

Have You Heard About Monroe County's Best Kept Secret???

MONROE COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

Monroe County has an array of services to help senior citizens in their daily lives but it falls on the Monroe County Commission on Aging to coordinate those services.

In 2005, the Commission has budgeted \$2,808,333 for programming for local residents 60 and older. The money comes from the .50-mill tax levy that homeowners pay annually. This year the millage is expected to generate about \$2.6 million. The difference between what is budgeted and what the millage is expected to generate comes from the Commission on Aging's fund balance. These county funds match several thousands of additional State and Federal dollars that our county receives for additional senior services.

By coordinating agencies that offer senior services, the Commission hopes to maximize services and avoid duplication. Money is funneled to the agencies through the Commission but not before the agencies have to provide a detailed plan on how they intend to spend that money. The Commission's pledge is that the greatest benefit will go to those most in need and the most frail will receive the highest priority.

Your Tax Dollars Working in the Community

In 2004, the following agencies provided Monroe County residents with the following amounts of service:

- **Ash Senior Center**- 269 hours of socialization to area seniors
- **Bedford Health Van**- 2,883 one-way trips for seniors
- **Bedford Senior Center**-1, 668 hours of service for area seniors
- **Berlin Senior Center**-2, 355 meals and socialization
- **Caring Alternatives Inc.**-16,830 hours of home care, personal care, respite and medication set-up
- **Catholic Charities of Monroe County**- 1,025 hours of counseling
- **Deaf and Hearing Impaired Services, Inc.**- 1,686 hours of interpretation and counseling for deaf and hard of hearing seniors
- **Dundee Senior Center**- 1,729 hours of socialization for area seniors
- **Faith in Action for Monroe County**- 3,080 hours of respite, friendly visiting and errand service
- **Lenawee, Monroe, Hillsdale Foster Grandparent Program**- 11,009 hours of help to children in need by 17 dedicated seniors
- **Frenchtown Senior Center**- 3,510 hours of socialization and adult day care service for many area seniors
- **Lake Erie Transit**- 69,198 one-way trips for seniors around town to stores, dialysis and doctor appointments
- **Living Independence for Everyone**- 257,545 hot meals to senior in and outside of their homes
- **Milan Senior Center**- 2,199 hours of programming and socialization for Milan area seniors.
- **Monroe County Health Department**- 613 hours of medication set-up and diabetes instruction for seniors
- **MCOP Home Chore**-3, 881 units of chore service
- **MCOP Ramps**-6 portable temporary aluminum ramps
- **MCOP Specialized Transportation**- 6,738 one-way trips
- **MCOP Commodity Food Program**- 138,178 food items for seniors
- **MCOP Resource Advocacy**- 7,841 hours of counseling and assistance
- **MCOP Fuel Assistance Program**- 206 fuel bills paid
- **MCOP Unmet Needs Program**- 57 unmet needs items for seniors
- **Monroe Senior Center**- 4,404 hours of activities and socialization to area seniors
- **Monroe County Senior Legal Services**- 9,681 hours of legal service
- **Petersburg Summerfield Seniors**- 320 hours of service for Petersburg area seniors.
- **Retired Senior Volunteer Program**- 74,384 hours of volunteer time from seniors for community events
- **AAA 1-B Community Care Management**- 32,696 units of Personal Care, Home Care, and Respite directly provided to seniors.

The commission is a nine-member board (one from each county district and appointed by county commissioners), a director and a part-time administrative assistant. The board meets at 1 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at locations throughout the county.

For more information on any of the services or to check on qualifications for programs, **call the Monroe County Commission on Aging at 734-240-7363, 734- 240-7364 or toll-free at (800) 354-5500, ext. 7363**