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KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance

Health and Community Services Department

# Area Agency on Aging IIIA The Advisor

March/April

2018/Issue 2

## Kalamazoo County Residents will Vote on a Senior Millage in August

On Tuesday, February 20th, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to place a Senior Millage on the August 7<sup>th</sup> ballot. Kalamazoo is one of only 10 counties left in Michigan that does not have a senior millage. A senior millage has the potential of addressing the needs of seniors waiting for in-home and community based services such as homemaking, personal care, home-delivered meals, ramps, and more. These supports are instrumental in helping older adults stay in their homes with quality of life.

The proposed millage would be .35 mills for six years, which would generate approximately \$2.8 million per year; and translates into approximately \$3.50 per month for a home owner with a property assessed at \$100,000.

At the request of the County Administration and Board of Commissioners, Don Ryan, Chair of the Older Adult Services Advisory Council, worked with many community partners from the aging network to identify the needs, potential resources to address those needs, and the potential impact of a millage. Thank you to the many partners who shared their expertise and wisdom. Their passion for this initiative was instrumental to the positive outcome and is to be commended.



WELCOME  
**SPRING**  
ON MARCH 20TH!



## Mark Your Calendar



### Monday, March 5th:

“The Age of Love: A Documentary by Steven Loring”

A feature-length documentary film that follows a group of 70- to 90-year-olds who attend a speed dating event.

See the Film – Meet the Producer!

From 6:00–9:00 PM at Celebration! Cinema Crossroads in Portage

Tickets are free but registration is required, [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

Sponsored by the Portage Senior Center.

Phone: 269-329-4555

### Monday, Mar. 19:

KCASI meeting, 1:15 PM at Portage Senior Center, 320 Library Ln., Portage. Kelly J.M.Quardokus and Hilary Kerr on *Advance Care Planning and the new MI-POST*. See p. 5

**Thursday, Mar. 22:** Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition meeting, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, at Miller Johnson, Radisson Plaza Kalamazoo.

**Friday, Mar. 23:** Professionals Focused on Aging (PFA) meeting, 8:00 AM., Senior Services, 918 Jasper St., Kalamazoo. *The Future of Senior Housing: Affordability and Alternatives*, with Larry Yachcik, Consultant.

### Monday, Apr. 16:

KCASI meeting, 1:15 PM at Portage Senior Center.

### Thursday, Apr. 26:

Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition meeting, 1:30 –3:00 PM, at Miller Johnson.

### Friday, Apr. 27:

PFA meeting, 8:00 AM at Senior Services. Teresa Toland, CEO of TANDEM365, a collaborative venture assisting hospitals, doctors, family members and individuals in need of healthcare services not traditionally provided.

## I&A Corner Information & Assistance Line (269) 373-5173

### New Medicare Cards

By now you are likely aware that all Medicare beneficiaries will be receiving new cards between April 2018 and April 2019. Michigan residents will receive their cards sometime after June 18, 2018.

Everyone will get a new Medicare number that is unique to them, and is **NOT** their Social Security number. It is important to make sure that Social Security is aware of your current address. If not, contact them right away at 1-800-772-1213 or at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

As always, do not give out your Medicare number unless you are making the contact, and know the person or business with whom you are speaking.

Questions? Call our Information & Assistance Line at 269-373-5173



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Area Agency on Aging, IIIA

Kalamazoo County  
Government

Health & Community  
Services Department

Anne Zemlick, RN, BSN,  
Director

# Creating Confident Caregivers®

**AN EMPOWERING, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR INDIVIDUALS CARING FOR A PERSON  
WITH MEMORY LOSS OR DEMENTIA**



## About the program

Creating Confident Caregivers is a program for those caring for loved ones with dementia or memory loss. This unique, 6-week training uses the university tested Savvy Caregiver Program and provides participants with information and resources to better manage the stress of caregiving.

## What's In It For You?

Learn about –

- Dementia and its effects on the brain
- Caregiver resources
- Managing behaviors
- Improving caregiving skills
- How to handle everyday activities more easily
- Taking care of yourself to better care for your loved one



**KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING IIIA**

## Testimonial

*"After the first class, I felt a weight had been lifted. I learned so much. It's helpful to know what I'm experiencing is normal and I'm not alone."*

*–Family Caregiver*

## Respite Care

Care for your family member with memory loss can be arranged so you may attend the sessions.

**\*Ask for details when you register\***

## Classes Offered

**Dates:** March 13, 20, & 27th  
April 3, 10, & 17th

**Location:** Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services  
3299 Gull Rd  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048  
Conference Room: C

**Time:** 2:00 - 4:00 pm

***Classes are free with Donations Accepted***

**For questions or to register, please contact:**

Patti Stratton, LMSW  
(269) 373-5141

[psstra@kalcounty.com](mailto:psstra@kalcounty.com)

## Plans Underway for 2nd Annual Centenarian Luncheon

The Older Adult Services Council of the Area Agency on Aging IIIA is pleased to honor Kalamazoo County's centenarians again this year with a special luncheon at The Beacon Club on May 18th.



Centenarians, and a family member, friend, or caregiver, will be invited to a lovely lunch and the chance to meet peers and even reconnect with old friends! Last year, our first luncheon for 100+ year olds, was a wonderful event. It was inspirational to learn from their wisdom and a privilege to pay tribute to them.

If you know someone who will be 100 or greater in 2018, please contact us so that we can invite them to this event. Call or email Janice at 269.373.5147 or [jgboni@kalcountry.com](mailto:jgboni@kalcountry.com).



Photos from the 2017 Centenarian Luncheon  
*left to right*

Sen. Margaret O'Brien and  
Mary Dudley

Deacon Louis Zemlick  
and Willie Belle Henning



## On Medicare? Need Assistance?

KEPRO is the Beneficiary and Family Centered Care Quality Improvement Organization (BFCC-QIO) for 33 states and the District of Columbia and works with providers and partners like you every day to improve healthcare services for Medicare beneficiaries.

Bringing providers and beneficiaries together to improve health care for people with Medicare is the mission of KEPRO's Person and Family Engagement (PFE) project. Their focus is to encourage partnered decision-making by helping to improve communication and engagement.

Through their PFE project, KEPRO can help Medicare beneficiaries and families with the following:

- **Immediate Advocacy:** Process to help beneficiaries quickly resolve a complaint or concern related to medical care or services.
- **Patient Navigation:** Program to help patients navigate through their treatment and better understand their care.

Call 855-408-8557 or visit KEPRO's website at [www.KEPROqio.com/PFE](http://www.KEPROqio.com/PFE) for more information, including access to Beneficiary and Provider Resource Centers with tools and information.

# Custom Care

## Peace of Mind

Custom Care is a unique fee-for-service program offered by Geriatric Care Consultants who specialize in meeting the support needs of older adults and their families. The nurses and social workers possess advanced training and extensive knowledge about the availability, quality and cost of services in the community and help ease the stress of navigating long-term care solutions. They are also available to be the eyes and ears of long distance caregivers and have the expertise to build consensus among family members. Call the Area Agency on Aging's Information & Assistance line at (269) 373-5173 for your free phone consultation.



### Kalamazoo County Advocates for Senior Issues

#### Program Meetings

1:15 to 2:45 PM

Portage Senior Center, 320 Library Ln., Portage

#### *"Demystifying Advance Care Planning & the New MI-POST"*

Join KCASI on March 19<sup>th</sup> when Q Elder Law attorney Kelly Quardokus and Bronson's Advance Care Planning Specialist Hilary Kerr, present an update on advanced care planning and the new Michigan Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment or MI-POST. As a resource for advance care planning, this newly legislated document helps you make your wishes known for health care during a medical emergency. Come and learn about how MI-POST and other forms of advanced care planning can help your wishes be respected.

The April meeting will be on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup>; same time—same location. Program to be decided.

Visit KCASI on the Web at [www.kcasi.net](http://www.kcasi.net) or on Facebook [www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyAdvocatesforSeniorIssues/](http://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyAdvocatesforSeniorIssues/) for current information.



*KCASI is a 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to advocate as a non-partisan group for the improvement of conditions affecting the lives of older adults and future generations.*

## Have you heard about OLLI?

The Osher Lifelong learning Institute at WMU, or **OLLI**, offers high quality non-credit programs for mature adults in the greater Kalamazoo community. Download the [Courses and Trips catalog](#) for winter/spring 2018. The catalog contains general information about the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU as well as detailed information about the courses, trips and events planned for the coming session. The catalogs are also available at the Area Agency on Aging at Health & Community Services, 3299 Gull Road. Drop by and pick up a copy.



**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WMU – Ph. 269.387.4200**

## New Home for the Aged Regulations

Public Act No. 167 was signed by Governor Snyder on November 9, 2017, and was effective February 11, 2018. The highlights of this new legislation are:

- The minimum age of a Home for the Aged resident has been reduced from 60 to 55 years old. Facilities may admit individuals 55 years of age or older beginning February 11, 2018. An age waiver [MCL 333.21311 (3)(4)], is required for any individual seeking admission that is 54 years of age or younger.
- Facilities that were in operation prior to the effective date of this act and continuously in operation up to application for licensure, may apply for a Home for the Aged license and choose to be reviewed and inspected to comply with the provisions of chapter 18 and 19 or chapter 32 or 33 of the National Fire Protection Association standard number 101.
- Sets a cap for the number of criminal history checks for Home for the Aged staff that the department will pay for in a year at 40 checks per year for Home for the Aged with fewer than 100 beds and 50 criminal history checks per year for Home for the Aged with 100 or more beds. The Home for the Aged is responsible to pay for any criminal history checks that exceed these limits outlined above.
- Some facilities may be eligible to be exempt from licensure if they meet the provisions of MCL 333.21311a (1) or (2). The facility will need to provide an attestation that it meets the requirements of MCL 333.21311a. The department is currently developing an exemption form which will be available soon. The department will begin processing exemption forms on February 11, 2018.
- Redefines Supervised personal care to mean: the direct guidance or hands-on assistance with activities of daily living offered by a facility to residents of the facility that include 2 or more of the following services provided by the facility to any resident for 30 or more consecutive days as documented in the resident's service plan:
  - Direct and regular involvement by staff in assisting a resident with the administration of the resident's prescription medications, including direct supervision of the resident taking medication in accordance with the instructions of the resident's licensed health care professional.
  - Hands-on assistance by staff in carrying out 2 or more of the following activities of daily living: eating, toileting, bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, and mobility.
  - Direct staff involvement in a resident's personal and social activities or the use of devices to enhance resident safety by controlling resident egress from the facility. If interested in reading this legislation, please click on the following link. [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(zpw45klhkfurhyldd0ahu0qi\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2017-SB-0378](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(zpw45klhkfurhyldd0ahu0qi))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2017-SB-0378) Once there, click on the "Public Act" link for the language effective 2/11/18. Updates for the exemption form will be forthcoming. The application for licensure will also be updated so applicants can choose what chapter of NFPA 101 they would like to be reviewed under. These updates along with any other updates will be posted to the division website at [www.michigan.gov/afchfa](http://www.michigan.gov/afchfa).

# Elder Abuse as a Preventable Public Health Issue

*2nd in a series*

*by Anji Phillips*

Elder abuse hides in plain sight. Elder abuse can occur anywhere and by anyone. It is imperative we learn to recognize it and to report it.

Financial exploitation is the illegal, unauthorized, or improper use of an older individual's resources by a caregiver or other person in a trusting relationship, for the benefit of someone other than the older adult.

Did you know?

- Financial exploitation is the most common form of elder abuse
- Older adults comprise over 30% of all fraud victims
- 70% of personal wealth in U.S. held by older adults

What are the signs of possible financial exploitation?

- Unpaid bills, eviction notices, or notices to discontinue utilities
- Notices of unpaid property taxes
- Withdrawals from bank accounts the older adult cannot explain
- Bank statements and canceled checks no longer come to the older adult's home
- New "best friends"
- Legal documents recently signed, such as powers of attorney, which the older adult didn't understand at the time he or she signed them
- Unusual activity in the older adult's bank accounts. This can be large unexplained withdrawals, frequent transfers, ATM withdrawals, and checks written out to cash
- Belongings, medication, or property are missing

If you notice any of these potential signs of financial exploitation call 1-855-444-3911 and report it.



## Emergency Preparedness in the wake of recent floods

Thankfully, the waters are receding and hopefully, the next few weeks will bring little rain (or snow). But now the cleanup begins. If you or someone you know needs help with cleanup, have them call Gryphon Place, or 2-1-1, for resources.

If your property was flooded and you rely on well water, you should have your water tested before drinking it. If you have to use the water, it should be boiled for 2 minutes to purify it. Contact the Kalamazoo County Environmental Health Unit at 269-373-5337 for more information. Go to [www.kalcounty.com/hcs](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs) or [www.ready.gov/floods](http://www.ready.gov/floods) for more information on strategies for cleaning your home after flooding as well as other information on preparing yourself for all types of emergencies.

Tomorrow may be too late, so don't wait, and prepare today.

Kalamazoo County  
Area Agency on  
Aging IIIA (440)  
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Kalamazoo, MI  
49048



*Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services is committed to providing equitable, culturally competent care to all individuals served, regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.*

*Your Connection to Information & Community Supports*

## AAAIIA News

*Congratulations on your 2-year anniversary with the AAAIIA:*  
**Carol Decker**, LMSW, Care Consultant, Choices for Independence program.

**March is Social Workers Month! We salute our wonderful social workers:**

- ★Judy Adlam, LMSW
- ★Shae McKinnon, LLMSW
- ★Carol Decker, LMSW
- ★Kelly Milliman, LLBSW
- ★Kelly Jonker, BSW
- ★Laurie Palanca, LBSW
- ★Patti Stratton, LMSW



## Older Adult Services Advisory Council Updates

We are pleased to welcome the newest member of OASAC, **Kimberly Phillips**. Kim is also the Manager of Senior Citizen Services at Portage Senior Center.

The Board of Commissioners approved these current Council members for another 3-year term: **Beulah Price** and **Kimberly Middleton**. We are privileged to have the support and commitment of these members of the Council.

At the January OASAC meeting members unanimously voted for **Don Ryan** to serve another term as Chairman, and for **John Hilliard** to continue for another term as Vice-Chair. Thank you for your leadership roles on the Council.

*The time and expertise of all of our Council members is very much appreciated.*