



L4L News Brief – March 2010

Livable for a Lifetime

*Applying Universal Design
in homes & communities*

Everybody's Talking About Aging in Place, from *The Hook* to *The New York Times*:

Builders are emphasizing versatility in their designs because "multigenerational is something people are looking for." Read "A Home for All Generations" at www.nytimes.com/2010/02/28/realestate/28lizo.html.

"They didn't need assisted living, and they weren't thrilled about the concept of a retirement community." Read how a local couple remodeled their home to age in place by incorporating universal design, www.readthehook.com/blog/index.php/2010/2/15/boomer-boom-renovation-allows-couple-to-stay-put.

Don't Miss These Events in April:

How Do You See Your Future? Visit L4L's interactive, information-packed booth at the Blue Ridge Home Builder's Home and Garden Show, April 9-11th at the John Paul Jones Arena, where you can see, touch, and learn more about Universal Design in homes. For more information, visit <http://www.brhba.org>.

Housing Opportunities for People with Disabilities, April 21st from 2-5 pm at Lane Auditorium, will explore existing and emerging resources, barriers to housing, accessible design, and fair housing rights. For more information, contact Karen at Piedmont Housing Alliance, karenr@piedmonthousing.org or (434) 817-2436 x 106.

On the Horizon:

Livable Charlottesville for Healthy Aging – Planned for fall 2010, this multiday event will focus on the **importance of design of the built environment and its effect on healthy aging & accessibility for all ages**. The event will **educate** the general public about the demographic shifts occurring, as well as inform them about the challenges we face creating lifelong communities that allow residents to stay in their communities through all of the stages of their life. Livable Charlottesville for Healthy Aging will include a public **charrette** on designing neighborhoods that will incorporate the best practices in home construction, complete streets and community connectivity. It will include opportunities to look at plans and also to **experience** existing homes that include the elements of universal design, safe walkable streets, and access to services and recreation. Participants will leave equipped to take the steps personally and publicly to make our community a model for lifelong livability.

Accessory Apartments Create Options:

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) 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 someone experiences 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 ADU, 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.



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