State: Ohio
Community Name: City of Struthers
Population Size: 10000
Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 18
Community Structure: City
Other:
Community Type: Mixed, Suburban (mostly residential), Small Town

Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment
Name: Catherine Cercone Miller
Title: Mayor
Office Mailing Address: 6 Elm Street, Struthers, Ohio 44471
Community Contact Name: Samantha Yannucci
Email: [email protected]
Position: Planning Consultant to City
Telephone: [redacted]

Role: Samantha Yannucci is the City’s contracted urban planner through KO Consulting, LLC. She is leading the City's first comprehensive planning effort with the highest emphasis on creating a liveable, walkable community. As Samantha begins Phase II of the planning effort, which is community engagement, she is structuring a strategic engagement approach to engage all members of the Struthers community. We are determined to unveil the community’s vision for the future of Struthers by conducting an inclusive, equitable engagement effort. That includes hearing from all members of the community. AARP will be a tremendous resource as Samantha creates a strategy to engage the community’s senior population.

Older Adult Involvement: Our planner is in the midst of creating a community engagement strategy as Phase II of our comprehensive planning effort. In order to engage seniors, we know we must meet them where they are. This strategy will reveal the programs, institutions, and facilities where we can meet our senior residents. We already know that we will use public institutions and community resources such as the public library, churches, and congregations. We are already planning to include options for engagement at the grocery store and at the city’s healthcare and medical facilities. Senior residents are integral
in developing the community's shared vision for Struthers. We are eager to understand their transportation needs with regards to traveling within and outside of the City so that we can plan a more equitable and inclusive transportation system. We are eager to understand their social needs to ensure our seniors are not vulnerable to isolation. And we are eager to understand their other needs related to health and wellness so that they are not only surviving, but thriving in Struthers. We will develop several strategies to gain momentum around the plan and get seniors actively engaged in envisioning the future of Struthers. This will include active visioning workshops and one-on-one interviews with senior residents. We will also create a senior engagement committee for the comprehensive planning community engagement effort which will include our senior councilmembers. Because our city is so small, our council members are very familiar with the residents in their wards. We believe their excitement and anticipation around the planning effort is greatly beneficial in creating a lot of traction and synergy in the senior community.

Increasing Collaboration and Coordination:

Creating a well-designed city that meets the needs of senior residents is not just an effort of the City. It is a shared effort and shared responsibility. We need to raise awareness of the lived experience of seniors, and we need all hands on deck in creating an age-friendly community. This initiative, paired with the comprehensive plan, will identify relevant community agencies, departments, nonprofit organizations, and business, and will connect these entities with one another through the shared vision for the community of Struthers. We are proud of our City's motto: ?The City with Heart in the Heart of It All?, and we pride ourselves on our community-minded pride and spirit. When a member or group of our community is in need, nothing keeps us apart. We?ve demonstrated this togetherness time after time, through tragedies and celebrations alike. Collaboration is in our bones and I know we can inspire the community to take special consideration for seniors. For example, if Donavido?s, one of our most frequented downtown businesses, offers a weekday discount for a senior lunch or dinner, I know they will work with Selah, a restaurant across the street, to offer a senior dessert discount on their Struthers-famous homemade cakes. If Struthers Middle School wants to put a public bench next to the sidewalk in front of the school, I know the Struthers Rotary Club will step in and help in any way they can to make sure there are no financial limitations. We have a very tight knit community in Struthers.

AARP Team Member Contact Info:
N/A

Most Instructive Area of Work:
We understand that by planning for the most vulnerable populations such as children, seniors, and the disabled we are planning for everyone. Integrating the accommodation of seniors into our city creates accommodations for the entire community. For example, if we plan a transportation network that offers our seniors greater freedom and independence, we are planning for the freedom and
independence of children as well. If we put more benches in Mauthe Park because those benches were requested by our older residents, we are creating more social spaces for teens as well. If we plant more trees along Poland Avenue in front of the senior living facility to provide shade during the summer, we are creating a more comfortable environment for the whole community.

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Additional Social Media: