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Alachua
Joins AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, Committing to an Age-Friendly County

Alachua County October 22, 2019 — Alachua County has joined a network of more than 847 cities and communities in 41 countries, working to improve their physical and social environments to become better places in which to grow old.

Age-Friendly Initiative, a collaborative effort focused on sustainable changes and efforts in order to create a livable community where everyone can stay active, engaged, and healthy with dignity and enjoyment.

The age-friendly designation, approved by AARP, makes Alachua County one of more than 384 communities across the United States. In April of 2019 the State of Florida was designated as the Fourth Age-Friendly State in the United States. There are also currently 33 communities designated in Florida, and counting. The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners is scheduled to receive a certificate joining the network and announcing the initiative. The presentation will be held at the Gainesville Senior Recreation Center, 5701 NW 34th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32653 on Friday, October 25th at 10 a.m.

"We are proud Alachua County has been certified as an Age-Friendly community by AARP. An Age-Friendly Community benefits all ages and abilities and provides a great place for individuals to grow up and grow old in. It is important to recognize that the economic, social and physical environments in our community affects how we age.", said Kristen Griffis, Executive Director at Elder Options.

Age-friendly communities strive to promote active, happy and healthy lifestyles for people of all ages through interconnected Domains of Livability, which include: outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, community support and health services,

The Age-Friendly Initiative, which is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders, including executives from non-profit organizations, funding agencies, policy makers, academia, and personnel from key County departments, seeks to enhance these domains locally with a collective goal is to create a community where older adults can stay active, engaged, and healthy with dignity and enjoyment.

The AARP Network of Age-friendly Cities and is an affiliate of the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. Other age-

friendly communities have successfully researched, designated and implemented intergenerational approaches to make life better for their residents, including enhancements like additional seating for older riders on public transit, housing for older residents located in close proximity to services and amenities, using younger residents to provide technology training sessions for seniors, and training for family caregivers.

After officially joining the network, the Initiative implemented its next phase with a survey and research phase that will inform on the finalization of an Action Plan for continued age-friendly efforts in the County.

Learn more the website at <https://extranet.who.int/agefriendlyworld/network/alachua-county/>

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