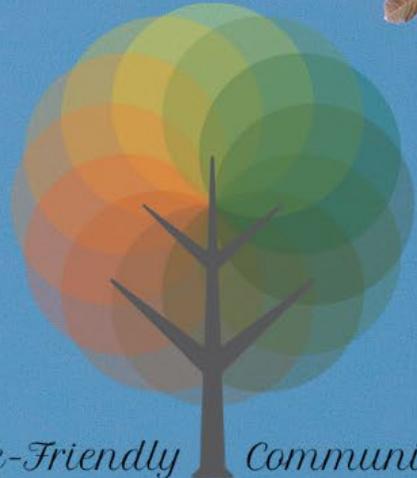


Closing Matters

- Closing Comments/Key Takeaways
- Our two Bensenville workshops are now completed
- We will incorporate the input we have received into an **Aging-in-Community framework with recommendations** intended to **augment Bensenville's Comprehensive Plan**
- This Aging-in-Community framework will be **delivered by year's-end**
- **Thank you!** – Mary Ribando, Kelsey Fawell & everyone else who helped make these workshops possible



Aging in a Changing Region



Age-Friendly Communities
COLLABORATIVE

For more information about Aging in a Changing Region, visit:

<https://mayorscaucus.org/initiatives/aging-in-community/aging-in-a-changing-region/>