

SENIOR CHOICES Update

During the month of February, staff members spoke with **803** people who were interested in obtaining information & assistance, SENIOR CHOICES services or advocacy. Our staff enrolled **20** new clients and disenrolled **28** clients bringing our total to **765** clients at month's end. Our year- to-date total of clients served is **819**.

MARCH IS NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

We would like to thank our social work staff at the Council for Older Adults for their dedication and commitment in working with older adults in Delaware County. We would also like to thank the community for supporting the SENIOR CHOICES program, which allows older adults to remain safe and independent in their own homes for as long as possible. If you would like to recognize your Care Consultant, feel free to drop us a note.

CANDID CAREGIVER WORKSHOPS

The Council for Older Adults provides monthly opportunities for caregivers to learn, grow, and gather support from each other. Presentations are provided by various members of our care-giving community and focus on a host of topics. Workshops will be held in the large conference room at the Center for Older Adults, 800 Cheshire Rd., Delaware. Please feel free to bring a friend! To register, please RSVP to Intake & Referral Specialist, Jen Spicer at (740) 203-2377.

TAX TIME AGAIN!

It's not too late to get your taxes done! This free annual program, for county residents age 60 and over, is brought to you by your local AARP chapter and Council for Older Adults. Local AARP volunteers have successfully completed a rigorous training program, which is offered in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service. All volunteer counselors have been specifically trained to prepare returns for older adults. This service is provided by appointment only.

There are four locations this year:

- Center for Older Adults, 800 Cheshire Rd. in Delaware – Wednesdays & Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Sunbury Library, 44 Burrer Dr. in Sunbury - Tuesdays 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Please contact the Council for Older Adults at (740) 363-6677 to schedule your appointment at the above locations. AARP volunteers will also be working at the following locations:

- Westerville Senior Center, 310 W. Main St. in Westerville: call (614) 901-6560
- Dublin Community Center, 5600 Post Rd. in Dublin: call (614) 410-4550

On the day of your appointment you should bring last year's tax return, W-2s, 1099s, the amount of your Economic Rebate from last year (you do not have to pay taxes on it but if your tax preparer knows the amount you received last year, then they can check to see if you are eligible for an increase in 2009), the amount that you paid in real estate taxes for 2008 even if you do not itemize, and any other tax-related materials.

MATTER OF BALANCE CLASSES

Do you have a fear of falling? If you are 60 or older, live in Delaware County, and can participate in ALL classes in April, then we have a perfect opportunity for you! Classes are offered by the Delaware General Health District and sponsored by the Council for Older Adults. The classes will be held April 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, and 28, 2009 from 2 - 4 p.m. at the Center for Older Adults' Art Room at 800 Cheshire Rd. Please contact Connie Frambes, RN at (740) 368-1700 to register.

TV SIGNAL SWITCH DELAYED

If your TV operates with the help of “rabbit ears” or a rooftop antenna and you do not have your converter box installed yet, you should be aware that Congress just passed legislation which enables TV stations to delay the switch until June 12. Some stations observed the original effective date of February 17. We are able to offer a limited number of converter boxes to low income clients due to a grant funded by WOSU, Lifecare Alliance, Central Ohio Agency Area on Aging, and the Columbus Foundation. If you have received a free converter box coupon which you no longer need, we can accept these coupons and make them available to others who may need them. We have volunteers who are able to assist with the installation of converter boxes also. For more information on receiving your converter box or submitting an unused coupon, call the Council office at (740) 363-6677.

SENIOR APPLIANCE PICK UP

The Council for Older Adults is once again partnering with the Delaware General Health District in their efforts to “Keep Delaware County Beautiful,” by offering the Senior Appliance Pickup service to county residents age 60 and older. This award-winning service is primarily funded by the Council for Older Adults. This year, they will accept home computers and computer accessories in addition to ranges, refrigerators, freezers, washers, dryers, microwave ovens, dishwashers, and dehumidifiers. The service will not accept television sets or non-computer electronics. To arrange for the service, phone the Health District at (740) 368-1700 before April 3. The service is offered on a first-call, first-served basis, and the limited amount of available funding might be depleted prior to that date. Julie’s Movers of Delaware will contact clients to let them know their pickup dates.

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 are available at the Council office, 800 Cheshire Rd., Delaware. **Please mail completed applications to: Office of Community Services Home Energy Assistance Program, P.O. Box 1240, Columbus, OH 43216.**

17TH ANNUAL SUMMER FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 19

The 2009 Summer Festival, held at the Delaware County Fairgrounds from 3 – 8 p.m., will feature a Senior Health and Wellness Fair as well as the Senior Expo which will spotlight businesses and organizations who offer services and products to seniors and their families. Other activities include a vintage auto show, handmade arts and crafts, and a special children’s play area. Entertainment will include musicians, clowns, and Delaware County’s own world-famous magician, Dr. Eldoonie.

Fairgoers will also enjoy roasted pork and shredded chicken sandwiches with all the fixin’s. Meal tickets cost \$6 in advance and \$7 the day of the event. Meal tickets for the Summer Festival can be purchased beginning in April and will be available at the Council office, 800 Cheshire Road, Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Other ticket sales locations will be announced at a later date and posted on our website - www.growingolder.org. Individual à la carte portions may be purchased for children, and carry-out dinners will once again be available. Admission to the Summer Festival and parking are free. Funds raised through the Summer Festival will be used to support the services of your Council for Older Adults.

