

Senior GAZETTE

Spring 2014

by Lynda Ashley, Director, Amherst Township Senior Service Office (ATSSO)

Home-Delivered Meal Program

ATSSO provides home-delivered meals for those over 60 and disabled adults over 18, with a cost that is adjusted to your income. This nutritious, hot lunch program includes your choice of an entrée, soup & sandwich, or soup & salad. A “soup only” option is also available as a choice. If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal, please contact the Senior Service Office at **988-5894, ext. 101**.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

ATSSO is in need of volunteer drivers to deliver meals from 10:30-12:00 noon. We have a vacancy on Thursday's through the end of April and need year round substitute drivers. Please call the Senior Office if you are able to help.

OSHIIP

Featured Volunteer

Our own Carol Schmitkons, retired Senior Service Director, was the “Featured Volunteer” in the January 2014 edition of OSHIIP’s newsletter. Even though she has retired from Amherst Township, she will continue to serve as the Lorain County coordinator for OSHIIP (Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program). The article contained a wonderful write up and we encourage you to read it online at : www.insurance.ohio.gov. From the Menu Bar on the main page select “Newsroom, then Newsletters, then the OSHIIP Newsletter”. Select the January 2014 edition and go to page 3.

ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)

Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101

Email: amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com

MYCARE OHIO

“*MyCare Ohio*” is coming to Northeast Ohio. It is a new managed care plan designed for adults 18 and older who are receiving services from BOTH Medicare and Medicaid.

If you currently participate in a wavier program including, PASSPORT, CHOICES, Ohio Home Care or Assisted Living, if you reside in a nursing home, or live in the community and receive Medicare and a Medicaid card each month for full Medicaid services, you will be required to make a decision about “*MyCare Ohio*”.

Enrollment begins in Lorain County on May 1, 2014. MyCare Ohio participants in Lorain County can choose between three plans that will be offered. If you have any questions regarding MyCare Ohio, please contact:

**LORAIN COUNTY OFFICE ON
AGING'S
BENEFITS ASSISTANCE
COORDINATOR AT
(440) 326-4800**

You can also find more information online by going to www.ohiomh.com. Then click on the “MyCare Ohio” button located in the bottom right corner of the website’s homepage.

HELP WITH EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES

Are you or a senior family member struggling with everyday activities while trying to remain independent? There are local agencies that provide specialized elderly companion care for loved ones daily needs. Services include meal preparation, light housekeeping, hygiene assistance, errands and shopping.

Two local agencies are available for assistance:

- **Visiting Angels**
PASSPORT Certified
Phone: 988-3004 or visit:
www.visitingangels.com
- **Home Instead Senior Care**
Phone: 353-3080 or visit:
www.homeinstead.com/690

AARP

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

The Amherst Public Library offers E-filing assistance for low-to-middle income taxpayers, with emphasis on those 60 years and older. This service is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 3:00, February 1st through April 15th. Please call 984-4230 to schedule an appointment.

A WORD OF CAUTION!

According to the Lorain County Sheriff, telephone scams targeting older adults are occurring in our area. The caller asks for money to bail out a “grandchild” that is in trouble; it could be car trouble, credit card trouble, jail – they ask for your bank information or credit card numbers with promises to pay you back.

If you receive a call, **DO NOT GIVE OUT ANY PERSONAL ACCOUNT INFORMATION OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION.**

For your peace of mind, the Sheriff suggests using another phone to verify that the family member is not in trouble.

CHORE SERVICE

“Chore Services” are provided to eligible older adults – 60 years and older- who need help with chores in their home, to maintain a clean, safe, and sanitary living environment. This service may be used twice a year. “Chore Services” will provide heavy household cleaning and seasonal maintenance. To learn more or schedule Chore Services, please call:

440-326-4800

ANTI-FRAUD HOTLINE

If you or someone you know suspect you have been a victim of a scam or fraud aimed at seniors, the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging has set up a new toll-free hotline to help. This will make it easier for senior citizens to report suspected fraud and receive assistance.

The free anti-fraud hotline will be staffed by a team of committee investigators weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST. You can report suspected fraud by calling: **1-855-303-9470.**