



NEWS RELEASE

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This news release can be found and downloaded from the “Press Release” page of the Council for Older Adults web site at www.growingolder.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Delaware County Commissioners Proclaim May as Older Americans Month

On May 12, the Delaware County Board of Commissioners proclaimed May as Older Americans Month in Delaware County, congratulating local older adults for the important contributions they have made and continue to make in Delaware County.

Each May, Ohio and the nation celebrate the most significant and rapidly growing segment of our country’s population - older adults who are living longer, healthier and more productive lives. The theme of this year’s celebration—Older Americans: Connecting the Community—pays homage to the many ways in which older adults bring inspiration and continuity to the fabric of our communities. Their shared histories, diverse experiences, and wealth of knowledge have made our culture, economy, and local character what they are today. The theme also highlights the many ways technology is helping older Americans live longer, healthier and more engaged lives.

The older population in the U.S., persons 65 years or older, numbered 39.6 million in 2009 (the latest year for which data is available). They represented 12.9% of the U.S. population, about one in every eight Americans. By 2030, there will be about 72.1 million older persons, more than twice their number in 2000. People 65+ represented 12.4% of the population in the year 2000 but are expected to grow to be 19% of the population by 2030. In Delaware County, it is estimated that more than 20,000 residents are age 60 and over and by the year 2020, that age group will represent one out of every 5 county residents.

Each year, the Council for Older Adults celebrates this month with a variety of activities as we take the opportunity to recognize some local role models and focus on important topics affecting local seniors. This year, we have organized or are participating in a number of local and regional events which include the following:

Ohio’s Senior Citizens Day - Tuesday, May 17

The third Tuesday of May each year is proclaimed by the Governor to be Ohio Senior Citizen’s Day. Activities take place throughout Ohio to celebrate the heritage and contribution of our most treasured citizens. Local events include Senior Day at Senior Citizen’s Inc. of Delaware County as well as various other activities throughout the county.

The 36th Annual Central Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony - Wednesday, May 18, 1:00 p.m.

Each year the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging honors individuals age 60 and above who have enriched

the quality of life for others in their communities, by inducting them into the Central Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Delaware County has been well-represented with nominees to the Hall of Fame. This year's inductee from Delaware County is Carolyn Slone.

Caregiver Recognition Day – Wednesday, May 26 - Every May, the Council for Older Adults recognizes some very exceptional people in Delaware County - caregivers, who provide on-going support, care and assistance to elderly friends, family or neighbors. We accomplish this by offering a special gift of appreciation for the service they provide. Following our regular May board meeting, volunteers go to homes of local caregivers and present them with a letter of appreciation, a gift and a flower as a personal gesture of thanks for the efforts that they make every day in caring for older friends and relatives. This is an event that our staff and board members look forward to each year when we have the opportunity to express our gratitude to the many caregivers who help us keep older adults in their homes. Anyone wishing to volunteer or nominate a caregiver for this honor should contact the Council for Older Adults by May 18 at (740) 363-6677.

Seventh Annual Seniors Prom – Saturday, May 21

The seventh annual seniors prom will be held on May 21, from 5 - 9 p.m. at the Center for Older Adults. This gala event, for Delaware County residents age 60 and over, will feature an elegant dinner and dancing with the theme of a "Magnolia Ball."

The Council for Older Adults of Delaware County is a non-profit local organization responsible for planning, coordinating and developing local services for older adults, their families and caregivers in Delaware County. The Council is the home of SENIOR CHOICES, the local one stop center for information, assistance and in-home services. The Senior Choices program is supported in part through the local senior services levy.