



AARP Georgia
999 Peachtree St., NE.
#1110
Atlanta, GA 30309
Serena Garcia
Communications Director

T 404-870-3788
F 404-881-6997
facebook/AARPGeorgia
twitter.com/AARPGA
www.aarp.org/ga

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AARP Georgia and Local Community Celebrate the New Augusta Age-Friendly Designation

ATLANTA, GA. (March 20, 2014) - Celebrate Augusta becoming an Age-Friendly Community at the Boathouse Community Center, 101 Riverfront Dr., on Thursday, March 27, at 10 am during a press conference and day of engagement. Mayor Deke Copenhaver and Commissioner William Lockett will receive the designation certificate from Greg Tanner, AARP Georgia State Director. The designation is from the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, affiliated with the World Health Organization (WHO).

An Age-Friendly Community is designed to establish an inclusive and accessible environment that encourages active and healthy aging for all ages. It also proactively focuses on those elements of communities that enhance independent living with a goal of having older citizens take a more active role in their communities.

“Since first learning of the AARP Age-Friendly Designation, I have strived for Augusta to seek and obtain **this designation**. **Augusta, Georgia** is a great city and receiving this designation from AARP demonstrates Augusta’s commitment to all generations of our citizens. I look forward to continuing the great progress that we have made in becoming an Age-Friendly destination through addressing the needs of our citizenry and continuing to improve the quality of life for **people of all ages**. **I want to thank the Mayor and my fellow Commissioners** for their support in this endeavor,” says Augusta Commissioner William Lockett.

Exhibit tables with senior focus and all-age focus organizations will be on-site with materials to distribute. After the certificate presentation, a workgroup will convene to complete Neighborhood Walkability Surveys in the area of the Boathouse Community Center. Communities can make walking safer by teaching small groups to take simple “walkability” surveys and then taking recommended actions for community improvements. The surveys completed on Thursday will provide groundwork for walkability activities to take place throughout Augusta during the year.

Results of the walkability surveys will be presented at the Boathouse Community Center beginning at 1:30 p.m. Interviews and photo opportunities will be available.



AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our **members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.**