



Aging Well

WEST ORANGE

An Age-Friendly Township

Past, Present & Future

Past

- 💡 2017 - The West Orange Department of Health received a grant from the Partners for Health Foundation to implement the West Orange Senior Livability Initiative. The mission of this initiative is to help create an age-friendly community in West Orange and a great place to live for older adult residents and people of all ages.
 - In late 2017, many older adult residents completed the West Orange Survey of Older Adults and provided helpful feedback on their future plans and various Township programs and services. The results of the survey were published in 2018.
- 💡 2019 - A Senior Livability Coordinator was hired and the Senior Livability Initiative was implemented.
 - A senior coalition was formed between the WO Health Department, Department of Senior Services, Recreation Department and the WO Public Library.
 - Programs were developed to help address the transportation, communication, social, and mental health needs of our older adults.
- 💡 2020 - West Orange was formally accepted into the AARP and World Health Organization Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities and is guided by the AARP and World Health Organization 8 Domains of Livability.

The Covid -19 Years

March 2020 – May 2023

- 💡 March 2020 COVID-19 PANDEMIC – While the pandemic did not prevent the WOHD and Senior Services from moving forward with the Initiative, it underscored the need for innovation and partnerships.
 - Seven Town Regional Coalition formed to focus on urgent needs, such as assisting vulnerable residents with acquiring everything from food deliveries to masks and vaccine appointments.
 - Addressed Senior Technology Needs and Strategies - Created *How to Zoom* video
 - Implemented COVID Food Insecurity Strategies (partnerships with restaurants, food pantry, Toni's Kitchen)
 - Dept of Senior Services expanded programming to encompass an array of events and classes related to health and education, art and recreation, wellness, socialization and support, general information, and individual resources, as appropriate
 - Intergenerational engagement with WOHS Mountaineer Mentors to provide programming across the generations.
 - Expanded local collaborations with MSU Nursing Students' promoting

Present

- 💡 2024 - West Orange created an action plan for becoming more age-friendly under the criteria established by AARP.
 - Identified that the “age-friendly” movement is not top of mind internally and in the community and that there are a number of competing priorities!
- 💡 2025 - With the support of a grant from the Grotta Fund for Older Adults West Orange launched the Aging Well West Orange Campaign. The goal is to:
 - Advocate for an age-friendly mindset internally with Township leaders, and departments, through education, discussions, and information sharing to effect change.
 - Build community awareness around West Orange’s age-friendly status, what it means to be an age-friendly community, ageism and reframing aging through community engagement events.

Future



- 🌱 Integrate the 8 Domains of Livability Into:
 - Policies, practices, programs and priorities Township wide.
 - Ensure public spaces, transportation, and housing are accessible, safe, and conducive to healthy aging for older adults.
- 🌱 Continue and improve upon all of the wonderful age-friendly initiatives that are currently in place.
- 🌱 Develop strategies to ensure age-friendly efforts are sustainable and adaptable to changing community needs.

🌱 ***CELEBRATE SUCCESSES!***

Aging Everybody's Doing It!



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