



Livable for a Lifetime

*Applying Universal Design
in homes & communities*

L4L News Brief – February 2014

Livable for a Lifetime → www.LivableForALifetime.org

L4L advocates for the inclusion of universal design features in our homes, businesses and communities. Join us in efforts to educate consumers and local governments to make Universal Design the norm for smart design and for the convenience of all ages and abilities.

Tax Credit Pays You for Home Improvements → Deadline February 28th

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. Tax credits are available for up to \$5,000 for the purchase/construction of a new accessible residence and up to 50 percent for the cost of retrofitting existing units, not to exceed \$5,000. The Livable Homes Tax Credit is available to Virginia homeowners and licensed contractors. For more information: Violet Peyton at DHCD, violet.peyton@dhcd.virginia.gov; www.dhcd.virginia.gov/lhtc.

Certification and Permit Fee Refunds for Accessible Housing in Charlottesville

The Design for Life Cville guidelines for visit-ability and live-ability incorporate design features such as a no-step entrance, making it easier and safer to bring in a baby stroller, move in large furniture, accommodate a person living with a temporary or permanent disability, accommodate friends or relatives who have mobility limitations, and ultimately help people age in place - <http://www.charlottesville.org/index.aspx?page=3258>.

Unique Features of the Voluntary Design for Life Cville Program:

- One program with two optional standards of accessibility.
- Targets new construction and renovation of existing homes.
- Administered by the City as part of the regular permitting process, not a special process.
- Upon certification, City refunds 25% of permit fees for Visit-Ability or 50% for Live-Ability.
- City Zoning Text Amendment provides, by right, the use of setback areas for access as an element of the full program.

Update of the Aging in Community Plan – March 7th presentation

The 2020 Plan: Aging in Community was a groundbreaking document published over ten years ago in 2003. As one of the first communities to adopt a plan to prepare for the age wave, the Charlottesville Region has been recognized as a leader among age-friendly communities. Much has been accomplished over the past ten years, but work remains to be done. The Livable for a Lifetime Steering Committee has agreed to lead an effort to update the Aging in Community Plan in order to: recognize and celebrate progress, invite new initiatives and programs to join in the planning, shorten and streamline the document for readability and action, and foster greater community ownership of the plan. Information on the update will be presented at the Chamber of Commerce's Aging in Place Business Round Table March 7th meeting at Our Lady of Peace from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. - <http://www.cvillechamber.com/Chamber-Aging-In-Place-Business-Round-Ta.116.0.html>.

Accessible Housing Design & Construction Training – April 1st in Hampton

National experts present FREE Fair Housing Accessibility Training – register with John Ritzu, jritzu@lcmarchitects.com. More at Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST www.fairhousingfirst.org.

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