

Age-Friendly Georgetown Action Plan

ACTION PLAN
August 2020

Overview

Age-Friendly Georgetown

Age-Friendly Georgetown (AFG) is committed to helping our family members, neighbors, and friends live safe, healthy and socially active lives in our hometown. Our efforts began in the fall of 2017 as a designated subcommittee of our town's Comprehensive Plan Committee, which was tasked with updating the town's Plan, an initiative approved at Town Meeting in June 2017. While the Comprehensive Plan Committee has since completed its charge and as such, has disbanded, our work to forward age-friendly efforts in Georgetown has been sustained, and we are now a stand-alone volunteer committee supported by, but not officially affiliated with, town infrastructure.

With the support of AARP, both nationally and within the state of Maine, and myriad other local and statewide resources, we have developed and initiated our Action Plan over the past 2+ years. This document outlines the process for arriving at the specific components of this Action Plan and our strategy for moving forward in the future.

For more information about how you can get involved in the work of Age-Friendly Georgetown, call 207-387-0440 or email gtagefriendly@gmail.com.

Age-Friendly Georgetown Committee Members:

Roger Bogart
Juliana Cliffe
Rick Cliffe
Cindi Compton, Founding Member
Ole Jaeger
Sandy Jaeger
Peggy Kapisovsky
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Mary MacDonald
Karen MacGillivray
Sheila McCandless
James Peavey, Co-Chair
Elaine Varney

Introduction

Georgetown, Maine

As is true for all age-friendly efforts, ours evolved within the landscape of our community. To understand our efforts, then, it is helpful to understand a bit about the lovely community we call home.

Georgetown Island has a land area of 18.5 square miles and an ocean shoreline of 82.77 miles. The Town of Georgetown also includes a number of smaller, surrounding islands, the largest and most densely populated being MacMahan Island and the most distant



being Seguin Island a few miles south of the mouth of the Kennebec River. All of these smaller islands are accessible only by boat.

Georgetown Island is surrounded by rivers: the Kennebec River on the west and south; the Sasanoa and Sheepscot Rivers on the east, the Back River connecting with the Sasanoa on the northeast and Kennebec on the west; and the Atlantic Ocean on the southeast and south.

There is only one access to and from the nearest mainland, US Route 1 in Woolwich. State Route 127 crosses a bridge into Arrowsic and then transits 5 miles through Arrowsic Island north to south before crossing another bridge into Georgetown. Route 127 then continues approximately 8 miles to Reid State Park, continues to Five Islands and ends at the water's edge, providing the backbone for the network of town-maintained roads that serve the town. There is no scheduled public transportation to/from Georgetown. Taxi service from Bath is expensive.

As of the 2010 census, the (year-round) population is about 1030. Georgetown has a total of 1044 housing units, 526 of which are seasonal. The 469 units belonging to full time residents have an average of 2.2 people per household. The population more than doubles during the summer season. The median house price and rental rate in Georgetown are the highest of all communities in Sagadahoc County. There is no "affordable housing", as defined by the state, in Georgetown. Housing construction/maintenance costs and property taxes are forcing long-term residents to move elsewhere.

Most of Georgetown's shoreline is developed for commercial or private use. Five Islands Wharf, Todd's Landing, Ledgemere Preserve and Reid State Park provide limited public access to the water. The Town Wharf, Derecktor

Robinhood and Back River Boat Yard provide commercial access. Smaller commercial fishermen and oystermen use Todd's Landing for access.

Approximately 37% of Georgetown Island is maintained in conservation status by the state, various conservation organizations and individual

Changing Demographics

Since our Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 1993, the percentage of people over 65 has grown from 17% of the population to over 30%.

landowners. This includes: 90 acres owned by the town; 1,266 acres owned by the state; 2,242 acres owned by the University of Maine; 27 parcels of Open Space covering 1,927 acres; 8 parcels of Tree Growth covering 273 acres and 2,246 acres that are tax exempt. Much of this land allows public access. Fifteen separate trails totaling 25 miles, maintained by these organizations, are available to Georgetown residents and visitors.

Georgetown has limited municipal services. Georgetown Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department provides both fire and ambulance service. Police services are provided "on call" from the Sagadahoc Sheriff's Department. There are no water or sewer services. The town operates a solid waste transfer station and disposes of waste and recyclables in cooperation with nearby localities. Georgetown Central School services Pre-K through Grade 6 students. Junior High and High School students attend the area school of their choice on a tuition plan. The Town Office is physically attached to the elementary school.

The Town Owned Property Management Board (TOPMB) manages the Five Islands Wharf which is a center of town activity in the summer season. The wharf has both commercial and recreational boat access and an outdoor take-out restaurant with a scenic view of Five Islands Harbor. The TOPMB also oversees Todd's Landing boat launch, the Laura E Richards Library and the Old Stone Schoolhouse.

Other services to town residents are provided by a number of volunteer organizations. Laura E Richards Library operates in the summer and provides "blizzard books" on long-term loan over the winter. Georgetown residents also have full access to the Patten Free Library in Bath, supported by a Town contribution to the library. The Georgetown Community Center is a citizen owned facility that hosts social events of all kinds throughout the year and provides general assistance to needy residents. The Georgetown Historical Society operates a small museum and meeting center open to all visitors. The 100+ year old Georgetown Working League raises money for scholarships and local charity and is a well-attended social organization. The Georgetown Island

Education Foundation raises funds to support, enhance and enrich the students of Georgetown.

It is within the context of this landscape that we designed and launched our age-friendly efforts.

Age-Friendly Georgetown Action Plan

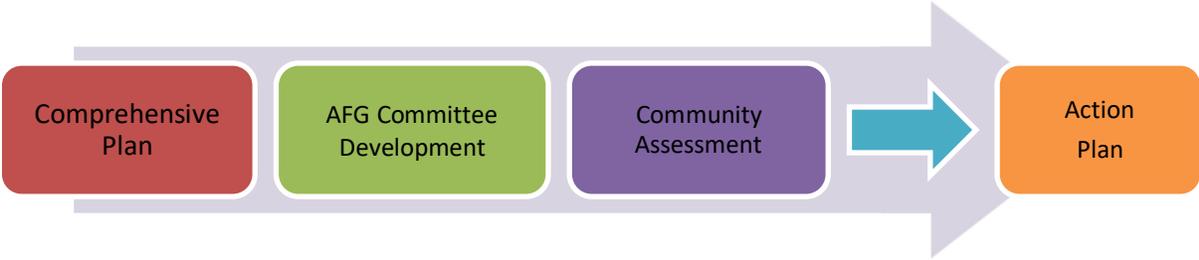
The activities that comprise Age-Friendly Georgetown (AFG) Action Plan have been and will continue to be driven by the needs and desires of our island neighbors. For the purposes of this document, we will call these broad and far-reaching efforts our Community Assessment. This Assessment began with one of our first initial meetings in Fall 2017 -- during which we were introduced to the domains of the AARP framework -- and continues to this day. As such, we consider our plan ever evolving. This document serves as both a narrative of our development to-date and an outline of our plans for the future.

- **Section One** details the chronology of activities that comprise the evolution of Age-Friendly Georgetown from its inception.
- **Section Two** shares the findings of the Community Assessment.
- **Section Three** shares the strategic framework for our Action, including the mission and overarching AFG strategy.
- **Section Four** shares our Goals and Activities.
- **Section Five** provides actions for the future.

Section 1

Evolution of Age-Friendly Georgetown

The plan outlined in this document is the result of efforts that began in the summer of 2017 with the development of a Comprehensive Plan Committee which was tasked by our Select Board to update our town’s Comprehensive Plan.



Comprehensive Plan

Our team was initially formed under the auspices of the town's Comprehensive Plan update program. That effort was led by a Central Committee and we were a subcommittee to that group.

At the June 2017 Town Meeting, town members voted to proceed with updating the 1993 Comprehensive Plan. The Board of Selectmen appointed a Comprehensive Planning Committee (CPC) of seven regular and five alternate members. Prior to voting to approve the development of a new Comprehensive Plan, an Exploratory Group – including members from the Town-owned Property Management Board, the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, and the Historical Society – began research and discussions about the need for and proposed process of developing the Plan.

In the May 2017 flyer titled: Why Should Georgetown Update its Comprehensive Plan, the Exploratory Committee offered the following rationale:

If nothing in Georgetown had changed since 1993, there would be little point in updating our Comprehensive Plan. But much has changed here in the last 24 years:

- *Those in our economy dependent upon marine resources have seen a dramatic decline in shellfish and ground fish harvesting and are looking for ways to address that issue;*
- *Georgetown’s senior population has grown from 17% to over 30% of the residents.*

- *Georgetown Central School's pre K – 6th grade population has dropped from approximately 100 to 50 students.*
- *Affordable housing, a "severe" problem in the 1993 report, has escalated dramatically. Because of this, many who grew up here have limited means to stay within the Town.*
- *Services like a reliable DSL or broadband that did not exist in 1993 play an increasingly essential role in the economy, as part of the culture, and for communication in emergencies. Georgetown internet service does not meet national standards for Broadband.*
- *In 1993, the Town supported the idea of land preservation; since then over 2,500 acres have been placed in conserved or open-space land.*

Process of Developing the Updated Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan Committee began meeting in September 2017 and continued to meet until April 2019. Most meetings included guests who provided significant public input. The final Comprehensive Plan was approved at Town Meeting in June 2019. The CPC established two subcommittees; Age-Friendly and Marine Resources. These subcommittees focused on aging in place issues and marine resource challenges that had surfaced during the preliminary work of the aforementioned Comprehensive Plan Exploratory Committee.

AFG Committee Development

Our current Co-Chair, James Peavey, was appointed as a member of the CPC and in that role, he acted as the liaison to the newly established Age-Friendly Committee. It was agreed upon and understood that the Age-Friendly Committee would begin some of its work immediately, rather than waiting until the Comprehensive Plan was completed. The subcommittee worked in parallel with the CPC.

We officially began our work on October 23, 2017. We initially met every two weeks to create our development plan of action; in 2019, we began to meet monthly, which is how we continue to operate today.

Community Assessment

Our Community Assessment was a comprehensive, multi-pronged process. It is important to note that we did not wait until our Assessment was complete to begin planning and launching age-friendly initiatives. Given what the Exploratory Committee of the Comprehensive Plan Committee learned from residents about the challenges facing our older neighbors, we took these undisputable realities and began developing programming while we underwent Community Assessment activities.

Timeline:

The following is a synopsis of the timeline of activities that comprise our Community Assessment.

- Assessment began in Fall 2017 and Winter 2018 with guest speakers to learn about resources available to town residents. In addition, meetings with key Georgetown committees and leaders were held during this period of time to explain our objectives and obtain feedback and recommendations.
- Survey design Spring and Summer of 2018
- Survey distributed Fall 2018 and Winter 2019
- Survey results analyzed Spring 2019
- Survey results disseminated Summer 2019

Components of our Community Assessment included:

- Initial interviews/meetings with key stakeholders and groups.
We recognized the importance of sharing our intentions and garnering the support and input from important community stakeholders including the Georgetown Working League and the Georgetown Community Center. These interviews and meetings happened in Fall of 2017, and Winter of 2018.
- Invited presentations by local agencies and organizations. In order to educate ourselves about resources and services available to our townspeople, we invited folks to attend our initial planning meetings to give presentations about their services and offerings. These included: The local Sheriff and Chief of Police, SEARCH Program, Habitat for Humanity, Alzheimer's Association, and the Georgetown Local Health Officer/Town Nurse.



The Georgetown Working League began as an auxiliary of the First Baptist Church in 1913, the group is an integral and influential part of the community. The Working League hosts an annual fundraiser which funds scholarships to residents.

In addition to educating us about resources for our neighbors – which we could then share with the broader community – these presentations led us to bringing services to our town that are offered in other places. One such program includes Medication Take Back Collections, which gives residents a chance to safely dispose of old or unneeded prescription drugs, including controlled substances. The first “Take Back” in 2018 was

very successful, and we have and will continue to repeat on an annual basis. These presentations were held in the Winter and Spring of 2018.

■ Survey development, launch, analysis and dissemination.

One of the challenges (and opportunities!) of launching our age-friendly efforts at the same as the development of our Comprehensive Plan (the first in 23 years, no less) was the potential to overload townspeople with surveys, thereby diluting both our efforts. Cognizant of this, we deferred our survey efforts until the Comprehensive Planning Committee had completed its efforts. We launched our survey in the Fall of 2018.

We also wanted to differentiate our survey and therefore branded our

efforts with a bright “Yellow Survey.” We teased people in our marketing effort with the coming of the “Yellow Survey,” so as to build momentum prior to the roll out of our survey. In addition, we carefully designed (and re-designed!) our survey to make sure it was short, to the point, easy-to-read and used language that would appeal to our audience. Our efforts paid off; with the support of our Town Office, we sent out nearly 1,000 Yellow Surveys and received 259 responses. We were pleased with our response rate,

especially considering many were done with a spouse or partner. More details on the results of the survey are included in Section 3 of this report.

We tabulated and analyzed the results and held three community forums to share the information and receive feedback. What we heard from the community in this survey is guiding our efforts going forward.

A copy of our survey is included in the Appendices of the report.

Results Analysis

Designing the survey, launching it and collecting responses was a committee driven process. People took on individual responsibilities – including finding the right paper, choosing appealing stamps, gathering address lists, and enlisting the help of the town office staff to print our surveys. As well, the committee coalesced around preparing the survey for mailing, including addressing and stamping the survey and stuffing the envelopes. This effort,



done collectively with snacks and good cheer, reinforced both our sense of community and purpose. The survey was mailed in the Fall of 2018, and we began analyzing the results in Winter of 2019.

It was with equal thought and consideration that we analyzed the results of the survey – again distributing efforts among committee members – and prepared our presentation of these results to the community. A Power Point presentation was prepared by our able Co-Chair, and with input from the Committee, we refined the content and design of the presentation to ensure it conveyed the results as clearly and succinctly as possible. This work was done in the Spring of 2019, with dissemination efforts planned for Summer 2019.

A copy of our presentation of Survey Results is included in the Appendices Section of this report.

Dissemination

It was important that we share the results of our Survey in a variety of settings across our island and at different times of the day, to make sure we were making the information available to retired and working people in our community. It was also important we held these meetings during the summer months, when our seasonal neighbors were visiting their homes. We held three informational sessions in the Summer 2019;

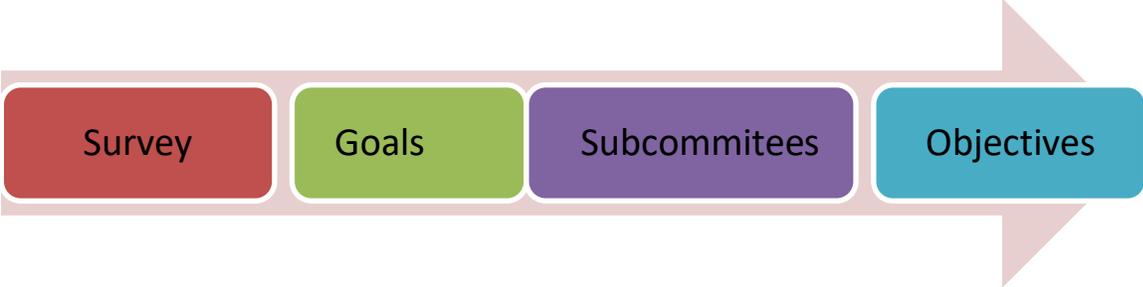
- We held one in the mid-morning at the Robinhood Free Meeting House, a locally owned community space/restaurant.
- We held one in the early evening at the Community Center, owned by members of the community.
- We held the third one at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Georgetown Working League.

The agenda for these sessions was very straightforward: we shared the survey via the Power Point presentation referenced above and answered questions from the meeting attendees. We also used the time to encourage folks to share their thoughts, ideas, challenges and opportunities for our age-friendly efforts. Through our dissemination strategy we reached over 70 of our island neighbors.

A copy of the flyer we used to recruit participants is included in the Appendices of this report.

Section 2

Survey Results as Basis for Action Plan



Survey Overview

- We mailed 980 surveys. There are approximately 750-800 actual property owners in Georgetown.
- We received 259 responses. 222 of these were hard copy surveys and 37 via the on-line survey.
- We received an approximate 32% response rate. Considering multiple participants, we estimate we had input from between one-third and one-half of residents/property owners.
- 70% of respondents completed the survey by themselves and 30% with a spouse or partner
- 59% of respondents were female and 41% male.
- Age of respondents:
 - 21% of respondents were younger than 60 years old
 - 66% were between 60-79
 - 13% were 80 and older

Key Takeaways about Georgetown:

- Georgetowners are fiercely independent and protective of our treasured island community.
- Most are able to take care of themselves, perhaps with help of family, friends, and neighbors, but many expect to need additional assistance as they get older, especially with home maintenance, chores, and transportation. Georgetowners want to be able to stay in our community and homes as long as we safely can.

- Summer residents are strongly committed to the town and contribute in many ways.
- “Age-Friendly” means support to all ages, making Georgetown a livable community for young and old.
- The findings of this Age-Friendly survey confirm the results of the broad community survey conducted as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.

What Else Did We Learn?

- Georgetowners have great appreciation for the beauty and peacefulness of our island, and the many social, recreational, and cultural offerings that are available in our town.
- However, there were a good number who weren’t aware of what is available so there is an opportunity to better share that information.
- The great majority felt the town was friendly, neighborly, and supportive of one another.
- There were a few who felt left out of that connectedness.
- A number of respondents felt the need for more opportunities for young families to stay in town or move here, including more recreation and activities for young Georgetowners and a strong school environment.
- A large number expressed appreciation for the work the Age-Friendly team is doing. 48% (78 people) of the people responding to that question said they would be willing to help with the team’s work now or when they retire.

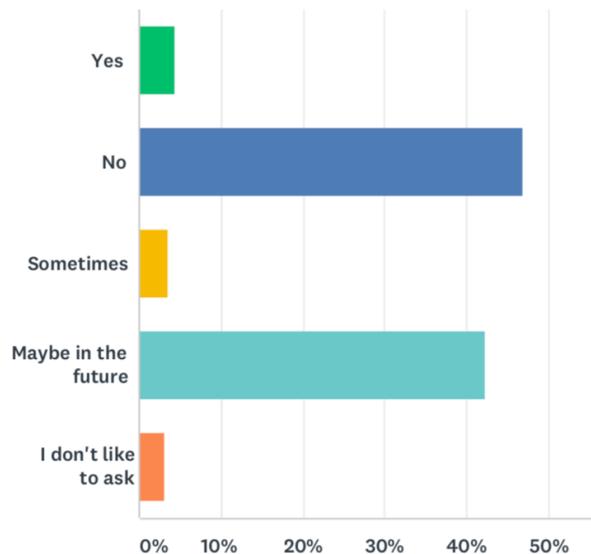
Some of the Key Issues Raised:

- There is a great appreciation for the wonderful nature preserves and trails in town, but a few expressed concerns about more land being taken off the tax rolls or not being available for home building.
- Assistance with home chores and minor repairs was a big concern for older folks wanting to stay in their homes as long as possible. There is an opportunity for a volunteer handy helper program to provide assistance to those who can’t afford or find contractors.
- Transportation is a worry for many as they get older and not able to drive as they do now. There is not a big current demand for this service but it appears it may be more needed in the future.

- Bicycle and pedestrian safety is a significant issue in Town. “I would like to see at least one side of the road shoulder to be made better and more suitable for pedestrian/bicycles. More needs to be done in that area.”
- The town and state's aging population means there will be fewer workers available for the services older folks may require.

Highlights of Survey Responses

Question: Are there times when you need assistance with transportation either inside or outside of Georgetown?



Question: Please rate the kind of services that would make it easier for you to live in Georgetown. Responded either Essential or Important:

- 81%: Help keeping my home warm in the winter
- 77%: Getting help in the event of a power failure
- 72%: Health care services
- 71%: Help with general home maintenance
- 71%: Getting the food I need
- 70%: Caregiver support
- 65%: Transportation

Question: Are there specific things that would enable you to remain in your home as you age?

- 36 (29%): Home maintenance support (interior and exterior, excluding shoveling)
- 24 (19%): Snow shoveling and plowing

- 24 (19%): Transportation
- Others mentioned:
 - Help with technology
 - Help with tax preparation
 - Better access to health care and care giving services
 - Reliable help around the house

Question 7: Now or looking ahead, what obstacles are there in Georgetown that might prevent you from enjoying your life here?

- Distance from services, especially food shopping and medical services
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of home maintenance services
- Isolation, especially in the winter
- Need for snow removal at home and well-plowed roads.
- Rising cost of housing and taxes
- Limited mobility or other health problems
- Limited high-speed internet
- Sea level rise
- Ticks, mosquitoes, overabundance of deer, and other pests.

Question 10: Do you have a skill, resource or some expertise you would like to share with the community?

- 92, or 55%, said yes
- 27, or 16%, said they would be able to assist with transportation

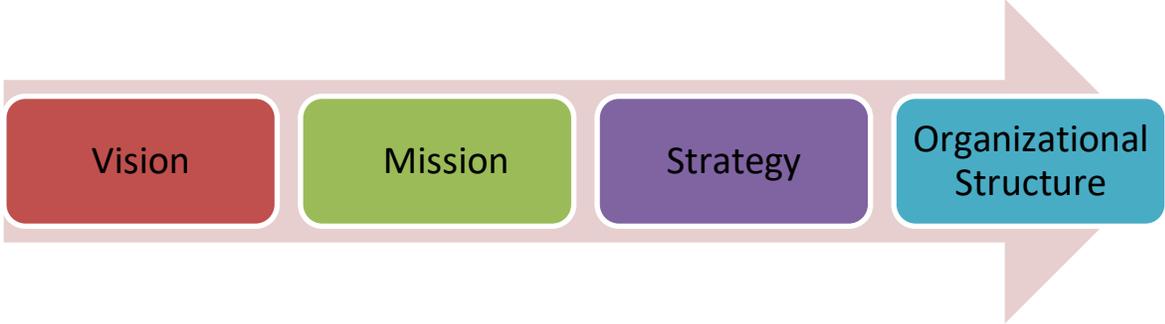
Additional Survey Comments

- Get the various neighborhoods involved/working together; Kennebec Point and Malden Island mentioned.
- The Fire Department and Ambulance Service are of critical importance.
- Caregivers need affordable short-term respite care. Some can't get away for even an overnight.
- Need better internet service.
- "Transportation and meals were my mother's biggest challenge as she aged in place." (another town)
- "Need to address short term rentals and the effect it has on our neighborhoods and the property value of the year-round residents. The number of Air B&Bs has mushroomed and is likely to continue."
- Don't duplicate services that are available in Bath or Brunswick."
- "Our preference would be to make the town more attractive to young families, not just cater to the elderly."

Section 3

AFG Strategic Framework

The strategic framework that drives the activities of AFG includes the following key components.



Vision:

The vision of Age-Friendly Georgetown is a community in which all members have the opportunity to live safe, healthy and socially active lives.

Mission:

This mission of Age-Friendly Georgetown is to help our family members, neighbors, and friends live safe, healthy and socially active lives in our hometown by supporting and enhancing Georgetown’s culture of caring with resources and volunteer efforts.

Strategy:

AFG provides information, promotes initiatives, mobilizes volunteers, creates connections and fosters collaboration among community members and other organizations to accomplish its mission.

AFG is guided by the AARP designed eight Domains of Livability for an Age-Friendly Community that address a community’s civic, economic and social life.

- 1. Housing
- 2. Transportation
- 3. Communication/Information
- 4. Outdoor spaces/buildings
- 5. Social participation

6. Community support and health services
7. Respect and social inclusion
8. Civic Participation and Employment

Organizational Structure:

AFG is an independent Committee open to anyone in the town who wishes to participate. While we do not have a formal role within the Town infrastructure, we are provided town support through our Town Office staff, including our Assistant to the Select Board, Treasurer and Town Clerk.

People & Processes:

The Georgetown Age-Friendly Community team has put in a strong effort since its inception to support our older neighbors and to help them stay safely in their homes as long as possible and thrive in the community.

There is an existing culture in Georgetown of caring for one another and we are working to provide additional support and resources to those efforts. We have 10-12 active members on our team and well over 100 who are following our work and providing additional support and encouragement. We have implemented a number of programs, joined forces with other existing programs, and continue to investigate new areas for future work.

Our Age-Friendly Committee does not operate with bylaws or overly formalized structure. We have two Co-chairs who toggle responsibilities as their time, expertise and interests allow. We have a secretary who takes and distributes meeting minutes. Individuals take on responsibilities and projects to help move our efforts forward; one member led the charge to create our logo, while another member and her spouse are leading our House Numbering Project, and another member launched our Transportation Program and our Fuel Coop Program. Small groups are formed when tasks require efforts outside our normal monthly meeting schedule; a small group took on website development and another duo worked with a Town Committee to build our age-friendly accessible nature trail. This flexible structure allows us to pursue projects that we have energy and time to handle, and respects and utilizes each individual's unique strengths.

We have continued to recruit new members over time, and some members have resigned as their schedules filled. We have held steady for almost 4 years with a consistent crew of 10-12 individuals and we see this continuing into the years ahead.

Partners:

Age-Friendly Communities of the Lower Kennebec

AARP Maine

Georgetown Central School

Georgetown Community Center

Georgetown Conservation Commission

Georgetown Working League

Laura E Richards Library

Town of Arrowsic, small adjacent town with shared interests

Section 4

Age-Friendly Georgetown Activities



Goals

The activities of AFG fall into 7 of the 8 AARP Age-Friendly Community domains and are outlined below in this section.

Domain 1: HOUSING

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Goals:

- To ensure Georgetown residents are able to stay in their homes as they age.
- To address the barriers that keep older Georgetown residents from being able to stay in their homes as they age.
- To mobilize existing resources within town and the larger community to support older Georgetown residents in remaining in their homes as they age.

Activities:

Propane/Heating Oil Purchasing Group: We established a purchasing group with Irving Energy to provide discount propane and heating oil for any Georgetown resident. The price negotiated is well under market price. This contract can be renewed each year and is providing significant savings to Georgetowners.

Job Squad: In early 2020, we created a program to provide support to folks who needed help with home repairs and maintenance. This became the Job Squad. A team of ten volunteers was created and are supported by two professional contractors who are available to provide guidance and support. Since the team’s formation, six more individuals have signed on to help. Just as the team was

formed, the COVID-19 pandemic came down upon us. As of the end of July 2020, we are just starting to take on jobs where we can safely go to people's homes or do outside work. Our team takes full precautions with masks and distancing to ensure the homeowner's, and team members' safety.

House Numbering: Sheila McCandless, along with others, partnered with the Fire Department to support its program of improving the numbering of houses throughout town. This is a matter of safety for the fire and ambulance crews, especially at night. The program started in 2018 and provides five-inch reflective numbers mounted on a small placard. Thanks to a grant from the Georgetown Working League, this is free to the homeowners and includes installation (in consultation with the homeowner). This is another long-term project.

Home Weatherization and Repair: We partnered with Habitat for Humanity Seven Rivers Maine and Bath Housing Authority to promote those organizations' home repair and weatherization programs. These are free to Georgetown residents, and provide storm window inserts, grab rails, weather-stripping, smoke and CO detectors, minor repairs, and more. We successfully piloted each organization's program in Georgetown homes and now are spreading the word so others can take advantage of this great service.

Affordable Housing: Affordable housing is a major concern in Georgetown. It is being addressed as part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Domain 2: Transportation

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Goals:

- To ensure Georgetown residents have access to safe, reliable, affordable transportation to get them where they need to go.

Quotes from grateful House Number recipients:

"Thank you for installing our house number so promptly. I didn't notice it was up until we drove into our driveway after dark, the visibility is amazing! You and your team are terrific."

"I am enclosing a check (donation) for the House Numbering Project to "pay it forward." We are very relieved to have our old barely visible number replaced and want to support your work."

"Thank you for my new house number! I wish other communities had the same program. I feel lucky to be in Georgetown where the safety of residents is a priority."

Transportation Program:

Under AFG member Cindi Compton’s leadership, we did a comprehensive analysis of transportation options for those without access to reliable and safe rides for medical appointments, shopping, visiting friends and relatives, and more. After much review, we elected to join People Plus’s Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN), with Select Board approval and funding for the first year. We were able to recruit several volunteer drivers and are continuing to sign up and support riders in the program. We view this as a long-term proposition. More in our aging population will develop a need for transportation support and we believe the program will grow as that happens and we demonstrate its utility and benefit for those using it.

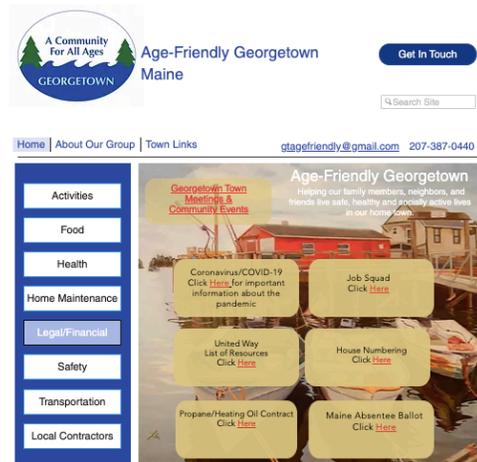
Domain 3: Communication/Information

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Goals:

- To ensure Georgetown residents are aware of activities, resources, safety alerts in a timely, organized and easily accessible manner.
- To support the work of the Three Bridged Islands group to upgrade internet service to meet current Broadband standards

Website: We created the website: www.agefriendlygeorgetown.org as a resource for older Georgetowners, but also to provide information for everyone in town. The site contains a “Senior Resources” page with resources for medical, legal, transportation, home repair, food security, safety, and more. Another section provides a listing of local contractors and service providers, addressing carpentry, yard care, help with chores, dog sitting, and more. The challenge is getting our citizens access to and familiarity with the site.



An on-line Community Calendar identifies schedules for Town meetings and Community Events of general interest. It is available to all through a link on the AFG website.

COVID-19 Pandemic: Our team acted as an information clearing house for town folks, sending out postings from Maine CDC, State Government, our Town Office, the Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department, and other experts.

Domain 4: Outdoor Spaces/Buildings

Goal:

- To create more opportunities for older Georgetowners and/or people with mobility impairments to access our beautiful outdoor areas in town.

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“Easy Access” or Limited Mobility Trail: In partnership with the Georgetown Conservation Commission, Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT), and the University of Maine, we received grant funding from the Maine Community Foundation to provide enhancements to an existing trail to make it safer and easier to use for those with limited mobility. This would not only include elders, but also individuals with injuries or disabilities, and families with very young children, perhaps in strollers. We have chosen a short portion of the old woods road that is part of the Schoener Preserve, which is owned by UMaine and managed by KELT. The goal is to make minor trail improvements around a few spots with exposed roots and ledge protrusions and to provide a small kiosk and informational signage. At the end of July 2020, the trail is essentially complete. A kiosk has been erected and signage is in preparation.

Domain 5: Social Participation

Goal:

- To facilitate opportunities for Georgetowners of all ages to engage in social activities that meet their varying needs.

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Technology Training: We have established a computer training program with the Digital Equity Center (DEC). Our Steering Committee met with DEC to learn about their course offerings and determine which, if any, of their courses would benefit Georgetown seniors. They launched their introductory course - which consists of three two-hour sessions course - in mid-January. We conducted more in-person training in late winter 2020, but that was terminated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On-line training then commenced and is continuing. We will resume in-person training when conditions allow. We are also planning to team with our local Laura E Richards Library to provide some drop-in training at their facility.

Inside Walking in the Winter: After getting a couple of requests for help with finding a place in winter for folks who walk on the roads for exercise, we met with the Georgetown Central School principal and reached an agreement to open the school gymnasium two days a week throughout the winter. This began last winter and will continue next year.

Domain 6: Community support and health services

Goal:

- To facilitate access to services and support that meet the needs of Georgetown residents.

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Food Security: In the Pandemic, this became a critical issue for folks who were home-bound or had lost their jobs. To support them, we re-started our Gleaning Program, which normally does not run in the winter, to provide produce to town residents. Age-Friendly Georgetown was also a founding member of the Georgetown Community Outreach Program, which raised funds to purchase additional groceries and other basic household supplies (cleaning products and paper goods). This program raised over \$8,000.

Drug Take-Back Program: We participated in several State sponsored Drug Take-Back Collections, giving residents a chance to safely dispose of old or unneeded prescription drugs, including controlled substances. These have been very successful and we intend to continue participating on an annual basis.

Shredding: We oversaw a regional shredding event, involving the towns of the Lower Kennebec Age-Friendly Community team. Georgetown coordinated the event and provided the majority of the volunteers. We will repeat this as resources allow and needs dictate.

Domain 7: Respect and Social Inclusion

Goal:

- To foster relationships between generations within Georgetown to ensure social inclusion and respect among people of all ages.

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Inter-Generational Activities: Sheila McCandless led our efforts to provide a greater connection between older Georgetowners and the children in, and approaching entry to, our school. We participated in the school's Community Days, including one that had the kids do drawings of how they might interact with their older relatives and neighbors. Sheila created wonderful notebooks for each grade and these are available to view at our Richard's Library. The work is continuing with many older Georgetowners doing great volunteer work at the school, including some in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Team Logo: Juliana Cliffe led the effort to develop a team logo that embraced the culture and feel of our town. Working with the RSU #1 graphic design program, the team developed the logo shown on the first page of this plan. AARP provided 500 stickers of this logo.

Section 5

Where do we go from here?

The following lists activities and enhancements we plan as we move forward in our efforts.

- Continue the Gleaning Program: We are currently bringing fresh produce from the Merrymeeting Food Coalition to town and getting vegetables from the school garden. We also have set up a system for local gardeners to contribute extra vegetables, working with a local gardening group.
- Continue with the enhancement of the Age-Friendly website to provide a source of information and supporting resources.
www.agefriendlygeorgetown.org
- Work with the Fire Department on carbon monoxide detectors and lock boxes: We have approached the FD about partnering to supply detectors and possibly a battery replacement program.
- Expand the Job Squad Program.
- Explore opportunities for building a senior center/intergenerational center with the Town-Owned Property Management Board.
- Continue to promote the Volunteer Transportation Program, including recruiting volunteers to drive and people who need rides.
- Update the list of contractors and service providers for those who can pay: We continue to maintain the listing on our website and are on the lookout for new services to add.
- Find ways to improve communication throughout town for activities, events, and available resources.
- Create a list of volunteers from those who have offered their skills and services.

Appendices

- Survey
- PPT of Survey Results
- Meeting Flyer

Dear Neighbor,

We enjoy living in Georgetown and many of us would like to remain here as our lives change. To help us plan, Georgetown’s Age Friendly Community committee has prepared this survey that we invite you to complete. It is absolutely private, anonymous and confidential. We can’t do this without you.



Friends or family may help you fill out this survey, if you desire.

Thank you.

Georgetown Age Friendly Committee

.....

We hope each Georgetowner will complete the survey and use Page 4 for comments.

1) What is most important to you about living in Georgetown?

2) What is the best way to reach you to announce community events or resources?

Check all that apply.

Email Text Phone Call Town Website Georgetown Tide Posters
 Town Bulletin Board Age Friendly Website Other _____

3) Are there times you need assistance with transportation either within or outside of Georgetown?

Yes No Sometimes Maybe in the future I don't like to ask

Where would assistance in travel be most important?

Medical appointments Church Grocery/other shopping/errands Dining out
 Hair Salon/Barber Education Social activities Employment
 Visiting friends or family Recreation Outdoor activities Town Meetings/events
 Working League Voting Georgetown Community Center Other

4) Please rate the kinds of services that would make it easier for you to live in Georgetown.

1 - Essential 2 - Important 3 - Nice to have
 Assistance getting the food I need Daily phone calls
 Support groups Assistance with chores in my home
 Wellness classes or programs Health care services
 Help in event of a power failure Help keeping my home warm in the winter
 Opportunities to socialize Assistance with general home maintenance
 Caregiver support Other _____

5) Are there specific things that would enable you to remain in your home as you age?

Please explain _____

6) Do you always feel safe in your home? Yes No Not always

If no, please share your reasons for not feeling safe:

- a) Do you have a working smoke detector? Yes No
- b) Do you have a working carbon monoxide detector? Yes No
- c) Do you have house numbers (at least 4 inch reflective) posted where they can be seen from the street at night? Yes No
- d) If you answered "No" to any of the above, are you interested in help in obtaining and installing detectors and or house numbers. Yes No
- e) Are you interested in a lock box so in an emergency the fire department could enter your home for a rescue? (only the Fire Department/Ambulance service would have access to your lock box key). Yes No

7) Now or looking ahead, what obstacles are there in Georgetown that might prevent you from enjoying your life here?

8) What would you like to have in Georgetown for outdoor community space (or modifications to an existing outdoor community space)?

(For example, Reid State Park, Ipcar Preserve, children's school playground, Five islands wharf, Higgins Mountain etc.)

What activities would you like to see offered in town?

9) Do you have a skill, resource or some expertise you would like to volunteer to share with others in the community? (For example, carpenter, driving, teaching etc.)? Yes No

Please specify _____

10) Some people are reluctant to ask for or accept assistance. Do you have any suggestions about how we might reach out?

11) Tell us about yourself (remember this is completely confidential).

- a. Are you answering this survey: by yourself with a spouse or partner on behalf of someone else
- b. Are you: Male Female
- c. What is your age?
 Under 50 50-60 60-64 65-69 70-74 75-79 80-84 85-89 90-100
- d. If you don't live in Georgetown year round, do you plan to someday? Yes No Unsure

A Few More Questions!

Would you like to join our efforts to help make Georgetown a community in which people of all ages can thrive? ___ Yes ___ No

If you answered yes, please share your contact information on the next page. Thank you!

Do you have additional comments to share? We invite your input and ideas!

Please use Page 4 to share more.

We invite you to visit our website www.agefriendlygeorgetown.org or email gtagefriendly@gmail.com

Completing and Returning the Survey:

- To return this survey, either drop it off at Town Hall or the Post Office in the box labeled “AFC SURVEY” or mail it in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.
- You can also complete the survey online at www.agefriendlygeorgetown.org and click on survey link.
- If you have any questions or would like assistance to complete the survey please email us at gtagefriendly@gmail.com or call us at 207-387-0440.

Thank you for taking the time to share your input and ideas!

Your Age-Friendly Committee:

Patty Kimball, Co-Chair	Cindi Compton	Ken Hoffman	Sheila McCandless
Jim Peavey, Co-Chair	Don Cowing	Chester Horne	Fred Randall
Juliana Cliffe, Secretary	Joyce DeVito	Sandy Jaeger	Sharon Randall
Bob Arledge	Richard DeVito	Ole Jaeger	Ebbe Stevens
Roger Bogart	John Evans	Peggy Kapisovsky	Mary Swain
Bill Chafe	Bob Gravino	Georgia Kennett	Janet Thatcher
Lorna Chafe	Kathy Gravino	Stephen Mace	Patty Thibodeau
Bill Chafe	Rosemary Hentz	Karen MacGillivray	Jane Whittaker

Optional: Contact Information

If you would you like us to contact you for more information, to join our committee, volunteer your time or learn more about services available to town residents, please share your contact information:

Name_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Visit Us!

Remember to visit our website to learn more about age-friendly efforts in Georgetown. It is a growing resource for all Georgetown residents. Go to www.agefriendlygeorgetown.org.

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY



Age-Friendly Georgetown
Maine

Get In Touch

Search Site

[Home](#) | [About Our Group](#) | [Town Links](#)

gtagefriendly@gmail.com 207-387-0440

Activities

Food

Health

Home Maintenance

Legal/Financial

Safety

Transportation

Local Contractors

Age-Friendly Georgetown

Helping our family members,
neighbors, and friends live safe,
healthy and socially active lives
in our home town.

Age-Friendly Survey Results

Come hear what the town told
us.

Robinhood Free Meeting House
10:00 to 12:00

Click [here](#) for info on the first
event on August 21st.

Two other events:
9/11/19 and 10/22

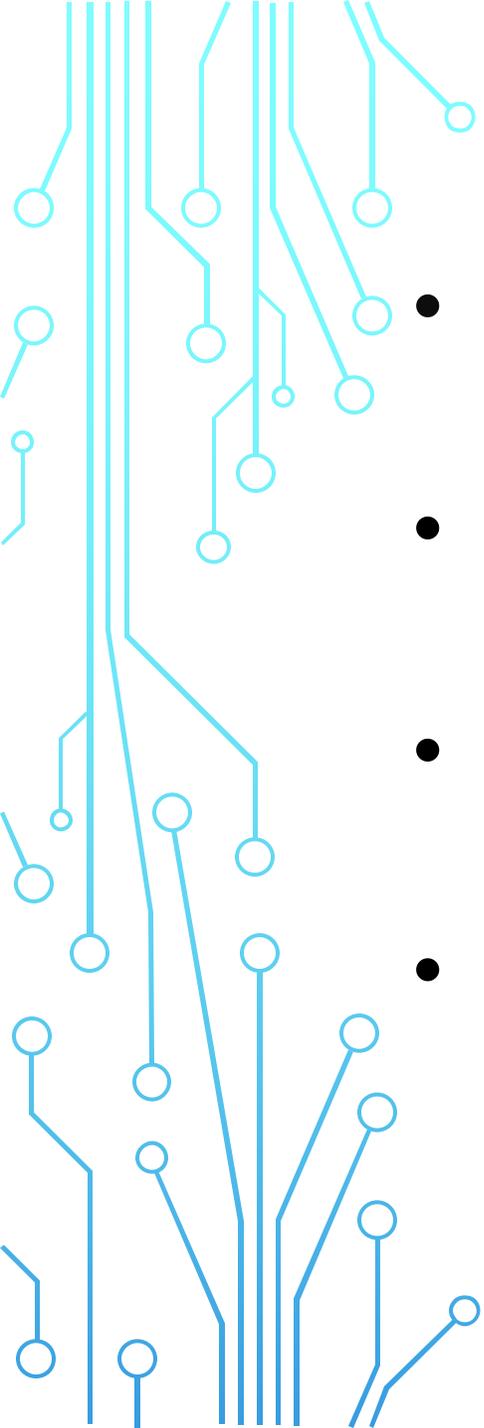
A Matter of Balance Training

9/9 and 10/13, 1:30-3:30

Click [here](#) for more info.

Free @ Arrowsic Town Hall

Original oil painting
by Georgetown artist
Lea Peterson

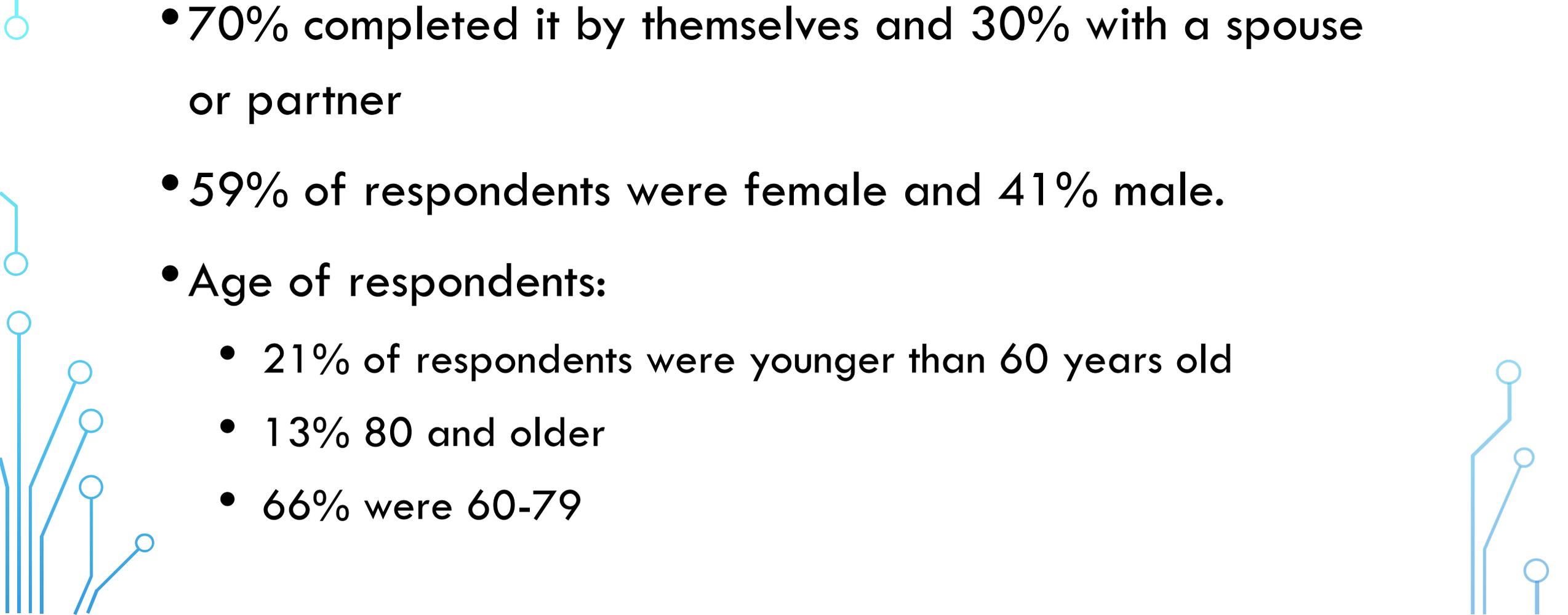


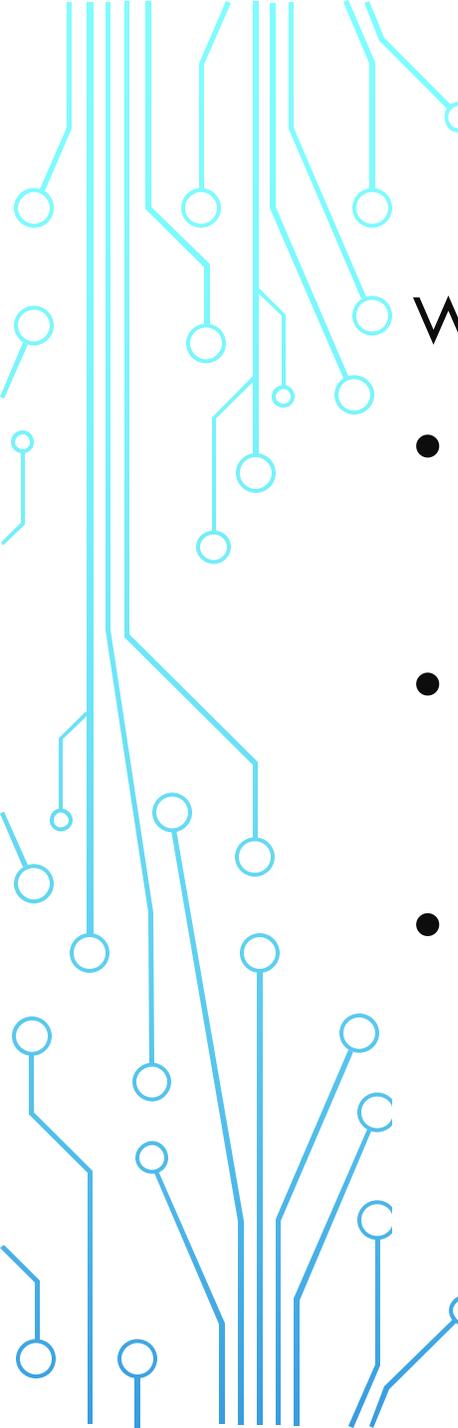
GEORGETOWN, MAINE *AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY*

- The survey was conducted between October 2018 and February 2019
- 980 surveys were mailed. We figured there were around 750-800 actual property owners.
- 259 responses were received. 222 hard copy and 37 via the on-line version.
- That's roughly a 32% response rate, which is quite good. But, in fact, considering multiple participants we estimate we have input from between one-third and one-half of residents/property owners.



GEORGETOWN, MAINE *AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY*

- 70% completed it by themselves and 30% with a spouse or partner
 - 59% of respondents were female and 41% male.
 - Age of respondents:
 - 21% of respondents were younger than 60 years old
 - 13% 80 and older
 - 66% were 60-79
- 



GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

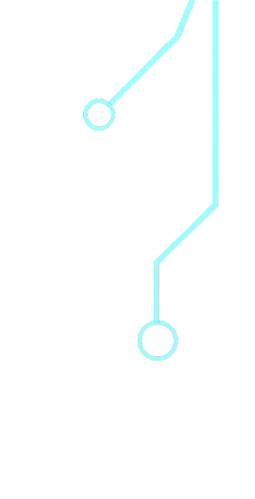
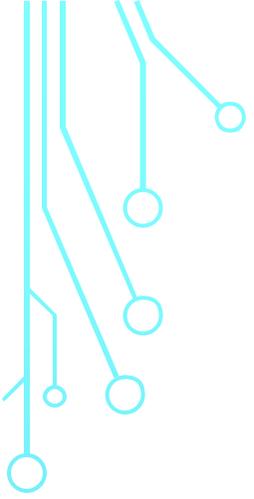
Why was the survey conducted:

- Primarily, to guide the on-going work of the Age-Friendly Georgetown team.
- Our goal is to supplement existing programs and only create new projects when services aren't available.
- We also used information from our survey to support the Comprehensive Plan development.

GEORGETOWN, MAINE AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

69 responses came from out of state (that we could identify from postmarks; some online responses could have been out of state as well).

- 18 from Massachusetts
- 7 from Texas
- 7 from Florida
- 6 from NH
- 6 from CT
- 1 from Ontario and 1 from Puerto Rico

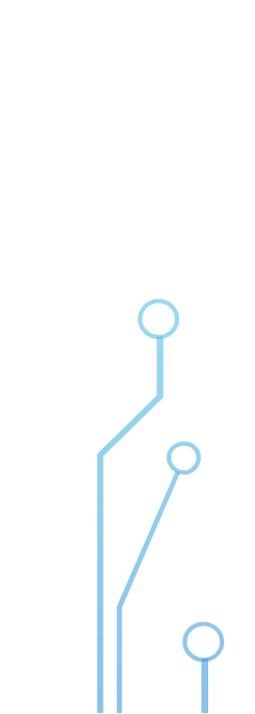
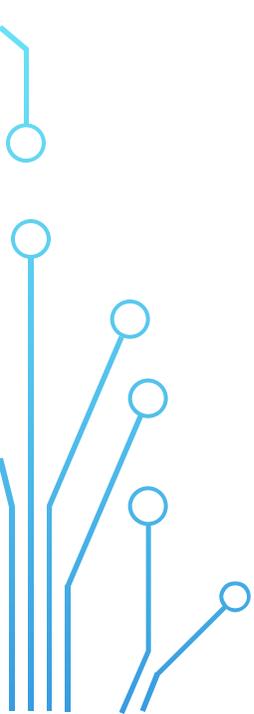


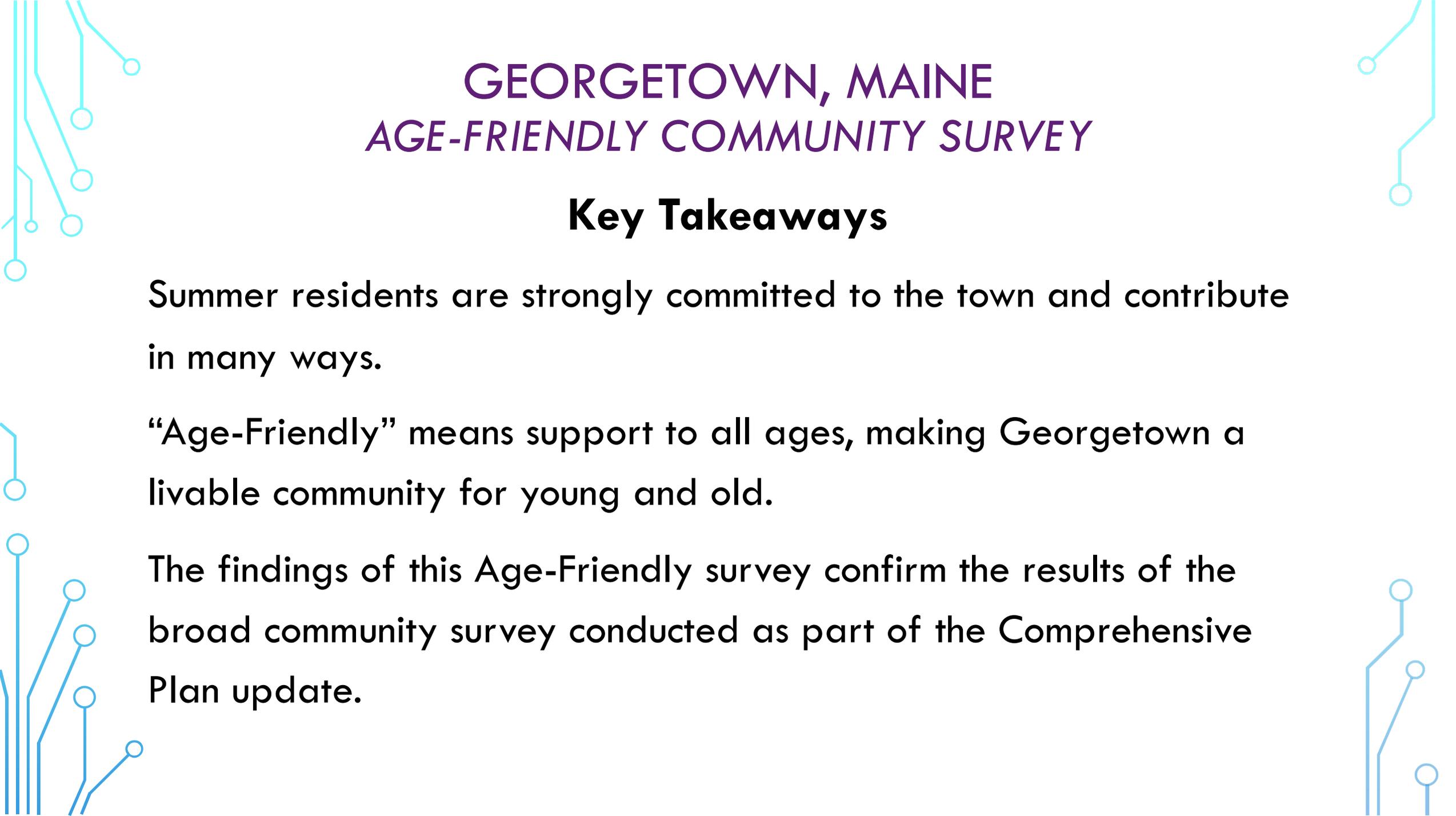
GEORGETOWN, MAINE *AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY*

Key Takeaways

Georgetowners are fiercely independent and protective of our treasured island community.

Most are able to take care of themselves, perhaps with help of family, friends, and neighbors, but many expect to need additional assistance as they get older, especially with home maintenance, chores, and transportation. Georgetowners want to be able to stay in our community and homes as long as we safely can.





GEORGETOWN, MAINE *AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY*

Key Takeaways

Summer residents are strongly committed to the town and contribute in many ways.

“Age-Friendly” means support to all ages, making Georgetown a livable community for young and old.

The findings of this Age-Friendly survey confirm the results of the broad community survey conducted as part of the Comprehensive Plan update.

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

What Else Did We Learn?

- Georgetowners have great appreciation for the beauty and peacefulness of our island, and the many social, recreational, and cultural offerings that are available in our town.
- However, there were a good number that weren't aware of what is available so there is an opportunity to better share that information.
- The great majority felt the town was friendly, neighborly, and supportive of one another.
- There were a few that felt left out of that connectedness.

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

What Else Did We Learn?

- A number of respondents felt the need for more opportunities for young families to stay in town or move here, including more recreation and activities for young Georgetowners and a strong school environment.
- A large number expressed appreciation for the work the Age-Friendly team is doing. 48% (78 people) of the people responding to that question said they would be willing to help with the team's work now or when they retire.

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Some of the Key Issues Raised:

- There is a great appreciation for the wonderful nature preserves and trails in town, but a few expressed concern about more land being taken off the the tax rolls or not being available for home building.
- Assistance with home chores and minor repairs was a big concern for older folks wanting to stay in their homes as long as possible. There is an opportunity for a volunteer handy helper program to provide assistance to those that can't afford or find contractors.

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Some of the key issues Raised:

- Transportation is a worry for many as they get older and not able to drive as they do now. There is not a big current demand for this service but it appears it may be more needed in the future.
- “I would like to see at least one side of the road shoulder to be made better and more suitable for pedestrian/bicycles. More needs to be done in that area.”
- The town and state's aging population means there will be fewer workers available for the services older folks may require.

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Important Points Made:

- “I fear this town will cease to exist as we know it if more of the younger, year-round property owners do not get involved in town volunteer work.”
- “Keep the school open even if it means raising taxes. Its presence and activities help bond the community.”

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

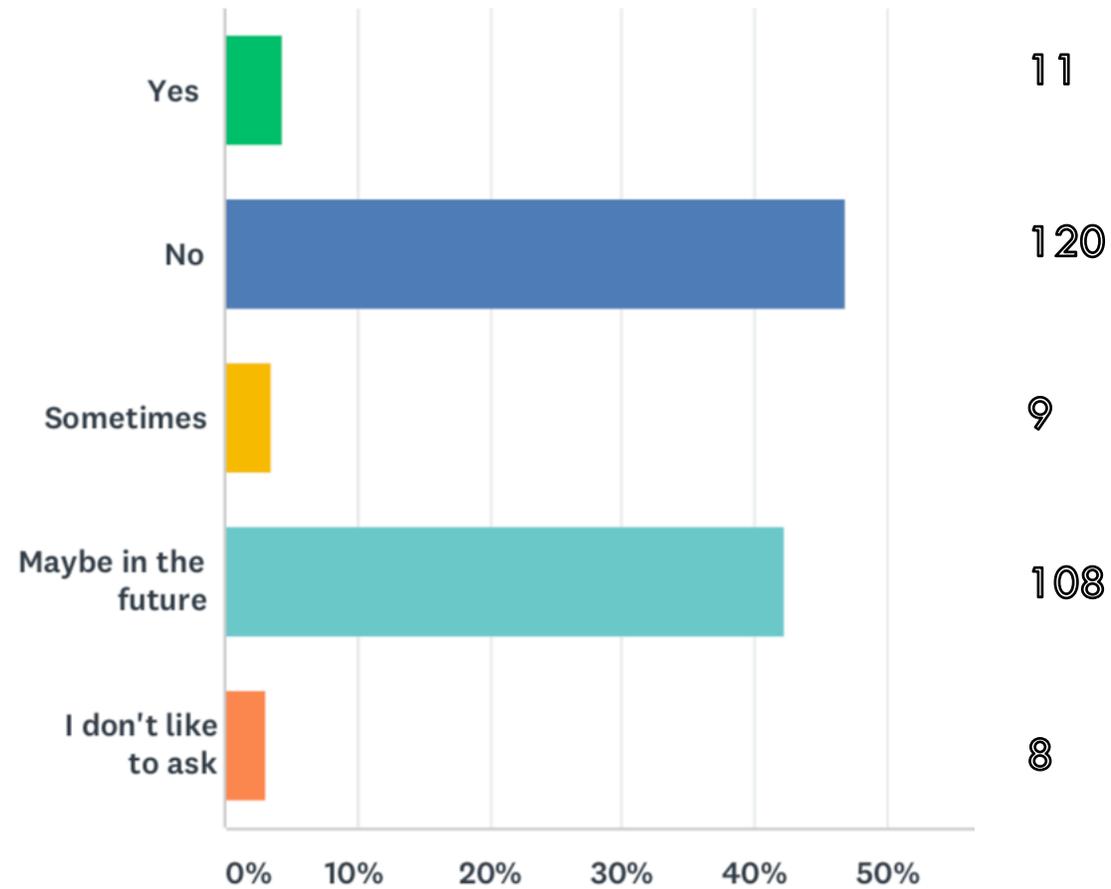
Question 1: What is most important to you about living in Georgetown?

Community

- Friendliness, the people, supportive and caring, friends, closeness of community, neighbors
- Atmosphere/Aesthetic Value
 - Beauty, quiet, peaceful, safe
- Environmental
 - Coastal/tidal access, the ocean, natural beauty, woods and trees, trails/preserves, Reid State Park
- General
 - small town/rural, proximity to other towns/cities, “It’s Home!”, reasonable taxes

GEORGETOWN, MAINE AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Question 3: Are there times when you need assistance with transportation either inside or outside of Georgetown?



GEORGETOWN, MAINE AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Question 4 : Please rate the kind of services that would make it easier for you to live in Georgetown. Responded either Essential or Important:

- **81%: Help keeping my home warm in the winter**
- **77%: Getting help in the event of a power failure**
- **72%: Health care services**
- **71%: Help with general home maintenance**
- **71%: Getting the food I need**
- **70%: Caregiver support**
- **65%: Transportation**

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Question 5: Are there specific things that would enable you to remain in your home as you age?

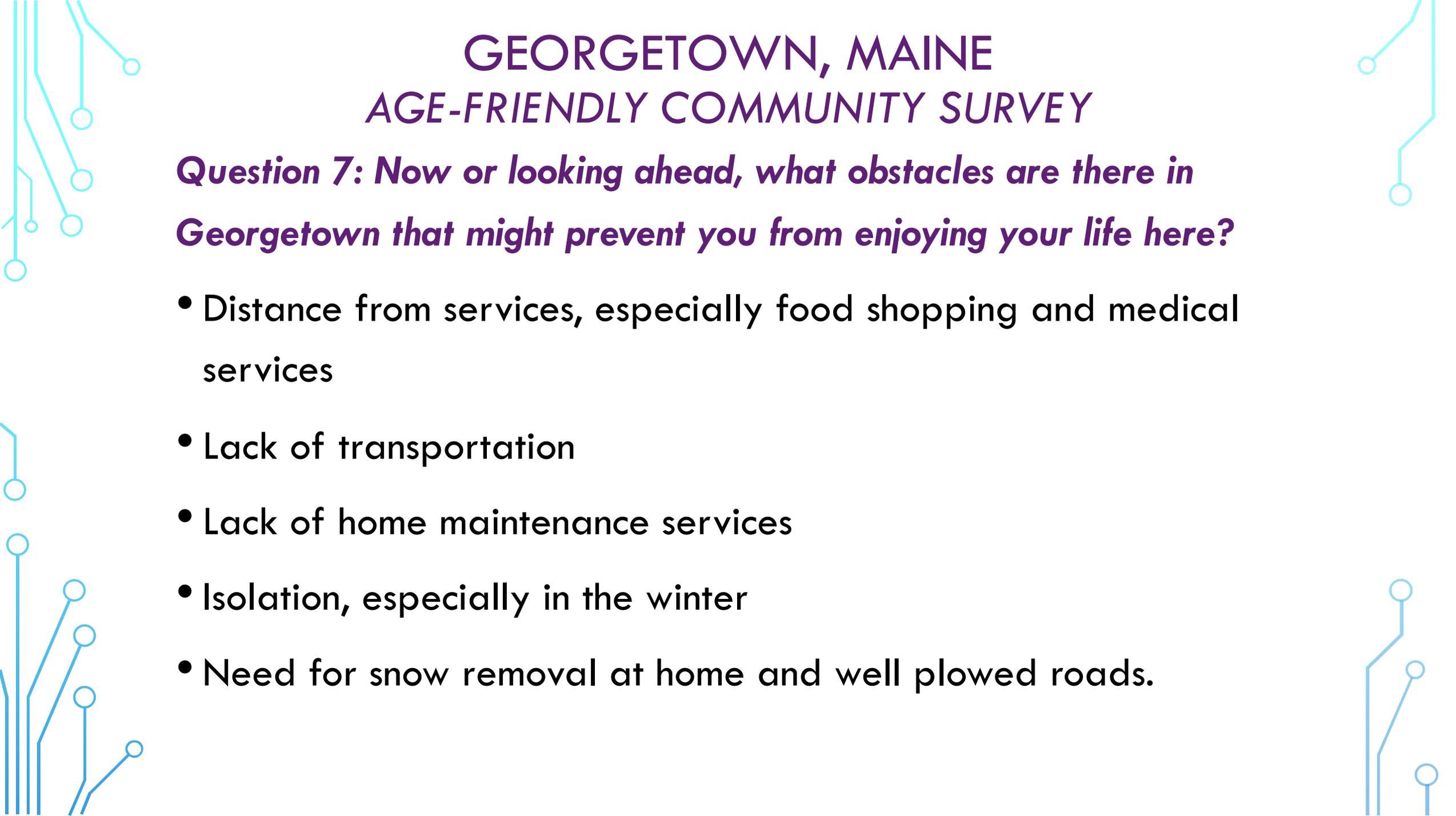
- 36 (29%): Home maintenance support (interior and exterior, excluding shoveling)
- 24 (19%): Snow shoveling and plowing
- 24 (19%): Transportation
- Others mentioned:
 - Help with technology
 - Help with tax preparation
 - Better access to health care and care giving services
 - Reliable help around the house

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Question 6c: Do you have reflective 4-5" house numbers?

- 129, or 55%, said yes
- 106, or 45%, said no



GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Question 7: Now or looking ahead, what obstacles are there in Georgetown that might prevent you from enjoying your life here?

- Distance from services, especially food shopping and medical services
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of home maintenance services
- Isolation, especially in the winter
- Need for snow removal at home and well plowed roads.

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Question 7: Now or looking ahead, what obstacles are there in Georgetown that might prevent you from enjoying your life here?

- Rising cost of housing and taxes
- Limited mobility or other health problems
- Limited high speed internet
- Sea level rise
- Ticks, mosquitoes, over abundance of deer, and other pests.

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Question 10: Do you have a skill, resource or some expertise you would like to share with the community?

- 92, or 55%, said yes
- 27, or 16%, said they would be able to assist with transportation
- Other skills and services offered:
 - Carpentry
 - Gardening
 - Teaching
 - General support

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Additional Survey Comments

- Get the various neighborhoods involved/working together; K-Point and Malden Island mentioned.
- The Fire Department and Ambulance Service are of critical importance.
- Caregivers need affordable short-term respite care. Some can't get away for even an overnight.

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Additional Survey Comments

- Need better internet service.
- “Transportation and meals were my mother’s biggest challenge as she aged in place (another town).”
- “Need to address short term rentals and the effect it has on our neighborhoods and the property value of the year round residents. The number of Air B&Bs has mushroomed and is likely to continue.”

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Additional Survey Comments

- “Don’t duplicate services that are available in Bath or Brunswick.”
- “Our preference would be to make the town more attractive to young families, not just cater to the elderly.”
- If climate change increases storm damage makes road access & driving more difficult - particularly with the tidal situation

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Additional Survey Comments

- “Thank you ALL for trying to make G-town a better community!”
- “I fully respect and support any initiative that helps seniors age comfortably in place.”
- “My family members are continually grateful for Georgetown being the wonderful community it is.”
- “I really like the idea of an age-friendly community. So many could use help. Thank you for doing the survey and the wonderful effort that is being put forth.”

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Where Do We Go From Here? Things We Are Working On

- Create a nature trail that is easy to walk for those with limited mobility: We are proceeding at Schoener Preserve to make improvements to the woods road. Maine Community Foundation provided grant funding and several volunteers are supporting the work, including Conservation Commission, KELT, and UMaine.
- Continue the Gleaning Program: We are currently bringing fresh produce from the Merrymeeting Food Coalition to town and getting vegetables from the school garden. We hope to set up a system for local gardeners to contribute extra vegetables, working with a local gardening group.
- Continue with the enhancement of the Age-Friendly website to provide a source of information and supporting resources. www.agefriendlygeorgetown.org

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Where Do We Go From Here? Things We Are Working On

- Work with the Fire Department on carbon monoxide detectors and lock boxes: We have approached the FD about partnering to supply detectors and possibly a battery replacement program.
- Transportation Program: We continue to promote the Volunteer Transportation Program. While there is not demand now, the survey indicates this could be a significant area of need in the near future.
- Update the list of contractors and service providers for those who can pay: We continue to maintain the listing on our website and are on the lookout for new services to add.

GEORGETOWN, MAINE

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY SURVEY

Where Do We Go From Here? Things We Hope to Work On

- Explore the creation of a Handy Helper Brigade; would require a qualified job leader and a coordinator. There is a big need in town.
- Find ways to improve communication throughout town for activities, events, and available resources, including creation of an on-line community calendar.
- Create a list of volunteers from those that have offered their skills and services.
- Hold a Technology Training Program and recruit young computer users to help older folks.
- And lots more!

You are Invited



Age-Friendly Georgetown Community Survey Results

When?

Wed., August 21
10AM - Noon

Where?

Robinhood Free Meetinghouse
210 Robinhood Road

What?

- Survey Results Presentation & Conversation
- Refreshments
- Future Plans

Who?

All are welcome!

For more information, email:
gtagefriendly@gmail.com

