



News Brief – January 2009

Livable for a Lifetime

*Applying Universal Design
in homes & communities*

Updates

Accessory Apartments White Paper and Advocacy:

Accessory Apartments, also known as **Accessory Dwelling Units**, are separate, independent dwelling units either located on the same property as the primary single family home or within the primary single family home itself. Examples include an apartment over a garage, a basement apartment or an extension to the existing house. The benefits of accessory apartments are many. Most people want to grow old in their own home: the concept of “aging in place” or “livable for a lifetime.” Staying in one’s home is often unrealistic when the home is no longer affordable or when one or more family members experience a debilitating chronic illness or a disability. However, not all localities view accessory dwelling units the same. Certain restrictions make ADUs more difficult to establish in some communities. Your local zoning ordinance specifies the requirements placed on ADUs. If you or someone you know would benefit from an accessory dwelling unit, please contact Bill Wanner at wwanner@tjpd.org or (434) 979-7310. To view the full white paper on accessory apartments, see the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission website under Universal Design: www.tjpd.org/housing/index.asp.



Homesharing/ADU Feasibility Study:

The Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA) in partnership with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) is conducting a study to ascertain if and how Homesharing and Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) can increase the availability of affordable housing for low income senior citizens, workforce residents, people with disabilities in the City of Charlottesville, and others with incomes at or below 30% of area median income. The study is anticipated to be complete by June 30, 2009, and is funded through the Charlottesville Housing Fund, with matching funds provided by JABA and TJPDC. Work on the feasibility study is underway, with the next major step consisting of focus groups to gather input from potential providers of homes to share, as well as potential “home seekers” who could benefit from such living arrangements. Two focus groups will be held – one for potential home seekers during the evening of January 21st and another for home providers during the afternoon of January 22nd. Each focus group will last around 2 hours and have 12 participants. More information is available at www.tjpd.org/housing. An Advisory Council has been formed to serve as a sounding board for ideas and to provide input for a feasibility study on homesharing and accessory dwelling units (ADUs). This diverse group came together for a kick-off meeting the afternoon of October 9 at CitySpace. Attendees heard a presentation on homesharing, asked questions, offered suggestions, and completed comment sheets with their ideas on potential participants, program design and possible roles for themselves or their organizations. If you are interested in participating in the study or focus group, or have other participants to suggest, please contact Kristen Pingry at kpingry@tjpd.org or 434-979-7310 ext. 310.

Money Follows the Person:

Virginia is one of 31 states participating in a five-year, \$1.75 billion Money Follows the Person (“MFP”) Demonstration project designed to create a system of long-term services and supports that better enable individuals to transition from certain long-term care institutions into the community. For more information about MFP, please visit <http://www.olmsteadva.com/mfp/>. JABA is a participant in the demonstration project and has a transition coordinator, Joan Rudel, who may be reached at jrudel@jabacares.org for more information.

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