

WAUWATOSA SENIOR COMMISSION



ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2022



PURPOSE AND DUTIES

Summary of Wauwatosa Senior Commission Chapter 2.28.020 of the City Municipal Code

- Represent and advocate for senior citizens.
- Bring focus to issues affecting the quality of life of seniors
- Serve as a connecting point between senior, the city, social agencies, neighborhood associations and other groups
- Continually monitor the needs of seniors and develop strategic recommendations to address identified issues
- Help establish Wauwatosa as a community recognized for welcoming and supporting intergenerational neighborhoods

2022 Members

Kathy Causier - Vice-Chair, Secretary, Resident

Dianne Dagelen - Resident

Rebecca Donaldson - Resident

Ernst Franzen - Alderperson Liaison

Kristen Hecht - Resident

Laura Laurishke - Police Department Liaison

Dain Maddox - Chair, Resident

Michael Meier - Resident

Julia Murphy- Resident, St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Older Adult Ministry

Carmen Pangilinan - Health Department Liaison

Elise Riepenhoff - Resident

Michael Savic - Resident

Chris Vogel - Secretary, Resident (term ended April 2022)

Kosta Zervas, Wauwatosa Senior Centers Director, Recreation Department Liaison

Budget Report

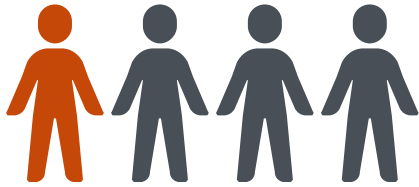
City of Wauwatosa



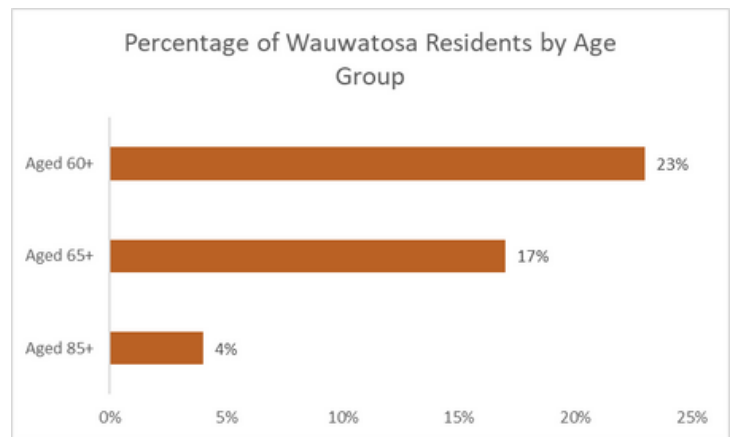
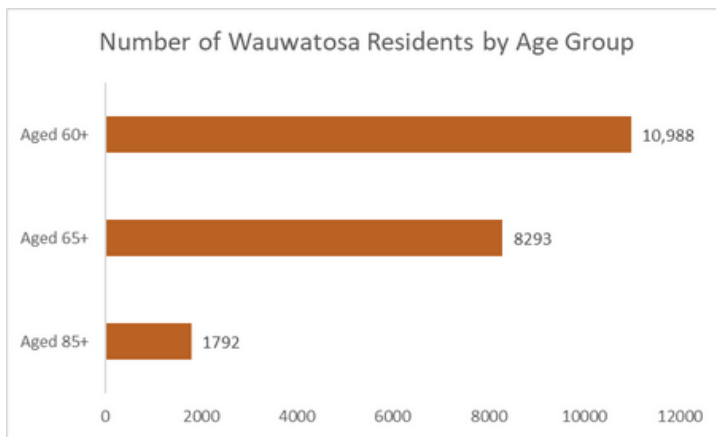
2022 YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2022 13								
ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD ACTUAL	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USE/COL	
10115000 GF SENIOR COMMISSION								
4812 DONATIONS/CONTRIBUTIONS	0	0	0	-280.00	.00	280.00	100.0%	
6004 PRINTING AND DUPLICATION	625	0	625	.00	.00	625.00	.0%	
6013 POSTAGE	100	0	100	.00	.00	100.00	.0%	
6099 OTHER EXPENSES	2,470	12,464	14,934	.00	.00	14,933.90	.0%	
TOTAL GF SENIOR COMMISSION	3,195	12,464	15,659	-280.00	.00	15,938.90	-1.8%	
TOTAL REVENUES	0	0	0	-280.00	.00	280.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,195	12,464	15,659	.00	.00	15,658.90		

DEMOGRAPHICS



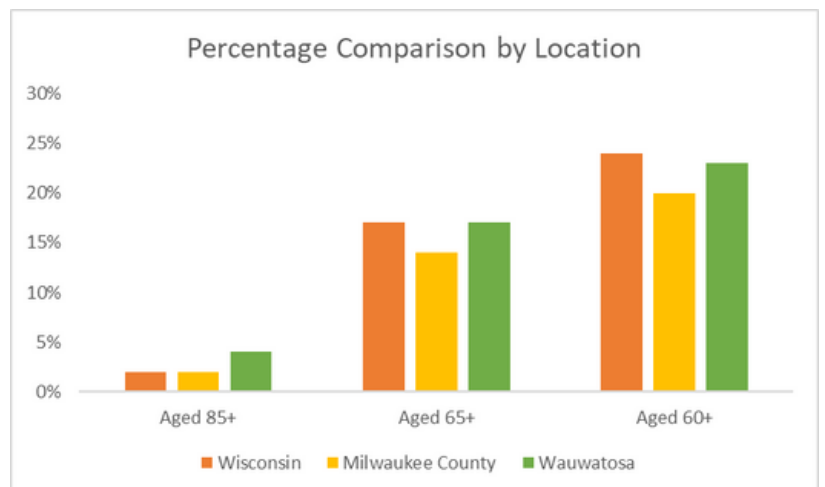
Nearly one in four Wauwatosa residents is aged 60 or over. Population projections indicate the older adult population will continue to grow well into 2040.



The percentage of Wauwatosa residents aged 60+ and 65+ is higher than that of Milwaukee County.

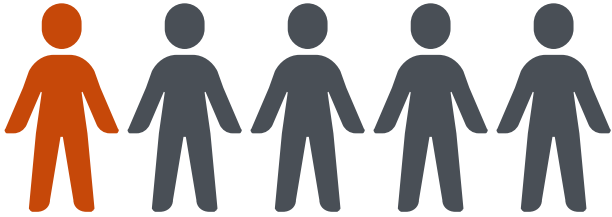
The percentage of residents aged 85+ twice as high in Wauwatosa than Milwaukee County.

This is significant in that as we age we are more likely to be in need of supportive services to help us remain living independently in our homes.



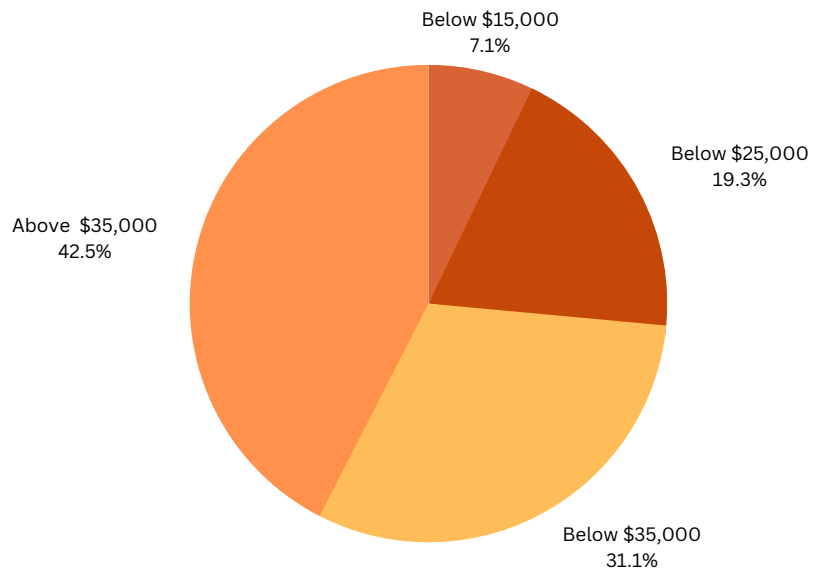
DEMOGRAPHICS

INCOME



In 2021, the most recent year with data available, one in five Wauwatosa residents aged 65+ has an income at or below 185% of the poverty level, which was \$23,832

As of 2021, there were 5,558 households headed by a resident aged 65+. Over half of these households earn an income below \$35,000 a year.



LIVING ALONE

36% of Wauwatosa residents aged 65+ live alone.

Why does this matter?

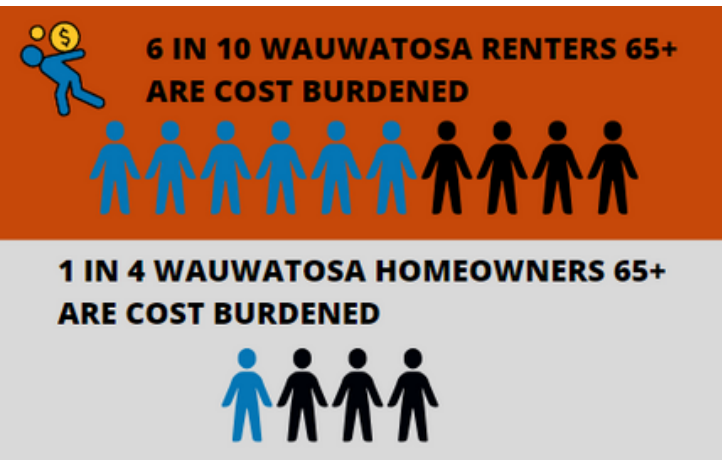
- Living alone and being older are risk factors for loneliness and isolation. Social isolation, loneliness, and lack of social connection pose serious public health risks that affect a significant portion of the adult and youth population,
- People who experience social isolation and loneliness are at increased risk to develop cardiovascular disease, depression and dementia, and are at a higher risk for falls.

HOUSING Challenges


A household is cost-burdened when it spends more than 30% of its income on rent and utilities.

It is severely cost-burdened when it spends more than 50% of its income on these expenses.

Housing stock is old and lacks accessibility features.



THE COST OF HOUSING




Median household income all residents: \$90,420

Median household income head of household 65+: \$54,613


MEDIAN HOME VALUE (2020) \$251,300

MINIMUM HOUSEHOLD INCOME TO AFFORD (to avoid cost burden) \$69,838




MEDIAN GROSS RENT (2020) \$1,120/MONTH

MINIMUM HOUSEHOLD INCOME TO AFFORD (to avoid cost burden) \$44,480



AVERAGE PROPERTY TAX BILL (2021) \$5,358



ADDRESSING HOUSING

In partnership, the Senior Commission worked on the following to address the housing issues for older adults in Wauwatosa:

- Land Trust Fund
- Wauwatosa Home Loan Repair Program
- Advocacy for new housing development - examples include Mayfair and Cornerstone
- Housing as a priority area in the City's Community Health Improvement Plan and Age-Friendly Action Plan

Goals:

- Address funding gap to make below market housing financially feasible for developers.
- Increase housing options to include more "Missing Middle" housing.
- Work in partnership to host a Housing Summit to highlight the needs and options for housing, as well as to dispel commonly held myths or misconceptions.
- Continue to publicize the availability of the Home Loan Repair Program.
- Support the efforts to bolster the volunteer base to help provide services such as snow shoveling and yardwork assistance.
- Protect and increase stream of funding to make sure ARPA funded projects are sustainable.

Key Partners: Wauwatosa Health Department, Age-Friendly Steering Committee, Joint Housing Coalition, Wauwatosa Development Department

Asks: Work together to advance and support efforts to expand housing options in Wauwatosa which will result in more affordable housing.

Build on Wauwatosa's history of providing mixed housing options throughout the community.

Support efforts to provide volunteer assistance for yardwork and snow removal assistance for older adult residents.

KEY ISSUE: HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Challenges



- **Falls**
 - Falls present major challenges to healthy aging. Falls are the number one cause of non-natural death in the City of Wauwatosa and typically involve older adults.
 - Wisconsin ranks worst in the nation for deadly falls at a rate of 143 per 100,000.
- **Social Isolation and Loneliness**
 - 1 in 5 Wauwatosa adults who completed the AARP Age-Friendly survey reported feeling a lack of companionship.
 - 36% of Wauwatosa residents aged 65 and older live alone.
 - 30% of Wauwatosa residents aged 65+ have a disability.
 - Risk factors for loneliness and isolation include being over the age of 50, living alone, and disability status.
 - Digital communication is the predominant way of sharing social connection opportunities offered in the City, which is not always the preferred mode of communication for some older adults.
- **Desire for expansion of health and wellness opportunities geared towards older adults**
 - The Senior Commission often receives feedback about the desire for more health and physical activity programming geared towards older residents.
- **Lack of awareness of available resources**
 - The community offers a large number of resources geared towards older adults, but often people are unsure as to what they are or where to begin to find them.

ADDRESSING HEALTH AND WELLNESS

In partnership, the Senior Commission worked on the following to address the health and wellness needs of older adults in Wauwatosa:

- Advocacy for more of a coordinated response to falls. As a result, Wauwatosa Health and Fire Departments are working closely to track falls and provide intervention to those who have had to call Fire for a lift assist. Two Public Health RN's and one Fire Department employee were trained in the Evidence Based Falls Prevention course, Stepping On. They are now starting to offer the workshops to the community.
- Inclusion of a priority area of Social Connection in the City's Community Health Improvement Plan and Age-Friendly Action Plan.
- Offering of suggestions for Muellner Building renovations as well as with planning of new 116th Street Park.
- Increase in number of Pickleball offerings.
- Creation and dissemination of Wauwatosa Senior Resource Guide available online and in paper format.

Goals:

- Continue to prioritize falls prevention
- Assist with planning of events and opportunities that allow for intergenerational collaboration.
- Support the development of efforts to provide technology training to older adults while simultaneously increasing the ways in which we communicate with all residents.
- Increase community knowledge of available resources by sharing Wauwatosa Senior Resource Guide

Key Partners: Wauwatosa Health Department, Age-Friendly Steering Committee, Joint Housing Coalition, Wauwatosa Department of Public Works

Asks:

Work with community partners to support an update of the City's Block Watch Program so that it includes opportunities for social connection and information sharing.

KEY FOCUS AREAS: ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION

- Two of the Senior Commission's main responsibilities are advocacy and collaborating with other groups to make life better for older adults in Wauwatosa.
- **Advocacy Priorities:**
 - Expanded health and recreation opportunities
 - Increase in affordable and accessible housing
 - Increased funding for the Milwaukee County Aging and Disability Resource Center
 - Caregiver support
 - Support for nutrition services
 - Repair and rebuild the Long-Term Care workforce
 - Reliable, Accessible and Affordable Transportation
 - Enhanced communication

Key Partners:

- Age-Friendly Tosa Steering Committee
- Milwaukee County Housing Division
- Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network
- Wauwatosa Joint Housing Coalition
- Wauwatosa School District
- Wauwatosa Library
- Wauwatosa Community Health Improvement Plan Action Teams
- Wauwatosa Common Council
- Wauwatosa Commission for Persons with Disabilities
- Wauwatosa Equity and Inclusion Commission

Asks:

- **Support efforts to provide more written information for those who are not connected digitally.**
- **Expand efforts to bolster the volunteer base to help provide services to seniors.**