

SENIOR CHOICES Update

During the month of December, staff members spoke with 226 people who were interested in obtaining information & assistance, SENIOR CHOICES services or advocacy. Our staff enrolled 26 new clients and disenrolled 25 clients bringing our total to 729 clients at month's end.

DINING CENTER NOW OPEN AT OUR NEW FACILITY

Our dining center is now open! This is a great opportunity to receive a hot nutritious meal in an environment that encourages socialization. Advance reservations are appreciated, but not required at the new center. Transportation is available for this site. Lunch is served between 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Please call our nutrition office at (740) 203-2432 for a reservation or if you have any questions.

HOME DELIVERED MEAL CLIENTS

Our Senior Nutrition Program (Meals-On-Wheels) has successfully transitioned all meal routes to our new facility. We are committed to bringing you the best meals possible and welcome all your comments. Please remember that Nutrition phone numbers have changed to (740) 203-2432 and (740) 203-2433. These are the numbers to use if you need to cancel your meal. Please call by 8:30 a.m. the day you need to cancel.

WEATHER RELATED CANCELLATIONS FOR HOME DELIVERED MEALS

If meals are cancelled, due to inclement weather, we will announce when the program is closed on our outgoing message of the reservation line at (740) 203-2432 and on radio stations 610 AM, 1230 AM, 92.3 FM, 93.3 FM, 97.9 FM, and 105.7 FM. We will also announce our program closing on Channels 4 (NBC), 6 (ABC) and 10 (CBS). Look for our closing under our program name "Delaware County Senior Nutrition Program". The shelf stable meal should be used as a substitute meal in the event of weather related cancellations.

SNOW REMOVAL

Winter has arrived and once again the Council for Older Adults will provide snow shoveling service for seniors over the age of 60 who live in Delaware County. Local teens in need of community projects will be assisted by an adult supervisor to complete these chores. Please do not call ahead of time for snow shoveling, call only when you have snow covering your walks or driveways. If you or someone you know could use this free service, give us a call at (740) 363-6677 or (800) 994-2255.

NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION FREE SCREENING

The National Kidney Foundation is offering a FREE comprehensive kidney health screening for individuals at risk for kidney disease (those with diabetes, high blood pressure, and/or a family history of kidney disease). The screening will be held on Friday, Feb. 1st from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The screening will be at the Delaware Area Career Center North, 1610 St. Rt. 521 in Delaware. Limited walk-in space is available, but appointments are accepted by calling 1-800-242-2133, ext. 224, or 614-481-430, ext. 224.

TAX TIME AGAIN!

Your local chapter of AARP and the Council for Older Adults will offer county residents age 60 or over free tax preparation. This service is provided by appointment only and is available Feb. 1st – April 15th. Please call the Council for Older Adults at (740) 363-6677 or 800-994-2255 for further information or to make an appointment.

ANNUAL SPRING APPLIANCE PICKUP

Residents who are 60 or older and living in Delaware County can take advantage of the Senior Appliance Pickup Service starting in February. Keep Delaware County Beautiful will pick up unused or broken appliances from inside older residents' homes. TV sets, computer equipment, and other electronic items will also be collected, thanks to additional funding from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The service is free, due to support from the Council for Older Adults, the Delaware-Knox-Marion-Morrow (DKMM) Solid Waste District, Sims Recycling, and the Delaware General Health District. Please call (740) 368-1700 BY MAY 19th to sign up.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

The Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) offers several programs to help low-income residents pay their utility bills and improve the heating efficiency of their homes. Applications for 2008 are available at the Council for Older Adults, 800 Cheshire Rd., Suite A, Delaware, or call (740) 363-6677 for more information. Completed applications should be mailed to: Office of Community Services/Home Energy Assistance Program, P.O. Box 1240, Columbus, Ohio, 43216.

TRANSPORTATION COMPANIONS AVAILABLE

The Council for Older Adults Transportation Program can provide necessary (non-emergency) transportation for older adults and/or caregivers. Companions provide a door-to-door service, accompany a rider to and from an appointment or event on public transit/taxi and stay during the appointment. Rides/Companions are limited to Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. and depend upon the availability of a companion/volunteer. If you are interested in this free program, funded, in part, by a grant from The American Cancer Society, please call the Council at (740) 363-6677 at least one week in advance.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FILING DEADLINE EXTENDED

Seniors who didn't apply for the homestead exemption last year will now get another chance to sign up. County auditors are now accepting applications for the homestead exemption through June 2, 2008. Seniors who are already signed up do not need to reapply; the new enrollment period is designed primarily for those who were not previously eligible. The legislation generally allows all senior citizens and permanently and totally disabled Ohioans, regardless of income, to exempt \$25,000 of the market value of the home they owned and lived in on January 1 from property taxes. Average savings to taxpayers is \$400/yr. For more information, call the Delaware County Auditors office at (740) 833-2900, visit their website at www.co.delaware.oh.us/auditor, or contact the Council for Older Adults at (740) 363-6677.

WOW (WORDS ON WHEELS) MOBILE LIBRARY COMES TO SENIOR CITIZENS INC.

Do you love to read or listen to books on tape? Delaware County District Library offers a home-bound library service for those individuals with a temporary or permanent disability. Now they have added an extra stop at the new Senior Citizen's Inc. building at 800 Cheshire Road. The WOW mobile vehicle will be at our new facility every other Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to noon.. The next visit will be on January 23rd. All that is required to check out materials is a current Library card. Don't have one? Applications are available at the WOW Mobile, at the main library, through Outreach Services and at the Powell and Ostrander branches. For more information or an application, please contact the main library at (740) 362-3861 and ask for Outreach Services.



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