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Age-Friendly Public Services: Rethinking Libraries & Fire Companies in Rural Tompkins County

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This report highlights the engagement efforts by libraries and fire companies in rural Tompkins County. Additionally, it documents several nationwide case studies with potential to serve older adults in rural communities. An issue brief with our findings on engagement strategies, challenges, and recommendations can be found here:

<https://labs.aap.cornell.edu/node/924>



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Introduction

Tompkins County—a member of AARP’s Network of Age-Friendly Communities and one of the five Age Friendly Centers for Excellence in New York State—led by the County Office for the Aging (COFA), continues to make efforts to create an age-friendly environment as its older adult population continues to grow. Despite 80% of older residents reporting good quality of life in the 2023 Community Assessment Surveys for Older Adults¹, there is still much room for improvement, particularly in areas of civic and social engagement and the quality of older adult services—highlighted as key areas lacking community readiness in the same assessment. In a similar vein, the 2019 Needs Assessment Report² identified loneliness and social isolation as top concerns, with 72.1% of survey respondents recognizing it as a significant problem in their community.

One crucial aspect we need to focus on is understanding how these issues manifest differently in urban and rural contexts as we seek long-term solutions. Challenges in civic and social engagement, older adult services, and social isolation are more pronounced in rural areas, which may not have the proximity or accessibility to community facilities or services. Furthermore, approaches effective in urban environments may not be transferable to rural communities due to distinct resource or capacity constraints. It is essential to adopt specific strategies to create a welcoming and engaging environment in rural Tompkins County for older adults aging in place, taking into account the unique challenges of rural contexts and drawing on existing public services including libraries and fire companies.

This project looks at the untapped potential of public service facilities to improve the well-being of older adults, especially in rural Tompkins County. We concentrate on two key public services—libraries, and fire departments. Using interviews and case studies, we aim to explore interests, strategies, and challenges in age-friendly engagement methods, such as joint space usage for gatherings and offering community programs to create a more welcoming and engaging community for older adults as well as children and the broader community.

In this report, we focus on engagement efforts by libraries and fire departments locally and across the nation and how these initiatives and programs serve the older population and enhance community solidarity. Full issue brief is available [here](#).

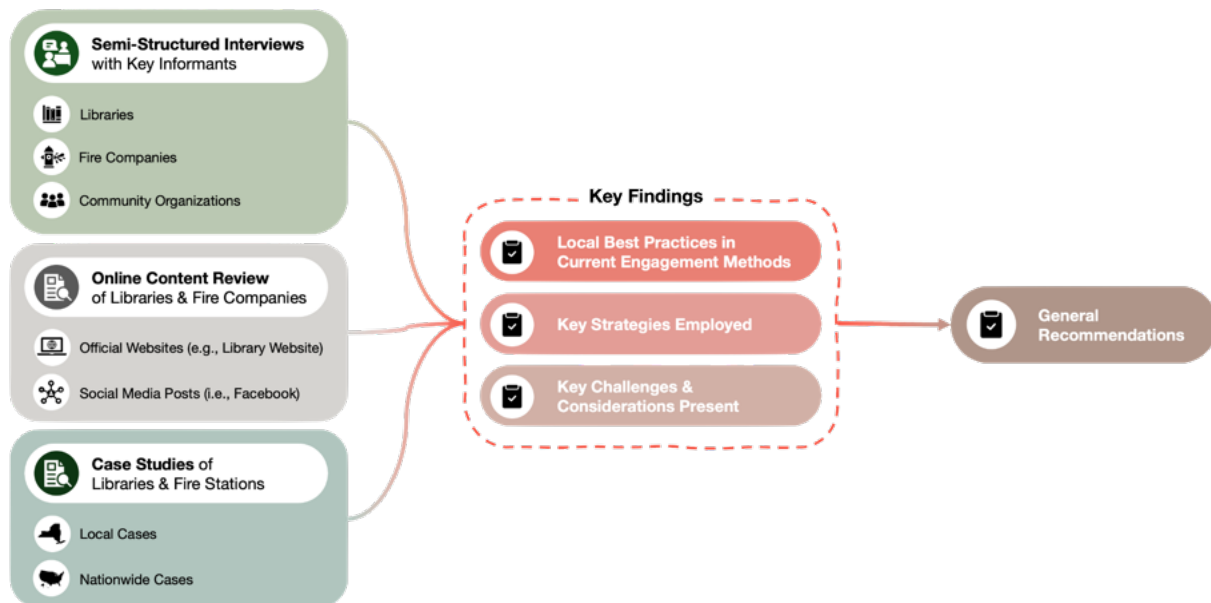
¹ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11RNdLJqPC5thaRSuFfbbDkdBsx1CWkt7/view?usp=sharing>

² <https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/files2/cofa/COFA%202019%20Needs%20Assessment%20Report%20Final.pdf>

Methodology

We conducted semi-structured interviews with key informants to gain insights into establishing age-friendly environments in libraries and fire departments. We interviewed representatives from libraries (Finger Lakes Library System, Groton Public Library, and Newfield Public Library), fire companies (Danby Volunteer Fire Company, Slaterville Volunteer Fire Department, and Varna Volunteer Fire Company), and other community organizations (Lifelong, Love Living at Home, Human Services Coalition’s Health Planning Council). We also examined the Facebook pages of libraries and fire stations to get a preliminary understanding of their efforts (See Appendix A and B). Despite methodological limitations, this approach served as a valuable starting point. Integrating interview findings, social media outreach analysis, and case studies from libraries and fire companies across the US, we identified interests, strategies, and challenges in age-friendly engagement initiatives within rural libraries and fire departments, as illustrated in *Figure 1*.

Figure 1. Methodology of Data Collection and Analysis



Our discussions revealed an array of overarching themes as libraries and fire departments actively engage in diverse programs and initiatives. The cases below provide insights into age-friendly practices both at the local and national levels, with local cases contributing to more engaging local efforts and nationwide cases providing more innovative solutions.

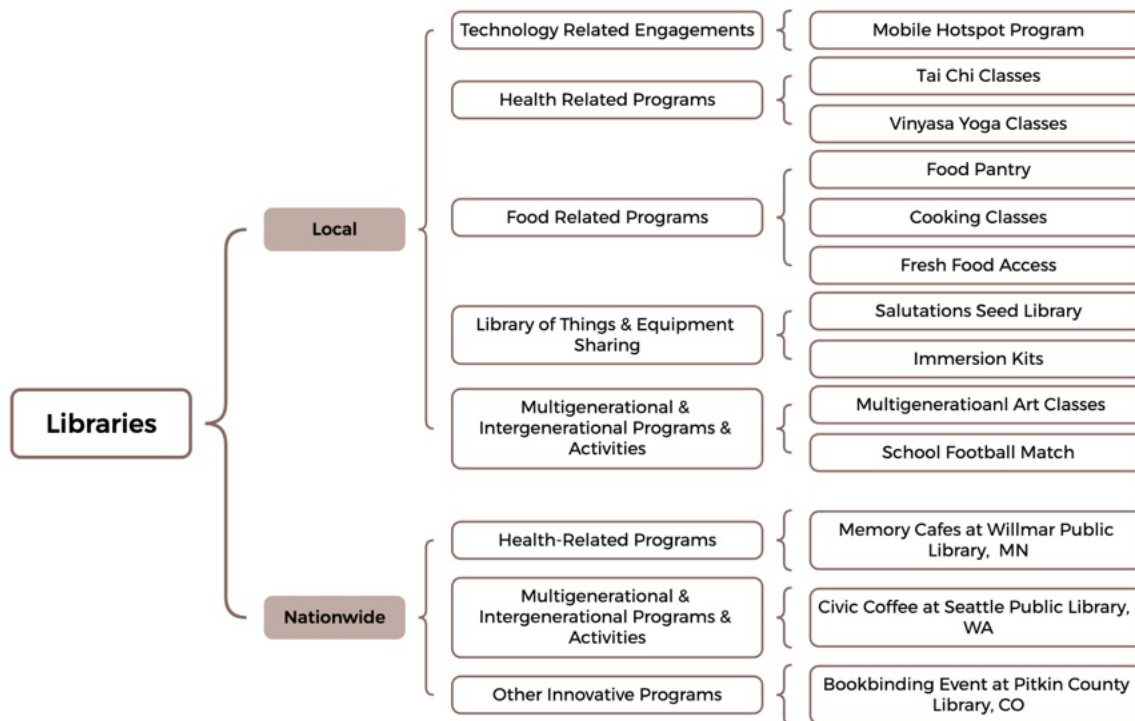
Libraries

Public facilities play multifaceted roles within communities, extending beyond their formal functions. Sue Chaffee from Newfield Public Library aptly highlights this broader scope, stating, “*When you say the word ‘library,’ people think about books. But, no, there are so many other things we can help you with.*” Small and rural public libraries, as trusted community spaces, have the potential to support aging in place. Most local library programming is geared toward families with children and youth, but more and more libraries are adopting innovative programs for older adults.

Local Engagement Efforts by Libraries

Rural libraries, despite their limited workforce, collaborate with other community organizations to convert the library into a space that facilitates community gatherings and activities. They actively endorse the process of aging by implementing diverse programs (see *Figure 2*), such as food donation initiatives, promoting digital literacy, equipment sharing and multigenerational/intergenerational programming. If adequately promoted and supported, they can effectively cater to the diverse needs of older adults, showcasing the crucial role these community hubs can play in improving the overall welfare of their communities.

Figure 2. Local and Nationwide Case Studies of Libraries



Technology Related Engagements

Recognizing the diverse needs of their communities, libraries are committed to promoting digital inclusion and technological literacy through formal and informal services. Acknowledging varied technological proficiency among patrons, libraries have shifted from traditional digital literacy classes to more personalized, one-to-one tech assistance. Moreover, with the free Wi-Fi on their premises, they work as a hub for individuals who may not have reliable internet access at home.

The libraries under the Finger Lakes Library System have embraced technology to address the connectivity gap within their communities through the *Mobile Hotspot Program*³. This initiative is particularly beneficial for older adults and young students, catering to the needs of those who are traveling, have seasonal residences, or face financial constraints hindering internet access. Moreover, the Mobile Hotspot Program facilitates telehealth meetings, aligning with the growing importance of digital health services. Despite the benefits of such programs, libraries believe effective promotion could reach and engage more patrons.

³ <https://www.flls.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Check-Out-the-Internet-Powerpoint.pptx-2.pdf>

Health Related Engagements

Rural libraries in Tompkins County informally serve as cooling and heating spaces during summers and winters, which is particularly more important for older adults and children who are at higher risk of heat or cold-related illnesses. Furthermore, working in partnership with senior community organizations such as Lifelong, libraries are providing space for community events, for instance, Lansing Community Library hosts *Tai Chi classes* for older adults.⁴ This is an example of joint use effort– the program itself was developed by Lifelong, while the library shares its space to hold classes.

*Vinyasa yoga offered at Newfield Library*⁵ emphasizes a gentle and flowing sequence of poses, promoting flexibility and mobility. The controlled breathing techniques incorporated in Vinyasa can enhance respiratory function, which is beneficial for seniors. The library used to collaborate with the Lifelong organization by providing space. Now, they have adopted the popular program and offer the classes in collaboration with their own community volunteers.

Despite successes in engagement, some programs experience challenges with low turn-out and lack of promotion. For instance, the Health Planning Council's attempt to implement a telehealth program through the hotspot program within a library setting faced challenges in attracting users. This underscores the importance of understanding community needs and preferences. Outreach and educational campaigns can familiarize patrons with the service, address potential barriers, and highlight the benefits of existing resources within the library setting.

Food-Related Engagements

Rural Tompkins County libraries engage in a number of food security related activities. For instance, “*Healthy Tuesday*”, an initiative started by Groton Library Director – Sara Knobel and a Groton resident passionate in anti-hunger initiatives, provides fresh fruits and vegetables to neighbors in collaboration with Friendship Donations Network.⁶ Under the same initiative the Food Bank of Southern Tier also brings food and meals for the library to share with its neighbors.⁷ The library, equipped with a kitchen, is aiming to collaborate with Cornell professor Jane Marie Law and host her “*Operation Soup Pot Love*” cooking session which shows participants how to use fresh and healthy ingredients in cooking.

Similarly, the Newfield Public Library, a partner of the Newfield Food Pantry, introduced the “*Meal of the Month*” program, where they select a recipe and create a meal kit with ingredients

⁴ <https://lansinglibrary.org/events/tai-chi-classes-with-john-burger/>

⁵ <https://www.tompkinsweekly.com/articles/vinyasa-yoga-class-comes-to-newfield-public-library/>

⁶ <https://friendshipdonations.org/food-distribution-partner-spotlight-healthy-tuesdays/>

⁷ <https://www.localsyr.com/community/groton-public-library-offers-free-food-for-neighbors-in-need/>

for community members to prepare and enjoy— this program received an Outreach Mini-Grant from the Finger Lakes Library System.⁸ Community partnerships—particularly with the local Food Pantry—have been crucial in helping libraries ensure food security and provide fresh produce in their respective communities.

Library of Things & Equipment Sharing

Expanding out of the traditional book-lending role of libraries, more and more libraries are becoming a “*Library of Things*,”⁹— which offers a collection of non-traditional items such as museum passes, mobile hotspots, exploring kits, seeds, reading glasses, and more that people can use in-house or take home.

“*Salutations Seed Library*”¹⁰, a project co-sponsored by Tompkins County Public Library, Master Gardeners of Tompkins County, and Cornell Climate Stewards, provides free seeds, gardening classes, and a collection of gardening books for the Tompkins County community. For older adults, gardening not only offers a wealth of cognitive and physical benefits, but it also opens opportunities to socialize and interact with others, which can help decrease depression, or feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Sharing equipment offers the potential to hold community events at the library, whether through formal library programming or community-initiated activities hosted at the library space. For instance, Newfield Public Library has a comprehensive set of “*Immersion Kits*” and various other take-home kits that allow patrons to explore certain interests in the comfort of their own homes. Similarly, the Lansing Community Library offers “*Stay Sharp*” take-home kits for adults—and primarily older adults—focusing on memory and cognition improvement¹¹. In addition to take-home kits, small instruments, cooking and sewing equipment, musical instruments, puzzles, and board games are also available at the libraries. The availability of equipment allows Groton Public Library to hold *knitting and crocheting sessions* for the community from time to time.

Take-home kits open up the opportunity for in-person interactions between community members. For instance, the Newfield Public Library had take-home *gingerbread construction kits* which fledged into a community event as community members brought in their gingerbread houses for

⁸ <https://www.flls.org/2022-2023-outreach-mini-grant-recipients-announced/>

⁹ <https://www.tcpl.org/library-things>

¹⁰ <https://www.tcpl.org/salutations-seed-library#:~:text=Salutations%20Seed%20Library%20is%20a,for%20the%20Tompkins%20County%20community.>

¹¹ <https://lansinglibrary.org/what-we-have/library-of-things/>

a competition¹². Events such as this can foster both multigenerational and intergenerational interaction and bonds amongst the community.

Multigenerational/Intergenerational Programming & Activities

Libraries play a pivotal role in fostering community engagement, and the adoption of multigenerational or intergenerational activities is a testament to their commitment to inclusivity and diversity. Interviews with Groton and Newfield Library show they are actively exploring innovative ways to connect individuals of different age groups within the community.

Art can act as a bridge, transcending generational gaps and facilitating meaningful interactions. Multigenerational *art classes* at Groton Library not only cater to the creative interests of older adults but also serve as a platform for shared learning and expression between older individuals and children. The library extends its reach and provides opportunities for diverse age groups to engage in shared experiences by collaborating with other community entities. For example, Groton Library recently joined Community Recreation Hubs to arrange a trip to the school field to enjoy a football match, bringing different age groups together.

Intergenerational programming can create connections between different age cohorts, foster mutual understanding, and break down stereotypes. Libraries in rural areas expressed interest in expanding their efforts towards more intergenerational programming in the future. Whether through storytelling sessions, mentorship programs, or collaborative projects, libraries envision a future where individuals of all ages actively participate and contribute to a shared community narrative.

Nationwide Library Case Studies

In addition to our conversation with local libraries, we explored potential nationwide case studies, listed in *Figure 2*, which are particularly beneficial for older adults while requiring minimum or no additional resources for implementation.

Memory Cafes at Willmar Public Library, Minnesota¹³

Older adults with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia can be well served by rural libraries. Current research found that a higher risk of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias is associated with rural living¹⁴. Only a few rural libraries offer supportive programs for individuals with dementia. In contrast, many urban libraries have implemented memory cafe

¹² <https://newfieldpubliclibrary.org/gingerbread-contest-due-december-19/>

¹³ <https://www.ecumen.org/blog/dementia-friendly-memory-caf-concept-moves-rural-minnesota/>

¹⁴ Momotazur Rahman et al., "Rural-urban Differences in Diagnostic Incidence and Prevalence of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias," *Alzheimer's & Dementia* 17, no. 7 (2021): 1213–30, <https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.12285>.

programs. We believe that the concept of “*Memory Cafes*” can be extended to rural areas where the need is significant.

Willmar, Minnesota, is among the first rural areas to launch the memory cafe approach to help those with dementia. With a grant from the Minnesota Board on Aging, the Willmar Public Library organizes the “*Forget-Me-Knot Memory Cafe*” every week, giving targeted older adults a spot to socialize and find support.

In Tompkins County, there are about eight memory cafe programs run by local groups¹⁵. However, most of these are in care facilities located in urban Ithaca and the average cost of living in these care facilities is around \$5,464 per month. Families with limited affordability might find these programs inaccessible. Rural libraries in Tompkins County can bridge this gap and serve the older adults with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia in rural communities by initiating memory cafes in collaboration with health organizations. Alzheimer's Association of Central New York or local memory care institutions are well-equipped to lead these programs in libraries, offering both hands-on execution and community capacity-building support.¹⁶

Civic Coffee Programs by Seattle Public Library¹⁷

Civic and social participation are important components of health and well-being. Older adults deserve the opportunity to interact directly with decision-makers at Town Halls and the community, regardless of their location and mobility condition. “*Civic Coffee*”, a monthly event co-organized by Seattle Human Services and Seattle Public Library, is an opportunity for older adults to gather, meet local government and community leaders, learn about key issues, and ask questions and provide feedback. COFA in collaboration with rural libraries and town and village leaders, could help facilitate more engagement of older adults in decision making.

Bookbinding Event at Pitkin County Library¹⁸

Intergenerational activities help to bridge the gap among different generations and provide an opportunity for developing understanding among older adults and younger generations. Pitkin County Library in Colorado offers a monthly bookbinding event – they provide books for binding or rebinding and invite patrons to learn bookbinding skills from each other in a festive activity. This program is designed not only for adults and seniors but also for their children and grandchildren as part of an intergenerational encounter.

¹⁵ <https://www.alzheimersupport.com/memory-care/new-york/tompkins-county.html>

¹⁶ https://tompkinscountynyny.gov/files2/cofa/Alzheimers%20Resources%20in%20Tompkins%20County%20Feb%202015_1.pdf

¹⁷ <https://www.agingkingcounty.org/virtual-events/>

¹⁸ <https://pitcolib.org/library-events/bookbinding-1104231530>

Fire Companies

Fire stations in rural areas play a key role in serving communities with a primary focus on emergency services such as fire or medical attention etc. Some fire stations expand their roles in informal check-ins with the community, organizing events,- etc. Equipped with large halls, and commercial kitchens, these facilities often adopt joint use of their space. Sharing the resources with other community organizations also helps to address the capacity gaps of the volunteer-run fire stations.

Local Engagement Efforts by Fire Companies

Since most fire departments are volunteer-based, community interactions and engagement happen in a different form compared with public libraries. Based on our interviews with local fire stations, we summarized the engagement themes of fire departments as emergency education programs, campaigns and services, and community events, listed in *Figure 3*.

Figure 3. Local and Nationwide Case Studies of Fire Companies



Emergency Education Program

As a trusted community hub, local fire departments have a key role in promoting emergency awareness. For fire companies, engagement with communities and older adults is more centered around emergency education, which typically happens through cross-agency collaboration. For instance, Slaterville Fire Company (SFC) provides fall prevention education for older adults in

the community. Not only targeted at seniors, many fire companies also give fire and safety presentations at local schools for children or scouts.

Campaigns and Services

Another area that shows potential for age-friendly engagement is with campaigns, services, and events. Some fire departments reach out to work with the recreation department to arrange junior fire camps, community fairs, etc. Some fire companies in Tompkins County provide services like snow removal and reflective street numbering for individual homes.

For example, the Varna Fire Company participates in COFA's snow removal initiatives, where older adults in the community have a list of local volunteer phone numbers, they can call in case they need snow removed but aren't able to do so. Varna Fire Company and several other fire departments across the county purchase reflective street number signs for homeowners, which the fire company installs for free by request. It is especially difficult at night or during inclement weather for fire and ambulance crews to locate addresses that are not well marked. This shows potential for fire companies to engage in other initiatives such as bulk buy drives for reflective vests.

Community Events

Most fire companies support community events through joint use—by offering their space for community events. For instance, Trumansburg Fire Company collaborates with Lifelong and Taoist Tai Chi Society to offer space for fitness and Tai Chi classes (see *Figure 4*)¹⁹. The Danby Fire Company offers space for a magic club for routine meetings, as well as other one-time community events. Fire departments are open to offering space for senior clubs if organized by other community organizations.

¹⁹ https://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/files2/cofa/Local_Resources/documents/LeisureTimeActivitiesBooklet.pdf

Figure 4. Tai Chi Class at Trumansburg Fire Company



Fire companies in Tompkins County have events like Chicken Barbecue and Pancake Breakfasts as a means of fundraising²⁰. These also serve the purpose of checking in with older adults in the community since these events typically happen monthly.

Nationwide Fire Companies Case Studies

In addition to our study on fire stations in Tompkins County, we looked into other fire stations nationwide that are responding to some of the essential needs of older adults in rural areas.

Good Morning Check-Up by the Teaneck Fire Department, New Jersey²¹

In Teaneck, for over 30 years, firefighters have been making “Good Morning Wake Up” calls to residents with health concerns. These well-being checks are made daily between 8 and 9 a.m. 365 days a year. They are usually short, friendly conversations, but they can be very revealing. The “Good Morning Check-Up” calls serve a dual purpose: first, as a friendly outreach, and second, as an early identification of potential health issues. Those who enroll in the program receive a home safety inspection and are asked to provide emergency contact information and

²⁰ <https://www.ithacaweek-ic.com/danby-fire-co-serves-breakfast-to-better-serve-community/>

²¹ <https://www.agefriendlyteaneck.org/blog/teaneck-fire-department-offers-good-morning-check-up>

details about any medical conditions that emergency responders would need to know. If a resident report feeling unwell or fails to respond to initial and follow-up calls, the dispatcher will send a unit to check on them. This proactive initiative has facilitated the timely discovery of residents in distress, preventing more serious crises through timely intervention.

Grab Bar Service Request at Mesa Fire Department, Arizona²²

Mesa Fire and Medical Department has organized a “Grab bar walk”²³ initiative to install grab bars for residents who have a high risk of falling. This was sponsored by Home Depot. In October 2023, the department and 73 dedicated volunteers joined forces to improve safety in the Palmas Del Sol community. They installed grab bars in 38 homes, and 66 homes have received smoke alarms. This community was selected due to call volume statistics from the past. Such efforts can foster a safer living environment for older adults.

Public Education at McHenry Township Fire Protection District Station, Illinois²⁴

The McHenry Township Fire Protection District facilitates a program called *Remembering When*, with the support from the National Fire Protection Association and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This program touches on 16 key fire and fall safety messages that are commonly linked to aging adults. It incorporates fun trivia questions and social interaction activities. MTFPD also teaches this program on an individual basis to those who are unable to attend classes due to disabilities.

²² <https://fire.mesaaz.gov/community-outreach/social-services-division/grab-bar>

²³ <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1143327469824388>

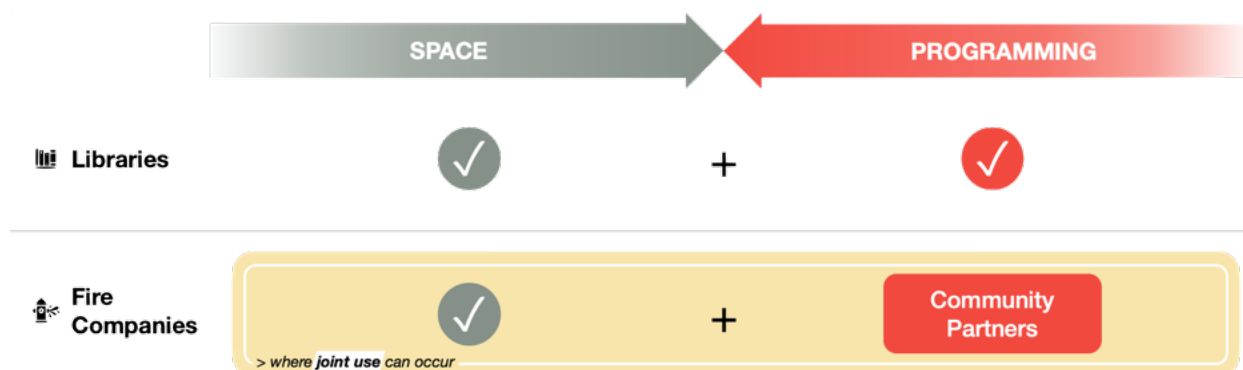
²⁴ <https://www.mtffd.org/public-ed/page/fire-and-fall-prevention-aging-adults>

Discussion

Libraries and fire departments interact with communities and seniors in different ways, and it's important to note these differences in form and programming capacity (see *Figure 5*). Libraries often take on a “go-to” role in their community that goes far beyond simply lending out books²⁵. Similar to many libraries across the country, rural Tompkins County libraries also serve their communities in multiple capacities through formal programming and informal assistance in areas related to food security, literacy, and access to employment, and health insurance. Libraries have wide-ranging orientation to organize and offer space for community-based events and provide assistance and a safe space for both older adults and children.

On the other hand, fire companies have a more focused mission, on fire and rescue. Furthermore, rural departments are volunteer-based, so they do not have program-organizing capacity, such as that outlined in the national case studies (from professional paid fire departments) above. Most fire companies hold events, but volunteer time is stretched. For such reasons, we found that fire companies’ engagement with their communities and older adult populations was geared towards providing specialized education (e.g., fall prevention, CPR classes), holding events targeting children and youth, and lending space for community partners to hold community events.

Figure 5. Space and Programming Matrix of Libraries and Fire Companies

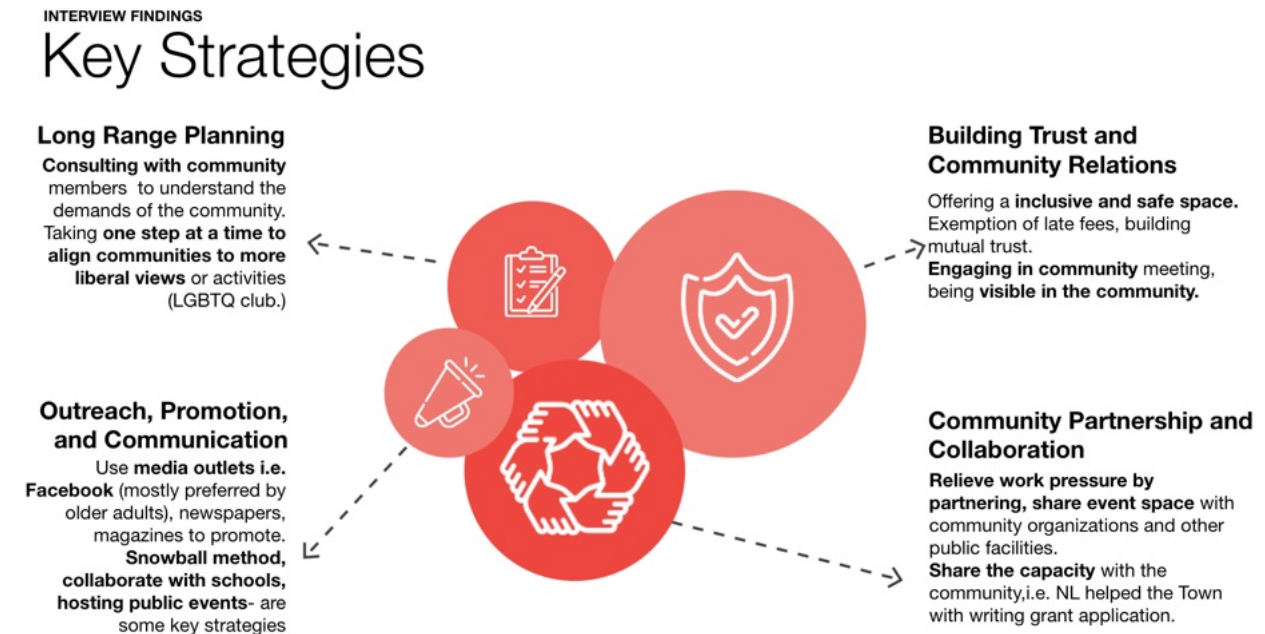


Recognizing this difference, we discuss the strategies and challenges key informants in each public service type identified. *Figure 6* shows that rural public libraries and fire companies in Tompkins County employ distinct strategies to enhance community visibility and engagement, focusing on trust-building and positive relations. They promote diverse interactive activities,

²⁵ Marcella Cabello and Stuart M. Butler, “How Public Libraries Help Build Healthy Communities,” Brookings, March 30, 2017, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-public-libraries-help-build-healthy-communities/>.

ensure accessibility for older patrons, and collaborate with other organizations to optimize resources.

Figure 6. Key Strategies for Community Engagement



Despite serving unique community functions, these facilities face challenges such as limited capacity, funding, and workforce, illustrated in *Figure 7*. Efforts to organize community events are hindered by low turnouts due to inadequate awareness and promotional opportunities. Regulations and liability issues further restrict their ability to expand their roles within the community. More information is available in Issue Brief linked [here](#).

Figure 7. Key Challenges in Serving Community Needs



Conclusion

We used interviews, social media analysis, and case studies to understand age-friendly engagement by libraries and fire stations in rural Tompkins County. The facilities interact with communities and seniors differently, with libraries serving varied capacities through formal programming and informal assistance. They offer space for community-based events and provide assistance for older adults and children. Fire companies, on the other hand, have a more focused mission and are volunteer-based, lacking program-organizing capacity. They focus on providing specialized education, holding events targeting children and youth, and lending space for community partners. Looking forward, the study can further explore the impact of regulations and liabilities and potential avenues for flexibility in administrative processes for fire companies. The key findings help us suggest ways to make public spaces more accessible, such as sharing spaces for gatherings and offering community programs. This aims to create a welcoming community for older adults, children, and the broader community.

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Appendix A: Social Media Data - Library

No.	Library Name	Contact Email	Links	Notes
1	Southworth Library Association in Dryden	southworthlibrary@gmail.com	Link to Programs	<p>Programs and/or resources, not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Family: Music & Movement with Miss Angie at the Library (free monthly musical class, with funds listed on comment), Animal/Pet Programs (Cornell Raptor Program, Paws to Read with Cornell Canine Companions) - For Adults: Jennie's Book Club, Books & Brew Genre-Based Book Club (meets at Hopshire Farm & Brewery, meets on select weeks), Computer Class (Tablet Basics, Cyber Security; non-regular event, funds listed in comment), other genre-specific book clubs, music events (Classical Guitar Concert, special program) - For Teens: Teen Takeovers (monthly get-togethers during school year with themes), Teen Advisory Group (library planning with teens) - For Children & Families: Preschool Storytime, Graphic Novel Book Club, I Survived Book Club, other genre-specific book clubs, etc.
2	Groton Public Library	director@grotonpubliclibrary.org	Link to Calendar	<p>Programs and/or resources, not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Adults: Adult D&D - For All: Healthy Tuesdays, Community Dinner, Book Club, Mobile Hotspots available for check out, special events (e.g., traditional storyteller presentations, educator talks, art workshops), Concerts - For Teens: Building Literacy programming, LGBTQ+ Club - For Children: Kids Farmers Market (a monthly produce delivery to the Library from the Food Bank of the Southern Tier; produce can be taken by kids or parents with kids)
3	Lansing Community Library	manager@lansinglibrary.org	Link to Calendar	<p>Programs and/or resources, not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Library of Things - Puzzles, Mobile WiFi Hotspot Kits, STEAM kits, "Stay Sharp" Kits for Adults from Penworthy (to improve memory & cognition), Storytime Kits, Games Collection, Museum Pass Kits - For All: Art exhibitions, Tai Chi classes (hosted by Lifelong, free and open to general public with suggested donation) - For Adults: Mah Jongg Group, Senator Webb's Community Office Hours (special) - For Teens: Tween Book Club (book club with crafts element) - For Children & Caregivers: Book bundles (gearing towards specific topic of interest), Pages to Projects to Go (Elementary Book Club with a crafts element), Story Time, Summer Reading

4	Newfield Public Library	newfieldlibrary@gmail.com	Link to Calendar	<p>Programs and/or resources, not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For All: Special events (arts events, contests, educator talks, author visits, crochet workshops), Movie Nights, Book Club, Tech Help Day (special event that happened through a volunteer from Point Broadband), etc. - For Adults: Yoga for Beginners (happening during weekends) - For Teens: Afterschool specials (e.g., Lego, craft, board game, school work, coding, etc.), Summer Reading - For Children & Families: Family Storytime (in-person or Zoom), special events (puppet shows, origami events, etc.)
5	Ulysses Philomathic Library in Trumansburg	upl@trumansburglibrary.org	Link to Calendar	<p>Programs and/or resources, not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For All: Crafting Conversation (for teens and adults), Summer Reading Program, UPL Book Club, CSA Sampler (Trumansburg Harvest offers fresh local produce), Paws to Read (reading aloud to pet), Art Exhibitions - For Older Adults: Love Living at Home Information Session (special program in October) - For Adults: Chair Yoga - For Teens: Dungeons & Dragons Teen Book Club, Read Local Teen Book Club, "The Librarian is in!" (questions, book recommendations, HW help), Art & Animation (art & animes), Puzzles & Prose, Paper Crafts - For Children & Caregivers: Story Time with Miss Clay, WinterFest Story Time, Crayons & Cartoons (arts & movies), Lego Club, Kids' Free Farmers Market (special program, Trumansburg Harvest providing free fresh produce for youth and caregivers) - Does delivery to and from for Juniper Manor residents by request

Appendix B: Social Media Data - Fire Companies

No.	Fire Dept Name	Contact Email	Notes
1	Brooktondale Volunteer Fire Company	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hosts senior fitness programs at the Fire Hall in partnership with Lifelong (based on information from Lifelong) - Facebook not as actively used for community outreach or engagement-related purposes
2	Cayuga Heights Fire Department (Volunteer)	Contact Form chief@chfd.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facebook actively used to promote community engagement events (e.g., "Movies at the Station," open house, CPR classes, birthday parties, trick or treat) - Closer to urban area/universities, volunteer recruitment has been less difficult than in rural areas
3	Danby Volunteer Fire Company	station@danbyfiredept.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community events like pancake breakfast, trick or treat (with the Danby Youth Program), fire safety event, Blue Food Cabinet, partnering with Cornell Vet School for elementary school supplies, etc. - Website has email address posted for "Requests for Station Use"
4	Neptune Hose Company of Dryden	chief@dryden.org	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facebook posts on community events (Halloween events recently), annual open house, fire prevention talks to schools, safety fair, etc.
5	Enfield Volunteer Fire Company	enfieldfirecompany@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facebook posts on community events (e.g., truck or treat), but Facebook not as actively used for community outreach purposes compared to others
6	Etna Volunteer Fire Department	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facebook posts on community events (e.g., trunk or treat), but Facebook not as actively used for community outreach purposes compared to others
7	Freeville Volunteer Fire Department, W.B. Strong Fire Company, Inc.	Contact form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facebook posts on community events (e.g., Pinewood Derby w/ Cub Scouts, fire prevention teaching at local elementary, pancake breakfast)
8	Groton (Volunteer) Fire Department and Ambulance	grotonambulance@gmail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facebook posts on more children and youth-focused community events (e.g., CPR demonstration, junior fire fighter camp)
9	Lansing Volunteer Fire and Rescue	Contact form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have multiple stations, some with kitchens and outdoor picnic pavilions - unsure if whether they are open for community events - Community events like EVOC class, fire prevention classes for local elementary - Had sold blue reflective house signs (similar to Varna Fire Company campaign)
10	McLean Volunteer Fire and Rescue	mcleanfire@cnyemail.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facebook posts on more children and youth-focused community events like fire prevention class at local elementary, visits to summer camp, hosting PTO picnic with elementary school

11	Newfield Volunteer Fire Company	newfieldfirecompany@gmail.com	- Facebook posts on community events (e.g., participation in Town Christmas Tree Lighting, chicken barbeque, blood drive hosted at fire company space in collaboration with the Red Cross, voting space, etc.)
12	Slaterville Volunteer Fire Department	bharrin1@twcny.rr.com	- Community events like fall education, open house, chicken BBQ, hosted community picnic at the fire hall
13	Speedsville Volunteer Fire Company	zephyr526@yahoo.com	- Community events like Horseshoe Tournament, chicken BBQ, pancake breakfasts - Facebook page used more actively and recently than official website
14	Trumansburg Volunteer Fire Company	fftaylor170@gmail.com	- Opens fire hall space for joint use for Taichi; also shares space for fitness classes hosted by Lifelong - Facebook posts on community events like golf tournament, pancake breakfast, letters to santa program
15	Varna Volunteer Fire Company	info@varnafire.org	- Not much community events at this time (though there used to be pancake breakfasts/chicken barbeques in the past), fire hall space primarily used for internal training and external education time to time - Due to proximity to Cornell, volunteer rates have been less of an issue in the past years (based on interview), but much more time spent on training for the same reason - Have reflective street numbering campaigns, installed for free by request