

# Town of Barnstable

## Town Council

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James H. Crocker Jr.  
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Jennifer L. Cullum  
Precinct 13

Administrator:  
Cynthia A. Lovell

Administrative  
Assistant: Kelly Crahan

Mike Festa, State Director  
AARP Massachusetts  
1 Beacon St., Suite 2301  
Boston, MA 02108-3130

Dear Mr. Festa,

On behalf of the Town of Barnstable, I am pleased to submit our request to become a member of the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

Barnstable has a long and proud history of providing vital programs and services designed to optimize the quality of life for our older citizens. We are committed to improving the lives of our older residents to ensure that they can successfully age-in-place in our community.

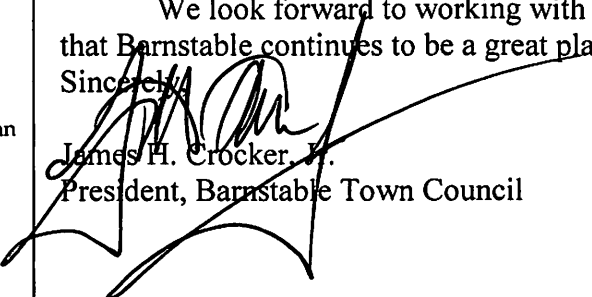
Like many other communities throughout our nation, Barnstable's population of older adults is increasing rapidly. Currently, over 32% of our population is aged over 60; with this figure projected to increase to 42% by 2030, it is critical that we continue to support our older residents so that they can remain living in our community for as long as possible. To help guide and inform our future planning efforts, in 2015 we partnered with the University of Massachusetts's Gerontology Institute to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment for town residents age 50 and over.

As you may be aware, the fifteen towns on Cape Cod are currently collaborating with Barnstable County, through their Human Services Department, on the regional "Healthy Aging Cape Cod" age- and dementia friendly initiative. We feel that this presents an optimal opportunity to advance age-friendly efforts directly in our community.

We look forward to joining communities from across the globe in supporting the development and awareness of age-friendly policies and practices. We believe that an age-friendly community is a great place to live for people of all ages and that formally entering the age-friendly network is an investment in the future health, vitality, and sustainability of the place our residents call home. We want to ensure that every citizen has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of age.

We look forward to working with you and your staff at AARP Massachusetts to ensure that Barnstable continues to be a great place to grow up and grow old.

Sincerely,

  
James H. Crocker, Jr.  
President, Barnstable Town Council