Welcome to February 2017!
Guiding Principle: Accountability

This month’s issue focuses on the second “A” in our tagline “For All Ages”: Accountability in capturing progress. Let’s take a look back — and a look ahead — to best illustrate this guiding principle.

Age-Friendly Sarasota joined the World Health Organization’s (WHO) global network of age-friendly cities and communities in May 2015. The WHO model involves the following process: planning (years 1–2), evaluation and implementation (years 3–5). Accountability in capturing progress is inherent throughout every step of the process.

Age-Friendly Sarasota is currently engaged in planning efforts that will lead to the “blueprint” for our community. YOU can help us co-create our collective age-friendly blueprint for the upcoming three years by determining what age-friendly actions you, your group, organization or business plan to undertake from 2017–2020 or beyond.

Please contact us at (941) 444–4AGE or info@agefriendlysarasota.org to share your current age-friendly efforts or future plans!

READ FULL POST

50 reasons why everyone should want more walkable streets

As more cities try to improve walkability — from car-free “superblocks” in Barcelona to heat-protected walkways in Dubai — a new report outlines the reasons behind the shift, the actions that cities can take to move away from a car-centric world, and why walkability matters.

Reason number 51 hits a little closer to home (and might be something to think about when co-creating the Age-Friendly Blueprint). According to the Herald-Tribune, what we don’t have, it turns out, are good ways to cross from one side of the road to the other. In the latest report from the National Complete Streets Coalition, the North Port-Sarasota-Bradenton metro area pops up as the 10th most dangerous place in the nation to try to get around on foot. We have, it seems, a “Pedestrian Danger Index” of 1,482 — pretty horrific when you consider that the national average is 64.1.

Embracing Our Differences will be partnering with Sarasota County Schools and School District of Manatee County as well as the Literacy Campaign for Equal Reading Rights with support from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, The Patterson Foundation, Manatee Community Foundation and The United Way of Manatee County to celebrate the birthday of the Seuss on THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017.

Please consider becoming a part of 50 Reasons To Move More: Embracing Our Differences by volunteering an hour of your time to read and help a child value the diversity and respect for others. The deadline to volunteer is Monday, February 13, 2017.
AGE-FRIENDLY INNOVATION

Turning Outward: Applying the Harwood Institute Principles of Public Life

Age-friendly community work is a movement aimed at engaging stakeholders to enhance aging in community. Aligned with the prospect of enhancing public/community life, the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation has developed a set of touchstones for thinking about and making daily choices when it comes to Turning Outward—a practice aimed at engaging all of us on issues pertinent to our public/community life.

The three “A’s” of public life are Authority, Authenticity, and Accountability. Authority refers to deep knowledge about a community, reflective of people’s lives, aspirations, and concerns. Authenticity refers to the reality of people’s lives when all said and done; the “listening” of all citizens’ perspectives and thoughts about community life. Accountability refers to the pursuit of genuine and meaningful actions on behalf of working with community members.

Source: The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation

CELEBRATING AFS

Award of Excellence in the International Journal of Aging and Society.

Age-Friendly Sarasota echoes Debra Jacobs when she says the International Award of Excellence further affirms @AgeFriendlySRQ is fortunate to work with Dr. Kathy Black. Dr. Black’s research recently received the Award of Excellence in the International Journal of Aging and Society.

“I am very honored to receive this recognition because it demonstrates the applied value of research — and its connection as practiced in the real world — that can enhance and benefit our community in many ways,” said Dr. Black, a professor at University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee’s College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences. “It is also about the important role of educating all community stakeholders, in measurable ways, about roles for all of us in creating an #agefriendly community.”

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For questions, please contact info@AgeFriendlySarasota.org or call us at (941) 444.0243