



A Community #ForAllAges

September 2019

The Beauty of Progress!



It's astounding to reflect on the last four years and see how far our community has come!

In May 2015, with full support of the [Sarasota County Government](#), [Age-Friendly Sarasota](#) officially launched and became the first community in Florida recognized as Age-Friendly by [AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities](#), the U.S. affiliate of the World Health Organization's global initiative. This was a strong indicator that Sarasota was ready to begin a shift in culture and to help pioneer our region in the longevity revolution.

Since then, there have been many notable accomplishments, including the [Age-Friendly Festival](#), [sharing symposiums](#), [housing innovations](#), [livability events](#), Sarasota County hiring a new [Aging System Policy Coordinator](#) to help facilitate age-friendly policy change, and the

wonderful news that [Florida officially became the 4th \(and largest\) state to receive the age-friendly designation from AARP](#), after New York, Massachusetts, and Colorado.

Most recently, [Sarasota Memorial Hospital \(SMH\) received national recognition](#) for its efforts to implement age-friendly best practices, joining more than 100 hospitals in the country. SMH is the only hospital in the region -- and one of just a handful in Florida -- to receive the age-friendly status!

Kudos, SMH!

It's fun to imagine what progress will look like in another four years!

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-- Nominations Are Now Open! --

Help the American Planning Association of Florida (APA) celebrate great places in Florida and the communities that sustain them. **Nominations will be accepted through September 20.**

The Great Places Award is an annual selection of places that represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement and a vision for tomorrow.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?

We all can think of a place that is unique or memorable, but what elements make it truly great? There are many characteristics that make a place special.

A Great Place:

- Promotes human contact and social activities
- Is safe, welcoming, and accommodating for all users
- Has design and architectural features that are visually interesting
- Promotes community involvement
- Reflects the local culture or history
- Relates well to bordering uses
- Is well maintained
- Has a unique or special character

[Source: APA Florida](#)

Do you think Sarasota's got what it takes?

[Click here for details](#), including how the program works, the award timeline, dates and deadlines, and nomination instructions.



[Nominations Are Now Open!](#)

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TRANSFORM TOMORROW

In July, AFS shared information about Sarasota Manatee MPO's long-range transportation survey that will affect Sarasota, Manatee, and surrounding areas, including Venice, Palmetto, etc., along with a [short video to learn more about the process](#) and a link to the 5-minute survey.

The results are in! [Sarasota Manatee MPO](#) shares:

"A huge thanks to all our partners who helped spread the word! Preliminary results show we received 1,981 survey respondents! We are still waiting to receive more paper surveys from our local libraries. The results from this survey will help the Sarasota/Manatee MPO understand the community's transportation concerns, needs, and desires. It will also help the MPO understand attitudes toward potential solutions, and how those solutions should be prioritized.

All of the data collected from the past six months will be used to develop three unique transportation scenarios for the upcoming Choices: Scenario Planning Workshop on October 21."

[Click here to learn more, then to register to participate.](#)

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LOCAL

September is Intergenerational Month



LOCAL

Friendship Centers in Sarasota hosts LGBTQ grief and support groups for older people





September is national Intergenerational Month. Celebrate by planning meaningful activities with others that are older and younger than you! If you or your agency are hosting an intergenerational activity or event, be sure to tag [Age-Friendly Sarasota on Facebook](#) so we can share!

Need ideas on ways to participate?

- Find ways for your children and grandchildren to listen to stories from older adults
- Youth: volunteer at retirement communities; Adults: volunteer at schools
- Kindness matters: make eye contact and smile at someone new every day
- Check on your neighbors

Use your imagination, spend time together, and most importantly have fun!

Robert Rogers, the director of community outreach at [Friendship Centers](#), created an LGBTQ support group after three men called him in a week, looking for support after losing longtime partners.

"They felt completely lost and needed a place to share their stories," said Rogers. "I was shocked that there was nowhere for them to do that."

It is estimated that there around 3 million people in the U.S. who are LBGTQ and over 50, and that number is expected to grow.

After posting this story on [Age-Friendly Sarasota's Facebook page](#), Renee Fletcher shared that Sarasota Manatee Geriatrics "is absolutely LBGTQ welcoming," and Janet Tipton shared the "First Congregational United Church of Christ is an open and affirming congregation where all are welcome."

[Continue to the full Aspirations Journalism article here.](#)

To share news or information, contact the editor at ssternberg@thepattersonfoundation.org.