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The Ocean County Board of Commissioners is excited to share the launch of Age-Friendly Ocean County, a new initiative dedicated to making sure our community is a welcoming, supportive, and vibrant place to live for people of all ages.

As part of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, Ocean County is committed to creating opportunities and resources that help residents stay healthy, connected, and independent as they grow older. With more than 200,000 adults aged 65 and older living in our county, and tens of thousands more reaching that milestone every year, this work has never been more important.

In partnership with the Family and Community Health Sciences (FCHS) Program at Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Ocean County, and with support from the New Jersey Department of Human Services, we are proud to begin this journey with an Age-Friendly Community Grant. Together, we will be asking the most important questions: *What do older adults, caregivers, veterans, and people with disabilities need to thrive in Ocean County?*

Over the next several months, we will be:

- Listening to community members through a countywide needs assessment
- Developing an Age-Friendly Ocean County Action and Evaluation Plan
- Building partnerships with local leaders, organizations, and residents
- Using AARP's Eight Domains of Livability- including housing, transportation, outdoor spaces, social inclusion, and more- as our roadmap to lasting change

This isn't just about planning for the future. It's about making sure that right now, every person- whether you're raising a family, living with a disability, caring for a loved one, or enjoying retirement- feels supported, respected, and connected here in Ocean County.

We look forward to partnering with you, our residents, in shaping a county where everyone can age with dignity, purpose, and joy.

Together, we can make Ocean County a model age-friendly community.

Sincerely,

The Ocean County Board of Commissioners