



On the Move!

Our Formation Team has been deeply engaged in months of listening, researching, planning, and preparing our 501(c)(3) application! [Suncoast Villages](#) (SCV) aims to be a networked resource supporting individuals desiring to thrive in a community while maintaining their well-being. Suncoast Villages will fulfill three “hub” functions:

- As an administrative entity, SCV will provide the 501(c)(3) for villages in Charlotte, DeSoto, Lee, Manatee, and Sarasota counties and eventually across the state. Its website and electronic back-office will provide organizational support services to help villages get started.
- As a network builder, SCV will create relationships with nonprofits, governments, businesses, and other organizations to strengthen services for people wanting to live independently.
- As an innovator, the hub will explore and engage in new strategies, services, and alliances in concert with like-minded nonprofit organizations and our participating villages because we can do better together.

We continue to have lots to learn and do, but one thing is clear...we are on the move!



The Neighbors Network in Lee County Joins Suncoast Villages By Barbara Shearer and Patty Duncan, Co-Leads of the NNLC

It is exciting to announce that The Neighbors Network in Lee County (NNLC) has joined with Suncoast Villages. The NNLC is a developing village in Lee County created to make the experience of aging in one's home a feasible choice. This is achieved through neighbors helping neighbors across generations to create a socially connected community that benefits everyone.

In 2019, the [Florida Department of Health in Lee County](#), along with 36 other Florida counties, was awarded a grant from The [John A. Hartford Foundation](#) through [Trust for America's Health](#) to work towards an age-friendly public health system. This grant was fundamental to the creation of the Aging Coalition in Lee County which includes representation from over 50 agencies as well as community members. The [Progress Report on the Florida Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Initiative](#) provides examples of outcomes from each county awarded the grant.

One initiative of the coalition is to strengthen partnerships throughout the aging sector. It was through this initiative that the NNLC was created.



Communities

It Takes a Village

It takes a village to raise a child – and it takes a village to strengthen a community. In her blog, Sue Berger, Sarasota County's Aging System Policy Coordinator, shares how Suncoast Villages seeks to enhance communities by providing social, educational, and volunteer opportunities and connections to supportive services. Learn more [here](#).



Sarasota Homeowners in Most of the City May Now Add 'Granny Flats' by Anne Snabes

Sarasota Herald-Tribune USA TODAY NETWORK (Thursday, 19 August 2021)

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in the [Sarasota Herald-Tribune](#). Learn more about accessory dwelling units from AARP [here](#).

Sarasota city commissioners passed an ordinance Tuesday evening allowing residents of most city neighborhoods to build an accessory dwelling unit – also called a “granny flat” or “mother-in-law suite” – on their property. These units, which are dwellings on a person’s property that have a kitchen, were already allowed in certain city neighborhoods. The ordinance passed Tuesday permits the practice in any area of the city, except for the barrier islands.

Supporters of the policy believe that accessory dwelling units can be a source of affordable housing in a city where rising property values have pushed housing out of reach for many. Learn more [here](#).



CallConnect: Volunteering with Our Social Call Program

Suncoast Villages created CallConnect, a social call program connecting volunteer callers and participants to build meaningful connections. Both volunteers and participants benefit from the calls by being present, providing emotional support and/or sharing stories and insights.

To join us as a volunteer caller or participant, please contact Sue Berger, CallConnect's Program Administrator, via email at SBerger@scgov.net or apply to be a

volunteer [here](#).

What Makes a Community Livable?

You've probably seen references to "livable communities" in real estate ads showcasing homes in Sarasota and surrounding communities. But what does this phrase mean? Test your understanding by taking this [short AARP quiz](#).

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