

Frederick Orloski Chair, Select board, Town of Whately 4 Sandy Lane South Deerfield, Massachusetts 01373

Dear Chair Orloski,

Congratulations to the Town of Whately, Massachusetts for becoming the 539<sup>th</sup> community to enroll in the **AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities**.

The AARP age-friendly network encourages states, counties, cities, towns and rural areas to prepare for the rapid aging of our nation's population. The network encourages elected officials and local leaders to focus on and strengthen the features and services that help to make communities livable for residents of all ages, from the cradle through retirement.

Launched in April 2012, the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities is an organizational affiliate of the World Health Organization Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, a program launched in 2006. Through the age-friendly program, AARP helps participating communities to become more livable and age-friendly by creating safer and more walkable streets, needed housing and transportation options, better access to key services, and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities.

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities provides a structured process that guides change and serves as a catalyst to educate, encourage, promote and recognize improvements that benefit residents of all ages and life stages. Enrollment in the network provides member communities with the resources to become more age-friendly by tapping into national and global research, planning models and best practices.

For additional information and support as you move through the age-friendly process, please visit *AARP.org/AgeFriendly* and/or contact Bill Armbruster, AARP Livable Communities Senior Advisor, by email at *warmbruster@aarp.org* or by telephone at 585-729-1850.

Thank you for being among the nation's local leaders who have committed to improving their community for people of all ages. We look forward to working with you and welcome the Town of Whately to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

Nancy A. LeaMond AARP Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer Executive Vice President, Community, State and National Affairs Washington, D.C.

AARP Livable Communities website: *AARP.org/Livable* EMAIL: *Livable@AARP.org* | FREE E-NEWSLETTER: *AARP.org/LivableSubscribe*  5/7/2021