



# The S.A.L.T. Communicator

*Seniors and Law Enforcement Together*

**Serving & Protecting Senior Citizens**

**February 2009**

Coordinated by S.A.L.T. Chairman Ken McNatt

## S.A.L.T. Council Senior's Auto Inspection Program

*Submitted by: Joseph Vanest*

**O**n Saturday, October 25, 2008, the S.A.L.T. Council of Milton Township conducted its Eighth Annual Senior's Inspection Automobile Program. By all measurements, it was determined to be the most successful to date.

During a four hour period, from 9 am to 1 pm, 68 Senior cars were inspected, a 25% percent increase over the number of cars inspected last year. The inspection of Senior cars is carried out by qualified mechanics to insure that the vehicles are ready for winter.

Each team is made up of a mechanic, a recorder, and a tire checker. Each car is checked against a thirty-nine point check list, which includes lights, tire pressures, engine fluid levels, belts and hoses, and much more. The inspection teams added lubricants, hydraulic fluid, and anti freeze whenever the levels were found to be low. The spare tire in the trunk of each car is checked. This check finds that nine out of ten cars have spare tires that have



Thank you  
to ALL of  
our  
Volunteers!

little or no air pressure. An inspection report is given to the driver. If serious problems are noted, a recommendation to take the car to a garage for further service is made.

The S.A.L.T. Auto Inspection Program has become increasingly popular, as it provides seniors with assurance their car is ready to face the challenges of winter driving. We have received a number of favorable comments from the participants regarding their relief at having their car checked.

This year the inspection program was conducted at Wheaton Fire Station Number One. The Council's inspection teams this year were supplemented by a large number of volunteers.

*(continued on page 2)*

### **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.

(Auto Inspection continued)

There were 28 volunteers working that contributed to the success of this year's Senior Auto Inspection Program. These volunteers included: students from [Midwestern University Occupational Therapy Program](#), the Manager of [Glen Ellyn Firestone](#), a representative from [NAPA Auto Parts](#) and eight employees from [Community Bank](#).

The S.A.L.T. Council Auto Inspection Program was underwritten again this year by Community Bank of Wheaton/Glen Ellyn. Glen Ellyn Firestone and NAPA Auto Parts volunteered help and provided window washer fluid and offered free oil filters with each motor oil purchase.

A survey of the seniors to check on how they learned of the program revealed that 35% referred to *The S.A.L.T. Communicator*. An additional 30% referred to the flyer that was handed out at the Fair. Thirty percent of the seniors mentioned the Wheaton Leader and Glen Ellyn News. This later group was made up mainly of Wheaton Residents and the remainder 5% said they had received word of the inspection at their nearby residence, Wyndemere.

Thank you to the Milton Township residents who came to the auto inspection and thank you to the volunteers and community organizations that made this event the most successful to date! We look forward to seeing you all next year.



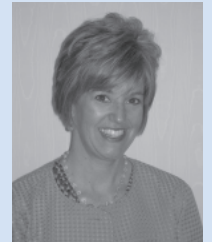
## Retirement Living Options for Mom and Dad...An Adult Child Seminar

Life has presented you with many tough questions and your parents have helped you along the way. *Now it's your turn.* If your parents are facing decisions about retirement living and you would like to understand their options, then join Judy Miltner, CMP, for a free educational seminar and a light supper on **Tuesday, February 17.** We will discuss the following topics:

- Compare all options to find what is best for your loved ones
- Understand the various financial choices and contracts
- Make sense of terminology used in the senior living industry

- Evaluate the risks and benefits in making your decision

**Come join us!** Seating is limited and registration is necessary. This is a free seminar and a light supper will be available.



**Judy Miltner, CMP**  
Wyndemere Senior Living Campus

**Reserve your spot by Tuesday, February 10!**

**Call: 630.690.8889**

**Visit:** [www.WyndemereSeniorLiving.com/register](http://www.WyndemereSeniorLiving.com/register)

**February 17, from 5:30-7:30 pm**

Wyndemere's Anderson Auditorium, Wheaton

200 Wyndemere Circle, located just east of County Farm Road on Manchester Road

## Property Taxes – What Seniors Should Know!!

*Presented by Gwen Henry,  
DuPage County Treasurer*



**Gwen Henry, DuPage  
County Treasurer**

**G**wen Henry encourages everyone, especially seniors, to carefully check your tax bill to ensure you are receiving every appropriate tax exemption. Here are a number of programs to consider:

- **Senior Homestead Exemption:** Provides a \$4000 reduction from the equalized assessed valuation. For a senior whose property is subject to a tax rate of \$7.50 per one hundred dollars of assessed value this results in a tax savings of \$300 (4000 x 7.5%).

- **Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption:** Provides seniors with limited income protection against real estate tax increases due to rising property values. It can potentially provide increased savings each year a senior is eligible. If a senior no longer qualifies for this exemption, taxes will then be based on the current “non freeze” property assessment.

- **Senior Real Estate Tax Deferral Program:** Available to seniors with lower income allows those that qualify to defer payment of real estate taxes and any special assessments on their residence. The State pays the real estate taxes and repayment plus interest of 6% annually is made when the senior sells the property or within a year of their passing.

- **SeniorServe Property Tax Savings Account:** This can be handled through the Community Bank-Wheaton/ Glen Ellyn directly and is designed to help seniors set aside a portion of their monthly income to pay their yearly property tax bill.



**DuPage County Treasurer’s Office**

[www.dupageco.org/treasurer](http://www.dupageco.org/treasurer): 630.407.5900

**Supervisor of Assessments Office**

[www.dupageco.org/soa](http://www.dupageco.org/soa): 630.407.5858

## Milton Township – Highway Department

*Gary Muehlfelt,  
Highway Commissioner*



**Gary Muehlfelt,  
Highway Commissioner**

**T**here are 85 miles of roads in Milton Township which are served by the highway department. The department maintains the right of way of many streets in all unincorporated areas. They do not maintain State, County, Municipal or Private roads.

With a few exceptions, that right of way is 66 feet wide or 33 feet from the center of the street to the property line. Within that 66 feet, the Highway Department assumes many responsibilities which include:

- Asphalt Patching & Resurfacing
- Drainage
- Road Striping
- Litter Pick Up
- Winter Snow & Ice Removal
- Traffic Control Signing
- Gravel Shouldering
- Roadside Mowing
- Tree Trimming
- Brush Pick Up
- Issuing Permits
- Street Sweeping
- Wood Chip Program
- Underground Utility Markings (JULIE Program)

There is a resident handbook which lists and explains the various services and important dates related to these services. Every resident can get one of these books by stopping by the office. We are very fortunate in Milton Township to have such extensive services.

**V  
I  
S  
I  
T**

**Milton Township Highway Department**

23 W 040 Poss Street

Glen Ellyn, 60137

**630.682.4270**



**Detectives  
Ken Reid &  
Mike Drugan,  
DuPage County  
Sheriff's Office**

## Elder Abuse

*Presented by: Detectives Ken Reid & Mike Drugan,  
DuPage County Sheriff's Office*

**K**eeping older adults healthy and free from harm is a high priority of the Sheriff's Office. Elder abuse is defined as (a) the willful infliction of injury (b) unreasonable confinement and/or intimidation (c) cruel punishment that can result in physical harm or pain (d) mental anguish or the deprivation by a person. Did you know that:

1. Older adults that are abused and neglected are three times more likely to die sooner than those that have not been abused. Over 60% of victims are female, live with their abuser and the abuser is dependent on the victim.
2. Victims of abuse are generally isolated, fearful to talk and do not have explanations for their injuries.
3. Elder abuse generally occurs to individuals 80 years of age and older.
4. There has been a 56% increase in reported abuse since 1997 and 2006.

You can help by reporting suspected abuse or attempting to speak with the abused individual. Getting help for both parties involved is the best solution to preventing further abuse.

### Senior Hotline

800.252.8966 or after hours at 800.279.0400

## Dial-A-Ride Ends, Ride DuPage Begins

*Submitted by: Chris Heidorn, Milton Township Supervisor & Jodie Hefler, Senior Service Coordinator, Glen Ellyn*

**M**arch 2, 2009, the Milton Township Dial-A-Ride Service will be discontinued in favor of the new Ride DuPage transportation service. The City of Wheaton and Milton Township will be joining the Village of Glen Ellyn in the Ride DuPage subsidized transportation program within DuPage County.

This program serves senior citizens age 65 or older and persons under age 65 with a documented disability who live within the City or Township boundaries. The Ride DuPage program uses a combination of Pace buses and taxi cabs, and will provide service 24 hours/day, 7 days/week.

The current fare is \$1 flag pull and \$1 per mile, and riders may travel anywhere in DuPage County. This program will replace the Pilot II taxi program in Wheaton and the Dial-A-Ride program in Milton Township. You must be registered to use this new service.

Riders may register or get additional information by contacting:

Sharon, City of Wheaton, 630.260.2019  
Diana, Milton Township, 630.668.1616 or  
Jodi, Village of Glen Ellyn, 630.858.6343.

# Ride DuPage!



## Update from the Illinois Attorney General's Office

Presented by: Lizveth Mendez

**L**izveth Mendez from the Attorney General's office serves as an outreach liaison regarding various programs and scams that affect the general population, as well as seniors. Ms. Mendez discussed common scams that individuals should be watchful of that included the following:

- ✓ **Telemarketing:** *beware* of telemarketers who ask for personal information. To reduce the number of calls, register with the "Do Not Call Registry" at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or by calling 1-888-382-1222.
- ✓ **Home Repairs:** *beware* if cash payment or full payment is requested or demanded before the work is completed.
- ✓ **Charities:** *beware* of solicitors that cannot or will not answer questions about the charity. Solicitors often ask for cash. To protect yourself, check to see if the charity is registered with the office of the Attorney General by calling 312.814.2595.
- ✓ **Health Care:** *beware* of healthcare products that require an up front fee. Also be cautious of promoters that say there is a conspiracy to suppress the product.



- ✓ **Sweepstakes:** *beware* of telephone calls or responding to mail related to winning the sweepstakes or a large amount of money.

### Good News!

"Corporal" Randy Groh was recently promoted to "Sergeant" Groh at the DuPage Sheriff Department. Sergeant Groh has been serving the S.A.L.T. Council as the Community Liaison officer from the Sheriff's team.

**Congratulations to  
Sergeant Groh!**



Learn more about the S.A.L.T. Council and future programs by calling:

**630.668.1616**



# Serving & Protecting Senior Citizens

## S.A.L.T. Council Members

Ken J. McNatt, Chairman • Joe Vanest, Vice Chairman • Jodi Hefler, Glen Ellyn Senior Citizen Coordinator/Community Relations • Dianna Nagra, Social Services Coordinator  
Bill Parbs, Director of Communications

## DuPage Sheriff's Office

Jim Hatcher, Director of Senior Services • Sgt. Randy Groh, Deputy Sheriff Liaison • Bill Mennell

Richard Veenstra, Asst. State's Attorney • Chief Greg Berk, Wheaton Fire Chief • Sue Davison  
Chief Phillip DiMensa, Winfield Fire District • Fire Chief Jerry Kleinwachter, Warrenville Fire Dist.  
Debbie McKenzie, Glendale Heights Police Dept. • Tom Staples, Glen Ellyn Police Dept.  
Clifford Mortenson, Wheaton Fire Dept. • Shirley Moreen, Wheaton Women's Dpt. Club

## Citizen's Committee

Larry Gage • Sister Peg Ivers, St. Daniel the Prophet • Rose Palma • Robin Pecak, Arden Courts  
Jeanne Pitra • Horace Polglaze • Don Russell • Claude de St. Paer • Charles Schlabach  
Barbara Smith • Ron Smith • Chuck Kramer • Leonard Tuggy

**In Cooperation with DuPage Sheriff's Office - John Zaruba, Sheriff**

Want to read a past issue of this newsletter?

Visit

www.

miltontownship.net

Want to be a part of the S.A.L.T. Council?

Call

630.668.1616.

- ▶ Retirement Living Options
- ▶ Illinois Attorney General Office
- ▶ Milton Township Highway Department
- ▶ Elder Abuse
- ▶ Auto Inspection a Success

## HOT Topics

1492 N. Main Street  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
[www.miltontownship.net](http://www.miltontownship.net)



PRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CAROL STREAM, IL  
PERMIT NO. 475