

Interested in helping seniors in the Kenyon area?

October 8, 2024

Dear Kenyon Area Residents,

A long-time member of the Kenyon community recently reached out to the Southeast Minnesota Area Agency on Aging for help to develop needed senior services to enable people to continue to live in their homes and stay in the community near their friends and family as they age.

Now, the Southeast Minnesota Area Agency on Aging (SEMAAA) is looking for a group of 5 -8 people who are interested in researching and helping develop new senior services through the 'Age Friendly Communities' program sponsored by AARP and the State of Minnesota. See the front side of this flyer for more about the program. Many nearby communities in Freeborn, Fillmore, Wabasha and Olmsted Counties are currently using this program to become more age friendly. As a board member of SEMAAA, and with some knowledge of the community due to my previous work experience in long-term care here, I agreed to help initiate this effort for Kenyon.

The initial volunteer group of 5-8 people would be meeting with Dan Conway who is a manager at the SEMAAA office in Rochester, MN. Dan will come to Kenyon to meet with the group several times over the next few months to help the committee with the process. The initial volunteer group will serve as a community liaison to help determine the types of senior services needed, and also to help identify those individuals in the community who would be willing to help provide the new services. You will be able to learn from other communities in SE Minnesota doing similar programs.

In the future, after a committed volunteer group is established, grant funding may be obtained to further develop the services. A government entity such as the city or county must provide a letter of support and be committed to help with future oversight of grant disbursements.

Please consider if this effort is something you could help with by joining the startup committee, or simply by calling myself or Dan with your suggestions and ideas.

Sincerely,

Dave Vandergon

612-961-9672

Dan Conway, SEMAAA

507-288-6944

Website <https://semaaa.org>