



TOWN OF READFIELD

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Key Takeaways from the Readfield Survey of Seniors

The survey of Readfield seniors had broad participation. 114 Readfield residents age 55 or over responded– 1 in 12 of all older residents. The responses covered all neighborhoods, income ranges, and ages.

Social life

* *The good news:* 81% of seniors see friends and family at least a few times a week. Most are involved with volunteer work, town boards, church activities, adult education courses, the Senior Café, Guys and Gals, etc. Seniors are involved in the community.

* *The challenges:* About 1 in 7 seniors only sees friends and family once a month or less. More than 1 in 3 thinks the availability of social opportunities in Readfield is only fair or poor.

Transportation

* *The good news:* 3 out of 4 seniors have no trouble driving any hour of the day or season of the year. Only 3% are unable to drive and unable to find a friend to help out on a weekly basis.

* *The challenges:* Among seniors 75 or older, 9% are unable to drive and unable to find help on a weekly basis. 85% say that it would be important for the Town to recruit and coordinate a system of volunteer drivers.

Housing

* *The good news:* 89% of seniors say that their housing is fine, no big problems.

* *The challenges:* Among residents 75 or older, 37% say that their housing is hard to maintain; 12% say their home is difficult to get around. Property taxes are a problem for 43% of all seniors. 81% want more affordable housing options for seniors. 87% support a home repair service for low-income in town.

Volunteering

* *The good news:* Over half of seniors volunteer in the community. 90% of respondents listed skills they have to offer. 80% said that the availability of volunteer opportunities was “good” or “very good.”

* *The challenge:* 8% said that they wanted to volunteer but weren’t doing so yet. Lack of time and health issues prevented others from volunteering. One said more information about where to help is needed.

Other highlights

* *Sidewalks, trails, exercise opportunities* are considered “important” or “very important” to over 80% of respondents

* 2 out of 3 find that the *availability of information about programs and services in Readfield* is “very good” or “good”

* About 1 in 3 seniors “frequently” or “regularly” *uses the Readfield Community Library*. 20% of respondents didn’t know about – but are interested in – the Library’s genealogy and technology programs.