



Village of
Yellow Springs

Office of the Mayor

Nicole Ware
Associate State Director – Outreach
AARP Ohio
17 S. High Street, Suite 800
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Ms. Ware:

On behalf of the Village of Yellow Springs, I am excited about the opportunity to become an Age Friendly Community, joining thousands of other villages, towns, and cities in the US and around the world in this important joint venture of the AARP and World Health Association.

Yellow Springs is an innovative community, with a long history of successful planning and program development. As you know, we recently completed an 18 month project, Dementia Friendly Yellow Springs, that completed training of 179 members of our police, firefighters, business owners, and others about dementia. We also completed a wide variety of community education projects, including book reads, film showings, articles in our local paper, and the formation of our Advisory Committee.

Currently, we are the first community in the Miami Valley to be part of Stage 3 of the collaboration with the Advance Care Program, a joint project of the two major health care systems in the Miami Valley, Kettering Health Network and Premier Health Network. This work has already generated wide-spread interest and involvement in the important issue of advance care planning.

We are an aging community, but we are also a vibrant and active one, with a strong, independent school system, multiple nonprofit organizations, a weekly award-winning newspaper, an Encore Fellow program linking Antioch College and the community through funding from the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, and an active and successful Senior Center located right in the center of town. People who live in Yellow Springs are activists from their childhood through adulthood and into their 80's and 90's. This energy and sense of community will be at the heart of our Age Friendly work, linking elders and youngsters together to improve our community for all.

As a participant in the national network of communities, it is the intent of the Village of Yellow Springs to:

- Establish mechanisms to involve older people
- Develop a baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the community
- Develop a community-wide action plan based on the findings of the assessment
- Identify indicators so progress can be monitored against the action plan

We are excited to expand and continue our work to ensure that Yellow Springs is truly a "friendly" community for all.

We look forward to working with you, the AARP, and others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mayor Pam Conine". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Pam Conine, Mayor