

# QUARTERLY UPDATE: July-Sept 2024



AF MG's Quarterly Updates summarize highlights and accomplishments from the past quarter's work.

## CITY COLLABORATION:

- Planning Manager **Peter Vickerman** attended our quarterly Leadership Team meeting to share information and invite input related to the **Maple Lakes and Teal Lake Linear Park Study**.
- **Councilmember Kristy Janigo** attended our Leadership Team meeting to connect and share updates about relevant work inside the city.
- **Community Development Director Joe Hogeboom** attended our Leadership Team meeting to provide a city update, and our Housing team meeting to offer information and guidance.

## DOMAIN TEAMS

**Four Domain Teams launched** to begin implementation of the [AF MG Action Plan 2024-2026](#). Work also will happen under additional domains (such as Outdoor Spaces and Buildings; and Transportation), despite not having active Domain Teams in those areas at this point.

**HOUSING:** Main focus will be affordable housing - providing community education about how to understand affordable housing, and the landscape of local options. May include a tour of local affordable housing buildings in early 2025, to potentially include Council members and others.

**COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION:** First major project will be a redesign of [www.agefriendlymaplegrove.org](http://www.agefriendlymaplegrove.org), to refresh and strengthen this valuable community resource.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORT & HEALTH SERVICES:** Initial efforts will focus on:

- Exploring expansion of the [File of Life](#) program in coordination with the Fire Department
- Learning more about [CARE Resource Connections](#)' model of connecting residents with the resources they need in coordination with emergency response teams (FD/PD/EMS)

**SOCIAL PARTICIPATION, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT:** At this stage, we are focusing on strengthening connections with CROSS Services regarding volunteerism and seeking additional collaborators. Our main areas of interest include intergenerational programming and volunteer opportunities, and their promotion.

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

**Doctoral student wraps up Capstone Project with AF MG.** Anita Vang, an occupational therapy doctoral student at the University of Minnesota, concluded her year-long work with AF MG as part of

her capstone project. During summer 2024, Vang conducted research and worked out of the Maple Grove Community Center.

- Vang’s research focused on socially isolated older adults in the community; she interviewed 11 residents on the topics of social participation; AF MG and communications; barriers; and 55 Forward programs/MG Community Center. A few findings:
  - 63% considered solitude a choice or the result of past choices;
  - Text messages are the preferred mode of communication;
  - There is a communication gap between AF MG and the community; and
  - Barriers to social engagement include transportation, finances, health, lack of diversity and accessibility, and others.
- Vang undertook efforts to improve city communications via text messaging and website design to better reach and include isolated individuals.
- **More information** about Vang’s project/research and recommendations: [summary](#) or [in-depth](#).

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[Age-Friendly Maple Grove](#) is a community-driven, city-sponsored initiative to make Maple Grove a better place to grow older. AF MG launched its second [three-year action plan](#) in January 2024. The plan covers numerous domains of community life - including housing, transportation, communication and information, social connection, and more. AF MG’s Steering Committee and Leadership Team include city staff, community volunteers, and representatives from senior housing, the library, nonprofit community organizations, and others.

[www.agefriendlymaplegrove.org](http://www.agefriendlymaplegrove.org)