



The S.A.L.T. Communicator

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together

Serving & Protecting Senior Citizens

September 2002

Coordinated by Milton Township Trustee Ken McNatt

A Special Program for Ordinary People

More than 14 million Americans have a visual impairment, which cannot be corrected with medical treatment, surgery or conventional lenses. One in every six adults 45 and older and one in four adults over 75 in the U.S. have *Low Vision*. The Deicke Center for Visual Rehabilitation is a nationally accredited, not for profit agency, offering special services for ordinary people who need help to cope with low vision.

Founded in 1986, the Deicke Center’s mission is to provide visually impaired persons with the tools and training necessary to maximize their vision and function independently at home, school, work and within the community. The Center has a unique “Loaner Program” that provides equipment that can assist patients in daily activities. This equipment can be loaned for a period of two to four weeks, giving the patient an opportunity to try the devices and see if they help before purchasing them. State of the art technology is available to increase independence or maintain one’s independence in their daily lives.

There is a special outreach program for seniors called “Visible Solutions”. It promotes independent

Mission Statement

The purpose of Milton Township S.A.L.T. Council is to determine and to meet the needs of Senior Citizens by reducing crime and abuse and by enhancing safety through communication and education in cooperation with the Township, law enforcement agencies, and other community agencies and organizations.

living for visually impaired seniors in housing and healthcare facilities throughout metropolitan Chicago. It focuses on educating senior citizens and healthcare workers about the causes of vision loss, the use of residual sight, the availability of rehabilitative services and



John Coalter, OD, Assistant Director, Deicke Center for Visual Rehabilitation

optical and non-optical devices, which contribute to the rehabilitation process.

“Sight for the Road” is a special program for individuals who have experienced a vision loss, which has reduced their acuity level and/or visual field and who want to explore the feasibility of driving. A low vision doctor at the Deicke Center can evaluate the individual. If it is determined that the individual is a possible

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special program continued

candidate for driving, a referral can be made to a Driver Rehabilitation Specialist for an evaluation and training program. In some cases, there is assistance from the state for the training program.

Dr. John Coalter, OD, is Assistant Director of the Deicke Center For Visual Rehabilitation. He has been with the Deicke Center for more than five years and is one of a staff of 12 professionals with impressive credentials who evaluate, treat and train patients. The Deicke Center has served over 8,000 children and adults.

Our vision is very precious to all of us. As we age, our vision changes and we feel more vulnerable knowing we are not seeing everything quite the same. It is important to our personal safety and the safety of others that we have our eyes checked regularly. If you feel the Deicke Center For Visual Rehabilitation can answer questions for you, assist you or refer you to a local optometrist or ophthalmologist, contact them. They are a wonderful resource right here in our own community.

You can visit their center for a tour, ask questions or get on their mailing list for a newsletter that is sent out four times a year.

Contact them directly and they will be happy to assist you. ■

**Deicke Center for
Visual Rehabilitation
219 E. Cole Street
Wheaton
630.690.7115**

How Do You Select Charities?

Submitted by Bill Parbs, S.A.L.T. Council

Everyone likes to participate and give back to his or her community and special causes. Many organizations rely totally or partially on donations to operate, function and provide services to individuals in need. It has become very difficult to know which organizations and which causes are legitimate, and are using the money we donate to actually provide services to individuals in need. Unfortunately, there are many “scams” out there today and we get many requests to donate money through the mail, and over the telephone.

All of the organizations sound worthwhile, but how do you know which ones to select to make the best use of your contributions? One-way is to check with the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Guide. This branch of the Better Business Bureau puts out a quarterly newsletter rating most of the known, as well as little known, national charity organizations.

They include familiar charities such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army and American Cancer Society plus over 250 other charities that are not as well known. The Wise Giving Guide has set a standard of 21 points for charities to meet including:

- ✓ Spend at least 65% of its total expenses on program activities
- ✓ Spend no more than 35% of related contributions on fund raising
- ✓ Have a board of directors with a minimum of five voting members

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charities continued

- ✓ Have a minimum of three evenly spaced meetings per year of the full governing body with a majority in attendance in person
- ✓ Make available to all, on request, complete financial statements

The quarterly newsletter rates all of the charities on the above points by giving them one of the following statements:

1. Met standards
2. Standards not met
3. Unable to verify
4. Did not disclose
5. Review in progress

This guide will assist with the larger and more visual organizations. There are a number of very worthwhile local charities to consider as well. You can check on these through the Illinois Attorney General's Office or the local Better Business Bureau. ■

Information/Questions

**The Better Business Bureau
Wise Giving Alliance**

4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 800
Arlington, VA 22203
T: 1.800.575.GIVE
E-Mail: give@cbbb.bbb.org
Website: www.give.org

Local Better Business Bureau

330 N. Wabash, Suite 2006
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel: 312.832.0500
E-Mail: feedback@chicago.bbb.org
Website: www.chicago.bbb.org

Auto Inspection Program Returns

Milton Township S.A.L.T. Council will offer an Auto Inspection Program again this fall. Anyone who would like a car inspected for safety is invited to come. It will be held on Saturday, October 19th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Wheaton North High School, located at 701 W. Thomas Road. The S.A.L.T. Council offered this program last fall and it was a success.

Car safety is always a concern, but the winter months provide additional challenges. Local police officers will be on hand to conduct the inspections and free advice regarding major items of concern. This program is offered for your "peace of mind" and no names or personal information are required to participate.

Take advantage of this **free community service** to get assistance or ask questions. Are you certain your tires have enough tread for the winter weather? Do you have a muffler or tail pipe that is making noise? Headlights, taillights and other important safety features will be inspected for you. It only takes a few minutes of your time and could be the difference between safety and an accident.

Free to all seniors with a valid drivers license and a registered vehicle. ■



Mark your calendar!

Saturday, October 19, 2002
9 am - 1 pm
Wheaton North High School

Guardian Program User Offers Advice

We hope all of you are familiar with the Milton Township S.A.L.T. Council program called the “Guardian”. It offers a daily check on you if you live alone. Even if you have family in the area that checks on you, the Guardian program is a great back up that offers peace of mind for you and your family members.

“Lillian” has been using the Guardian program since the beginning. She is independent, lives alone and has family in the area. Lillian finds the Guardian a wonderful service and it provides a sense of security for herself and her family knowing someone will check on her if she does not answer her scheduled telephone call within any given 24 hour period.

Lillian had a cold last winter and her ears were plugged. She was not feeling up to par. The Guardian called Lillian and because her ears were plugged from her head cold and respiratory condition she did not hear the telephone ring. Within a short time of the call and Lillian not responding, there was a police officer at Lillian’s door to check on her. Lillian remarked that this incident demonstrated to her the value of the Guardian program and that it really did work. They did not make her feel embarrassed for not calling; they were genuinely concerned about her.

Lillian’s advice to any senior living alone is to consider signing up for the Guardian program. *It does not cost you any money*, it allows you to feel independent, but safe, in case you have an emergency. It also provides additional relief for family knowing you are taken care of in addition to their telephone calls and visits. ■

Don’t wait until you have an emergency,
take Lillian’s advice!
Call the Guardian Program today!
630.668.1616



Residents Response

This is a new column we are adding to the newsletter. Ken McNatt, Chairman of the S.A.L.T. Council, and the members of this committee are seeking your response. We want to hear from you, the residents of Milton Township. Each newsletter we will include a few questions for your response.

All names responding to this survey will be entered in a drawing to be held at the end of the year for a gift certificate to a local restaurant or store.

Please take a few minutes by checking off your response to the questions below. You may share additional comments with us in the space provided.

1. Do you *read all* of the SALT Communicator?
_____ Yes _____ No
2. Have you participated in any of the programs offered by the S.A.L.T. Council?
_____ Yes _____ No
3. Have you found the articles on “Recent Scams Against Seniors” helpful to you?
_____ Yes _____ No
4. Have you learned anything new from our newsletter that you didn’t read about somewhere else?
_____ Yes _____ No

Additional Comments: _____

Your Name

Address/Phone

Please tear off this panel and mail back to us in an envelope at: SALT Council, 1492 Main Street, Wheaton, IL 60187. Your time and comments are very important to us. Thank you!

Living Options for Seniors!

The S.A.L.T. Council is committed to providing citizens of Milton Township with information that is useful, informative and contributes to senior's safety and protection. Living alone can be expensive and uncomfortable for some people. Apartment living is not for everyone. Senior housing developments, assisted living and nursing homes do not meet everyone's needs. The S.A.L.T. Council will be offering information about housing options available in our area over the next few newsletters. It is difficult to know where to go for this information and, hopefully, providing some education about what is available and where to go for additional information will be useful.

Senior Home Sharing, Inc., located in Lombard, is a not for profit organization that assists older persons in living happy, secure lives by providing family style group homes. Any person age 62 and over, who is looking for a change in housing and for companionship might be interested in this choice. Senior Home Sharing strives to maintain costs at a reasonable level in order to serve lower income aging persons. Persons must be physically self-sufficient and in some instances, be able to use the stairs in the homes.

The cost of Senior Home Sharing can be approximately ¼ the cost of a nursing home, retirement community or assisted living facility. They are month-to-month rentals, with each home having at least one subsidized room. Senior Home Sharing accepts Section 8 Housing Vouchers and will assist you in getting a Voucher if you are eligible through the DuPage Housing Authority.

There are currently four homes and one apartment building in Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Lombard

and Naperville. Each home has 6-7 residents that share the house but have private bedrooms and some private baths. An on-site manager lives in the home and provides all meals, housekeeping, linen service and companionship.

If you know someone who can benefit from this unique housing option or you would like a tour or more information, please contact:

Mary Ferguson
Director of Community Outreach
630.629.5599 or 815.529.1425

Watch for our next article on additional housing and living options for seniors! ■

Financial Questions?

We all get financial notices in the mail, telephone calls and many solicitations about investments and how to grow your money. Given our recent stock market performance, a number of seniors are looking at options, safe investing and being certain we are doing the right thing for our personal situation.

To help you make some of these decisions, financial advisors, such as Eagle Financial Marketing can answer questions such as:

- How to protect your estate from medical crises?
- How to stop paying taxes on Social Security money?
- How to grow your money in the market without risk and tax-free?
- How do you set up your personal will and estate to give to your children and not Uncle Sam?

Call Patrick Puchalski 630.510.9090

Annual Senior & Caregiver Fair

October 4, 2002, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Exhibition Hall & Annex Building
DuPage County Fairgrounds

Questions & Information
Janice Wilkinson, Human Services Manager
630.682.7000



Serving & Protecting Senior Citizens

S.A.L.T. Council Members

Ken J. McNatt, Chairman • Joe Vanest, Vice Chairman • Gail Hinkle, Social Services Coordinator
Carl Lofgren, Seniors Coordinator/Asst. to Assessor • Bill Parbs, Director of Communications

DuPage Sheriff's Office

Kyle Southern, DePuty Sheriff Liaison • Jim Hatcher, Director of Senior Services • Bill Mennell

Sue Davidson, Medicare Advocate CDH • Marcy Fairbanks, Community Nursing Service
Chief Phillip DiMensa, Winfield Fire Dept. • Rich Janske, Wheaton Police Dept.
Debbie McKenzie, Glendale Heights Police Dept. • Clifford Mortenson, Wheaton Fire Dept.
Chief Douglas Riner, Winfield Police Dept. • Lt. Bill Rizer, Winfield Police Dept.
Kathy Sommerfield, Wheaton Police Dept. • Shirley Swanson, National Silver Haired Congress

Citizen's Committee

Hector Fuster • Larry Gage • Miriam Hartigan • Sister Peg Ivers, St. Daniel the Prophet
William Krick • Rose Palma • Jeanne Pitra • Don Russell • Claude de St. Paer • Barbara Smith
Jack Udelhofen

In Cooperation with DuPage Sheriff's Office – John Zaruba, Sheriff

- ▶ Senior Living Options
- ▶ Charity Selection
- ▶ Special Program Available

HOT Topics

1492 N. Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187



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