Planning for an Aging Population in Carver County

Livable Communities: Creating Great Places for People of All Ages
October 27, 2015

Planning for an Aging Population?

• Changes in the County’s Aging Population
  – Increasing number of older residents
    • With different life experiences
    • With different needs and wants than today’s seniors
  – What does this mean for the County and our cities?
    • What opportunities do we have to meet these needs and keep these older residents as community members and taxpayers?
  – How can the Carver County Office of Aging assist to identify and meet those needs?

What is the issue?

Carver County:

  – Est. 8,300 65+ (9%) of 95,463 total population in 2013
    – 3,600 (44%) live alone
  
  – Est. 26,877 65+ (23%) of 116,492 total population in 2030
    – 92% will be Baby Boomers

Sources:
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate
MN County Population Projections by Age and Gender, 2013-2030, MN State Demographer
How will Boomers be Different than Today’s Seniors?  
(Boomers = born between 1946 and 1964)

**Family Life:**  
Married later in life  
More divorces  
Fewer children  
More geographically disbursed  
More travel out of the country  
Most women drive  
More women handle the finances  
Fewer smokers  
More communal living experiences

**Work Life:**  
More women working  
More professional jobs  
Higher level of education  
More affluent  
Technology savvy  
Two income families  
Fewer people with pensions  
More plan to keep working

What will be the Boomer Issues in the Future?

- Today in 2015, Boomers are 51 to 69 years of age
- In 2020, Boomers will be 56 to 74 years of age
- In 2030, Boomers will be 66 to 84 years of age

How will their needs and expectations be different at each stage in terms of employment, housing, travel, driving, health and services?

Boomer Survey Project (2008)  
Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA)  
University of Minnesota

**Project:** Develop a survey/focus group process that cities can use with their Boomer residents to determine their expectations and needs to stay in the city.

**Watertown Focus Groups:** Residents ages 53-62 (Leading Boomers) and ages 44-52 (Trailing Boomers)

**Issues:** Employment, driving, standard of living, community services, residency, and housing
2015 Boomer Issues

Redefining Work and Retirement
— Continuing to work, phasing retirement, 2nd careers, lifelong learning

Caregiving for family members
— Respite care, support groups, information re. Medicare, etc.

Housing options for downsizing
— Single level condo or townhouse with universal design features, reinvest equity, stay in same community

Who should care about these issues?
• County Residents, especially those currently 51-69 years old
• Carver County and Local governments
• Private businesses
• Civic organizations
• Nonprofit organizations
• Faith communities
Why should we care?

If Carver County communities don’t have what aging boomers want and need, they will likely be forced to move.

Median Household Income
How do Carver County Baby Boomers compare to 65+ residents?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>45-64 years</th>
<th>65+ years</th>
<th>All Ages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>$74,000</td>
<td>$38,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carver County</td>
<td>$96,000</td>
<td>$42,000</td>
<td>$66,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate

Education Level
How do Carver County Baby Boomers compare to 65+ residents?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boomers</th>
<th>65+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s or Graduate Degree</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate’s Degree</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college after high school</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Diploma</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th-12th grade – no diploma</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9th grade</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate
Home Ownership and Rental

How do Carver County Baby Boomers compare to 65+ residents?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boomers</th>
<th>65+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Households</td>
<td>14,373</td>
<td>5,057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner Occupied</td>
<td>12,729</td>
<td>3,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter Occupied</td>
<td>1,644</td>
<td>1,408</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 Census

How Can We Approach “Planning for an Aging Population” together?

- Communities should determine if they want residents to be able to “Age in Place” in a Community for a Lifetime.
  - Identify the issues, services, supports and options your city needs to make that possible.

- Some cities have formed Aging Commissions to research these issues and advise the city staff and elected officials.

On June 27, 2007, the Carver County Board of Commissioners approved a new Office of Aging:

- Serves as an anchor to provide leadership and coordination of planning for older adults
- Reinforces the vision of Carver County as a Community for a Lifetime
- Helps ensure that the county is a place where older adults can remain vital and active in their chosen community
Carver County Office of Aging

- Provided learning opportunities for county and city elected officials, staff and residents on:
  - Demographic trends; engineering highways for older drivers; walking, biking and alternative transportation; housing options; universal design; intersection safety, etc.
- Secured grant funding for universal design training and development of strategic plans for 6 city commissions
- Provided training and helped coordinated CarFit events in 5 cities
- Developed a Triad program with Sheriff’s Office to keep seniors safe
- Brought Store to Door grocery delivery program to Carver County

Focus on the Boomers

“Within our field, within gerontology, it was very much focused on the disabilities and frailties associated with aging.

It would be like, discussing young people, only talking about children with special needs.”

Scott Bass, Dean of the Graduate School, University of Maryland, and former Director of the Massachusetts Gerontology Institute at “Productive Aging: Boon or Burden?” sponsored by the Urban Institute on February 7, 2006.

Partnering with our Communities

Carver County Office of Aging assists in creating a positive aging environment for today’s residents and future generations.