



POPULATION STATISTICS OF SENIORS IN LUDINGTON AND MASON COUNTY

By Gene Kyle, Chair, Ludington Senior Citizens Advisory Board

I would like to share some numbers to help better understand that the 65-and-over population in Ludington is much different from what is in most cities and towns. The following data is from 2023:

- In 2023, in the United States, 17.3% of the total population was 65 or older.
- In Michigan, that number was 19.2%.
- In Mason County, that number was 26.9%.
- In Ludington, 30% of the population was 65 or older.
- It is projected that in 2050, 22.8% of the population in the United States will be 65 or older.

So here we are in Ludington, 25 years before that projected 22.8% nationwide figure, already at 30% of our total population being 65 or older.

For comparison purposes, here are some numbers for other cities and towns along the west coast of Michigan:

Traverse City	22.9%
Manistee	28.1%
Muskegon	19.7%
Holland	16.6%
St. Joseph	18.5%

So, why are these numbers important?

If city leaders like yourselves, and others, are not aware of what percentage of the Ludington population is composed of senior citizens, how can you possibly know how to plan appropriately to meet their needs in critical areas, including:

- **Healthcare allocation:** An aging population correlates with a higher use of healthcare services. Knowing the percentage of seniors helps healthcare officials and public health organizations plan for quality medical services for seniors, as well as for the training of staff.
- **Caregiving support:** As people live longer, the need for family and professional caregivers increases. Knowing the number of older adults, especially those with increased disabilities, helps communities anticipate and support the growing caregiving needs.
- **Social and emotional well-being:** Information on the number and living arrangements of older adults, particularly the percentage of those who live alone, can be used to identify and address social and psychological issues like isolation. Social services and other agencies can use this information to create programs that promote community engagement.

AWARENESS IS VITAL—AND SO ARE OUR SENIORS!

City leaders, and others as well, need to be made aware not only of the large percentage of seniors in our community and the challenges that presents but also of their experiences, talents, and time that many of our seniors willingly share in service to this community. But that's for another Senior Moment.