Introducing an Age-Friendly Sarasota

Welcome to the inaugural release of Age Friendly Sarasota (AFS) newsletter. This fall, Kathy Black, our MacMillan Team Chair for Age-Friendly Sarasota, began her term as serving editor for this newsletter. Many of you know her from her previous role as professor in the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee and her longstanding work inaging issues throughout our community.  

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Intergenerational Approach

The idea of age-friendly cities and communities (AFCs) originated in 2005 by the World Health Organization (WHO) to empower global aging and to improve the later-ageing experience by promoting a population's health, happiness, and well-being throughout a person's lifetime.

The WHO developed an age-friendly framework of eight interconnected domains of livability designed to identify and address barriers to the well-being and participation of people in communities as they age:

1. Outdoor Access
2. Communication and Information
3. Community Support and Health Services
4. Housing
5. Outdoor Access
6. Respect and Social Inclusion
7. Transportation
8. Active Ageing

APCs work to reduce barriers to active aging in all eight domains. The APCs capture the need to improve diversity between communities and regions that each APC serves in our own areas and the aspirations of aging residents for each domain.

To learn more about the eight domains, visit www.agefriendlysarasota.org.

Celebrating Age-Friendly Sarasota

Sarasota County celebrated becoming an age-friendly community (AFC) this morning at the Board of County Commissioners meeting where today, May 6, 2015, was proclaimed Age-Friendly Sarasota Day.

The Age-Friendly Sarasota initiative seeks to build upon community values and citizens’ aspirations to optimize active, healthy, and engaged living for people of all ages.  

Like all APCs, this initiative will engage with a two-year planning phase to assess Sarasota County to current age-friendly assets and the aspirations of older residents to create a road map for implementing next steps.

Sarasota's residents are Over one-half of Florida's first global age-friendly communities are in the U.S.

There are 258 age-friendly communities worldwide in 28 countries.

The number of people aged 60 years and over is expected to increase from 605 million to 2 billion over the same period.

There are 52 age-friendly communities worldwide in 22 countries.

Sarasota’s residents are Over half of Sarasota’s residents are age 50 or older.

*"Aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength."*

-Holly Flora

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