



The Source for Seniors

Kent County Millage Minder

Senior Millage

about the Kent County Senior Millage
Fall 2011

Senior Centers



Senior centers offer a variety of options geared toward diverse interests. While the specific activities will vary at each location, many offer health and wellness classes, Wii tournaments and more. *The Senior Centers listed below receive funding from the Kent County Senior Millage. This is not an exhaustive list of senior centers in Kent County.*



Baxter Community Center (616) 456-8593

Senior Neighbors (operates 5 centers)

- Downtown Grand Rapids** (616) 459-3040
- Grandville** (616) 531-5250
- Lowell** (616) 897-5949
- Sparta** (616) 887-1273
- Walker Firehouse Cafe** (616) 735-3540



Ridelink Helps Preserve Independence

Just because an older adult no longer drives, doesn't mean that they have to give up their independence. Ridelink provides transportation throughout Kent County for residents over 60 years old.

Ridelink vehicles are all clearly marked and many can accommodate wheelchairs or walkers, but these need to be identified when scheduling.

Seniors need to register with Ridelink before they can schedule trips. Rides must be booked by noon one day prior and can be arranged up to seven days in advance. Individuals are encouraged to schedule rides outside of peak times (9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.).

"Some seniors use this service to go to medical appointments or grocery shopping, but others utilize Ridelink to attend senior centers for meals, healthy aging classes or social events," says Sandra Ghoston Jones, Kent County Contract Coordinator at the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan.

Ridelink is a collaboration of American Red Cross, ACSET (Area Community Services Employment and Training Council), Hope Network, the Rapid, Senior Neighbors and United Methodist Community House.

For more information, or to register, contact:

Ridelink (616) 774-1288 or (866) 425-3848

The Millage Minder is published quarterly by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. For more information, contact (616) 456-5664 or visit www.aaawm.org.

Millage Service Eligibility

To qualify for Senior Millage services, persons must be at least 60 years old and a resident of Kent County.

Individuals with incomes above \$21,780 and couples with incomes above \$29,420 may be asked to pay a portion (cost share).

Cost share is based on income and varies depending on the service. For more detailed information, contact the organization providing service.

Donations are accepted for all programs.

For more information, including a full list of services, visit www.aaawm.org.



Flu Shots

The Kent County Senior Millage is providing flu shots for those ages 60-64 not covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

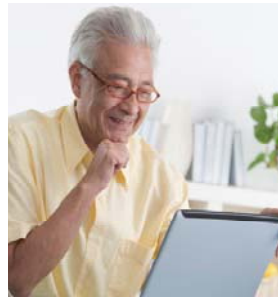
“The flu vaccine changes every year to reflect the risk to the population as the various strains become more or less problematic,” says Jim Byrne M.D., Priority Health Vice President and Chief Medical Officer and a member of the Kent County Millage Review Committee. “Flu shots are among the most cost-effective measures that can be taken to protect us from life-threatening illness.”

Shots will be provided by AngelCare Home Health Care and Catherine’s Health Center. AngelCare will be conducting flu shot clinics throughout Kent County while Catherine’s Health Center will take appointments at their office.

For more information, contact:

AngelCare Home Health Care	(616) 245-8899
Catherine’s Health Center	(616) 336-8800

We Need Email Addresses!



Help reduce our costs by getting the Millage Minder in your inbox. Email Wendyl@aaawm.org with “Millage Minder” in the subject line and start receiving the Millage Minder electronically.

Energy Efficiency

As the weather turns colder, it’s time to think about energy efficiency and ways to reduce utility costs.

“It’s not uncommon for seniors to become overwhelmed with unexpectedly high heating bills,” says Sandra Ghoston Jones, Contract Coordinator at the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. “The problem could stem from a faulty or energy inefficient furnace or poor insulation. There are steps we can take to fix these problems and control heating costs before an individual incurs bills they are unable to afford.”

For more information on any of the resources listed below, contact the agency that provides the service.

Minor home repairs including repairing windows or replacing fuses.

Senior Neighbors (616) 459-6019

Major home repairs like roof or furnace replacement.

Home Repair Services (616) 241-2601

Weatherization to improve home energy efficiency.

ACSET (616) 336-4023

The purpose of the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan is to provide older persons, including those in the greatest economic need, with an array of human services designed to maintain independence and dignity in their homes and communities.