



A Community for All Ages



### Updates from Kathy

Greetings all! This month's focus, transportation, intersects nicely with World Carfree Day. Every year on or around September 22, people from around the world get together in the streets, intersections and neighborhood blocks to remind the world that we don't have to accept our car-dominated society. From Columbia to China, people all over the world join to live one day of no driving. The event is "green" and also holds particular importance for all of us as research suggests that we will outlive our ability to drive safely by 7-10 years!

Can you imagine your world without driving? Have you considered how you get where you want or need to go? Now is the time to share your voice on transportation - and other areas that impact the quality of your life in our community - by taking our survey, so we can better understand what people desire moving forward.

**We thank the hundreds of community residents who have already completed the survey and appreciate any continued efforts to share the survey until the closing date in November.**

Click here to hear Kathy talk about why the survey is so important to you.

As an additional opportunity to share your input, consider participating in a focus group (see side bar for details).

- Kathy Black, Age-Friendly Sarasota Initiative Consultant

#### Did You Know...

Floridians 79 years of age or under are issued an eight year license which can be renewed by mail or in person; Drivers age 80 or older are issued a six year license.

Drivers age 80 or older are also required to pass a vision test when obtaining or renewing a driver's license.

Vision is the most important loss over time for drivers because aging eyes:

- need more light to distinguish features along the roadway
- need to be closer to properly read signs and markings
- need more time to recover from the glare of bright headlights at night or the sun during the day

SOURCE: Safety is Golden: Safe Mobility for Life Coalition. Florida Department of Transportation. 2014-2015.



**Provide us with your feedback about transportation and more! Take our survey!** You can access our survey by clicking here or via our website.

Please be sure to click "DONE" at the end of the survey! Also note that survey will take at least 20-30 minutes or more - so please allot enough time.

Surveys (paper and online) are **available at all Sarasota County Libraries**. Email info@AgeFriendlySarasota.org if you are interested in promoting the survey at your business, group or organization.

#### Submit Ideas

Have an upcoming event or program related to making Sarasota County age-friendly that you want to share with the Age-Friendly Sarasota network through this newsletter? Please share by sending to:

Erika Kelly  
eKellyTPF@gmail.com

#### Connect

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"The first step toward change is awareness.

The second step is acceptance.

The third step is action."

- Nathaniel Branden

Domain of Livability

### Transportation

Age-friendly communities recognize the importance of transportation and mobility for everyone throughout all stages of life. After all, staying active is critical to our health and well-being, and transportation represents a big way in which we live with dignity and independence. In addition, the condition and design of transportation-related infrastructure such as signage, traffic lights and sidewalks affects our personal mobility.

Access to reliable, affordable public transit and other travel options may become increasingly important for many of us when driving becomes too stressful or challenging. Around the world, age-friendly transportation possibilities are emerging - and Sarasota is home to a national transportation model that serves many in our community.

### Age-Friendly Innovation

#### Australia

As part of its efforts to become age-friendly, Australia's capital city of Canberra has lowered its age of eligibility for its free public transit card from 75 to 70. The benefit now covers an additional 9,000 residents. Thanks to a new electronic smart card, clients of the city's taxi subsidy scheme - most of whom are frail older adults - have an easier way to pay for taxi rides.



### Celebrating Age-Friendly Sarasota

#### Independent Transportation Network (ITN)

The Independent Transportation Network® (ITN) is the first and only national nonprofit transportation system for America's aging population. ITN Suncoast creates an efficient and financially sustainable solution to the transportation needs of seniors and the visually impaired. ITN helps people maintain their independence and dignity by providing transportation for many purposes - including fun and social activities as well as necessities. You can learn more about ITN and the programs they offer on their website.

By providing this service for our community, ITN also advances other age-friendly domains - such as respect and inclusion and social participation for riders - and civic engagement among those volunteering to drive. Able to drive and have a little time on your hands? Please consider signing up to drive for others at ITN - you will surely make a difference and advance our age-friendly community as well.



#### Supported by



#### Age-Friendly Sarasota Partners



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