Augusta, Georgia

2015 Age-Friendly Community Action Plan

AARP Real Possibilities in Georgia

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Office of the Mayor

Hardie Davis, Jr.
Mayor

December 15, 2015

Ms. Debra Tyler-Horton
Georgia AARP
999 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 1110
Atlanta, GA 30309

Dear Ms. Tyler-Horton,

On behalf of the City of Augusta, Georgia, an Age-Friendly designated community since April 14, 2014, we are pleased to submit to AARP Georgia the Age-Friendly Community Action Plan for Augusta-Richmond County. This plan includes all the elements required to develop a comprehensive plan for Age-Friendly communities. The plan presents a picture of the Augusta community, its accomplishments and plans for future actions to make Augusta a more "livable community" for residents of all ages.

Augusta's leaders, residents, and business partners are committed to actively work toward making our community the best place to live and work for everyone. The collaboration and collegial relationships developed between government agencies, our residents and community groups in our first two years as an Age-Friendly Community have contributed to our early successes.

We hope that your review of our plan will be favorable, and look forward to receiving a three-year extension as an Age-Friendly Community so we can continue implementing our plan.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Hardie Davis, Jr.
Mayor

William "Bill" Lockett
Commissioner

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Executive Summary

This Executive Summary includes the vision and goal of the Age-Friendly Augusta initiative and the presentation of the key recommendations under the seven domains undertaken by the Age-Friendly Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is a collaborative partnership of Augusta government leaders, Directors and Managers of governmental and quasi-governmental agencies in Augusta, members of appointed commissions, community service type non-profit organizations, social and civic organizations, business leaders, community members and AARP volunteers.

Key Conditions related to the City of Augusta are not unlike many other communities around the country. The demand for services related to transportation, housing, recreation, public facilities, and health services have far outpaced the funding available to communities to provide those services at the needed level. Specifically as it relates to the 50+ population, Augusta has not kept pace philosophically, intellectually or financially with the need to focus more consideration and direct more services to this age group. One area that quickly points to evidence of this statement is a look at how many of the World Health Organizations policy recommendations are absent in our laws.

The Vision for Age-Friendly Augusta: *"To make our community the best place to live and work for everyone".* To achieve the vision of becoming an Age-Friendly Community we must plan, build and manage Augusta's resources so we will allow people of all ages to:

- Take a walk
- Safely cross the street
- Use Public Transportation
- Work or volunteer
- Live comfortably and safely in their home
- Socialize
- Enjoy public places
- Find the services they need
- Go shopping
- Buy healthy food

in their community, their neighborhood, or on the street where they live.

Based on the actions coordinated in this plan we will have new buses and added bus routes to transport members of the community. This will include some special buses for seniors and disabled individuals. We will have new affordable housing, integrated into existing communities designed to accommodate seniors and the disabled. Our outdoor space initiatives will make many updates to parks and recreational spaces. In addition, parks and

recreation will schedule 20 social events designed to attract the 50+ population. Our Community Support and Health Services Domain will seek to implement programs to thwart obesity, elder abuse and lower smoking rates. Social Participation and Diverse Inclusion will work through the Senior Centers to bring multigenerational audiences and the multicultural community together through participation in festivals, fairs and charity events. The Civic participation and Employment Domain will work with the County to insure that grants received by the City to promote employment will address seniors needs. The Communication and Information Domain will continue to use the city's website, water bill mail outs, Facebook page and the traditional media outlets to insure that messages related to all Age-Friendly initiatives, resources and educational information reach the 50+ population.

The work outlined by the Domain Leaders and their team members result from examining existing city plans, discussions with agency heads and team members who represent many of the organizations and agencies that would be necessary to initiate an action and monitor its progress. *(See pages* 5 and 6 for Age-Friendly Advisory Council Members)

The Goals of the Seven Domains are:

Transportation: *To have a city official named as responsible for planning and implementing projects related to Public-Transit, Walkability, Safe Accessible Streets, provide funding for projects and share completed projects with the community.*

Housing: *To assure a full range of housing options that are planned and built to be accessible, affordable and secure.*

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings: *To provide ample outdoor spaces and recreational facilities that are safe and accessible to residents of all ages*

Social Participation and Diverse Inclusion: The 50+ residents *have a wide range of activities and programs available to them and to insure that activities are inclusive of all races and age groups.*

Civic Participation and Employment: *To provide information and opportunities for residents age 50+ to volunteer and work through improved information sharing and collaboration with businesses.*

Communication and Information*: To increase the knowledge and awareness of residents ages 50+related to the resources, services and opportunities available to improve all aspects of quality of life and make the community more livable for citizens of all ages.*

Community Support and Health Services*: To organize a network or coalition of the numerous health and support services available to residents ages 50+ and promote education and improve healthy behaviors.*

Advisory Council Members

	Augusta	Age-Friendly Advisory Council
Last	First	Organization
Acevedo	Ed	Asociación Cultural Hispanoamericana
Allen	Tameka	Augusta IT
Anderson	Robyn	Historic Augusta
Keel	Dr. Brooks	Georgia Regents University
Sullivan	Dr. Samuel	Paine College
Bradshaw	Kenneth (Dr.)	Richmond County Bd of Educ
Baker	Jerry	Department of Labor
Butler	Catherine	AARP Augusta Chapter
Bonitatbus	Tonya	Savannah Riverkeeper
Campbell	Allyson	KROC Center
Carr	Vicki	Community Member
Cooks	Romell	AARP Volunteer
Coleman Wright	Linda	Golden Harvest Food Bank
Davis, Jr.	Hardie	Mayor, Augusta-Richmond
Cummings	Jeanette	CSRA AAA
Davis	Brad	Alta Planning + Design
Davis	Vontiece	National Coalition of 100 Black Women
Daniels	Chantell	Augusta Fire Dept
Delaney	Carla	City of Augusta-Community Dev
Downs	Joyce	Augusta Rec and Parks
Downs	Douglas	Augusta Housing Authority
Dottery	Sharon	Augusta Public Transit
Durant	Brenda	Augusta Arts Council
Elam	Terry	Augusta Technical College
Edry	Kathy	Edy Inv. Group
Ernce	Katherine	Senior Citizens Council
Garber	Eric	Hamil/Little Law Firm
Gibbons	Tonia	Mayor's Office
Gold	LaVerne	United Way of the CSRA
Griffin	Dee	Augusta Fire Dept

Houck	Ron	Augusta Recreation PA
Hollobaugh	Tim	TRH Consulting
James	Chris	Augusta Fire Dept
Johnson	Sonya	Housing and Community Dev
Jones	Carrie	Golden Harvest Food Bank
Jenkins	Ethel	AAA CSRA
Jones	Elizabeth	Aging/Shiloh Center
Key	Glynnis	VOOM Ministries
Kise	Megan	CSRA AAA
Koons	Heather	Augusta Rec and Parks
Ladson	Abie	Augusta Engineering
Lewis	Gloria B.	CSRA EOA, Inc
Lockett	Jewell	Community Member
Lockett	Bill	Commissioner
Mackenzie	Andrew	Augusta Law Dept
McDowell	Maurice	Parks and Rec
McDaniel	Juanita	UWCSRA
Michael	Norman	AARP Volunteer
Myles	Lori (Dr.)	National Coalition of 100 Black Women
Montgomery	Erick	Historic Augusta, Inc
Nunnally	Stella	LWNA
Nelson	Betty	Community Member
Oglesby	Jacob	Augusta Housing Authority
Owens	Lynthia	Mayor's Office
Perez	Edwin	Asociación Cultural Hispanoamericana
Peede	Jennifer	LTC Ombudsman Program
Parr	Susan	Augusta Chamber
Paige	Sabrina	Housing & Community Dev
Quarles	James	100 Black Men of Augusta
Price	Elliot	Georgia Tech
Richards	Elena	Savannah Riverkeeper
Rivers	Ebony	Walton Options
Pringle	Dr. Angela	Richmond Co School System
Rogers	Leroy	Community Member
Roundtree	Richard	Augusta Sheriff's Dept
Singleton	Carletta	Augusta Richmond Co P&D

Skelley	Dennis	Walton Foundation
Stephens	Pat	Augusta Transit
Stewart	Mary .	COST Inc. Outreach Ministry
Smith	Faye F.	Community Member
Tutt- Cherry	Joyce	CRSA
Thurman	Ann	Community Member
Videtto	Lori	Augusta Environmental Svc
Sprouse	Walter	Economic Development Authority
Welcher	Hawthorne	Augusta Housing and Community Dev
Washington	Cindy	Augusta Utilities
White	Barry	Augusta Conv & Visitors Bureau
White	Wallace	CSRA AAA
Wiedmeier	Tom	Augusta Utilities
Williams	Queen Ester	Community Member
Wilson	Melanie	Augusta Planning & Development

Advisory Council Photo

Age-Friendly Augusta

Advisory Council - 2015

See Membership List pages 5-8 and in Appendix B

Acknowledgements

The good that has been accomplished in Augusta is the work of a "village", and all who have shared their energy, expertise and enthusiasm for an effort that will make Augusta a more livable community for all of its residents. And, every village has a chief who leads the charge. That chief for Augusta has been Commissioner William "Bill" Lockett.

Since Commissioner Lockett first learned of the AARP Age-Friendly Designation, he has led the charge to obtain the designation for Augusta and continues to work today toward the goals of AARP and the World Health Organization to make Augusta Age-Friendly. Commissioner Lockett's passion and commitment has been the catalyst that has kept the Age-Friendly Advisory Council charging forward to accomplish the goals and initiatives designed by AARP. There is a list of Age-Friendly Advisory Council members in Appendix B.

Thanks go to former Mayor, Deke Copenhaver and our former AARP Associate State Director for Community Outreach, Karen Cooper. They were there from the beginning and supported us through that first year.

A special acknowledgement goes out to the following Domain Leaders and Assistant Domain Leaders: Outdoor Spaces - Ron Houck and Stella Nunnally; Transportation – Pat Stephens and Sharon Dottery and Dr. Dennis Shelley; Housing – Hawthorne Welcher and Sabrina Paige; Social Participation – Elizabeth Jones and Joyce Downs; Respect and Social Inclusion James Quarles and Leroy Rogers; Civic Participation and Employment – Jerry Baker and Butch Halley; Communications and Information – Tameka Allen, Tonia Gibbons, Dee Griffin; and Community and Health Services – Ethel Jenkins and Hezekiah Aikens.

We would be remiss not to give special thanks to the Communications Team for the yeoman's job they did in getting the Age-Friendly Community Assessment out to the public. In addition thanks to the Mayor's Office staff for translating the survey to Spanish. Our partners in Procurement have also been tremendous supporters through this plan development process.

Finally, thanks to the tremendous support of our current Age-Friendly Core Team, Richmond County Commissioner Bill Lockett, Serena Garcia, AARP Associate State Director for Communications, Eric Garber, Attorney, Norman Michael AARP volunteer and Catherine Butler, AARP Local Chapter President, and Romell Cooks, Lead Volunteer for Age-Friendly.

Augusta Profile

Following an election in 1995, the city of Augusta, the county seat, consolidated governments with Richmond County. The consolidated entity is known as Augusta-Richmond County, or simply Augusta. Augusta serves as the center of a growing metropolitan region and has a population of 197,872 (US Census, 2012). It is projected that Augusta's population will be 220, 069 by the year 2030. And as the US Census bureau has projected the growth of the country's 65+ population will outpace other age groups. According to a study done by Woods and Poole, Inc. 2005 the following table presents the data that projects population change for Augusta-Richmond County. Between 2015 and 2030 there will be a 36.7% increase in the age 65 and over population.

RICHMOND COUNTY
PROJECTED POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

	YEAR	PROJECTIONS 2005-2010					
	2003	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Age 0-19	60,955	61,227	62,297	63,770	66,394	67,323	68,566
Age 20-64	115,573	116,569	118,323	118,438	116,695	116,874	118,765
Age 65 And Over	21,621	21,501	21,792	23,937	27,158	30,618	32,738
Total Population by Age Group	**198,149**	**199,297**	**202,412**	**206,145**	**210,247**	**214,815**	**220,069**

Source: Woods and Poole, Inc., 2005

Augusta is the third largest city in Georgia. It is located on the Georgia/South Carolina border and is about 150 miles east of Atlanta, Georgia. The Augusta-Richmond County land mass totals 306.5 square miles. Augusta is home of several institutions of higher learning. These include Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University, Paine College, an HBCU, and Augusta Technical College.

Augusta is a regional city of medicine, Biotechnology and military. Our military base, Ft. Gordon is expected to add 10 to 15,000 new residents to Augusta's population over the next year. Augusta's economy is fueled by several large employers; Savannah River Site (a nuclear facility), International Paper, Ft. Gordon, John Deere, Proctor and Gamble and Club Car, a large manufacturer of golf carts.

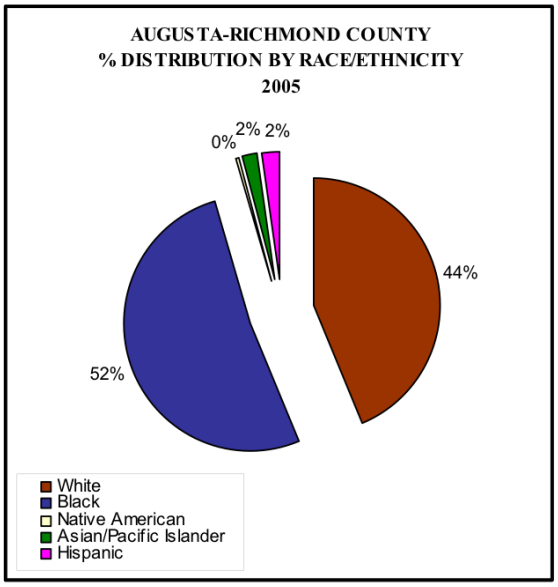
Augusta-Richmond County normally ranks in the top ten counties in Georgia in terms of total personal income. According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, the Average Annual Pay for Richmond County is $33, 116. Data from the Woods and Poole research projects a significant increase in the distribution of household income; with the number households earning over $75,000 doubling by 2010.

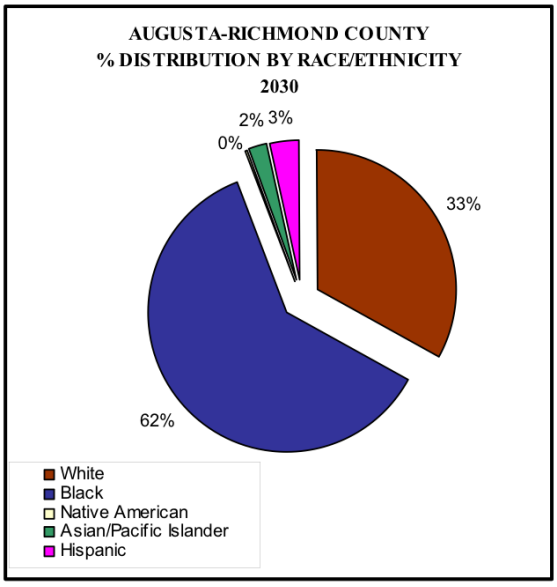
The racial mix of Augusta's population is clearly presented in the table and the pie charts below that show the projected shift in the racial populations between 2005 and 2030.

RICHMOND COUNTY
POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY

	YEAR	PROJECTIONS 2005-2010					
	2003	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
White	88,545	87,019	83,202	80,019	77,403	74,998	72,725
Black	101,272	103,583	109,731	115,874	121,830	127,998	134,717
Native American	616	620	600	571	553	540	513
Asian/Pacific Islander	3,321	3,462	3,788	4,070	4,297	4,497	4,695
Hispanic	4,395	4,613	5,091	5,611	6,164	6,782	7,419
Total Population by Race/Ethnicity	**198,149**	**199,297**	**202,412**	**206,145**	**210,247**	**214,815**	**220,069**

Source: Woods and Poole, Inc., 2005





Source: Woods and Poole, Inc., 2005

The racial distribution in Augusta-Richmond is fairly homogenous. Based on current data the Black or African American population is the largest with White following not too far behind. The documented Hispanic population is only 2-3 percent, but that population is growing at a faster rate than earlier projections.

Augusta is the home of some well-known people like James Brown, Amy Grant, Hulk Hogan and former president Woodrow Wilson. In addition to the famous, it is home of many wonderful and not so famous people who all want to enjoy a great quality of life and be able to stay in the Augusta community. Augusta's nickname is "The Garden City" and its motto

is “We Feel Good”. The objective of becoming an Age-Friendly/Livable Community is to plan, build and manage a community where people of all ages can take a walk, safely cross the street, use public transportation, work or volunteer, live comfortably and safely in their home, socialize with people of diverse ages and cultures, access and enjoy public places, find the services they need, go shopping, buy healthy food and do these things in a community where they can have a lifelong home.

Introduction to the Plan

After learning about the AARP Age-Friendly Designation, Commissioner William "Bill" Lockett strived to obtain the designation for Augusta. Commissioner Lockett realized that as the older population grows and becomes an increasingly important segment of Augusta's residents, it is crucial that the community leadership and major stakeholders make and design plans to support this population. In addition, it is important to plan with the quality of life of all residents in mind.

In pursuit of the Age-Friendly designation from AARP and the World Health Organization for Augusta, the Richmond County Commission partnered with the Office of the Mayor. Working with AARP State Office, a meeting of most city department heads and several organizations that provide services to seniors met to learn more about what being an Age-Friendly meant and what Augusta needed to do in order to gain the designation. The initiation of the process for Augusta to become an Age-Friendly community was well received by the city's leadership and the partners, stakeholders and citizens of Augusta. Much of what was proposed in The 8 Domains of Livability fit well with several initiatives already underway in Augusta. But still there were things that needed to be done to acquire the designation:

- Gain political commitment of the elected officials
- Organize stakeholders
- Conduct assessments to identify needs
- Establish an advisory committee that incudes older adults

The leadership of Augusta became busy putting together the application and undertaking the tasks to gain the designation of "Age-Friendly Augusta and become part of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities, affiliated with the World Health Organization. The designation as an Age-Friendly Community was created excitement in the community and in the press. The *Augusta Chronicle,* Augusta's leading newspaper ran an extensive story on the designation. A town hall meeting was held at the Kroc Center to announce the good news and encourage older residents and residents of all ages to take an active role in working to make Augusta a more livable community.

(L to R) Jeanne Anthony, Commissioner William Lockett, Greg Tanner,(AARP), Mayor Deke Copenhaver and Karen Cooper (AARP)

How the Community Action Plan Was Developed

The Augusta Age-Friendly Action Plan was developed through collaborative action of the Age-Friendly Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is a group of forty plus members that represents a wide range of public and private interests. The involvement of government leaders representing transportation, public safety, city planning, public transit, public health, housing, parks and recreation, labor, fire safety communications and the city legal counsel has been critical to this process. In addition, the Advisory Council has had the benefit of participants representing groups with special interests such as the disabled, the environmentalists, care givers, and media to identify a few. The Advisory Council activities were coordinated by a Core group initially made up of four individuals (William Lockett, city of Augusta; Serena Garcia, AARP State Office; Norman Michael, AARP local volunteer; and Romell Cooks, AARP volunteer) The Core has recently added two new members; (Eric Garber, local attorney; and Catherine Butler, AARP local chapter president)

In order to get a real understanding of where Augusta stood as a livable community, the following actions were taken:

- Conducted a walkability survey to assess the condition of streets, and sidewalks and identify hazards for walkers (See Appendix C)
- Asked each agency that had conducted a recent assessment of their area of responsibility to share their assessments and primary findings with the entire council
- Searched the web for assessments that had been conducted by private sector groups such as hospitals and insurance groups
- Reviewed the Augusta Sustainable Development Agenda in its development of suburban Augusta for Walkable Town Centers and the urban agenda of Neighborhood Revitalization.
- Conducted an in-depth review of the Livability Index and assessed how the domain areas ranked in Augusta, both in terms of the metrics and policies for each domain area. Absent policies and below average metrics were considered for interventions. Augusta's overall livability score was 51. Livability Scores by domain area are: See appendix E for print out of all domain metric rates and policies in place.
    - Housing 62
    - Neighborhood 36
    - Transportation 45
    - Environment 63
    - Health 41
    - Engagement 64
    - Opportunity 47
- Members of the Core group are serving on the development of the ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan as much of what they do relates to our domains of transportation, as well as outdoor spaces.

- Conducted a community wide assessment utilizing electronic internet responses and utilization of paper documents in both English and Spanish. A total of 359 assessments were completed. (See Appendix D survey instruments)
- Utilized significant findings from the community assessment to identify target groups, community perceptions, and facts related to the different domains.

As a result of looking at the information and assessments available to the Advisory Council, it was decided that Augusta would address the following seven of the eight domains recommended by the World Health Organization:

1. Transportation
2. Housing
3. Outdoor Spaces and Buildings
4. Social Participation and Diverse Inclusion
5. Civic Participation and Employment
6. Communication and Information
7. Community Support and Health Services

Social Participation and Respect and Social Inclusion will be addressed together under the heading of Social Participation and Diverse Inclusion. One of the goals of Augusta's new Mayor is to create a "One Augusta". The domain of Social Participation, Ethnic and Generational Interaction supports and builds on the Mayor's agenda.

Who Was Involved in the Development of the Plan

In order to make sure that the domain areas were addressed in some detail, the Advisory Council identified a Domain Leader and in most cases a Co-Leader for each of the eight domains. These domain leaders and their team, made up of anyone interested in that particular domain, were encouraged to meet often, identify specific issues, recruit new partners and stakeholders and identify current work or activities currently on-going in their domain area. The domain leaders participated in conference calls and a work session conducted by the core team to assist them with developing information that would eventually become part of the action plan. They were also provided templates that would guide the documentation of the data and information collected relative to their domain and document recommendations and needs as they were identified.

In addition, members of the core team were assigned the task of writing parts of the plan. After all the input from the different domains was received it was aggregated into the plan. The core team conducted a review and edit process to insure compliance with the AARP guidelines and the Advisory Councils goals for Augusta.

AUGUSTA ADVISORY COUNCIL PREPARING TO DEVELOP THEIR ACTION PLAN

Who Will Manage Implementation of the Plan?

After Augusta gains approval of its plan and our Age-Friendly designation is extended for three more years, the elected officials will prepare an instrument of support (e.g. memorandum of understanding, resolution or an executive order) to provide the authority needed for the implementation of the plan and identify the public agency that will take the lead along with the support of the core team of Age-Friendly. The domain leads will continue to shepherd the recommendations and take the lead on implementing activities. As an example, if the Community Support and Health Services domain, recommended the implementation of a citywide smoking cessation campaign, the domain leaders, the city departments and any support available from AARP or other organization such as CDC would implement that part of the plan. Domain leads will be key players in making sure the plan is a living, working document.

Other Information Important to the Plan

Evaluation of Action Plan

In addition to carrying out the plan, the core team and the domain will be responsible for collecting statistical and anecdotal data in order to evaluate the plan. The outcomes of activities described in the plan will be used to bring continuous focus to the issues of livability as it relates to all ages. Implementing agencies and organizations will be given training utilizing the "Evaluating Your Age-Friendly Community Program – A Step-by-Step Guide" prepared for AARP by the Portland State University on Aging. The plan is a living document and will be updated and edited as programs, policies and budgets may require.

The Age-Friendly Advisory Council recognizes that this plan is not inclusive of all the initiatives that are being under taken in Augusta to make our community more livable. However, it has created a great alliance between the residents and the agencies and organizations that have the responsibility or the missions of caring for Augusta's aging population. Age-Friendly has been able to impart the message that links the livability of the community with the economy of the community and our elected officials have clearly received that message as we continue to promote the Age-Friendly Concept.

Emergency Management for Augusta-Richmond

As we focus on all the issues such as tornados, hurricanes, floods, fires, terror attacks etc. that could affect the livability of our community, the plan for managing these types of disasters is considered to be an important part of assessing the services for available for dealing with the senior and disabled community. Included in the appendix is a part of our 200 page Emergency Operations Plan. The complete plan can be accessed and is available at Augustaga.gov/documentcenter/Home/View/3413.

Livable Communities Survey – Key Data Points

Augusta Age-Friendly launched an area wide survey on October 6, 2015. The AARP survey was revised to add questions significant to our community and the revised survey was translated to Spanish. In addition to providing more than 450 copies to the Advisory Council members and distributing them to Senior Centers and Churches, the survey was also posted on the home page of the city's website. There were 119 surveys completed electronically. Of the 450 printed surveys distributed to the community, we had 243 returned completed for a response rate of 54%; an incredible response rate. AARP provided financial assistance to the Augusta-Richmond Age-Friendly program to have the surveys coded and a data base developed with tables displaying all the responses. The complete survey is available on request. The following page shows some of the key data points from the survey.

AARP Livable Communities Survey
Key Data Points

- There were 359 respondents to the survey
- There were 180 females and 157 males, 22 non respondents
- 62% of the respondents were 55 years or older
- 39% of respondents had an education level of high school or less
- 28% of respondents were college graduates
- 27% of respondents earned $20,000 or less
- 12% of respondents earned $100,000 or more
- The respondents by race: 60% Black, 27% White, 3% Asian, 3% American Indian, 12% No response
- 18% of respondents lived in zip code 30815, 28% lived in zip code 30906
- 57% of respondents find it important to remain in their community as they age
- 87% of respondents find it important to be able to stay in their own home
- 70% find it very important to have safe parks within walking distance
- 11% of respondents say it is not important to have public transportation
- 58% of respondents 55 years plus, exercise less than once per month
- 69% feel it is important to have emergency centers located conveniently
- 62% feel it is very important to have a variety of cultural activities for diverse communities
- 64% of respondents feel it is very important to have job training opportunities for older adults
- More than 74% of respondents would go to AARP, AAA or local senior services agencies if they needed information or assistance

Accomplishments Since 2014 Designation

Walkability Survey

Shortly after receiving the Age-Friendly designation the Advisory Council and AARP conducted a walkability survey and published a report entitled: The Walkability and Age-Friendly Streets: Opportunities to Transform Augusta's Built Environment. The report was prepared by the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute. Several key recommendations came from the study. See Appendix C.

- **Community Clean-UP**

The Age-Friendly Advisory Council partnered with the Augusta Department of Parks and Recreation, Augusta Commissioners, the Savannah Riverkeeper Organization, AARP volunteers, junior law enforcement, Richmond County Marshals, and community volunteers to hold a community wide clean-up day. All the cleanup sites were streets and neighborhoods adjacent to five parks in the Augusta Community. May Park, Lake Olmstead Park, Warren Road Park, Diamond Lakes, and Brigham Community Center were the sites where volunteers gathered to clean the streets and community members could find recycling drop-off bins. More than 100 volunteers participated in the clean-up. Both television and print media covered the event. Several Augusta Commissioners

participated at each park and AARP volunteers set up tables to distribute information about Age-Friendly, Fraud Watch, and the Snap program. More than 20 streets were cleaned up and surveyed.

- **Augusta Chronicle's Life After 50 Program**
  AARP staff and volunteers promoted Age-Friendly at the Augusta Chronicle's *Life After 50 Program* that gathered more than 500 guests. The Senior Expo provided information and solutions to issues such as safe handling of medications, maintaining a safe living environment, activities for seniors, information on saving and investing and much, much more. The AARP State Office was a presenter at the conference.

- **Elder Rights Conference**
  An elder rights conference held at Trinity on the Hill was attended by several Age-Friendly Advisory Council members and AARP in partnership with the Area Agency on Aging as one of its sponsors. Commissioner Lockett addressed the 200 plus attendees on Age-Friendly and Advisory Council members Romell Cooks, Catherine Butler and Elizabeth Jones (not shown) attended the conference.

- **Tek Conference**

  AARP Georgia and Age-Friendly Augusta sponsored a TEK (Technology, Education, and Knowledge) workshop for seniors in Augusta. Classes were conducted on two days and there were two sessions for each day. The enrollment was set for 50 per classes. The enthusiasm for the training was oversubscribed for each session. Over 400 area residents participated in the class. This type of class enhances the communication and socialization opportunities for seniors.

- **Annual Senior Valentine Ball**

  Age-Friendly Augusta supported the Senior Valentine Ball held at the Julian Smith Casino and attended by more than 100 seniors. The seniors enjoyed the live band music, a dinner and many young dance partners supplied by the Georgia Military Academy. AARP hosted a table and provided information on Age-Friendly and handed out information packages on other AARP programs that benefit seniors.

- **Age-Friendly Day at the Augusta Commission Meeting**

Commissioner Bill Lockett brought Age-Friendly Augusta and the Advisory Council members to the Municipal Building to support and participate in sharing the Age-Friendly concept. Advisory Council Members were asked to wear AARP red to bring focus to the subject of being an Age-Friendly community. An AARP volunteer presented the Livability Index and information by zip code relative to how each Commissioner's district scored. Also presented was a summary of the report on the Livability Economy. Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr. and the Commissioners and numerous citizens were updated on the activities of Age-Friendly. In addition the electronic community survey was uploaded and we distributed over 300 paper surveys to be completed and returned to the Mayor's Office.

- **Augusta Age-Friendly Supports Disabled Veterans 5K**

Augusta's Core Team and several AARP and local volunteers made the trip to Atlanta to participate in the Disabled Veterans 5K. All volunteers sponsored their own registration and the City of Augusta provided transportation from Augusta to Atlanta so that we could participate. In addition, AARP Georgia State Office and Age-Friendly Atlanta joined with the Augusta group to have a notable Age-Friendly presence along the tough 5K course. One of the Augusta Age-Friendly volunteers, Jewell Lockett, won a first place finish medal for her age category. Augusta is the home of Fort Gordon Army Post and, as a result, we see many "wounded warriors" in our community. Our efforts are to make lasting partnerships with our military community and the military veterans in our community. Wheelchair accessible streets and appropriate housing are critical issues for veterans and important issues for a livable community. The 5K was designed to bring focus and funds to the support to assist Disabled Veterans in Augusta and Georgia.

- **Partnering With Hispanic Community**

  Age-Friendly reached out to the president of Asociación Cultural Hispanoamericana (ACHA), a community group made up of Hispanic individuals from the local Hispanic population. The president represents the Hispanic community on the Age-Friendly Advisory Council. Each year ACHA holds a Hispanic festival in Augusta that reaches nearly 30 thousand people. AARP and Age-Friendly Advisory members staffed a booth at the festival sharing information on Age-Friendly, conducting surveys, and distributing information on AARP programs. In addition, an Age-Friendly core team member joined with numerous members of the Hispanic community representing churches, business, education and health care in a meeting with the Mayor and his community outreach staff. Many issues relative to aging in place and quality of life, addressed in the domains, are issues of the Hispanic community.

- **Advisory Council Meetings**

  The Age-Friendly Advisory Council met every other month starting in January and were always well attended my members of the council. Meetings focused on building capacity for the members of the council, sharing information on each of the 8 Domains, presenting the AARP Livability Index with focus on Augusta and how to use it, and the members of the advisory council were able to present information on the mission and focus of their agencies and organizations. The AARP State Office worked with local core team members to develop agendas and identify needs of the Advisory Council. In addition, domain meetings and conference calls were conducted to strengthen the roles of the domains in the development of the Action Plan.

The Action Plan - Augusta's Seven Domains of Livability

As a member of the Network of Age-Friendly Communities, Augusta has elected to implement seven of the eight AARP domains. The chart below lists the domains and provides a description of these domains which will support healthy aging in an effort to improve the well-being, satisfaction and quality of life for all Augustans.

Domain	Domain Description
Transportation	Public transportation that is safe, affordable and available to individuals of all ages and those with disabilities.
Housing	Availability of sufficient affordable housing in areas that are safe, close to services and the rest of community. Also, availability of home modification programs that will allow people to "age in place".
Outdoor Spaces and Buildings	Availability of safe and accessible recreational facilities designed with residents of all ages in mind. Buildings and facilities designed with sufficient seating, ramps, elevators, railings to accommodate seniors as well as the disabled.
Social Participation and Diverse Inclusion	Access to leisure and cultural activities, for older residents to socialize and programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as multigenerational interaction.
Civic Participation and Employment	Paid work and volunteer opportunities for older residents and opportunities to engage in the formulation of policies and programs relevant to their lives.
Communication and Information	Access to communications technology and other resources so older residents can connect with their community, friends and family.
Community Support and Health Services	Access to home-based care services, health clinics and programs that promote wellness and active aging.

The next section of the plan will present information for the domains that will be initiated in Augusta. The domain will present: the Goal, Overview of the Domain, Current Status in the Community of the particular domain, Recommended Action Items, including recommendation for needed policy changes that affect the domain and the Goal. The work plan document for each domain includes steps to implementation and dates when available.

Transportation - Domain 1

Transportation Domain:

Lead: Pat Stephens, Co-Leads: Dr. Dennis Skelley
Sharon Dottery

Domain Goal:

To identify and name a responsible city official to prioritize planning and implementation recommendations from existing and future Augusta/Richmond County and other supporting community agency documents whereby projects specifically related to Age-Friendly Communities including Public Transit, Walkability, Safety and Accessible Design are funded , completed annually and shared with the community at large.

Overview:

The "Getting Around Guide" published by AARP, suggests that the use of an automobile is so automatic that thinking about cheaper, healthier and more enjoyable transportation alternatives is unfortunately seldom considered. As stated; **"Imagine getting around your community, safely and easily, without a car."**

To that end, the AARP Livability Index encourages Age-Friendly Community initiatives to identify and include convenient transportation options, transportation costs, safe streets and ADA accessible design in the planning and implementation commitment to Age-Friendly communities & livability.

As Augusta considers the **motorized t**ransportation options we must also consider non-motorized transportation comprising of walking, bicycling, wheelchair and small wheeled transport such as strollers.

In Augusta, our ARRP Livability score for the Transportation domain was a 45. Livability Index metrics where we showed below average rates were frequency of service, speed limits and crash rates. None of the recommended policies from Livability Index are in place in Augusta.

America's aging population is growing at a faster rate than any other U.S. population group. Recently, an American Public Transportation study confirmed that "as people age, isolation becomes a growing problem, and access and mobility needs become increasingly critical." For older Americans and others with mobility impairment, affordable, reliable

transportation options are essential. Public transportation in various forms can be part of the solution by providing:

- The ability to live independently
- Access to medical and social services
- Contact with the outside world
- The feeling of belonging to the community

Understanding how enhanced mobility is one of the most basic needs of America's older individuals and the car is not the only travel option is a requirement for leadership to embrace in planning for Age-Friendly communities. Communities are rediscovering the broad-ranging benefits of public transportation for older Americans, including:

- Greater freedom to live in a variety of settings
- More mobility as a result of more travel choices
- Greater access to varied destinations
- Enhanced opportunities to lead a full and meaningful life

Through a sustained commitment to public transit systems, the U.S. and Age-Friendly communities will be better able to keep pace with the mobility needs of older persons and those with mobility impairments.

Equally important in the establishment of Age-Friendly communities, is the need to include safe streets and accessible design in the planning and implementation process. The National Complete Streets Coalition has formally evaluated and addressed this essential component by providing specific recommendations (Complete Streets) to assist leadership and planners in creating Age-Friendly & Livable communities.

Supporting the inclusion of safe streets and accessible design into Augusta's Age-Friendly implementation plan are the findings of the above mentioned Augusta Livability Scores identifying the opportunity to focus on walkability features including sidewalks, lighting, accessibility, speed limit enforcement, and access to safe and convenient public transportation.

Over the last half century, the U.S. transportation system has focused and prioritized on fast automobile travel. The results are roads that are difficult to navigate or unsafe to travel by foot, bike, and often public transportation. Crossings are long, intersections are expansive, sidewalks are absent, and public transit shelters are inaccessible and offer no-place for wheelchair users. The U.S. Census Bureau projected by 2015, one in five Americans will be over the age of 65, totaling 62 million Americans. In 2008, older pedestrians accounted for 18 percent of fatalities while comprising only 13% of the population.

As people age, transportation options become limited and community mobility barriers become more pronounced resulting in an increase of older Americans and persons with

mobility impairments staying home and becoming dependent versus independent. Non-driving seniors make 65 percent fewer trips to visit family, friends, go to church and are reluctant to ask for rides. Often the disconnect between walking and use of any existing public transit service options or neighborhood amenities becomes impaired due to lack of sidewalks, curb cuts, accessible sheltered bus stops, and safety concerns including personal safety, lack of adequate lighting, no crosswalks or dangerous pedestrian navigation of roadways and intersections due to speeding vehicles and unmanageable distance to one's destination.

Supporting these national findings are in fact our own local results compiled from the recently completed (November, 2015) AARP Augusta Community Survey whereby 77% of the responses indicate that affordable transportation is of significant importance to seniors, seniors with mobility impairments and people with disabilities. As an example, of the survey responses, a majority indicate access to convenient public transportation is fair to poor. Likewise, survey responses indicate a fair to poor rating in reliability/frequency, accessibility to and safety at transportation stops as well as indicating 35% having a fear factor in using local public transportation.

Responses also indicate a majority feel public transportation is a service for all socio-economic levels to utilize, that a majority know how to use public transportation services but would attend public transportation education and training programs and would be interested in using public transportation if provided to and from special events and/or destinations.

In regards to persons with disabilities or seniors with mobility impairments, the respondents indicate a fair to poor community rating with a majority indicating current needs are not being met.

Additionally, accessible design received a fair to poor rating specific to well-maintained streets and well lighted, safe streets and intersections for use by pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers. Of counter intuitiveness, the responses were tied at 44% each for favorable or unfavorable regarding accessibility, maintenance and connectivity of sidewalks to places frequented in the areas where respondents live (See Augusta AARP Community Survey results for specific data collection and summations of responses including scope of questionnaire).

Current Status:

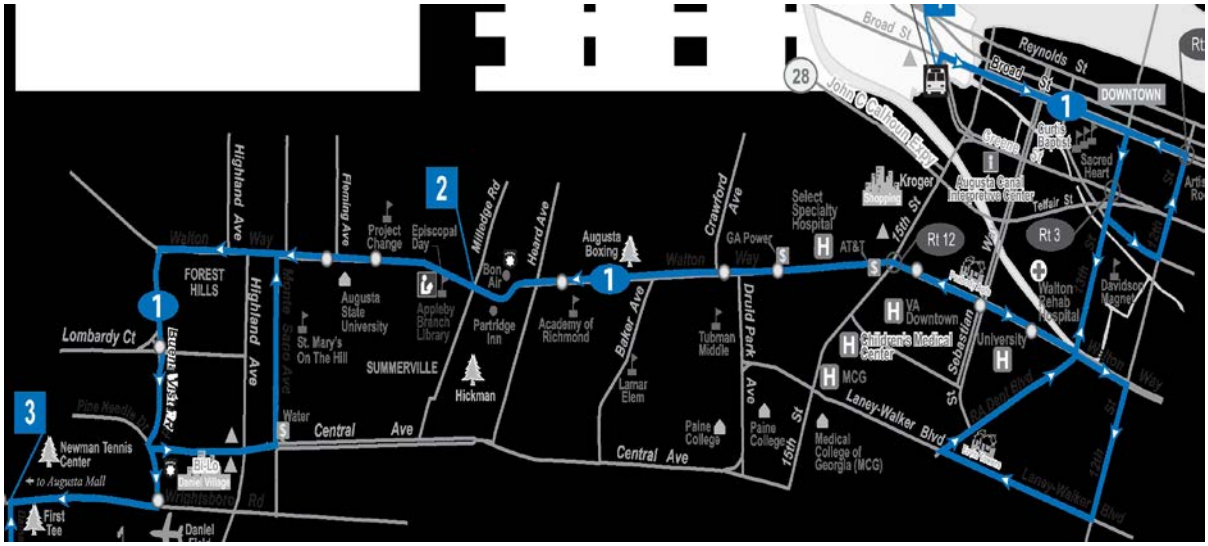
1. The **Augusta Sustainable Master Plan** completed in October, 2010 identifies, prioritizes and defines potential funding resources for strategic action corridors, walking and bicycling paths/trails complimenting a comprehensive 20 year quality of life and economic development plan for all of Richmond County.

2. **Augusta Public Transit** conducted an Augusta Transit Study in 2009. While findings and initiatives were recognized, funding limitations limited a comprehensive implementation. The Department under new leadership has identified through a recent American Public Transportation study that America's aging population is growing at a faster rate than any other U.S. population group and "as people age, isolation becomes a growing problem, and access and mobility become increasingly critical. For older Americans, affordable, reliable transportation options are essential." The automobile is not the only travel option and accessible walking routes, bicycle accommodations and public transportation offer broad range benefits for the elderly and persons with disabilities including enhanced opportunities to lead a full and meaningful life. In early 2016, the Augusta Public Transit Department plans to conduct a Comprehensive Analysis study of the transit system. This detailed study will focus on the effectiveness of our current routes and schedules identifying strengths and weaknesses and will also provide identification of new opportunities to better serve our aging population in support of our Age-Friendly Community initiative.
3. **Walkability and Age-Friendly Streets Assessment** was conducted in October, 2014. Augusta's' Olde Town neighborhood was the fortunate recipient of this assessment resulting in key findings and recommendations (Walkability and Age-Friendly Streets: Opportunities to Transform Augusta's Built Environment, October, 2014).
4. **Augusta ADA Self Evaluation & Transition Plan –** currently being conducted through consultation with the Augusta Engineering and Planning Department.
5. **Augusta Regional Transportation Study (ARTS)** has two initiatives underway. The **first** is a comprehensive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan completed in June of 2012. This comprehensive plan identifies, prioritizes and defines cost and potential funding resources for walkways and trails for pedestrian and bicycle use throughout Richmond, Columbia and Aiken counties. According to Augusta Planning and Zoning, implementation of the plan has not been formally initiated. **Second**, is a Long Range 2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan (20 year updated every 5 years) addressing transportation planning including improving traffic flow, safety, public transit, sidewalks, pedestrian, and bicycle facilities/paths or trails. This plan drives the development of short term Transportation Improvement Plans (TIP). Richmond County currently has a 2015-2018 plan in place. Additionally, the Augusta Planning and Development Department are holding Community Meetings for public input in Augusta, Evans, North Augusta and Aiken.
6. **Accelerated T-SPLOST Projects** are underway. Various locations throughout Augusta have been identified for improvements with funding secured over three prioritized bands (time frames 1 thru 3). It is unknown if Complete Streets or Age-Friendly policies, recommendations or essential features have been introduced or factored into these Richmond County improvements.

7. **Augusta Downtown Development Authority** work plan identifies responsibility for coordinating and managing various SPLOST projects in the downtown area. Again, it is unknown if Complete Streets or Age-Friendly policies, recommendations or features are factored into their efforts.
8. **University Hospital and GRU** collaborated on a community wide health needs assessment. Access to health care was defined as having insurance or not having insurance, not how one gets to medical appointments or medical destinations. Demographics were collected that define population age by zip codes, and means of transportation to work (walked, bicycled, carpooled, drove alone, public transportation, other) and the number of vehicles per household.
9. **United Way** identifies four areas of need in our community. Helping Youth Succeed, Promoting Health and Wellness, Providing Basic Needs and Strengthening Families and Individuals. One sub-goal is to assist the homeless in obtaining permanent housing and employment. Included in this goal is access to the United Way 211 program providing a comprehensive resources for transportation services and "10 bus tickets" for travel to job interviews, employment and home. Additionally, the United Way has targeted "Reducing Crime and Violence by Strengthening Families (Parenting) that may be helpful in achieving safer streets.
10. The **CSRA Regional Commission /CSRA Area Agency on Aging** completed surveys and public hearings in 2006 identifying CSRA residents' current needs and priorities. Transportation was identified as the number one need of the top 10 needs identified.
11. The **Independent Living Council (ILC) for the State of Georgia and Walton Options for Independent Living** identified in a recent 2010-2013 State ILC Plan the need to study transportation needs of persons with disabilities. Town Hall meetings were held across the state confirming transportation as a high priority need. Specific to Augusta, data gathered identified no transportation options in rural areas unless provided by a Medicaid transport service, limited if any weekend service in Augusta, no public transit evening routes available, no accessible transport company to airport, expensive taxi service fees, available transport share rides are not always time dependable and transportation linkage between Richmond to Columbia and/or major developments or attractions are not available.
12. **Walton Foundation for Independence** conducted a literature review while constructing a strategic needs assessment regarding people with disabilities. In regards to transportation, WFI identified the AARP – Age-Friendly Communities – Walkability and Age-Friendly Streets initiative completed in October, 2014 and the ARTS Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan completed in June, 2012 and have included a strategic initiative to support findings through staff assistance and Foundation funding.

13. **The Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission** completed a review of traumatic brain injury applicants for funding supports identifying the transportation as the number one request from persons with TBI.
14. **AARP i**dentities "Best Places for Getting Around" by city size. No cities in Georgia were identified.
15. The **American Public Transportation Association** indicates through study that 75 percent of Americans support using tax dollars to create expanded and improved public transportation in their communities.

Getting from residence to essential services is critical to being in a Livable Community



Several studies related to transportation are under way and will be completed in the next 12 months. Following are action items that will be initiated to improve transportation and walkabability in Augusta.

Action Plan: *(Please refer to the Augusta Age Friendly Domains – Actions and Timelines Table for a complete list of lead agencies and partners responsible for Action Items)*

Action Item 1 – Aquire new buses with new branding to improve image of public transportation and increase ridership

- Develop new branding for metro busses
- Issue RFP for purchase of busses
- Purchase 6 new Buses
- Develop training and conduct rider education

Progress Measure

- Branding and marketing plan complete December 2016
- RFP Issued July 2016
- 6 buses received and put on line by June 2017
- Number of training courses conducted in 12 months through June 2017
- Increased number of riders over next two years

Action Item 2 – Replace, refurbish and add new bus shelters to protect riders in inclimate weather. Clear growth and brush around current shelters.

- Build new bus shelters
- Repair and refurbish existing shelters
- Clear tree growth and brush around shelters

Progress Measure

- Number of new shelters added by June of 2017
- Number of shelters repaired through 2017
- Numbers of shelters reported with visibility and accessibility issues, On-going

Action Item 3 – Improve walkability of streets

- Work with Agusta Commissioners, Planning and Development and City Engineering Department to gain adoption of Complete Streets Policies

Progress Measure

- Complete Streets Policies adopted as a regulatory requirement for the City

Image- AARP Walkable Streets

Outdoor Spaces and Building – Domain 2

Domain: Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Domain Lead: Pat Houck, Co-Lead Stella Nunnally

Domain Goal:

To provide ample outdoor spaces and recreational facilities that are safe and accessible to residents of all ages.

Overview

The World Health Organization (WHO) found that "the outside environment and public buildings have a major impact on the mobility, independence and quality of life of older people and affect their ability to age in place." In it's study of 33 urban areas, WHO found the following elements were of most concern to the aging population: pleasant and clean environment, green spaces, somewhere to rest, age-friendly pavement, safe pedestrian crossings, accessibility, a secure environment, walk ways , trails and bike paths, age-friendly buildings, adequate public rest rooms, etc. Outdoor spaces and buildings are places where our citizens spend substantial amounts of time and therefore, require the needed attention to insure our outdoor spaces and buildings are accessible, clean, safe and inviting.

Current Status

Augusta's public outdoor spaces and buildings are under the purview of the Augusta Recreation, Parks and Facilities Department. The Department operates and maintains 60 parks totaling over 1,000 acres. In addition, the Department manages municipal cemetery operations and provides maintenance and technical support for City owned facilities. An inventory analysis is included in the Appendix, Park Inventory and Condition.

The AARP Livability Index rates Augusta a 36 in the Measure of Neighborhoods which looks at access to life, work and play. The measure that relates to the Age-Friendly Domain of Out Door Spaces and Buildings was Proximity to destinations- Access to Parks and Access to Libraries. Livability Index has no values reported for these measure. The Augusta Park Inventory provides information on our parks and their conditions which if recorded would probably move us from below average on access to parks. If we look at our libraries and the number of libraries within a half-mile at neighborhood scale. We would be found to lacking.

A customized series of park categories have been developed that are unique to Augusta. These categories were developed based on observations of existing parks and the types of uses that could be commonly found within them. This is included in the Appendix, Augusta Park Models.

The Department offers a wide variety of youth and adult programs and events. Some of the core program areas are included as Appendix C. Program Assessment. (Attached) As part of a current master planning process being conducted, a statically valid 2015 Community Survey was conducted and is included as Appendix D. 2015 Community Survey. (Attached) Among the information collected with regards to recreation, park and facilities included most important programs, most important facilities, and the potential benefits of a dynamic park system and age composition of our population.

The top facilities identified as most important and unmet needs were: walking, hiking and bike trails; small neighborhood park; larger community parks; and, picnic/shelter areas. Among the most important programs identified were: adult fitness wellness programs; nature; water fitness; special events; and senior adult programs.

In terms of the age segment, as of 2014, Augusta's population under the age of 35 was 48.4% and those over age 35 was 51.6%. Overtime the overall composition of the population is projected to undergo and aging trend. Based on 2029 estimates, the 55+ age group continues to distance itself as the largest age group constituting 31.2% of Augusta's population. This is consistent with national trends where the 55+ age group has been growing as a result of life expectancies and the baby boomer population entering that age group.

Despite the fact that adult and senior population represent over 50% of the local population (median age 33.9 years) the balance of age segment distribution for programs is skewered towards youth. Based on current program offerings by the Department, 56% of all programming is geared towards ages 24 and below. It is typical nation-wide for public park and recreation agencies to focus heavily on youth and families.

Only 10% of programs cater to the 65+ population. As the 55+ age segment continues to grow as projected, it will be critical that age segment distribution for programs and facilities be annually reviewed to better address these gaps. In addition, given the differences in how active the adults (55+) participate in recreation programs, the trend is moving toward having at least two different segments of older adults, perhaps programming for the 55-74 age segment and the 75+ age segment.

The top listing of the potential benefits of a good park system which encompasses balanced program offerings in accessible, clean, safe and attractive spaces, whether they are outdoor or indoor was identified as follows:

1. Makes Augusta a more desirable place to live
2. Helps reduce crime
3. Improves physical health/fitness
4. Helps attract new residents and businesses
5. Increased property values
6. Improves mental health and reduces stress.

Impacting Communities

The National Recreation and Park Association list three pillars that are a communications strategy, that assist public agencies to communicate those priorities to the public and policymakers.

"Our nation's local parks and recreation are the gateways to healthy, prosperous and connected communities. On any given day, someone is being positively affected through parks and recreation – whether they are taking a walk on a trail or fitness class at the community center, getting a nutritious meal or just reaping the benefits of clean air and water because of preserved open space.

The work of local parks and recreation takes on some of our nation's toughest challenges like obesity, the economy and environmental sustainability and offers solutions. Local parks and recreation are uniquely positioned to make significant contributions in these areas, and do by providing critical front-line services and resources."

Conservation—Parks are critical in the role of preserving natural resources that have real economic benefits for communities. You are the leaders, often the only voice in communities, for protecting open space, connecting children to nature, and providing education and programming that helps communities engage in conservation practices.

Health and Wellness—Agencies lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of communities. You are essential partners in combating some of the most complicated and expensive challenges our country faces –poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity.

Social Equity—Universal access to public parks and recreation are a right, not just a privilege. Every day you are working hard to ensure that all members of your community have access to the resources and programming you offer. Very few – if any – can claim the same.

Action Plan: *(Please refer to the Augusta Age Friendly Domains – Actions and Timelines Table for a complete list of lead agencies and partners responsible for Action Items)*

Action Item 1 – Enhance Augusta's ability to improve the age-friendliness of our local parks, recreational facilities and other open spaces through a real time customer service application customized for the Augusta Recreation, Parks and Facilities Department

- Establish and implement a customized customer service app designed specifically for Augusta Recreation, Parks and Facilities

- Provide for this software to be available on all community-use based computers located at community and senior service centers with large screen technology, available in optional languages
- Based on need, have customer service representatives available to assist the user
- Provide free smart phone and personal computer training on the established app at all senior service centers

Progress Measure

- Implementation by June 2017
- Documented training opportunities/patrons
- Number of hits on the specifically designed app

Action Item 2 – Develop strategies with local law enforcement to maintain and enhance the safety and security measures expected at our local parks, recreational facilities, other open spaces and buildings located throughout the Augusta-Richmond County

- Work with the Richmond County Sheriff's Office, Richmond County Marshall's Office, Augusta Fire and Rescue, Augusta Recreation, Parks and Facilities, Richmond County Health Department and other identified neighborhood associations and NGO's in establishing measures to insure the customer's experience at our local outdoor spaces and buildings have the appropriate health, safety, security and environmental procedures in place
- Work with local architects, landscape architects and builders to insure these measures are incorporated into design with new projects and rehabilitation/improvement projects

Progress Measure

- Number of open forums
- Number of new initiatives developed
- Collection of statistical data reflecting reduced crime rates, break-ins, vandalism, risk management claims
- On-going continuous measurement with annual reporting of data

Action Item 3 – Establish "Age-Friendly Parks"

- Working in conjunction with the Outdoor Spaces and Building Domain Committee and the Augusta Recreation, Parks and Facilities Department, identify, create and implement designation criteria to quantify and qualify designation status for our local parks to achieve status as an "Age-Friendly Park"
- To recognize and identify through appropriate signage, web page and app presence, and other media campaigns to publically acknowledge and market
- Promote Augusta Commission official adoption of this park designation

Progress Measure

- Establishment of criteria/program by July 2016
- Complete the process to have one Age-Friendly Park designation by December 2016
- Augusta Commission official recognition of an "Age-Friendly Park"

Action Item 4 – Contact officials from other communities that have successful community parks with high public utilization by all ages and physical abilities that are also Age-Friendly Cities in identifying best managed practices and be able to benchmark Augusta's effort through safe, clean and accessible open spaces and buildings

- On-going activity through the Augusta Recreation, Parks and Facilities Department

Progress Measure

- Continuous with a report of findings/communities contacted/data received, annually

Action Item 5 – Initiate, monitor and document a pilot project for outdoor exercise equipment designed to help older adults stay mobile, active, healthy and physically active in their community

- Implement, monitor and document through 2016
- Provide education/training on appropriate use geared toward the senior adult
- As a pilot program identify location(s) that have an established base of senior adult activity as well as being adjacent to walking paths/trails

Progress Measure

- Participant usage
- Documented comments
- Physical evaluation of installed equipment and the capability to withstand weather, usage, vandalism, etc.
- Program evaluation to determine the need and to plan for additional senior friendly outdoor exercise equipment/opportunities throughout the Augusta Community

Action Item 6 – Continue to build partnerships and develop sustainable efforts to create, rehabilitate, improve, maintain and better utilize all community parks, recreational facilities and other open spaces to offer safe, accessible and affordable recreational opportunities for physical activity for persons of all ages and abilities

- Continue to build community relationships with all local providers of youth and adult programs in a variety of indoor and outdoor spaces (YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Churches, KROC Center, Augusta Canal Authority, etc.)
- Implement a time-line and program plan for quality of Life projects included in the recently approved SPLOST VII referendum

Progress Measure

- SPLOST VII time-line and priority project identification to be completed by April 2016
- Number of public meetings conducted to community stakeholders in providing input as to use, improvements, etc. with open spaces and building improvements
- Implementation plan adopted based on funding availability over the next five years

Housing – Domain 3

Domain: Housing

Domain Lead: Hawthorne Welcher, Co-Lead Sabrina Paige

Domain Goal:

In order to house an aging population and make Augusta friendly to people of all ages and abilities, it is important to assure a full range of housing options that are planned and built to be accessible, affordable, and secure.

Overview:

The mission of the Augusta-Richmond County Housing and Community Development is to create positive change by promoting self-sufficiency through partnership in economic development, quality housing, and neighborhood reinvestment. This includes our seniors…..

Housing must be available, affordable, and be close to available services such as doctor's offices, grocery stores, pharmacies, community centers and public transportation.

Current Status:

The AARP Livability Index for rates Housing in Augusta a **62** and there are no below average measures. Augusta nearly doubles the median US rate on the Housing measure for Availability of subsidized housing. There are three policy areas related to housing that do not exist in Augusta.

Housing Accessibility 2.6 % - Percentage of housing units with extra-wide doors or hallways, floors with no steps between rooms, and an entry-level bedroom and bathroom: measured at the metro area scale. Median U.S. Neighborhood is 2.6%

Housing Options 27.7% - Percentage of housing units that are not single-family, detached homes: measured at the neighborhood scale. Median U.S. neighborhood is 18.8

Housing Affordability $840.00 per month. Monthly housing costs: measured at the neighborhood scale. Median U.S. neighborhood is $999.00

Housing Affordability (housing cost burden) 17.6% of income spent on housing. Median U.S. neighborhood is 18.4%

Housing Affordability (availability of subsidized housing) 236 units per 10,000 people. Median U.S. neighborhood is 124

Mean prices in 2013:

All housing units: $117,603;
Detached houses: $122,262;
Townhouses or other attached units: $139,360;
In 3-to-4-unit structures: $100,254;

In 5-or-more-unit structures: $357,545;
Mobile homes: $51,701

- Senior Housing (Augusta Housing Authority) **517** units are specified for Seniors. Tenants must be able to live independently. If an aide is required a two bedroom unit must be available. Rent is based on income.
- Powell Pointe - there are 8 single-family units and 32 duplex units of public housing for the elderly and disabled
- Walton Terrace. 40 1-Bedroom Units
- In addition to the 517 units specified for seniors by the Augusta Housing Authority there are at least thirteen other apartment complexes specified for seniors and at least nine senior assisted living apartments.
- There are presently 841 people on the elderly public housing wait list.

Current Age-Friendly Projects/Programs

- **Home Rehabilitation Program** - This program is designed to reduce/eliminate blighted conditions and structures and allow homeowners who occupy their homes to utilize CDBG funds to assist towards repairing, rehabilitating and reconstructing homes that are in significant disrepair.
- **Emergency Home Repair Program** is designed to offer financial relief for homeowners who are in need of emergency repairs to their homes and who require **accessibility modifications to their home allowing them to age in place**. An emergency repair is any repair necessary to correct an impending safety or health hazard, threat of physical danger, or deteriorating structural damage to residences. Through the issuance of a one-time grant, the program will offer financial assistance to qualified homeowners up to $5,000.
- **Paint Program**. This program is designed to supply exterior paint and associated supplies (paint brushes, buckets, etc.) to homeowners who wish to paint and perform minor repairs to the exterior areas of their home. The materials (paint, paint brushes, buckets, etc.) are free of charge; however, the homeowner will be responsible for supplying the labor component of the program and perform the necessary repairs to damaged, deteriorated or structural components of the property to be painted.

Recommendations to strengthen housing program

- Increase the availability of safe, age-friendly housing units
- Promote affordable housing options
- Strengthen federal housing programs
- Increase capacity for public-private partnerships
- Promote financial security of housing assets
- Increase the number of jobs and amount of private capital invested in the city, particularly in the Central Business District and neighborhood commercial areas.
- Support public facilities and services that contribute to revitalization and provide public facility improvements that support physical development and revitalization.

Examples of elderly and disabled housing projects completed:

Powell Point Senior Housing - 8 single-family units and 32 duplex units of public housing for the elderly and disabled

The Legacy at Walton Oaks - Rates from $536.00 - 75 units for residents older than 55. Twelve units are reserved for low-income public housing tenants and 26 for project-based rental assistance.

Action Plan: *(Please refer to the Augusta Age Friendly Domains – Actions and Timelines Table for a complete list of lead agencies and partners responsible for Action Items)*

***Action Item 1* - Review and improve city housing policies related to design, cost and ADA standards.**

- Establish a mechanism for citizen participation in planning and development of community housing projects**.**

Performance Measure

- An organized and functioning citizen group that works with city departments in planning, designing, and developing new housing developments -2016

Action Item 2 – Reduce the waiting list for public housing for seniors and disabled residents.

- Increase housing stock by building 80 units consisting of 1br, 2br and 3br units during a phase 1 funding and build out process
- Increase housing stock by building 45 housing units of 1br, 2br, and 3br units during a phase 2 funding and build out process

Performance Measure

- Phase 1 complete 80 housing units by end of 2017
- Phase 2 complete 45 housing units by end of 2018

Social Participation and Diverse Inclusion – Domain 4

Domain: Social Participation and Diverse Inclusion

Domain Lead: Elizabeth Jones,

Co-Lead: Joyce Downs

Domain Goal

To insure that residents, ages 50+ have a wide range of activities and programs available to them and to insure that activities are inclusive of are races and age groups.

Overview

The domain of social participation is a very important aspect of Age-Friendly communities. Statistics support that people, ages 50+ senior citizens who have easy access to leisure and cultural activities are healthier and that they also live longer. Over 400 residents, ages 50+ senior citizens surveyed in the Augusta community reported positive social inclusion is very important to them. The residents surveyed included individuals from very low to high - income individuals residing in single housing, public housing, senior communities and apartment complexes.

Current Status

Currently, there are eight public community centers that have been identified as providing quality, ongoing services for our target audience. In addition to the senior centers, there are three family YMCA's and a Kroc Center that also provide multi-family services to the community. Pool services are offered at 4 sites. Ten Churches were identified as having at least one weekly program for older citizens. Only three sites were identified as navigable, safe walking or biking sites for the Augusta Community. Seniors reported the current bike and walking trails had uneven, and in some instances steep inclines that made it impossible for them to use. Most participants surveyed stated that they would like to see Augusta provide more funding for multi-purpose community centers and biking and walking trails. The multi-purpose centers should be designed to accommodate people of all ages including those with disabilities. Participants also reported that they would like to see increased funding for offsite health and wellness programs that are being provided by Shiloh Comprehensive Community Center through funding from the CSRA Regional Commission, Area Agency on Aging. They reported these programs are essential for residents who do not have access to transportation. Access to more warm water aerobics that are currently provided by 2 Augusta Richmond County recreation centers and the Kroc Center were also requested. Senior Citizens living in public and senior communities stated laws should be enacted that mandate adequate on-site space for recreational activities.

Recommendations for Social Participation and Diverse Inclusion Strategies

- Provide supplemental funding for the health and wellness program that is being offered by Shiloh Comprehensive Community Center to senior citizens who do not have access to services and/or transportation to get to community centers.
- Utilize Augusta land to create more green spaces in neighborhoods.
- Create an ad hoc committee comprised or civic groups, Churches, fraternities and sororities to adopt and maintain green spaces. These groups can be major stakeholders if they will provide ongoing support and funding to maintain the spaces. Signage could be erected to identify the groups who are maintaining the green spaces.
- Create an age-friendly collaboration that would include community centers, Churches, non-profits, hospitals, the Area Agency on Aging, health and wellness providers, civic groups, business partners and community leaders to continue to assess and implement new programs and facilities.
- Improve communication about existing and upcoming programs through news media, social media, Churches, Libraries, and Community Centers.
- Increase the number of community centers that provide specific programming for community members age 50+ and people with disabilities.
- Create a wide, 5 mile flat surface bicycle/walking track for members age 50+ and people with disabilities.
- Partner with non-government community centers and non-profits to provide services that Augusta does not offer.
- Create parks/green spaces for families.
- Improve outdoor lighting for night walkers.
- Connect the walking track in North Augusta to a track in Augusta.

Action Plan: *(Please refer to the Augusta Age Friendly Domains – Actions and Timelines Table for a complete list of lead agencies and partners responsible for Action Items)*

Action Item 1 – Increase the number of available community facilities available for programs

- Add 2 new community centers that provide specific programs for the 50+ community

Performance Measure

- Number of new facilities available for senior programs

Action Item 2 – Create additional programs targeting multigenerational and multicultural audiences

- Provide programs on weekends designed to reach older workers and Latinos
- Provide supervised indoor programming for youth,

Performance Measure

- ***Number of weekend programs with 50+ and Latino participants in programs***
- ***Number of youth participants in programs***

Civic Participation and Employment - Domain 5

Domain 5: Civic participation and Employment

Domain Lead: James Quarles Domain Co-Lead Leroy Rogers

Domain Goal

To provide information and opportunities for residents, ages 50+ to volunteer and work through improved information sharing and collaboration with businesses.

Overview

In Age-Friendly/Livable Communities there should be opportunities for older people to continue work after retirement if they want to do so, or if their financial circumstances require them to do so. In many cases older individuals just want to give back to society by working in a volunteer capacity that benefits the community or sometimes their families. Older people who access and opportunities to remain actively involved in either paid or volunteer work live longer, healthier lives. In addition to opportunities for employment, older people should be encouraged and given a forum or platform for civic engagement. The voices of older people in matters related to the livability of their community should be heard routinely.

In some communities there are programs and policies that make it easier for older citizens to participate. While in other citizens there are social, cultural and physical barriers surrounding the concept of older people working or being involved in civic matters. Some issues are related to transportation, policies and regulations that prohibit extra earnings, issues of safety as sometimes frail, older people travel in public conveyance.

Current Status

- The Livability Index rated Augusta 51 in the area of Engagement. This is just above the national average, but in most areas the metric and their related ratings are extremely low. For example, when we look at the WHO rating for opportunity for civic engagement, the rating was 8.9. This measure looks at the number of organizations per 10,000 people that organize, engage or reach out to older people to gain more civic engagement. The national median number is 7.3.

- The Livability Index measured opportunity by looking at whether there was a strong fiscally healthy local government; whether the community provides residents an equal Opportunity, just above the national rating. However, Augusta rated 55.7 compared to the national median neighborhood rating of 81.3. The negative impact is due to the extremely low High School Graduation Rate.

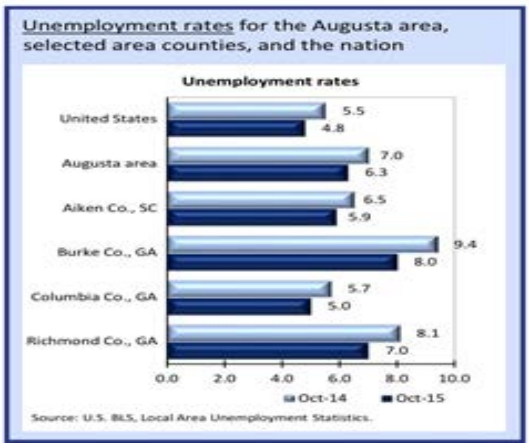
- The unemployment rate for persons aged 55 years and older has increased sharply since the beginning of the recession in December 2007.[1] The jobless rate among older workers was 7.1 percent (seasonally adjusted) in February 2010, just shy of the

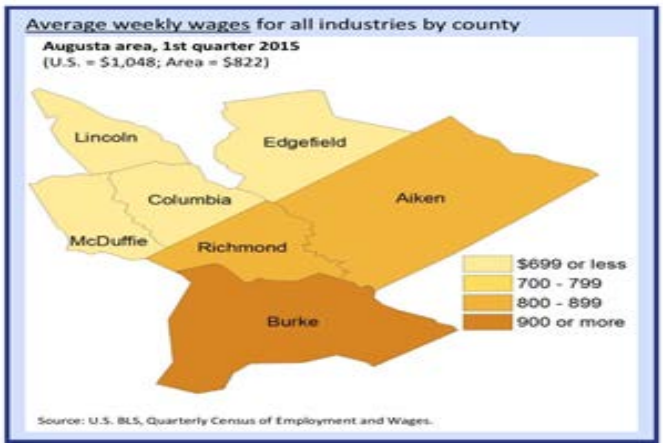
record-high level of 7.2 percent in December 2009. (See chart 1.) At the same time, the labor force participation rate—the proportion of the population that is either employed or looking for work—for this group rose during much of the recession, before leveling off in recent months. Employment for this group rose during much of the recession, before leveling off in recent months.

Table 1. Selected labor force measures, by age, February 2010, not seasonally adjusted

Characteristic	Total, 16 years and older	16 to 24 years	25 to 54 years	55 years and older
Total unemployed (in thousands)	15,991	3,888	9,843	2,260
Percentage unemployed 27 weeks or longer	39.3	28.5	41.3	49.1
Median number of weeks unemployed	19.6	14.4	20.6	26.7
Average number of weeks unemployed	29.3	23.3	30.3	35.5

- The unemployment rate in the Augusta, 7.0 in 2014 and 6.3 in 2015, finds the community rate well above the United States rate of 5.5 and 4.8. The Richmond County rate of unemployment is relatively high, 9.1 in 2014 and 7.0 in 2015; second only to Burke County.





Recommendations

- Age-Friendly Business Initiative could be a win-win for everyone. It would be an opportunity to educate and train business owners to better engage older adults through changes in marketing and customer service. This could be an opportunity to welcome older adult consumers and work toward meeting their needs.
- For a business owner, employing experienced, individuals ages 50+ could potentially be a plus their business. Research shows that older shoppers outspend younger shoppers.
- Increase marketing efforts by word of mouth
- The Concepts of Age-Friendly and the communications network can involve seniors on how to establish their own business (i.e. selling the vegetables they grow, making

pottery or jewelry, these are just a few ideas to ensure inclusive and independence within our community).

- Business owners can attend meetings seeking out experienced individual for job opportunities;
- Being a business that accommodates older customers is becoming a necessity;
- There are a number of program to assist in starting your own business (DOT, Small Business; SBA)
- Several grants in Augusta require employing individuals within the community (there is no requirement of the age, due to the discrimination laws). Age-Friendly will work with government leaders and community organizations to promote the use of residents ages 50+ as valued employees.
- There is a company in Augusta called "Experience Works". This employment company specializes in providing employment opportunities for seniors. Age–Friendly will reach out to the manager to help conduct a workshop for seniors to provide information on this resource.
- Develop a strategy with Fort Gordon, the Office of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Labor and business to increase hiring of Veterans.

There is great benefit to hiring 50+ workers and we have to convey the message that senior workers are loyal, punctual, and honest, detail oriented, have good communication skills, are respectful, and have the maturity that can set examples for younger employees.

Action Plan: *(Please refer to the Augusta Age Friendly Domains – Actions and Timelines Table for a complete list of lead agencies and partners responsible for Action Items)*

Action Item 1 – Increase employer's awareness of 50+ workforce

- Participate in Augusta Chronicle's Life After 50 Expo and promote hiring of older workers.
- Promote older adult workers through public service announcements on radio and television
- Create an Age-Friendly senior registry through Facebook or voicemail for seniors needing or wanting to work

Performance Measures

- Number of seniors Age-Friendly can identify as assisting with job placement

Communication and Information – Domain 6

Domain: Communication and Information

Domain Lead: Tameka Allen Co-Leads Dee Griffin and Tonia Gibbons

Domain Goal

To increase the knowledge and awareness of residents ages 50+ related to the resources, services and opportunities available to improve all aspects of quality of life and make the community more livable for citizens of all ages.

Overview

The Communication and Information Domain was identified to provide access to technology that will help senior people connect with their community, friends and family. When developing recommendations for more Age-Friendly communication and information, Augusta-Richmond reviewed the results of a countywide survey and the input provided from several meetings that were held throughout the community. The World Health Organization does not have a metric that rates Communication and Information.

Current Status

1. In regards to resources for information,

   - 74% of the respondents would turn to AARP as a resource for information about services for older adults such as caregiving services, home delivered meals, home repair, medical transport or social activities.
   - 76% of the respondents would turn to the Local Area Agency on Aging as a resource for information about services for older adults such as caregiving services, home delivered meals, home repair, medical transport or social activities.

   In each of the above cases, the majority of the respondents are not members of AARP.

   - 75 – 77% of the respondents feel the community rating is Good – Very Good.

   - 84% of the respondents feel it is important to have access to community information in one central location.
   - At least 84% of the respondents support and feel the following is important,
   - Clearly displayed printed community information with large lettering
   - Automated community information source that is easy to understand like a toll-free telephone number

- Free access to computers and the Internet in public places such as the library, senior centers or government buildings
- Community information that is delivered in person to people who may have difficulty or may not be able to leave their home
- 78% of the respondents felt it was important to make the community information available in a number of languages. There were only a small group of respondents that were of Hispanic origin.

Opportunities

- The Communication and Information domain identified the following opportunities that can assist and be factored into the recommendation and path forward:
- The City of Augusta currently has a website that is accessible by all
- Various social media sites
- Various radio stations
- Local News Stations
- Local Newspapers
- Various recreational sites

Recomendations

- Based on the results of the survey and the other respective input received, the Communication and Information domain recommend the following:
- Annually sponsor an outreach activity that will expose our targeted population with tools resources available to them. This activity will be announced by all local new stations, newspapers and the various radio stations.
- Develop an annual booklet which includes all contact information aging related resources. This booklet can be distributed to the various recreational sites and given to other agencies that can deliver this information to residents 50+that may not be able to leave their home.
- Increase the awareness of the public services, such as computer training and computer access, offered by the City of Augusta's various recreational sites and public libraries.

Action Plan: *(Please refer to the Augusta Age Friendly Domains – Actions and Timelines Table for a complete list of lead agencies and partners responsible for Action Items)*

Action Item 1 - Develop a central repository on the Augusta Georgia website for senior information and provide a link for seniors

- Utilize city IT department and create the repository and the linkage to other sites
- Develop the marketing and publicity to increase awareness of "Senior Connect"

Performance Measure

- City will track the number of hits on the sites and measure over time to determine utility
- Monitor senior participation in community events

Action Item 2 – Facilitate the increased use of technology in the 50+ population through workshops and training

- Host two technology workshops for seniors on use of smartphones, ipads, computers and social media before September 2017
- Work with local technical schools and colleges to get students to volunteer as instructors

Performance Measure

- Number of attendees at workshops
- Increased contact with "Senior Connect" site
- Number of volunteer instructors for workshops

Community Support and Health Services – Domain 7

Domain: Community Support and Health Services

Domain Lead: Wallace White, Co-Leads Ethel Jenkins and Hezekiah Aikens

Domain Goal

To organize a network or coalition of the numerous health and support services available to residents, ages 50+ and improve healthy behaviors.

Overview

A fundamental aspect of living and aging well is the ability to maintain good health and have the resources necessary to manage health problems as they arise. It is unavoidable that as we age there is greater likelihood of being diagnosed with at least one chronic health condition, but the ability to manage those conditions can alleviate many of the challenges associated with poor health.

A diagnosis of a chronic illness or disability should not require seniors to sacrifice their independence and quality of life. Living well requires individuals to educate themselves about their health needs and implement ways of managing their illness and minimalizing its impact on their lives. For this reason, strong community support and accessible health services become an integral part of aging well. Livability Index has identified a number of elements that community support and health services should address when considering the specific needs of older members of the community. These include: availability and accessibility of health care services, voluntary support of a diverse demographic, and inclusion of emergency planning and care. Livability Index rates Augusta a 41 for Health prevention, access and quality. See Appendix C for all health metrics.

Current Status

There are many organizations in Augusta working to provide increased access to social services for Augusta-Richmond residents. Assistance come in many forms, ranging from transportation agencies to health care providers, and from legal support to hot meals delivered at home. Below is an abridged table of some of the organizations that provide assistance to Augusta residents.

CSRA Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging	Initial gateway to community resources through its Adults & Disabilities Resource Connection (ADRC). Provides chronic disease management and diabetes counseling and conducts wellness programs such as Tai Chi, operates the GeorgiaCares program, and offer caregiver support.
Department of Human Services-Adult Protective	The Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Aging Services, Adult Protective Services (APS)

Services	investigates all reports of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation of older persons (65+) or an adult (18+) with a disability who do not reside in long-term care facilities pursuant to the Disabled Adults and Elder Protection Act.
Augusta University	Provides research to improve health disparities within the CSRA region.
Augusta-Richmond County Recreation & Parks Department	Provides multiple activities centers to enhance the well-being of older adults and persons with disabilities within the community. Focuses on health & wellness activities to have a better quality of life.
Golden Harvest Food Bank	Provide emergency food to at-risk populations who are food insecure in our service area. We assist them to referring to other benefits such as SNAP & TANF enrollment.
Richmond County Board of Education	Educating grandparents raising grandchildren and caregivers on the importance community based resources to enhance the quality of life for children.
Senior Citizens Council of Greater Augusta	Provides advocacy and volunteer employment through the Senior Corps Program.
United Way of the CSRA	Creates opportunities for a better life for all. They focus on the things everyone needs for a good life such as: a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement and good health.

Opportunities Identified

Understanding the need for disease education and management tools, Domain 7 has identified the following as opportunities to improve Augusta-Richmond's age-friendliness with community and health services:

- Implementation of on-going community educational forums. The purpose of these forums would be to educate older individuals and their caretakers about a range of topics focusing on health care and health care access, including:
    - Prevention and management of disease, illness, and injury.
    - The importance of wellness check-ups, good nutrition, and exercise.
    - Perceived and genuine barriers to basic health care needs.
    - Ways to effectively communicate with healthcare providers and caregivers.
    - Sensitive topics such as elder abuse, mental health care, etc.
    - Guidance on health insurance coverage through Area Agency on Aging GeorgiaCares program.

- Use of social media outlets to publish Public Service Announcements (PSA's) with public health messages addressing the most common health issues of Augusta-Richmond residents, including prevention, treatment options, and availability of services.

- Implement a community needs assessment utilizing focus groups with older Augusta-Richmond County residents to determine what their greatest needs and concerns are relating to health and health care accessibility.
- Identify transportation services available to take individuals on health-related trips and widely advertise the availability of these resources throughout the community.
- Research the availability of caregiver support services and work with social service agencies to address any deficits in this area.

Current Age-Friendly Projects

There are many community organizations in Augusta that are working hard to provide increased access to services for Augusta residents, ages 50+. Some of the current organizations and projects highlighted include:

- **Area Agency on Aging (AAA)** – Screens seniors and disabled individuals that may be eligible to receive services that allow them to remain in their homes. Available services include home-delivered meals, homemaker services, personal care, respite care, and congregate meals. The AAA also manages a resource database that can provide information on where consumers can try to obtain transportation services, health services, and emergency energy assistance programs. Also, Aging & Disability Resource Connection addresses mental health services with program assistance for low income and homeless clients including counseling, psychiatry, prescription assistance, and housing for clients with chronic mental illness.

- **Golden Harvest Food Bank**– Serves the community by providing consistent food assistance to at-risk populations and the community at-large (including the elderly and disabled, homeless and needy).

- **Medical Associates Plus** – Offers preventive and primary care to anyone, regardless of insurance status; Medicaid, Medicare, PeachCare, and commercial insurance is accepted. Uninsured patients can apply for a discount based on family income. Assistance is also provided for prescriptions, labs, and screening and treatment of chronic disease.

- **United Way of the CSRA**- Serves the community through helping youth to succeed, promoting health & wellness programs, providing basic needs to local residents and strengthening families and individuals.

Action Plan: *(Please refer to the Augusta Age Friendly Domains – Actions and Timelines Table for a complete list of lead agencies and partners responsible for Action Items)*

With the growing population of seniors in the Augusta-Richmond area, understanding the need for community organizations that are able to offer access to services to continue to grow and expand. With this in mind, our committee concurs with following recommendations and implementation steps:

Action Item 1 - Conduct focus group discussions with older residents of Augusta-Richmond in order to hear from constituents what their greatest concerns and recommendations are for improving health care, social support, and access to services during 2016 and 2017

- Collaborate with students and faculty at Augusta University to plan and implement community wide survey.
- Analyze data and disseminate this information beginning with the Age-Friendly Community Advisory Council in order to better inform the community of our work.
- Use collected data to help the Social Support and Health Committee

Performance Measure

- Numbers of surveys completed
- Recommendations resulting from surveys
- Number of recommendations implemented through workshops, public service announcements, and community events
- Utility of the methods developed to conduct similar focus group discussions about sustainability and consistency of these projects.

Action Item 2 - Conduct regular on-going educational forums addressing health issues that were identified by focus group participants and through discussions with service providers and other stakeholders.

- Solicit speakers from community organizations, gerontology health care specialists, and other organizations.
- Hold forums in easily accessible community locations and make these events a regular feature in the community.

Performance Measures

- Numbers of supporting and participating organizations
- Community participants in forums

Action Item 3 - Create and air PSAs with relevant public health information and messages

- Solicit participation of locally known figures as actors/presenters to personalize messages and increase self-efficacy among audience
- Collaborate with advertising experts and educators to craft appropriate message

Performance Measure

- Units of public service air time for PSA's

Augusta Age-Friendly Domains - Actions and Timelines

Domain	Recommended Action	Timeline
Transportation **Lead Agency: Augusta Transit** **Partners:** **Transportation Planning** **Augusta Planning and Development** **Department of Transportation** **CSRA Planning Commission** **Augusta Traffic Engineering** **Walton Options** **Walton Foundation**	*Complete Augusta ADA Evaluation *Review Existing Agency Plans *Adopt Complete Streets as policy *Implement Recommendations from ADA study on bus stops *Replace Bus Shelters *Complete Route Analysis Study *Replace Aging Fleet of busses 5 para transit busses and three 40 feet *Develop new branding & awareness campaign *Develop Senior Traveler Training Program *Implement recommendations from AF Walkability Streets Assessment	June 2016 April 2016 Jan 2016 1st Qtr. 2016 Ongoing June 2016 Dec 2015 & Jun 2016 Apr 2016 TBD TBD
Outdoor Spaces and Facilities **Lead Agency: Augusta Recreation** **Partners:** **Augusta Convention Bureau** **Savannah Riverkeeper** **Downtown Development Authority** **Augusta Arts Council**	*Develop real time customer service app and training for seniors *Develop strategies and regulations with law enforcement to ensure park safety *Establish Age-Friendly Parks *Monitor a pilot test project for outdoor exercise equipment for older adults to stay mobile *Build community relationships with partners such as YMCA, Kroc Center, Churches, and Augusta Canal Authority	June 2017 Dec 2016 Dec 2016 Through 2016 Ongoing
Housing **Lead Agency: Housing and Community Development** **Partners:** **Augusta Fire Department** **Richmond County Sheriff** **Augusta Housing Authority** **Walton Foundation**	*Reduce the waiting list for senior housing *Redevelopment of Cherry Tree Crossing 2 phases, 80 and 45 units for seniors 55+ *Increase capacity for public-private partnerships *Encourage citizen participation in planning, implementation, and evaluation of community development program	Ongoing 2017 & 2018 2016 & 2017 Sept 2016
Social Participation and	*Increase the number of community	Ongoing

Diverse Inclusion **Lead Agency: Shiloh Comprehensive community Center** **Partners:** **Associacion Cultural Hispano-americano** **Salvation Army Kroc Center** **Senior Citizens Council** **National Coalition of 100 Black Women** **National Coalition of 100 Black Men**	centers providing programming for community members 50+ and people with disabilities *Create 5 mile flat surface bike/walk track *Create an ad hoc committee of civic groups, churches, sororities to adopt and maintain green spaces *Support Hispanic Festival and diversity programs *Seek supplemental funding for health and wellness programs offered by Shiloh Community Center to qualified seniors	June 2017 May 2016 October 2016 Ongoing
Civic Participation and Employment **Lead Agency: Department of Labor** **Partners:** **Department of Defense** **Augusta University** **Veterans Administration** **Paine College**	*Establish Age-Friendly partnership with Chamber of Commerce to promote hiring of seniors *Conduct a Small Business Seminar for aspiring entrepreneurs, ages 50+ wanting to start a business *Invite Experience Works to present a seminar for Advisory Council and community members ages 50+ Sponsor an AARP Work and Save Training for community members, ages 50+	February 2016 January 2017 August 2016 November 2016

Conclusion

In conjunction with the Augusta Age-Friendly Action Plan, This workgroup domain has also created a Work Plan that includes recommendations and implementation steps included in this plan. The Work Plan goes into more detail and outlines a timeline for each implementation step and also assigns this task to an individual, a group of individuals, or a particular organization. This Work Plan will be updated as the status of each implementation action item is addressed. Both the Work Plan and the Age-Friendly Action Plan are designed to be an active, living document. The Plan will be updated accordingly as priorities change, action items are addressed, and new stakeholders are brought to the table, and as new recommendations are added. The Plan will be reviewed annually to ensure that goals are being met and to discuss any barriers or opportunities that have come into play over the last year. The annual review will also allow the committee to measure success and to help document Age-Friendly progress over the course of the five-year designation period.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Designation as Age-Friendly Community
- A1: Mayor's Letter of Interest in Age-Friendly - 2014
- A2: New Release announcing Age-Friendly Designation

Appendix B: Advisory Council Members
- B1: Age-Friendly Community Advisory Citizens Committee
- B2: Age-Friendly Advisory Council (Current)
- B3: Domain Leaders and members

Appendix C: Walkability Survey

Appendix D: Customized Community Assessment (English & Spanish)
- D1: English Version Community Assessment
- D2: Spanish Version Community Assessment

Appendix E: AARP Livability Index
- E1: Livability Index News Release
- E2: Index Rates by Domain for Augusta

Appendix F: Parks and Recreation Assessment Report

Appendix G: ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan

Appendix H: Socioeconomic and Transportation Summary

Appendix I: Community Assessment Augusta-Richmond County

Appendix J: Augusta-Richmond Emergency Operations Plan -Summary

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