



WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Lisa Richey, B.A., Director, MSU AgeAlive

An overview will be provided on forum presentations and the importance of age-friendly housing and resources as we age.

Lisa Richey, B.A. - An experienced nonprofit leader committed to positive aging experiences, Richey is the director of MSU AgeAlive located in the College of Osteopathic, Department of Family and Community Medicine. She joined AgeAlive in August 2023 after nearly a decade with the City of East Lansing where she developed wellness programs for older adults and served on the Steering Committee supporting the city's Age-Friendly designation. She collaborated on the award-winning Generations Connect (formerly Senior Ambassadors) program and now leads AgeAlive in supporting the university's commitment to wellness throughout the lifespan. Passionate about innovative aging solutions, she integrates the arts, intergenerational connections, and storytelling into her work. Richey holds a communication degree, trained in strategic communication, and has certifications in leadership and mediation, bringing a creative approach to enhancing wellbeing.

MSU "GEMS" OF AGING RESEARCH PANEL

Location: Where You Live Affects Your Health Outcomes!

Zeenat Kotval-K, Ph.D., AICP, Program Director, Master of Urban and Regional Planning Program and Associate Professor in Urban and Regional Planning, MSU School of Planning, Design and Construction

The Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) are known to have an impact on one's health. Essentially, that means that where you live, work, and play can have an effect on your health. Housing location is one of the most important SDoH factors and this presentation will talk about how "where you live and the ability to move around in your community" can affect your health in many ways.

Zeenat Kotval-K, Ph.D., AICP - Dr. Kotval-K is an associate professor of Urban and Regional Planning with the School of Planning, Design and Construction at Michigan State University. Her research interests lie in travel behavior, and the health impacts of the built environment. She also has active research projects that look at the physical and mental wellbeing of older adults and how this is affected by increased mobility through specialized transportation services. Additionally, her recent research areas extend transportation and travel behavior to an active research agenda on food security/accessibility, both within the U.S., specifically in Michigan communities, and internationally, focusing on the City of Mumbai, India. Dr. Kotval-K has a master's degree in Hospitality Administration, a master's in Urban & Regional Planning, and a doctorate in Urban Geography.

Aging Without Shelter: The Criminalization of Homelessness and the Crisis of Older Unhoused Adults

Deyanira Nevarez Martinez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Urban Planning, MSU School of Planning, Design and Construction

As the population of older adults experiencing homelessness continues to rise, many face the compounded challenges of aging on the streets—where chronic health conditions worsen, access to care is limited, and survival itself becomes more precarious. Instead of offering support, cities often respond by criminalizing homelessness, imposing fines, enforcing anti-camping laws, and conducting encampment sweeps that strip older unhoused individuals of their belongings and medical necessities. These punitive measures not only fail to address the root causes of homelessness but actively accelerate physical decline, mental health deterioration, and premature death. This talk will examine how the intersection of aging, housing insecurity, and criminalization creates a public health crisis, while exploring policy solutions that prioritize dignity, care, and housing for our aging population.

Deyanira Nevarez Martinez, Ph.D. - Dr. Nevarez Martinez is an assistant professor in the Urban and Regional Planning Program in the School of Planning, Design and Construction at Michigan State University. Her research interests include the role of the state in homelessness, housing precarity and informality, Latinx homelessness, and the criminalization of poverty. She is a dedicated educator and mentor, guiding students through the complexities of urban planning. Committed to social justice, she actively works to uplift communities through her scholarship, teaching, and advocacy, fostering equity in housing and urban development. Dr. Nevarez Martinez has a doctorate in Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy.

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GEMS CONTINUED -

ADUs: Housing Typologies for Aging in Place

Danna M. Gutiérrez Lanza, M.Sc., Ph.D. Candidate & Graduate Research Assistant, MSU School of Planning, Design and Construction

The presentation will cover the generalities of ADUs as a housing typology for aging in place, and the current state of laws and regulations of ADUs in Michigan.

Danna M. Gutiérrez Lanza, M.Sc., Ph.D. Candidate - Danna Gutiérrez Lanza has a master's in Urban and Regional Planning and is a Fulbright-LASPAU Alumna with degrees in Architecture and Sociology. Gutiérrez Lanza is currently a doctorate student at Michigan State University's School of Planning, Design and Construction. She works as a graduate research assistant on topics of urban and housing informality, housing policies, and social equity.

AGE-FRIENDLY HOUSING OPTIONS PANEL

Housing for Older Adults: Past, Current and Future

Joan Nelson, B.A., M.A., Former Non-Profit Director and Organizer, Lansing's Shared Use Housing Advocacy Network

Presenter Joan Nelson will offer a brief history and current status of housing for older adults, and present ideas for future, more diverse housing options.

Joan Nelson, B.A., M.A. - Joan Nelson is the co-founder and retired executive director of Allen Neighborhood Center (ANC), a 25-year-old hub for comprehensive and integrative community development located on Lansing's Eastside. As E.D. for the first 23 years, Ms. Nelson oversaw programs focused on health, housing, food security/access, youth development, entrepreneurship and job skill training, commercial corridor revitalization, and neighborhood capacity-building.

In 2022, in conjunction with Cinnaire Solutions and a host of partners and supporters, Allen Neighborhood Center completed the building of Allen Place, an \$1M project featuring multiple incubator kitchens, the Allen Place Apartments offering 21 mixed-income units, the Allen Community Health Center and ELFCO Food Co-op. A 50-year resident of Lansing's Eastside, Nelson holds a bachelor's and master's from Michigan State University. She is also organizer of Lansing's Shared Use Housing Advocacy Network, a coalition of people and organizations promoting a more inclusive zoning code in Lansing so as to encourage more bottom-up, incremental, shared-use housing.

Housing Options for Older Adults

Landon Bartley, M.U.R.P., AICP, Principal Planner, City of East Lansing

The City of East Lansing is currently wrapping up an update to its comprehensive master plan, which was last adopted in 2018. One of the plan update's major focus areas is housing, and our Age-Friendly Communities committee has been concurrently updating its own Age-Friendly Action Plan, which was last adopted in 2020. Following the updates, we intend to begin amending our zoning ordinance and other policies to increase the availability of and types of housing in the City.

Landon Bartley, M.U.R.P., AICP - Bartley is the principal planner for the City of East Lansing. In this role, he is responsible for administering the City's zoning ordinance and also for coordinating East Lansing's planning efforts, including the City's comprehensive plan. With the City's Prime Time (Seniors) department, he co-staffs the Age-Friendly Communities committee, which has been updating its Age-Friendly Action Plan. Prior to joining the East Lansing team, Landon was senior planner for the City of Grand Rapids, and in that role led development reviews as well as administered the City's medical cannabis ordinance. He is originally from East Lansing and divides his time between here and Grand Rapids. Bartley has a master's in Urban and Regional Planning.



HOUSING PANEL CONTINUED -

Expanding Allowable Housing Options in Lansing

Andy Fedewa, B.S., City Planner, City of Lansing

Lansing, like many communities across the country, has for decades outlawed most housing forms other than detached single-family or large multi-family apartments. Proposed changes to the zoning ordinance would allow for a variety of housing configurations desired by residents today.

Andy Fedewa, B.S. - Fedewa is a 2015 graduate of MSU's Urban and Regional Planning program. After university, he served in Americorps for three years in Flint, assisting the city's Planning Department in building capacity of neighborhood organizations and drafting neighborhood-level plans. This term led to a full-time planner position in Flint where he assisted with the effort to overhaul the city's zoning ordinance. Fedewa returned back to Lansing in 2019 and helped the city overhaul its own outdated zoning rules with a contemporary form-based code.

Cottage Lane: A Senior-Friendly Housing Unit on Lansing's Eastside

David L. Muylle, Licensed Builder

Muylle will present photos and commentary on "Cottage Lane," an incremental development project that has been building since 2014. "Cottage Lane" is a delightful senior-friendly residential housing project consisting of seven small houses embedded in an existing urban neighborhood.

David L. Muylle, Local Licensed Builder - Muylle has been a licensed builder since 1985. For the last 20 years, he has specialized in old house restoration and building small homes with the goal of making the homes livable to seniors and to disabled persons. Muylle has an associate's degree in business from Lansing Community College but most of what he knows has been learned from experience. He lives on the eastside of Lansing in a house built in 1922 for J. Stanley Rose and his family. Rose moved from Canada to work in the booming American auto industry. Muylle spent two years completely restoring this former drug house to its original beauty and delight. The only thing he forgot was a roll in shower on the first floor.

ABCs of ADUs with AARP

Jason Lachowski, B.A., State Advocacy Analyst, AARP Michigan

Discover how Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) expand housing options for all ages and why AARP is advocating for this vital solution. Join us for an engaging and informative session on what qualifies as an ADU, the benefits they provide, and the rules and regulations involved in making them a reality.

Jason Lachowski, B.A. - Lachowski has served in his role as state advocacy analyst for AARP Michigan since January 2020, working in concert with the state director, other advocacy staff and AARP Michigan volunteers to drive policy changes to enhance the quality of life for all as they age including supporting family caregivers, lowering the cost of prescription drugs and expanding affordable accessible housing. Prior to his time at AARP Michigan, he served for seven years as a legislative aide to two Michigan State Representatives. Lachowski received his bachelor's in Political Science with a minor in Philosophy from Michigan State University.

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