

Allendale Sees No Urgent Need For Older Adult Housing

Mary Service

As a result of the compilation of statistics of its recent survey, the Allendale Committee on Housing for Older Adults has concluded that at this time there is not an urgent need for specially designed older adult housing in Allendale.

Three hundred citizens 60 years or older received the questionnaire and the Committee received 197 responses, representing about 250 citizens. (Married respondents answered for two people on a single form.)

The Committee did, however, recommend that Allendale evaluate and set aside land for future construction of specially designed housing as the survey indicated most preferred to stay in Allendale. Though they are financially comfortable now, they might not be in the future, due to economic erosion. Some of the unimproved properties discussed for the future were the corner of Franklin Turnpike and Orchard Street (Thurston property), the wooded area between Mallinson and Recreation Park, the Borough property at the end of New Street and Crestwood Park off Maple Street.

Allendale provides financial relief to older adults through taxes based on income, water billing based on usage and Crestwood membership fees. The Committee suggested that if economic conditions continue to deteriorate, other avenues

of relief should be pursued. Also, it will continue to evaluate the conversion of existing dwellings into apartment-style adult housing.

The survey indicated the majority of respondents (106) lived as husband and wife, 39 with children, 29 alone and four with relatives or nonrelatives. One hundred and three have lived in town for over 20 years and 43 from 5 to 20 years. There were 10 more males than females responding; 91 were between 60 and 70, and 78 were over 70. Most (164) live in houses vs. apartments or rooming homes; 134 considered their present living arrangements satisfactory; 30 somewhat satisfactory and three unsatisfactory.

When asked "If specially designed housing for older adults were available at a price you could afford, would you consider moving there?" the response was: 27 very likely; 48 probably; 43 probably not; 48 very unlikely. As to the type and location of special housing, 105 preferred a house, 42 an apartment; six an apartment with a common dining room and six other alternatives. Being near the center of town was important to 99; seven preferred being in the center and 48 wanted to be away from the center.

Councilman Dean Haviland was chairman of the committee consisting of George F. Becker, Helen S. Becker, John J. Cebak and Norman S. Lane.