



5 DECEMBER 2021

ONE ELDERLY PERSON GOES MISSING EVERY TWO DAYS

Every year, between 130 and 180 elderly people are reported missing in Vetus Novus. In most cases, these are people with dementia or Alzheimer's disease.

Every two days an elderly person is reported missing to the Missing People Department. Every day, four to five disturbing cases of disappearances are registered on average. Over 10 percent of them are elderly people.

This is not a dramatic increase, but it does occur more frequently every year. There are more disappearances because there are far more people who are getting older today. Citizens between 50 and 70 constitute the largest age group in Vetus Novus.

Most retirement homes work closely with local police departments to find such missing persons more quickly. Within twenty minutes of a disappearance, retirement homes are required to notify the police. Each elderly person also has an identification sheet with a photograph, a description, and medical information. This is then forwarded to the police so that they can have all the information they need about this missing person.

It often concerns people with dementia or Alzheimer's disease who run away from residential care homes. However, these people often still have a long-term memory. That is why they can use the chips to look for the places that used to be important to them.

Missing elderly people are also found more often than before. The disappearances, however, remain worrying because older people are often more vulnerable. Especially with the hot temperatures, it's problematic for those people as they dehydrate quickly. This could have fatal consequences. It is also very dangerous in winter.