



United Way of the
Greater Lehigh Valley



MEDIA ALERT

Contact:

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United Way's Age-Friendly Lehigh Valley Kicks Off New Initiative to Increase Pedestrian Safety in Partnership with AARP PA and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission

WHAT: In an effort to improve pedestrian safety and build walkable communities for people of all ages, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley (UWGLV) and Age-Friendly Lehigh Valley (AFLV) are partnering with AARP PA, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC) and local officials to launch walk audits of Lehigh and Northampton County neighborhoods. The audits will identify areas that need improvements as part of ongoing efforts to advocate for safer walkways and roadways.

WHERE: Catasauqua Park and Pool Complex
501 American Street
Catasaqua, PA 18032
*Please use the parking lot entrance on American Street.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 11 a.m.
Rain date: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 11 a.m.

SPEAKERS:

Phillips Armstrong, Lehigh County Executive
Becky Bradley, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Carmen Bell, United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley
Lamont McClure, Northampton County Executive
Mayor Sal Panto, City of Easton
Mayor Barbara Schlegel, Borough of Catasaqua
Mayor Matt Tuerk, City of Allentown
Kellie Von Stein, AARP PA
Kristen Wenrich, Bethlehem Health Bureau

PHOTO AND VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES: Following a brief program, teams will begin to conduct walk audits in nearby locations.

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EVENT DETAILS: More than ever before, older adults are choosing to bike and walk instead of driving, making them a growing share of the nation's pedestrians and cyclists. However, reports show that from 2010 to 2019, drivers in the U.S. struck and killed 53,435 pedestrians — an average of more than 14 people each day, and an estimated 137,000 pedestrians were treated in the emergency room for nonfatal crash-related injuries in 2017.

To ensure that walking is a safe, accessible and convenient alternative for people who cannot or choose not to drive — and to reverse the trends in pedestrian fatalities and injuries — United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley (UWGLV) and Age-Friendly Lehigh Valley (AFLV) have partnered with AARP PA and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission to conduct a walk audit to improve the community walkways, increase accessibility and help build transportation infrastructure.

A walk audit is an activity in which participants observe and evaluate the walkability of a location to identify and document if and how pedestrians can safely travel along streets and trails as well as navigate intersections. Walk audits benefit all pedestrians and cyclists, including people in wheelchairs, those who are blind, persons with disabilities, those pushing strollers, and many more. In livable communities, people of all ages can safely walk for fitness and to get where they need or want to go. AFLV and partners aim to make Lehigh and Northampton neighborhoods more walkable by identifying the roads and intersections that should be walkable and crossable but are instead dangerous for pedestrians.

Lehigh Valley walk audits will begin in April and continue through November. Community Walk Days will be scheduled throughout the spring, summer and fall.

For more information, to join a walk audit or to volunteer, please visit www.agefriendlylehighvalley.org or direct questions to LVWalkAudit@unitedwayglv.org.

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