



Livable for a Lifetime

*Applying Universal Design  
in homes & communities*

## L4L News Brief – March 2011

### **One Step Closer to Housing the Future: Reinventing Where We Age**

How do we ensure our housing and communities will best meet our needs into the future? Recent events focused on the importance of design of the built environment and its relationship to healthy aging, housing choice, and community accessibility. The goal of the series is to educate the public about the region's aging trends and explore solutions to the challenges we face in creating age-friendly communities.



**Listen to Experts** – A Community Forum on Design for Aging in Place, held at the Charlottesville Community Design Center on January 24<sup>th</sup>, featured Victor Regnier, a nationally-renowned architect specializing in senior-friendly design, followed by a panel of local experts from the fields of design, development and public health, including UVA professors Nisha Botchwey, John Quale and Matthew Trowbridge, and builder Stephen Thomas. Listen to the podcast at [http://cvilletomorrow.typepad.com/charlottesville\\_tomorrow\\_/2011/01/housing\\_the\\_future.html](http://cvilletomorrow.typepad.com/charlottesville_tomorrow_/2011/01/housing_the_future.html).

**Take a Virtual Tour** – You can experience a presentation of built examples of accessible and universal design in Charlottesville and Albemarle County at <http://www.livableforalifetime.org>.

**Design It** – Community members and local designers met on February 26<sup>th</sup> to explore neighborhood development scenarios for a City-owned property on Elliott Avenue, with a goal to incorporate accessible and sustainable design features into the design of a mixed-income infill neighborhood.

### **Home Modifications Made Easier**

When a disability or simply the natural process of aging makes it difficult to get around, how do you get started modifying your home to meet your changing needs? This online Home Modification Guide offers ideas, community resources and financial resources to help you stay in your home <http://www.livableforalifetime.org/homemod.htm>.

### **Get Paid for Universal Design – Tax Credit Program Expanded**

The Virginia Livable Home Tax Credit (LHTC) program is designed to improve accessibility and universal visitability in Virginia's residential units by providing state tax credits for the purchase of new units or the retrofitting of existing housing units. A recent amendment (awaiting the Governor's signature) will increase the maximum amount of credit allowed from \$2,000 to \$5,000, and expand eligibility to real estate developers in addition to property owners. For more information, contact the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development at (804)371-7124.

### **Here's How Your Neighbor Did It...**

Stephanie Brown worked with the Fluvanna/Louisa Housing Foundation and volunteers from her church to create an Accessory Dwelling Unit as an addition to her home to serve as an apartment for her daughter, who had sustained permanent injury in an accident. Stephanie went through a challenging process to identify possibilities to maintain her daughter's independence while providing a secure living environment. This was a long and often frustrating process. Stephanie has since become a member of the Disability Services Board and is working on writing up a case study to help others navigate the complex world of housing and services.

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*Designing homes and communities to be usable by all people regardless of ability or age.*