



# OLDER ADULT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

Council Conference Room | Novi Civic Center

**Tuesday, December 16, 2025 – 6 P.M.**

**248.347.0414**

## **Attending:**

Janet Censoni, Cecilia Gallagher, Matt Lazell, Dr. Joslen Letscher (absent), Salene Riggins (absent)

Sandy Fisher (OAS Social Services Coordinator)

Madison Lachance (OAS Recreation Supervisor)

Kit Kieser (OAS Manager)

## **1. Past and upcoming programs, events report-out**

### **a. Recreation Supervisor Lachance provided the following social programs updates:**

- Owl Prowl – On December 9, we hosted Wild Birds Unlimited at Lakeshore Park for an evening Owl Prowl. The program featured both N3 and N3 Jr. options, with a lecture on owls for adults and a hands-on owl pellet dissection activity for kids. All 50 participants then went on a hike at Lakeshore in search of screech, barred, and great horned owls. While we didn't see any this year, we definitely heard them.
- Looking Ahead – On January 28, we will host a family-friendly, beach-themed recycled art class at Lakeshore Park. On February 25, Rick Meader will lead a hands-on garden design workshop.
- Mackinac Island Grand Experience – The 2026 dates have been announced, and Novi will be heading back to the Grand Hotel October 13–16. Registration is already open, with 13 of 56 spots filled.
- Travel Participation numbers – We had 383 travel registrations in 2024. In 2025, that number increased to 619, for a 61.6% increase in travel participation year over year.

### **b. Coordinator Fisher provided the following social programs updates:**

- Medicare Part D - One-on-One Counseling sessions ended on December 7. Novi's MI Option Counselors John Howland and Wayne Westfield assisted 25 people make informed decisions about their health insurance.
- The December TEFAP distribution was significantly smaller than in previous years with 7 items. We are a host site, and the Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA) facilitates the TEFAP in Oakland County. Historically, we received about 18 items including meat and nuts. I reached out OLHSA and was informed that this quarter was heavily affected by the government shutdown. OLHSA had to lay off staff. They had disruptions in food transport and had delays in delivery. Also, the program budget has decreased while costs have increased significantly over the past 5 years.

- AARP Tax Aide is training counselors now for the 2026 season. We start taking appointments on January 6. Last year, we filled all our appointment times a month earlier compared to previous years.

Upcoming Winter 2026 program:

- One on One Tech Assistance is on January 16 – a chance to ask questions about a new device gifted during the holidays.
- Bingocize is back by popular demand! with Ageways
- A new class on Living Well with Arthritis with Henry Ford Health
- A new class on hospice with Hospice of Michigan

**c. Manager Kieser provided the following administrative updates:**

- Engage magazine is now online. It should hit mailboxes any day now. It will cover January through April 2026.
- Transportation – People's Express
  - o At the December 15th City Council meeting, two agreements with PEX were approved.
    1. PEX will continue to lease office and parking space at the Civic Center. The price of rent has increased, but they will also have an additional 6 vehicles in our lot to help accommodate increased rider demand.
    2. Council also approved a new 5-year agreement (previously 1-year) to continue subsidizing rides for Novi residents 55+ or with a disability.
- CAPRA reaccreditation - As I've discussed before, we are up for our CAPRA reaccreditation in 2026. We're currently working through our final internal assessment and will submit our formal self-assessment in mid-January. A virtual visit will take place sometime in the first half of 2026, though our dates have not yet been assigned to us by NRPA. Despite having quite a bit of staff turnover over the last five years, we feel pretty good about where we're at and don't anticipate any major issues in the process.
- Advisory Board Sunsetting -  
As the City of Novi moves forward with its long-range strategic planning process—the Novi 2050 Strategic Plan—we'll be sunsetting the Older Adult Advisory Board with this being our last meeting. This group has served a meaningful role, and as we wrap up 2025, it feels like a natural point of transition.

Mayor Pro Tem Laura Casey has shared her intention of reimagining and elevating a new group focused on advocacy for older adults; one that would likely be City Council-appointed and broader in scope than the parks department alone. While there's no specific timeline, that effort will take shape alongside the 2050 Plan, which is currently in progress and expected to conclude in late 2026.

I'm fortunate to be part of the internal project team for the Novi 2050 Strategic Plan, and I'll continue to advocate for older adults through the process. In the meantime, please know that your insight and involvement remain valued. You are always welcome to participate in our programs and volunteer opportunities as they arise, and we hope you will.

Mayor Pro Tem asked me to encourage you to consider putting your name forward when new opportunities emerge.

**ADJOURNMENT**