



OLDER ADULT SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

Council Conference Room | Novi Civic Center

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 – 6 P.M.

248.347.0414

Attending:

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

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:

- The Get Outside, Novi summer challenge wrapped up with 83 participants. The program encouraged residents of all ages to spend 100 hours outdoors during the month of July.
- A Stargazing Night scheduled for August 12, in partnership with the Farmington Hills Stargazers, was canceled due to storms. Interest was high, with over 600 individuals marking themselves as "interested" on Facebook.
- On September 20, the Perennial Exchange and Native Plant Giveaway will return to Fuerst Park. Oakland County Parks will supply native plants, and Fire Captain Theisen will give a short talk on the importance of pollinators.
- Novi recently added two beehives at the Bosco Back 30, monitored by Captain Theisen. He will lead a Buzz About Bees program at the site on September 24 at 5pm.
- A new Travel Volunteer role has been introduced to help expand day trip offerings without pulling full-time staff from the office. Recent Tigers trips filled quickly, and a larger bus is being considered for next year.
- Upcoming travel programs include Senior Day at the Detroit Zoo (September 10), the Fall Travel Fair (October 7), and the Mackinac Island Grand Experience (October 14–17).
- Social events this summer included the Summer Games Bash on July 16 and the Fifties Float Fest on August 6, which featured live music and root beer floats. Both events were well attended.
- All 80 spots reserved for Senior Day at the State Fair (August 28) filled within two days, with 34 individuals placed on the waitlist. This year's program is expected to host over 960 seniors.
- Upcoming events include an Ice Cream Social on September 19 and a pilot Evening Euchre Tournament on October 3, aimed at attracting both regular and new participants.

b. Coordinator Fisher provided the following social programs updates:

- Fiscal Year 2024–25 highlights show consistent participation in most programs. The DME Loan Closet recorded 1,624 interactions—just 10 fewer than last year. Incoming calls rose to 1,705, with 154 focused on community resource information. Common questions included the Minor Home Repair Program,

food assistance, and affordable housing. One unusual inquiry: “How do I get rid of an unwanted guest?”

- One-on-One Tech Assistance is full and will take place this Friday.
- Looking ahead to fall, new and returning programs include Powerful Tools for Caregivers (Sept. 22), Matter of Balance for fall prevention (Sept. 24), and Bingocize (starting Sept. 24), which combines bingo, wellness info, and light exercise.
- Two programs are scheduled for September 25: Understanding Nutrition, focused on fad diets vs. sustainable eating, and the annual Estate Planning Basics session, which remains in high demand as legal inquiries increase.

c. Manager Kieser provided the following administrative updates:

- Mike Longo submitted his resignation from the advisory board in late July. He shared that he has taken on additional responsibilities—including becoming Commander of the VFW Post—and no longer has the time to fully participate in the board. He will remain actively involved in veteran-related events. At this time, the seat will remain vacant, as the group's establishing resolution calls for five members.
- The department continues to prepare for CAPRA reaccreditation in 2026. Novi's reaccreditation self-assessment will be submitted by January 15, 2026. The on-site review will take place sometime between March and June of next year.
- The fall edition of *Engage* magazine, covering September through December, will begin arriving in residents' mailboxes later this week or early next week.
- The final FY24–25 transportation count for People's Express rides provided to Novi residents totaled 33,151. This represents a 129% increase over the previous year of rides through the previous transportation model, confirming the significant demand for accessible transit. People's Express continues to search for a suitable site in southwest Oakland County to support their growing operation.
- The department will host its first annual Diwali Fest on October 16 at the Novi Civic Center. While not an OAS-specific event, the celebration has been shaped by a community steering committee that includes PRCS Commissioner Swamy Gopalakrishnan and Council Member Priya Gurumurthy. Recreation Supervisor Jenneva Kayser and Deputy Director Tracie Ringle serve as staff liaisons.
- Planning is well underway for the Veterans Day Celebration, which will take place on November 6. So far, \$2,200 in sponsorships has been secured, with more expected. The fundraising goal is \$6,000–\$7,000. Veterans will continue to receive complimentary meals, and the price for non-veterans has increased from \$10 to \$12 due to food cost increases. Mission BBQ, which catered last year's event, was unable to extend a discount this year, and the new estimate is nearly \$4,500. Jay Dooley has been invited back to emcee, and the band *Geff Phillips and Friends* will perform. The student essay contest will return this year. Recreation Supervisor Madison Lachance is coordinating this year's veterans' gift and previewed several hat options for feedback.

2. ADJOURNMENT

Next OAAB Meeting

October 21, 2025