West Orange Designated as an Age-Friendly Community

West Orange has exciting news for you!

West Orange recently received formal acceptance into the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and the World Health Organization Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

We are only the 13\textsuperscript{th} New Jersey community to receive this prestigious honor and the 466\textsuperscript{th} in the United States to be awarded Age-Friendly certification!

The age-friendly movement, launched by the World Health Organization in 2005, continues to spread across the globe. The guiding principle is creating solutions to meet the global challenges of our aging population.

The age-friendly designation is the culmination of coordinated work across many departments within the Township. This respected award reaffirms the Township’s commitment to an age-friendly community, which benefits residents of all ages.

To commemorate West Orange’s age-friendly initiatives and commitment to senior livability, the Township has added the new and appealing age-friendly logo displayed above, which symbolizes life, growth, energy, strength, and beauty.

Age-friendly communities are inclusive and considerate of the perspectives of all residents, of all ages, and all persuasions. Further, age-friendly communities encourage and benefit from diverse citizen engagement to help to identify the community’s needs, and work with the Township to develop and implement an action plan to address those needs.

In New Jersey, by the year 2030, the over-60 population is projected to number 2.5 million and represent 25\% of the state’s population. In West Orange, our population size exceeds 47,563. Over 30\% of our residents are aged 55 and over. Residents aged 65 and over make up 18.2\% of the West Orange population and continues to increase.

We are excited to work with our adult population to address our community needs. We hope to see you at future events celebrating our induction into the AARP/WHO Age-Friendly Network! For more information, please contact me at: dsanders@westorange.org

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