Aging Study

VFTH

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Did you know that every eight seconds someone turns 65? And in two decades more people will be over the age of 65 than under the age of 18?

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham tells us how WKU is involved in a project to make sure Bowling Green an age-friendly city.

:07 - :11 Dr. Dana Burr Bradley \ WKU Center for Aging

:20 - :24 John Warnhoff \ Over 50 Citizen’s Academy

:37 - :41 Patrice Blanchard \ AARP of Kentucky

1:06 – 1:10 Karen Foley \ City of Bowling Green

We all know Bowling Green is a friendly city, but is it an age-friendly city?
“It’s the older adults who are really the experts in what makes a city age friendly, after all, they’re really living it aren’t they?”
That’s why the “experts” are being asked to help with a five-year-community based research study. “It’s vital because our society is getting older, a good part of it.”
A group of senior citizens, starting with last fall’s first graduating class of an over 50 Citizen’s Academy, is being asked to help with an initiative called Ask Bowling Green.
“It’s a set of community conversations, groups of six to ten people, very informal, where we brainstorm about what kind of community you would really like to live in.”
Possible improvements include things like publicizing walking and bike trails better or increasing the time at crosswalks.
“Maybe just a little bit longer and that would be based on research that would be done by an older adult and one of our students being trained in age friendly cities.”
“Anytime you can have community folks involved in thinking about their vision for the community and getting that feedback from them, I think it gives our elected leaders direction.”
The research will also help extend WKU’s international reach. Bowling Green was singled out by the World Health Organization as the only southern city in its age friendly cities network.
“The world really is watching, they want to know how we are doing it in the south, in rural communities in Kentucky.”
With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

WKU’s Center for Aging, the City of Bowling Green’s Neighborhood Division and AARP Kentucky are the convening organizations for the project initiated by the World Health Organization. If you would like to be involved in a community conversation…email [aging@wku.edu](aging%40wku.edu).

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