



# OLDER ADULT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

PRCS Conference Room | Novi Civic Center

Tuesday, October 21, 2025 – 6 P.M.

248.347.0414

## Attending:

Janet Censoni, Cecilia Gallagher, Matt Lazell, Dr. Joslen Letscher (ab-ex), Salene Riggins (PRCS Commissioner) (ab-ex)

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:

- On October 7, the department hosted its first combined *Nature. Nurture. Novi* and *Nature. Nurture. Novi Jr.* program at Lakeshore Park. Adults attended *Houseplant Care 101* led by an MSU Extension instructor, while children participated in *Houseplant Fun 101*, which included potting and painting activities. Over 30 individuals participated in total.
- A winter *Owl Prowl* program will be held on December 9 in partnership with Wild Birds Unlimited. The evening will feature an owl lecture for adults, owl pellet dissection for children, and a night hike through Lakeshore Park.
- The *Fall Travel Fair* took place on October 7 at Meadowbrook Activity Center. All five travel partners were in attendance, and nearly 80 residents participated. Since the event, 43 new trip registrations have been recorded.
- Fifty-six travelers recently returned from the *Mackinac Island Grand Experience*. Novi participants won prizes in both the golf putting and chipping contests and took first place in the writing competition.
- Upcoming trips include *Melodies at the Museum* on October 23 at the Detroit Institute of Arts, a *Brunch & Learn* at the Outdoor Adventure Center on November 13, and a *Chickadee Meet & Greet* at Kensington Metropark on December 2.
- A new *Friday Evening Euchre Tournament* was held October 3 and drew a record 63 participants. Evening tournaments will continue moving forward.
- Additional fall social programs include *Pumpkin Painting with a Twist* (October 29), the *Veterans Day Celebration* (November 6), the *Thanksgiving Luncheon* (November 20), *Merry & Bright Trivia Night* (December 10), and the *Holiday Celebration* (December 18).

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

- One-on-one Medicare Part D counseling sessions began on October 17 at the Meadowbrook Activity Center. All 25 appointment slots are filled, and a cancellation list has been started. Earlier this year, the State of Michigan transitioned from the nonprofit Medicare-Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP) to a state-run SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program), now called MI Options Medicare Assistance Program. The new program also includes long-term care counseling. Despite these changes, services are still delivered locally through AgeWays with the same counselors we've worked with for years.
- The DME Loan Closet continues to receive strong community support. Sandy reports 15+ inquiries per month, and while not all result in donations, those who say the magic words—"I never used it" or "I barely used it"—often follow through. So far, 218 items have been donated this fiscal year, marking the third consecutive year of 200+ donations.
- On October 14, OAS hosted the OLHSA Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group and connected with a Novi grandparent who is currently raising her grandchildren.
- A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns about Falls and Bingocize both began September 24 and will continue through December 3 and December 10, respectively.
- October's lifelong learning programs included Activ8 Your Brain, which had 39 registrants, and Medicare 2026: What You Need to Know, presented by John Howland and scheduled for later in the week.
- Winter 2026 program planning is currently underway.

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

- Planning for the Veterans Day Celebration on November 6 is well underway. We have secured \$4,800 in sponsorships so far and expect to exceed \$5,000 by the event date. Jay Dooley will return as emcee. The Shamrocks for Veterans from Catholic Central will volunteer again this year, and Sandy is coordinating with Rotary to round out the volunteer team. We've also received over 30 student essay submissions—up significantly from just 8 last year.
- The first annual Diwali Fest was held last week at the Novi Civic Center and was a major success. The event featured food trucks, dance performances, cultural vendors, and fireworks. Estimated attendance ranged from 3,000 to 5,000 people. The energy and community response were overwhelmingly positive, and we are looking forward to making it an annual event.
- The winter issue of Engage magazine, covering January through April 2026, will be delivered to residents in mid-December.
- People's Express is currently experiencing higher-than-usual demand. They are now scheduling rides four business days in advance, up from the usual three. Several new drivers are in training, and new vehicles are expected to enter service soon. The current agreement allowing PEX to operate a satellite location at the Novi Civic Center expires at the end of the year but is likely to be extended.
- A resident Town Hall was held at Meadowbrook Commons on September 8, facilitated by Samantha Harkins of Hundred Place Consulting. Residents were

invited to share experiences and concerns in an open forum. Key themes included building maintenance, communication about work orders, safety, and the importance of regular feedback opportunities. Some concerns are already being addressed, and others will inform new action.

## **2. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next OAAB Meeting**  
December 16, 2026