



Mark A. Hackel  
County Executive

# SENIOR FOCUS

Dec 2011, Jan, Feb, Mar 2012

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Macomb County Senior Citizen Services

Director, Rhonda M. Powell

## *From the Director's desk....*

For many of us the holidays bring a time of reflection and remembrance of all that the closing year has meant. So we close 2011 with thoughts of laughter as well as lessons we have learned; taking great joy in our accomplishments but yet humbled by rapidly changing times.

This year we welcomed baby boomers into the elite membership of aging adults in Macomb County! A place where your contributions of service and technology are celebrated and your ability to build communities as well as companies are greatly respected. With your help we will redefine aging in the 21st Century.

As each of us enjoy this wonderful season, let's keep in our thoughts those who may be alone or otherwise vulnerable. Those who often touch our lives in silence, but leave us better off.

Many thanks to the Senior Citizens of Macomb County for allowing our Department to serve you. May joy & peace be with you all this holiday season!

Rhonda M Powell, Director





### Senior Services Important Numbers

We're just a phone call away!

If you need information from any of the following departments, please call our central intake number at **586-469-6313**

- Information & Referral
- Help for Hire
- Counseling Services
- Speakers Bureau
- Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Focus Hope Food
- Prescription Resource Network
- Resource Advocacy
- Adult Day Services

Legal Assistance Program  
586-469-6406

**Thanks for coming!**  
  
**The Senior Outreach Days were a success, serving 1100 clients.**



## LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Your credit is a valuable asset. It is important for you to occasionally review your credit record to be sure it is accurate and to protect yourself from fraud. There are 3 major credit reporting agencies. They are: EQUIFAX, EXPERIAN and TRANSUNION.

Under Federal law, you are entitled to receive a free copy of your report once a year. You can request this free report by calling 1-877-322-8228 or online at: [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com). Otherwise, the reporting agencies will charge you for a copy of your credit report.

Once you have your report, review it to determine whether the information is accurate. It may reveal a valid debt that you may choose to pay in order to improve your credit record. It may reveal a credit account that you no longer use or need. You may decide to close such an account to prevent its fraudulent use. It may reveal debts reported due to fraud. If this is the case, each of the major credit reporting agencies have programs to assist fraud victims in correcting credit records.

If you need assistance in resolving a credit dispute, or obtaining your credit report, you can contact the Legal Assistance Program at 586-469-6406.

## ARE YOU TURNING 65?

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m.— 4:30 p.m.  
Senior Auditorium, Entrance C  
21885 Dunham Road, Clinton Twp. 48036



Macomb County Senior Citizen Services has scheduled a seminar in your honor! Join our knowledgeable Resource Advocates for presentations on:

- Social Security
- Veterans Benefits
- Medicare Parts A, B & D
- Medicare Advantage, and
- Low Income Subsidy (LIS)

We are here to help you understand services available and make informed decisions. **Newly disabled individuals placed on Medicare may also attend.**

To register or for more information call: 586-469-6313.

## BUDGETING IN RETIREMENT

Friday, January 13, 2012—10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

As retirees enter this new phase in life, they are faced with the hard fact: they will need to look at the way they spend their money and find cost effective ways to make the dollar stretch. This is especially true for those people that have been forced into retirement earlier than expected. "Retirees" can learn how to create a personal budget that fits a new lifestyle, reduce debt and discover some practical cost-cutting ideas. PNC Bank will conduct a free one hour session in the VerKuijen Building Senior Auditorium, 21885 Dunham Road, Entrance C, Clinton Township from 10 am – 11:00 am on Friday, January 13, 2012. Free refreshments. Pre-registration is appreciated. Call Heather at 586-541-0033 ext. 212 or email her at [hbattaglia@careofsem.com](mailto:hbattaglia@careofsem.com). This program is presented by: PNC Bank, CARE of Southeast Michigan, and Macomb County Senior Citizen Services Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program.



# Making A Difference

In September, a brief conversation between County Executive Mark Hackel and Mr. Otis Hopson resulted in a community call to action. Mr. Otis, more commonly known as the "Shoe-Shine Man" at the Macomb County Court Building, is a 93 year old, long time resident of Macomb County who still works every day, drives himself around and lives independently. He is always sharing stories of happiness and days of grandeur but on this particular day, his story was different. For the first time he needed help because holes in his roof were making it nearly impossible to remain in his home.

While most are painfully aware of the shrinking resources for such a project, some may be unaware of our resilience. After only a few calls the Senior Department forged a partnership with Clintondale Continuing Education Center who immediately offered the services of their Building Trades program. As a result, Mr. Otis' roof was repaired just before the fall rainy season was upon us.

The best news about this story is what it truly means to make a difference. There was no one hero that "flew in" and saved the day for Mr. Otis. Instead one person heard a need, another sounded the alarm and many answered the call.

Many thanks to all those whose ears are always open to a need or an alarm. And many thanks to Mr. Otis for keeping us focused on our true mission!

Rhonda M. Powell  
Director



Home Heating Credit 2011 Tax Year Income Guidelines	
Number of Exemptions	Maximum Income
1	\$11,986
2	\$16,186
3	\$20,387
4	\$24,587
5	\$28,815
6	\$33,014

(Add \$4,200 for each additional exemption. Special exemptions are available for seniors (age 65 or older), disabled claimants, or claimants with 50% or more of their income from unemployment)

## Are You Eligible for Tax Credits?

Tax Season is around the corner and Resource Advocates are ready to answer your questions! Please contact us at 586-469-6313 to determine your eligibility for Home Heating and Homestead Tax Credits. Appointments will be scheduled after January 3, 2012 or you may contact the building coordinator if you reside in a Senior Complex.



**Senior  
Fraud  
Hotline**

## Macomb County Prosecutor Eric Smith's Office

1-866-498-8503 or email at SeniorScams@MacombCountyMI.gov

If you think you have been a victim of a crime or think you have been scammed, contact the Senior Fraud Hotline. For your convenience a toll free number and an email address are available.

### You may be eligible if:

- **Your heat is included in your rent**
- **You pay Consumer's Energy**

Also, information and forms for the Home Heating and Homestead Property Tax Credits may be found at: <http://www.michigan.gov/taxes/>

For more information call 586-469-6313

*Please note that services are free of charge but donations are accepted and appreciated.*

## ADULT DAY SERVICES

This program offers stimulating, fun activities for clients to maintain independence and provide relief for the caregivers.

Half Day and Full Day options are available.

Clients must be 60 years old with cognitive or physical impairments.

For pricing and hours of operation, please call

**586-466-6817** or fill out the online registration at

[www.macombcountymi.gov/seniorservices/adulthoodserviceform/adulthoodserviceform.asp](http://www.macombcountymi.gov/seniorservices/adulthoodserviceform/adulthoodserviceform.asp)





**Macomb County  
Council On Aging  
Meetings**

Members of the Council On Aging meet at the VerKuijen Building, Senior Auditorium  
21885 Dunham Road, Entrance C  
Clinton Township

**Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

\*For information or to make reservations for this event please call  
Ellen Head 586-296-1749

**View our website....**

Information about most County services can be found online at:

<http://www.macombcountymi.gov/index.htm>

Macomb County Senior Citizen Services website is

<http://www.macombcountymi.gov/seniorservices/>

**Consider joining the Council On Aging  
for only \$4 per year!**

The General Assembly Meetings are on the following dates in 2012:

March 13, May 8, July 10, Sept. 11, Nov 13. In the month of December an annual *member only* Christmas Party is held.

All General Assembly meetings March through November are educational and open to the public. Presentations are given that address current senior issues.

For information about membership, or to make reservations for the lunch, please call Ellen Head 586-296-1749 or SaraMarie Watson at 586-350-5040.



**OR**



**Help us save money on the cost of mailing!  
Do you have an email address?**

**If you are receiving this newsletter in error, no longer wish to receive it, or would like to receive it electronically, please email us or call (586) 469-6313.**

**Macomb County Department of  
Senior Citizen Services**  
21885 Dunham Rd., Suite 6  
Clinton Twp., MI 48036  
<http://macombcountymi.gov/seniorservices>  
**Email:** [Cathy.Wilson@macombcountymi.gov](mailto:Cathy.Wilson@macombcountymi.gov)

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**MACOMB COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR CITIZEN SERVICES**

Yes, I wish to receive this Senior Focus Newsletter      Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address/Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ MI      Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Or electronically:      Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_