

Age Friendly Community membership



On November 20, the City of Sheboygan received a certificate of membership into the AARP/ World Health organization's network of communities working towards becoming an Age Friendly Community. Sam Wilson, Director of AARP Wisconsin, presented the certificate to the Mayor at the city council meeting.

Wilson complimented city leaders on the work that has already been done to ensure

that Sheboygan is a place where all generations want to live, work, play and do business. He referred council members to the Livability Index, a tool that rates communities and can be used to search out best places to reside. Wilson pointed out that the neighborhood surrounding City Hall, for example, has a score that puts it in the top third of communities around the country.

By 2030 one in five people will be 65 or older. Seniors are indicating that they want to live in towns and cities that are safe and secure, that provide appropriate transportation and housing choices, and have quality health care and community services. Boomers, like Gen Xers and millennials want to live near walkable downtowns that have prospering local businesses, entertainment options and inviting parks and outdoor spaces.

Over the next two years an Age Friendly Task Group will engage stakeholders, citizens and policy makers as they assess community needs and determine what is being done well and what we could be doing better. They will seek partnerships and develop an action plan to assist people 50 years and older to live in their homes and communities for as long as possible. There will be many opportunities for interested citizens to participate in the process.

Well designed, livable communities promote health, sustain economic growth and make for happier, healthier residents of EVERY age. To check out Sheboygan's livability score go to [AARP.org/LivabilityIndex](https://www.aarp.org/LivabilityIndex)

Wendy Schmitz, Director

Senior Activity Center of Sheboygan