State: California
Community Name: City of Larkspur
Population Size: 12500
Percentage of Residents Above Age 60: 26
Community Structure: City
Other:
Community Type: Suburban (offices, apartments and shops)
Elected Official Signing the Letter of Commitment
Name: Kevin Haroff
Title: Mayor
Office Mailing Address: 400 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur, CA 94939
Community Contact Name: Catherine Way
Email: [redacted]
Position: City Council member
Telephone: [redacted]
Role: Catherine Way is a community service oriented resident and a city council member committed to making Age-Friendly Larkspur a success.

Older Adult Involvement: We have an active task force of local residents, many of whom are retired health professionals who are leading this effort to make Larkspur Age-Friendly. This group has been collaborating with neighboring cities and towns as well as the County of Marin Age-Forward coordinator and those programs for many years. Larkspur is one of only two Marin cities that has not completed the AARP Age-Friendly program so we have done a tremendous amount of outreach to other cities for help and to learn best practices. We are well informed about programs and policies that have worked well to support older adults in our county already and will strive to implement them here. We also have a city governance through the city council that is committed to policies that view our city programs and services through the lens of all ages and abilities. We view this as an opportunity to move towards a multi-generational approach to civic planning and services. Towards this end, we plan to actively engage our older adults to participate in making policies through our regular outreach via city newsletters and website but to also expand outreach through the groups and organizations in Larkspur that already serve older adults. These relationships with trusted partners were enhanced in the past two
years during the COVID-19 pandemic when our older adults needed to rely upon community organizations and other non-profit partners to receive important care and services. We intend to continue and enhance these relationships as we move to become an official Age-Friendly Larkspur.

Larkspur’s next door town is the Town of Corte Madera. We share a police department, a fire department, and many recreational and club-based activities together. These two towns are considered "Twin Cities" and have a very collaborative civic relationship with each other in community events such as the 4th of July parade as well as children attending the local schools together. Members of the Age-Friendly Corte Madera team have already been collaborating with our group to help get Larkspur’s process started and task force running. The Corte Madera Age-Friendly task force members have shared insights, challenges they faced, their working plan documents, and many other ideas. They are committed to helping the Larkspur task force and I’m confident that their insight will be instrumental in our success. Many of the Larkspur Task Force members also participate in the countywide multi-disciplinary activities for implementing the State of California Age Forward programing. They regularly attend these meetings and share ideas with that task force. Over the past several years the smaller towns in our county have looked at ways to continue to share services in an effort to be more financial responsible what providing the level of community services that our residents expect. With this in mind, Larkspur and Corte Madera have enhanced their recreational programing by coordinating our printed materials and class schedules. Lastly, Marin county is also very progressive in our emergency preparedness and emergency planning organizations. We have the highest number of FireWise communities in the country. We have a very well organized program called Neighborhood Response Groups (NRGs) which are organized to prepare neighborhoods for emergencies. Much of this work to prepare neighbors to help neighbors overlaps with the need to make sure our older adults are cared for during extreme events. These NRGs will be an excellent opportunity to share the tenants of Age-Friendly to the broader community and encourage their participation.

AARP Team Member Contact Info:

Most Instructive Area of Work:
I think that perseverance is the key word that I would use to describe this process so far. Becoming an Age-Friendly community has been discussed for many years but something always got in the way. We now have the community support and the support of the city council to do the work necessary to make the task force successful. I think that is only because of the persistence of a few local residents that realize the value of implementing this framework and continued to move the conversation forward.

Optional Resolution:
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