



The Source for Seniors

Kent County Senior Millage **Millage Minder**

about the Kent County Senior Millage
Winter 2012

Help for Caregivers

The Kent County Senior Millage recognizes that family caregivers are an asset to our community and to older adults. Various programs are funded to help support family caregivers and the role they provide in serving seniors.

Respite- assistance to caregivers of those older adults who are physically or mentally disabled

Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (616) 456-5664

HHS Health Options (616) 956-9440

Adult Day Services- daytime program for older adults who are unable to remain at home alone due to functional impairments.

Care Tree Adult Day Services (616) 464-3665

Side by Side Adult Day Services (616) 235-2910

SarahCare Adult Day Care (616) 530-6700



Program Updates for 2012

Two organizations, Senior Meals Program and Senior Neighbors, have discovered other resources for programs (Project Fresh and Home Financial Services) that were previously funded by the Millage.

Senior Meals Program operated Project Fresh and they have vowed to fund raise in order to continue to offer the program, which focused on providing coupons to purchase fruits and vegetables at local farmers markets.

Senior Neighbors who was offering Home Financial Services will discontinue the program. However, the tax preparation piece will still be available through AARP tax preparation, Kent County Tax Credit Coalition and H&R Block.

“As a committee we are continually evaluating services to ensure we are not duplicating efforts and are using tax payer dollars wisely,” says Nancy Nielsen, Kent County Millage Review Committee Chairperson. “Unfortunately sometimes this means reducing or eliminating funding for programs, but our goal is to best serve the seniors.”

The committee did award new funding to the Salvation Army for their senior center staffing in 2012.

“The Salvation Army has an active older adult population and they provide great programming to seniors who come from all over the county to attend their programs,” says Nielsen. “They will use the new funding to continue to serve seniors in need.”

*The Millage Minder is published quarterly by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan.
For more information contact (616) 456-5664*

Current Year Funding (2012)

- Priority Services \$ 3,210,895
- Supportive Services \$ 783,312
- Access Services \$ 1,397,396
- General Services \$ 955,257
- Misc. Services \$ 61,426

Total \$ 6,408,286

Previous Year Funding (2011)

- Priority Services \$ 3,241,678
- Supportive Services \$ 782,408
- Access Services \$ 1,402,542
- General Services \$ 986,314
- Misc. Services \$ 56,426

Total \$ 6,469,368

Priority Services- in-home and nutritional services help the most frail and needy elders (including their family caregivers) maintain independence in their own homes.

Supportive Services- strengthen and sustain priority services to lengthen time individuals can remain living at home in a safe environment.

Access Services- guide older adults and their caregivers to appropriate senior services.

General Services- include health promotion, disease prevention, first line support and volunteer opportunities.

Misc. Services- emergency needs (typically based on weather emergencies, including home heating assistance), trainings for millage providers and other miscellaneous needs.

Changes to Citizens for Better Care

In late 2011, Citizens for Better Care (CBC) ended their business and Adult Well-Being Services (AWBS) submitted a request to the Millage Review Committee to provide the Long Term Care Ombudsman service previously provided by CBC.

The proposal was reviewed and accepted for 2012. AWBS retained many of the staff from CBC so service has been, largely, unaffected by this change.

What is Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO)?

LTCO helps residents and prospective residents of long-term care facilities understand their rights. They also investigate and work to resolve complaints from residents against long term care facilities.

For more information on Long Term Care Ombudsman services, contact:

Adult Well-Being Services (616) 245-9451
(800) 782-2918

Millage Service Eligibility for 2012

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

Cost sharing (or a co-payment) may be required for individuals whose incomes are above \$22,340 and for couples whose incomes are above \$30,260 for 2012. The cost share fees are based on income and vary depending on service type. For more information, contact the organization providing services.

Donations are accepted for all services and are put back into programs, allowing additional seniors to be served.

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.