



The Source for Seniors

Kent County Senior Millage Millage Minder

about the Kent County Senior Millage
Summer 2011

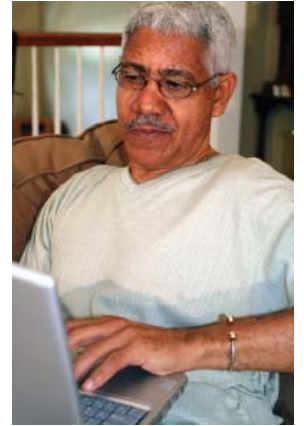
Senior Volunteer Opportunities



Senior volunteers fill an important role in our community. The following Kent County Senior Millage funded services utilize volunteers to help serve older adults and local non-profit organizations.

Friendly Visitor: volunteers are trained to provide social visits to home bound or isolated older adults

Spectrum Health Visiting Nurse Association (616) 486-3900



Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP):

connects seniors with a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the community.

Senior Neighbors

(616) 459-9509



Foreclosure Intervention Counseling

Do you own your own home? Are you facing possible foreclosure? Home Repair Services (HRS) may be able to help through their foreclosure intervention counseling for older adults in Kent County.

“The goal is to prevent seniors from losing their home,” says Tracie Coffman, Senior Foreclosure Counselor at Home Repair Services. “However, we look at the entire situation to see if that is possible and work with individuals on things like budget counseling. This way if we can prevent a foreclosure, we can also provide some structure to prevent them from being in a similar situation down the road.”

HRS also helps homeowners seek out options with their lenders and connect them to additional community resources that may be able to help.

Seniors are encouraged to call sooner rather than later. If HRS is contacted early in the process they may be able to provide more assistance and options. The longer individuals wait, the more restricted they are in how they can help.

For more information on the Foreclosure Intervention Counseling, contact:

Home Repair Services

(616) 241-2601

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.

Fair Housing Services

The Fair Housing Center of West Michigan helps prevent housing discrimination towards older adults.

If a senior feels they have been denied housing based on race, religion, disability, sex, familial status, national origin, color, marital status, age, sexual orientation or source of income, they should contact the Fair Housing Center of West Michigan (FHC).

Persons with disabilities also have rights to reasonable accommodations or reasonable modifications under the Federal Fair Housing Act.



FHC conducts comparison testing based on complaints received regarding potential discrimination. They also complete survey testing to ensure compliance with fair housing laws.

FHC uses volunteer testers to help investigate potential fair housing violations. Training is provided and testers are given a small stipend.

For more information on the program, your rights under the Fair Housing Act or how to volunteer as a tester, contact:

Fair Housing Center of West Michigan
(616) 451-2980



Email Address Needed!

Help reduce our costs by receiving the Millage Minder in your inbox. Email WendyI@aaawm.org with "Millage Minder" in the subject line and start receiving the Millage Minder electronically.

Fan and Air Conditioner Program

The fan and air conditioner program is once again providing heat relief for older adults in Kent County.



In order to qualify for the program seniors must have a medical need and a physician's prescription.

"In addition to the units, we will also provide installation assistance," says Bob Barnes, Executive Director at Senior Neighbors. "We understand that many older adults may not be able to do this on their own and we want to ensure the unit is installed properly in order to prevent heat related illness."

The program is only able to serve a limited number of individuals and operates on a first come first served basis for those who qualify.

For more information, contact:

Senior Neighbors

(616) 459-6019

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.

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.