



A Community for All Ages



Updates from Kathy

Our focus this February is on the domain of Communication and Information and it is no coincidence that we also celebrate Library Lovers month as well. After all, what's not to love about libraries!

Libraries are a sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life; they offer security, a peaceful place to read and a friendly place to make acquaintances. They are a place where we are surrounded by people with the desire to acquire knowledge.

While not quite everything is available on the internet nowadays, libraries have vast digital stores of qualitative and quantitative information for us to discover. Libraries are also free for all. So we encourage you to take a few moments this month to explore your library and discover the many assets it has to offer - ranging from workshops to research tools. Why not go and learn something new that will expand your knowledge of anything imaginable.

For some interesting facts about Sarasota County Libraries, be sure to check out our Did You Know section of this newsletter!

~ Kathy Black, Age-Friendly Sarasota Initiative Consultant



Domain of Livability Communication & Information

Access to information and resources is vital to aging well. Staying connected with events and activities and the ability to obtain timely, practical information to manage one's life is necessary to meet daily personal needs.

Age-friendly communities make sure that information about community events or important services is both readily accessible and in formats that are appropriate for persons of all ages. Age-friendly communities recognize the diversity of needs regarding information and provide multiple sources to connect people with the information they need to best live their lives and meet their needs.

Age-Friendly Innovation



Communication & Information

In the Irish County of Louth, information for older people in a "one-stop shop" format was the single most important issue of older adults when consulted about Louth's age-friendly strategy. A booklet on services for older people was developed first, followed by a website and a network of "parlors" that provide information face to face.

Celebrating Age-Friendly Sarasota

Seniors Blue Book

The mission of The Seniors Blue Book and www.SeniorsBlueBook.com is to provide seniors, caregivers and senior professionals a comprehensive source of services, senior housing options, resources and information that enrich people's lives. You can find a wide array of information ranging from medical alert systems to transition services and volunteer opportunities or social groups to legal assistance.



The valuable resource provides a comprehensive listing of more than 70 categories of information, most of which are free resources that support the community. There is also a senior activities calendar where seniors and caregivers can find out about local events and activities, many of which are free.

Did You Know...

- Sarasota has 5 Little Free Libraries which use the "take a book, return a book" honor system.
- More than 90% of Sarasota County residents hold library cards.
- Library cards are free for Sarasota County residents.
- Library card applications can be completed online or at any of the libraries.
- The Sarasota Library collection includes nearly 1 million items.

Source: [Sarasota County Libraries](http://SarasotaCountyLibraries.org)



ATTENTION PROVIDERS

Are you an organization or group that provides services or programs to persons age 65+ in Sarasota County? This could include any type of service or programming, i.e. educational, cultural, recreational, etc.

If so, please take our brief 5 minute online survey so we can capture your age-friendly assets and aspirations from a provider's perspective.

Click [here](#) to take the survey.

Submit Ideas

Have an upcoming event or program related to making Sarasota County age-friendly that you want to share? Please send to: info@AgeFriendlySarasota.org

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"Where else but at a library can a person with no money in their pockets walk into a place of quiet and peace, and walk out with something beautiful and borrowed?"

- Don C. Reed

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For questions, please contact info@AgeFriendlySarasota.org or call us at (941) 444-0243

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