



Crawford County
Council on Aging, Inc.
200 S. Spring St.
Bucyrus, Ohio 44820

419/562-3050 or
1-800-589-7853

Hours:
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday

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Senior Tidings

Crawford County Council on Aging, Inc. April 2010, Special Edition

Support Our Seniors

This is a Special Edition of our monthly newsletter published to provide information about Crawford County Council on Aging, Inc., the services we provide with levy dollars and to encourage you not only to vote, but to vote

For The Levy!

Older Americans Act- The Foundation....

The passage of the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965 by the U.S. Congress affirmed our nation's high sense of commitment to the well being of older citizens. The goal of the older Americans Act is to remove barriers to economic and personal independence and to assure the availability of appropriate services for those older individuals who need them.

Amendments to the Older Americans Act, in 1973, began the focus of developing a National Network on Aging. To implement these objectives, the Older Americans Act created structures at the federal, state, and local levels. Taken together they are often referred to as the Network on Aging. The aging network has as its

common goal to provide maximum opportunities for older people to live independent, meaningful and dignified lives in their own homes and communities as long as possible and to protect the rights of older people who need to live in care providing facilities.

Today, the OAA Network on Aging, includes the Administration on Aging (AoA); a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); Ohio Department of Aging (ODA); Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging (AAA); Crawford County Council on Aging (CCCOA).

History of Crawford County Council on Aging....

In 1973, a committee gathered with county-wide representation organized for the purpose of studying the needs of the elderly in Crawford County, and for the purpose of seeking ways to address those needs.

In 1974, the committee on aging for Crawford County was incorporated as the Crawford County Council on Aging, and was awarded grants under the OAA to program services for

the elderly of the county.

In 1978, the Board of Trustees established a modern senior center in a purchased and renovated older building in the downtown business district in the city of Bucyrus. This center became a focal point for the provision of services to the elderly.

February 18, 1984, the senior center was destroyed by an extensive fire. After the fire, the Board of Trustees unanimously voted not to renovate the old center building because the size of the facility no longer accommodated the variety of activities, for the growing number of people using the senior center.

The Board voted to seek funding to build a new facility and in late 1984, the land for the new site was purchased at our current location. Ground breaking and building began in late summer of 1985. The Senior Center opened for business on March 1st, 1986. This facility continues to house the business offices, services of the Council on Aging, and also serves as a senior center providing social-recreational opportunities for older adults.

Council on Aging Services....

Home Delivered Meals: Hot meals are delivered 5 days a week to residents within a 1/2 mile of Bucyrus, Crestline, and Galion city limits. In other areas of the county, frozen, microwaveable meals for the week are delivered. Frozen meals are available for weekends, if needed. Low sodium and diabetic substitutes are also available.

Congregate Meals: A hot noon meal served in a congenial atmosphere with opportunities to meet new friends and to socialize with old friends, is available Monday through Friday in Bucyrus and Galion. The Bucyrus site is located at the Senior Center, 200 S. Spring Street. The Galion site is located at the Galion Golden Age Club, 301 South Market Street.

Homemaker & Personal Care: Homemaking and personal care services are provided to senior citizens in their homes. Personal Care Aides are trained to do personal care, such as bathing, grooming, and dressing. They do light housekeeping, laundry, and limited errands.

Transportation: Van transportation is available to doctor appointments, grocery stores, banks, laundry facilities, senior centers, etc. Vans are equipped with wheelchair lifts, and drivers are trained in wheelchair management.

Information & Assistance: The growth of the older adult population has increased the demand for information by both older persons and their caregivers. Today, older Americans face a complicated array of choices and decisions about a variety of issues, such as health care, housing, financial management, nutrition, and long term care. With so many overlapping federal and state programs and their different requirements, older adults and their caregivers often need help to know what services are available and whether they qualify.

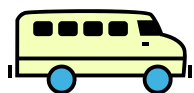
Crawford County Council on Aging had a record breaking year in 2009 for services to seniors in Crawford County. We would like to thank the volunteers and staff that made this possible.

Some Things Never Change!

The Fact Sheet written in 1995 to justify to Crawford County voters the need for the first levy, stated ***“Over the past eight years, the Federal and State Funding has not only NOT BEEN INCREASED to adjust for inflation, but in many grants has actually been decreased.”*** The Fact Sheet went on to say, “Although the role of the Council on Aging has been expanding over the past eight years to keep pace with the increasing number of elderly people, money to finance such expansion has not kept pace with the increased need for service provisions. This financial problem has become common to all Council on Aging’s throughout Ohio, and as a result, they must now rely more heavily on local funding.”

These statements remain true today, while the 60+ population and their needs continue to grow, the State and Federal funds continue to shrink.

Record Breaking Year in 2009....



Transportation

Trips: 32,989

Miles: 207,480



In-Home Service

Hours: 20,307



Meals

Congregate: 7,378

Home Delivered: 60,861

Projections Were On Target

The 1995 fact sheet quoted the 1990 census and identified that “19.21% of the total population” of Crawford County was age 60+. Other statements included “The total county population is expected to decline” and “The implications are that: Current population shifts (young adults leaving the area for jobs) mean fewer younger adults who will eventually support and care for the growing number of elderly. The increase in the number of elderly persons has and will continue to result in an increased demand for social services targeted to their needs.”

The 2000 census showed a 1.9% decrease in total population of Crawford County and the percent of residents age 60+ increased to 20.1%.

Ohio Department of Development projects these trends will continue and by 2015 nearly one in every four (24%) Crawford County resident will be 60 years old or older. The implication remains that as this number grows so will the demand for social services that target their needs.

Opportunity to Continue Services

On May 4, 2010, Crawford County voters will again have the opportunity to continue funding services for senior citizens, provided by the Council on Aging, by voting for a six-tenths mill replacement levy. A fact sheet about the importance of the levy is enclosed.

For questions about the levy or assistance in accessing the services described in this newsletter, contact the Council on Aging at 419/562-3050 or 1-800-589-7853.

**Crawford County
Council on Aging, Inc.
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Absentee Ballot....

Where can you get an absentee ballot? An application can be obtained by contacting the Council on Aging at 200 S. Spring St., Bucyrus, Ohio, 44820, 419/562-3050 or 1-800-589-7853.

Or Write to: Board of Elections, 130 N. Walnut Street, Bucyrus, Ohio, 44820, 419/562-8721.

Absentee Deadlines:

To receive your absentee ballot:

In person: You may go to your county board of elections office, during regular business hours, but no later than the day before the election, and request, receive and vote your ballot at the board of-

fice or other designated location. Applications for persons who are hospitalized will be accepted until 3 p.m. on Election Day.

By mail: You may mail your properly completed absentee ballot application bearing your original signature to the board of elections no later than noon on May 1, 2010. However, if you wait until this date to request an absentee ballot application, you may not receive the ballot early enough to return it by the deadline.

For your absentee ballot to be counted, it must be received as follows:

By U.S. mail: The return envelope containing your marked ballot must be postmarked no later than the day before the election and received by the board of elections no later than 10 days after the election.

In person, either by you or an eligible family member: Your marked ballot, which must be sealed in the completed and signed identification envelope provided with the ballot, must be delivered to the board of elections office no later than the close of polls on Election Day, May 4, 2010.

Transportation available....

The Crawford County Council on Aging Transportation Dept. will be available on election day for those of you who may need a ride to your designated polling place. Please call in advance to schedule a ride at 419/562-3050 or 1-800-589-7853.

Reminder to vote....

Call us with your telephone number and we will call you with a “**reminder**” to vote. Request to be added to our call list by contacting the Council on Aging, 419-562-3050 or 1-800-589-7853.