



## Herman Robinson Finds Purpose In Compassion

Life, One Grand Adventure

The Impact of Volunteering

Making Sense of Medicare

U.S. Census 2020

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## Dear friends,

In 2020, about 31% of Erie County residents will be aged 60 or older, increasing to 35% by 2030. How to adequately provide services for this growing number of people is a question that keeps me up at night. Clearly, this is a task that Serving Our Seniors alone cannot fulfill. We'll need your help.



*Sue Daugherty,  
Director*

The answer to my question lies in our willingness to come together in the true spirit of community. We must find ways to help people stay more self-sufficient longer. We need to generously share our individual resources—time, talent and treasure—to take care of each other, and in particular, to care for those who are not able to care for themselves, for whatever reasons.

I am reassured when I look around and see people stepping up. Herm Robinson volunteers his time to further the mission of ACORN's Ministries, committed to making our community a more loving place to live. Lois Johnson gives her time to schedule volunteer drivers for people who need a ride to a healthcare appointment. Linda Eyerman is creating a more positive attitude toward aging, while educating Vermilion students in the process. Larry Pitts launched BoomSquad to bridge the generation gap and promote lifelong learning. The 22nd annual Seniorfest was a volunteer-driven undertaking to let Erie County know that retirees still know how to have fun.

These people are an inspiration and we applaud their efforts. They are the answer to my question, and the cure for my insomnia. If we are to adequately care for each other as we age, we need to follow their lead and join in. Please consider giving your time, talent or treasure—in whatever way is meaningful for you—to help us in our mission to promote independence for Erie County's older adults. Your support is sincerely appreciated.

Best regards,  
Sue Daugherty

## Serving Our Seniors Report to the Community



**8,680** Calls to Serving Our Seniors for Assistance  
**46,801** Actions Taken / Assistance Provided

### Priority Programs



#### Transportation

**1,453** Subsidized Transportation Clients  
**13,501** Subsidized Rides  
**328** Out of Town Trips  
**237** Out of Town Clients



#### Nutrition

**18,417** Hot Home Delivered Meals  
**744** Meals for Community Gatherings

### Services to Support Independent Living at Home



**43** New Ramps Installed  
**126** Ramps in Service  
**115** Handyman Services

### Education Offered



Medicare Education  
**862** Individual Counseling Sessions  
Financial Literacy Education  
**312** Individuals Attended Programs  
Forums on Topics for Successful Aging  
**332** Individuals Attended

*Reported as of 1st Quarter, FY 2019*

### Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP)

Presenter: Tina Elmlinger, Healthcare Advocate Trainer

**October 10 – November 14 (every Thursday), 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.**

Perkins Township Town Hall  
2610 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky

### Aging and Memory Changes: Chat with Dakota

Private appointments with Dakota Stone, Alzheimer's Association – Northwest Ohio.

**October 17, November 21, December 19**  
Appointments at 1:00 and 2:00 p.m.

Call 419-624-1856 to schedule your appointment.



### Understanding Credit Reports and Credit Scores in Retirement

Presenter: Donna Green, Family and Consumer Sciences Educator, OSU Extension Office

**October 31, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Sandusky Library, 114 W. Adams Street, Sandusky

### Veterans Be Aware: VA Benefits That Pay for Care

Presenters: Chuck Solander, Erie County Veterans Services and Providence Care Center.

**October 24, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

Erie County Services Center, 3rd Floor  
2900 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky

### Understanding The Basics of Financial Investing

Presenters: Marie Elmlinger-Schultz, Financial Advisor, Ameriprise; Steve Hafner, UBS Financial Service; and Carl McGookey, PN Financial Services, LLC.

**November 8, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

Erie County Services Center, 3rd Floor  
2900 Columbus Avenue, Perkins Township

## MEDICARE CLASSES

### Medicare Q&A – Bring Your Questions and a Brown Bag Lunch

Presenter: Patricia Stineman, Medicare Education Specialist

**12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

**October 9, December 11**, Serving Our Seniors office, 310 Boalt Street, Sandusky.

**November 13**, Sandusky Community Church of the Nazarene, 1617 Milan Road, Sandusky.

### New to Medicare: Understanding Medicare Options and Financial Assistance Programs

Presenters: Patricia Stineman and OSHIIP counselors

**October 9, November 13, December 11**

**All classes 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Serving Our Seniors Office  
310 E. Boalt Street, Sandusky

### Individual Medicare Counseling For Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage Plans

Presenters: Serving Our Seniors staff

**October 15 – December 7**

Serving Our Seniors Office  
310 E. Boalt Street, Sandusky

Call 419-624-1856 for an appointment, **available on a first come, first served basis.**



*Advance registration required for all Serving Our Seniors programs, no later than 2 business days before the event.*

*Please phone 419-624-1856 or email [mail@servingourseniors.org](mailto:mail@servingourseniors.org) and leave your name, phone number and the name of the program you wish to attend. If a program is cancelled, you will be notified.*

*For more information, follow us on Facebook or visit our website at [www.servingourseniors.org](http://www.servingourseniors.org)*



## PERKINS BOOMSQUAD FALL PROGRAMS

*Boomsquad is an intergenerational, shared learning experience, putting younger and older adults together to share each other's expertise.*

**Boomsquad programs are held in Room 102, Perkins High School, 3714 Campbell Street, Sandusky. Use the main entrance.**

*Looking for a place for your small group meeting? You are welcome to use the Boomsquad room during normal school hours. Seats 16 at tables and up to 30 in seats only.*

**To register for a Boomsquad program, please call Kim Corso at 419-625-1252.**

*For more information on Boomsquad programs or to suggest a topic for a future Boomsquad program, contact Larry Pitts at 419-656-5159.*

### Social Media: Keeping in Touch with Family and Friends

Presenters: Perkins High School students  
**Facebook, October 15, 12:30-1:15 p.m.**  
**Snapchat, October 24, 11:00-11:45 am.**  
**Facetime, November 12, 12:30-1:15 p.m.**

### Choose Your Own Adventure

#### (What do you need tech help with?)

Perkins High School Tech Tutors can help you learn how to use your laptop, tablet or smartphone. Tutoring one-on-one or in small groups (come with your friends) is available on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays, from 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.** Please specify the tech training you need when you call to register.

### Travel Talk: Favorite Travel Sites in Europe

Presenter: Debbi Miller

**October 15, 11:00-12:00 noon**

Debbi will share highlights of 8 weeks travel to 6 countries in Europe in 2019.

### Chair Yoga

Presenter: Sherrena Bilgen, M.Y. Yoga

**October 22, 11:30 a.m.**

Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting on a chair, or standing using a chair for support; wear comfortable clothing.

### Creating an Age-Friendly Erie County: A Community Conversation on Respect and Inclusion

Presenter: Reverend Herman Robinson, ACORN's Ministries

**October 24, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

Herman Robinson will discuss youth violence as a symptom of spiritual poverty and the journey to peaceful co-existence through compassion and faith.

### Creating an Age-Friendly Erie County: A Community Conversation on Outdoor Spaces and Recreation

Presenter: Amy Bauman Moore, Executive Director, Erie MetroParks

**November 12, 11:00 – 12:00 noon**

Erie MetroParks is a wonderful community asset for Erie County. Learn about all that MetroParks has to offer, and plans for future development.

### Drone Racing

Presenters: Perkins High School Drone Team

**November 21, 11:00-12:00 a.m.**

Drone racing is a competitive sport where students try to fly through an obstacle course in the fastest possible time.



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# Herman Robinson Finds Purpose in Compassion

by Sue Daugherty



Herman Robinson, 71, is an earnest man of kindness and commitment. Throughout his life, in many ways, he has made a significant impact in the lives of others in Erie County.

Herman was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, one of eight children. He grew up in the housing projects where he recalls, "We didn't think of ourselves as poor. We were used to not having things and didn't miss what we never had." Herman observed, "There is a lot of passion and compassion living in the projects." As he sees it, the passion is what creates the violence and the compassion is what creates the caring that also takes place within that community.

While growing up he loved school and his teachers. He went to college on a football scholarship and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Knoxville College in 1971. He moved to Sandusky to work for Ford Motor Company in 1972, retiring in 2003.

In 1988 he founded A Christian Organization for Right Now [ACORN's] Ministries, where today he is actively engaged in his passion, mission, and charitable work. Herm spends his days giving to others, mentoring children and teens, recruiting volunteers to make blankets for those in need, and collecting donations for the "New Leather Shoes for Little Kids Program," that provides leather shoes to students.

Herman is a fun-loving, thoughtful man who generously gives of his time and resources to help others. He shares, "One day, a friend expressed genuine concern that I would burn out -- like a meteorite. He was worried that others were using me for my willingness to help. I responded, 'I appreciate your concern, but if someone can't use you -- then you're useless. That's one thing I am not. I am not useless.'"

Herman believes people are destined to come into our lives. "Some are whole, some are broken, some unfulfilled, but all are significant," he said. One summer when he worked at Castaway Bay's gift shop, an autistic child, loud, animated and having difficulty making sentences, came in. "I could tell his Mom was prepared to be embarrassed. I assured her, 'Ma'am, it's OK. If you can't have fun in here, where can you?' The little guy came over and stood in front me. He wanted me to give him a high five. And I did. We connected."

In 1980, during a Ford layoff, he took a job working with kids at the Juvenile Detention Center. Herman values the reciprocity in giving to others. He recalls, "One snowy night, an abandoned 14-year-old boy named Eddie was brought in. We took an instant liking to each other. He came to me needing my help, but in the end, he was the one helping me. Eddie understood computers at a time when computers were new to the workplace. I had no interest in computers but he was insistent. So, I let him teach me. Guess what? When Ford called me back to work, my job required working with computers. Because of that young man, I impressed my supervisors with my computer skills."

Herman is quick to say he hasn't done all this alone. He is grateful for the love and support of his wife, Jessie. In July, the Robinsons will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.



Herman hopes his legacy of caring inspires others to try to live bigger, and be more intentionally compassionate.



Photos from Herman's ACORN'S Ministries



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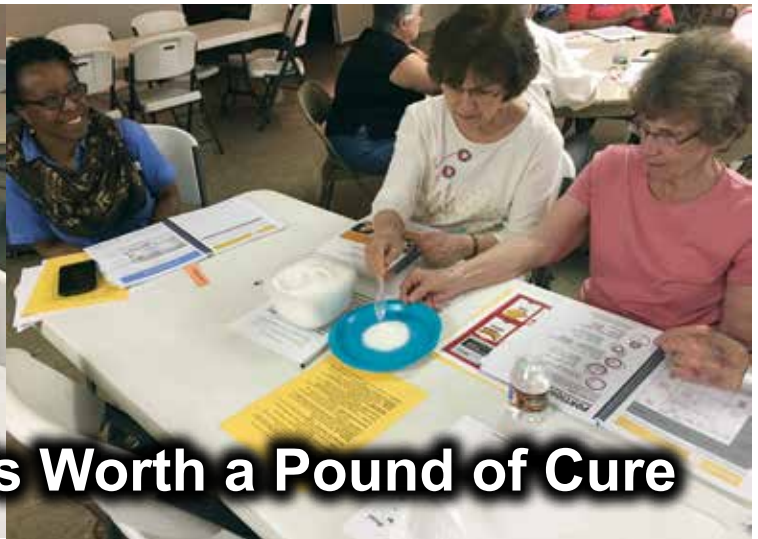
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## An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

*Kathleen Mackall, Ernestine Myers,  
Stella Brown and Lester Rycraft*



*Vera Brown, Donna Logan  
and Diane Schnell*

Erie County Health Department data indicates that one in four individuals, aged 65 and older, in Erie County is diabetic. Serving Our Seniors offers a Diabetes Empowerment Education Program [DEEP] throughout the year to help diabetics and pre-diabetics management their diabetes.

The next DEEP course will be offered each Thursday, October 10 – November 14, from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the Perkins Township Town Hall, 2610 Columbus Avenue, Sandusky. The six-week course is free for Erie County residents, ages 60+ and their spouses or significant others. The class is educational and entertaining, offering a hands-on, interactive learning experience.

Past attendees give the class rave reviews. The photos here are from an eye-opening class activity where attendees learn how much sugar and fat (lard) is in just one meal. In raw form it looks so appalling – guaranteed to curb your appetite!

For more information or to register for the course, call Tina Elmlinger, Serving Our Seniors Healthcare Advocate Trainer, at 419-624-1856.



*Bill and Sandy Smith,  
Tina Elmlinger, and Larry Knight*

### What Does It Cost to Treat Diabetes?

Most people are not aware how expensive diabetes treatment can be until they are prescribed drugs that they can't afford.

*GoodRx* just published its pricing study with two attention-getting retail prices for diabetes medication: Humulin R 20 mL vial (500 units/mL) \$1,813; and Humulin R KwikPen (3 mL, 500 units/mL) \$352 per pen.

*Good Rx* explains that generally speaking, "...a diabetic may start with 1 unit of insulin per 2.2 - 4.4 lbs. of body weight per day or 40 units/day for a person weighing 154 lbs." A diabetic on Medicare Part D could pay as much as 25% of the cost of this prescription, which equates to \$200-\$900 per month.

Another medication, an oral pill, called "Januvia" (sitagliptin phosphate) can range from \$.73 - \$16.83 per pill for a 30-day supply (\$489 per month). With Medicare Part D, the cost could be \$122 per month.

### Want to Save Some Money?

Studies show that diet and exercise can sharply lower the likelihood of diabetes. To learn more, please register for the DEEP course before October 8, 2019.

# What is Life but One

Scientists say that traveling offers numerous health benefits, and makes us much happier than any material wealth.

Rhonda Watt met Herb Seil at a church service in Vermilion on Lake Erie. The two, both widowed, both sailors, became good friends---and decided to sail away for a four-month Caribbean cruise! Rhonda has progressive scoliosis and a spine that has been fused from her neck to her pelvis, so she is in pain whether at home or anywhere. She decided, "I thought I might as well grit my teeth and try the cruise." Rhonda found she prefers a boat over a house: life is simple, uncluttered and well organized.

They set off from Fajardo, Puerto Rico, as Rhonda jokes, "two old people on an old sailboat. We handled whatever went wrong." They sailed (without mishap) to the Puerto Rico Islands, St. Thomas, St. John and the British Virgin Islands. Along the way, friends and family were welcomed for weeks of company, and they all celebrated Rhonda's 70th birthday in April.

She reflects on her journey, "After being a loving caregiver for 18 years for my husband Ken, who had early onset Alzheimer's Disease, I am smiling again because of renewed life. People say that we only live once, but the truth is, we live every day and only die once."

Rhonda and Herb are looking forward to going again next year. Bon voyage!



## Pack Your Bags and Hop on Board!

Thinking about your own travel getaway for next year? The Erie County Senior Center recently announced their travel plans for 2020 with trips to New Orleans, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Albuquerque, New Mexico. For more information on the upcoming travel adventures, visit the Erie County Senior Center or call 419-626-2560.

# Grand Adventure?

Debbi Miller crossed the sea this summer as well. She traveled to Europe with her son Dr. Carl Miller, Professor of English at Palm Beach Atlantic University, Florida. Debbi reports that she was very proud to attend his presentation at the International Research Society for Children's Literature Congress in Stockholm.

They explored Sweden and France during their two-weeks stay, riding high speed trains, and climbing to the top of a 106 meter high tower to see a panoramic view of Stockholm. They "walked in, danced out" of the ABBA Museum, visited the Nobel Prize Museum, and enjoyed an exhibit on *Pippi Longstocking* author Astrid Lindgren.

In France, they saw the Notre Dame Cathedral, Monet's water lily gardens in Giverny and visited the D-Day beaches in Normandy, which Debbi describes as "a very sobering site." They went in search of their family's history in northern France and found this beautiful church.

One of the highlights of the trip for Debbi was when, "Carl and I walked to the medieval town of Altenstadt and found St. Ulrich's Roman Catholic Church where some of my ancestors worshipped beginning in the 1600's. The church was built in the 11th Century. The tombstones of some distant ancestors are in the churchyard cemetery."



The Erie County Senior Center travel trips are popular with retirees. Many enjoy traveling as a group and appreciate that someone else is doing the driving and making all of the arrangements. The trips are relaxing, and fun, and destinations are interesting places to visit. Recent trips included Colonial Williamsburg, Mount Rushmore, Mackinac Island, New York City, Philadelphia, and Alaska (a cruise!).



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## Some of the Best Smiles We've Ever Seen



### **Check out those choppers!**

*Back row: Johnnie Johson, Paul Ertle, Tom Knight. Middle row: Elaine Barclay, Donnie Ertle, Queen Montgomery, Charles Hush, Carrie King. Front row: Wandalee Henderson, Garland Fisher, Yvonne Mason, Reno Sullivan.*

It's easy to take the ability to chew and smile for granted, until you are no longer able to do so comfortably. Serving Our Seniors first began to address the need for denture treatment in 2014. Thanks in large part to the generosity of local foundations and individual donors, 96 Erie County older adults received dentures or partials.

We brought some of the group together to ask how they felt about their new dentures.

"I am so thankful. I didn't have my bottom, front partial," said Yvonne Mason. "You could see that I didn't have any teeth. My daughter would try to make me feel better by saying, 'Don't let it bother you, Mom,' but it really did." Today, she enjoys being able to eat with no difficulty and feels much better about her smile.

Wandalee Henderson said she had her dentures for a long, long time and they no longer fit correctly. "My teeth were no longer sharp and my gums were sore, because the denture would move around when I chewed." When asked what can she eat now, that she couldn't eat before? With a smile, she said, "I can eat meat, popcorn, corn on the cob and apples!"

Paul Ertle had been wearing the same set of dentures since he was in his 30's. "I'm 73, now,

so what does that tell you?" He was another client who lived with sore gums and had difficulty eating, because his old dentures no longer fit.

Queen Montgomery learned of the denture assistance in the Serving Our Seniors Magazine. She also had difficulty eating. "After I read about it, I called the Serving Our Seniors' office. The Senior Advocate explained what I needed to do to apply. Now, I can smile again and I can eat again."

Joan Sartor remarked that she felt like she'd had her dentures forever. "My dentures were so thin that when I drank hot chocolate I could feel it on my gums. I'm so proud of my smile. I'm so happy I could cry."



*Joan Sartor meets with Nancy Rodriguez, Senior Advocate to discuss the denture program.*

# Does someone you love need nursing home care now or in the near future?

Are you afraid your loved one will have to spend all their savings to qualify for benefits?

If so, they can't afford for you to miss this important workshop.



At this meeting, here is some of what you will discover:

- Why what you've heard about qualifying for nursing home benefits is probably wrong!
- How to avoid having your loved one's savings wiped out by a nursing home spend down.
- How Medicaid works: the default rules that often don't have to apply to you.
- Why the "default" rules are not the end of the story: strategies that can be used to gain eligibility for benefits, while protecting your loved one's assets.
- What can be done NOW to protect the home from being taken by the State through Medicaid Estate Recovery.



SANDUSKY, OH - Many people find themselves in a crisis situation when a loved one suddenly needs more care than the family can provide. With care in a nursing home in Northern Ohio routinely costing \$72,000 per year or more, it's easy to see that the stakes are high! Without the right advice many people needlessly spend down their life savings, thinking they have no other option. The good news is that this can almost always be avoided. Even if your loved one is already in a nursing home, if there are assets left to protect, there are often strategies to help save what they have left, and qualify for benefits to pay for the care they need. You just have to know how.

## Our Next Seminars:

Oct. 8: Holiday Inn - The Solutions Room  
2:00 pm & 6:00 pm  
1515 Cedar Point Drive, Sandusky

Nov. 5: Huron County  
Chamber of Commerce  
10:00 am & 6:00 pm  
10 West Main Street, Norwalk

Dec. 3: Holiday Inn  
The Solutions Room  
2:00 pm & 6:00 pm  
1515 Cedar Point Drive, Sandusky



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# Senior Fest 2019 was a LAUGH-IN!

The 22nd annual Senior Fest was held at the Erie County Fair on August 9.  
Our talented performers delivered the laughs for our 274 guests!  
Applause, applause and many thanks to the Erie County Fair Board, Robin Cramer, our performers, generous sponsors and all those who joined us for a FUN TIME AT THE FAIR!

See you next year!!

## Senior Fest Sponsors

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Sue is looking for 6 retirees to serve on the **Senior Fest 2020** planning committee. Sue promises, as the Cat in the Hat said, "We can have lots of good fun that is funny." A one-hour brainstorming session will be held each week January-April. Call 419-624-1856 or email Sue at [SueD@servingourseniors.org](mailto:SueD@servingourseniors.org) if you are interested in joining the planning committee or have an idea for a funny skit for **Senior Fest 2020**. Bring a friend and let the giggles begin!



## Giving a Helping Hand to Others, Once Extended to You

by Sue Daugherty

A few years ago, my cousins, who live in Maryland, made a generous donation to Serving Our Seniors to establish the “Piggy Bank Fund.” The fund is available to help solve a problem to promote independence. The person who receives a Piggy Bank loan, agrees to pay it back in affordable installments, on the honor system. The repayments sustain the fund over time, so that one person’s repayments are available for the next person who needs help.

Bruce Egbert benefitted from the Piggy Bank Fund recently. Bruce had been on a waiting list for subsidized housing for over a year when he learned an apartment was finally available. A deposit and the first month’s rent were required. Bruce had savings, but not enough to pay the rent and deposit.

A friend suggested he call Serving Our Seniors, where he learned about the Piggy Bank Fund. In February 2019, Bruce received \$180 and by April 1, he had repaid the Piggy Bank Fund loan in full. Since the Piggy Bank Fund was initiated, 21 Erie County residents received a loan, and 16 have repaid their loans in full. Those who do not repay their loans are ineligible for future Piggy Bank Fund loans.

Serving Our Seniors extends our sincere thanks to Bruce and the others who have contributed to the Piggy Bank Fund. We congratulate them for their success in repaying their loans and appreciate their commitment to helping others.

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# Beyond Measure

the Impact of Volunteering



*Lois Johnson and Chris Ferguson*

Chris Ferguson, Quality Assurance Manager, recruited Lois Johnson about two years ago. They have been friends for more than 30 years. Lois schedules volunteers to drive for the Out of Town Transportation Program. She helps clients who need a ride to their healthcare appointments outside of Erie County. She is kind, caring, and makes a complicated job look easy. The time she gives means the world to clients, and all of us at Serving Our Seniors. Many thanks, Lois!



*Linda Eyeran and Marjorie Grassnig*

Linda Eyeran serves on the Serving Our Seniors Community Relations Committee, representing Vermilion. She wanted to encourage other retirees to stay active by donating their time with young people. She recently recruited 12 applicants willing to donate 2 hours a week. They will be assisting in Vermilion schools this year in kindergarten activities; in elementary and middle school with reading or math; and in middle school/high school with basic life skills. To volunteer, contact Cindy Akers, Vermilion Schools Administration Office at 440-204-1723. A+, Linda for dispelling the stereotype that old people are boring!

Allen Ott, Dan Yurovich and Don Hall volunteer as drivers for the Out Of Town Transportation Program. They travel outside of Erie County, usually going to Toledo or Cleveland. Just this year, 237 clients have made 328 trips to see their physician, go for a test or treatment, thanks to these three and the other Out of Town drivers. Truly a life saver – way to go, guys and gals!



*Allen Ott (left), Dan Yurovich (center), and Don Hall (right) recently attended a Volunteer Safety Training funded by a grant from Grace Episcopal Church.*

**For more information on volunteering at Serving Our Seniors, please call 419-624-1856.**

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# Medicare ORIGINAL VS Medicare ADVANTAGE

## Making Sense of Medicare

Medicare is complicated. Serving Our Seniors' certified OSHIIP counseling team is here to help you review your Medicare plan options for 2020. Please call 419-624-1856 to schedule an appointment to discuss any questions you may have about your Medicare insurance.



*Patricia Stineman,  
MSIG, CSA,  
Insurance Education  
Specialist /  
OSHIIP Trainer*

### IN 2019

- The annual Medicare Enrollment Period is October 15 - December 7, a period of time when you may change your Medicare Advantage plan or Medicare Part D drug plan. Any changes will take effect on January 1, 2020.
- You will receive, by mail, an Annual Notice of Changes to your current plan. You should review the information carefully for changes to coverage, co-pays, formularies and cost, with reference to your individual healthcare and medication needs for 2020.
- The Medicare Plan Finder has been redesigned for the first time in a decade! The most used tool on Medicare.gov allows users to shop and compare Medicare Advantage and Part D plans.
- The OSHIIP team at Serving Our Seniors will be learning all that is available in the new Medicare Plan Finder, expected to be released sometime in September. We are committed to keeping you informed of your Medicare options.

### IN 2020

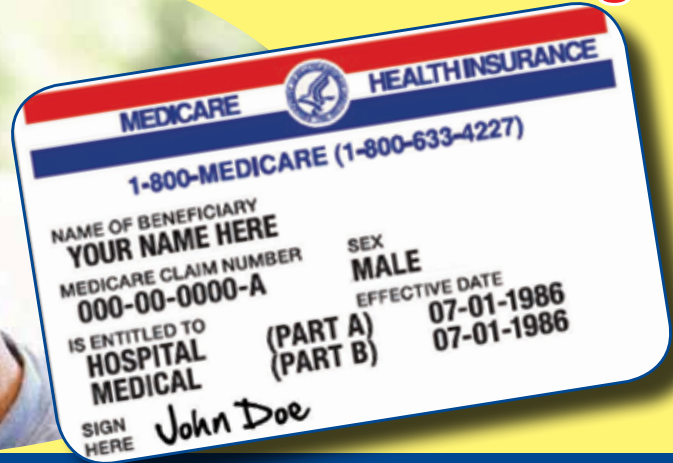
- The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment is January- March 31, a period of time when you can switch out of an Advantage plan into another Advantage plan or a Part D plan. Please note: this enrollment window does not permit you to move between Part D plans.

### Medicare Changes for 2020

- The supplemental Medigap Plans F and C are being discontinued for newly eligible Medicare beneficiaries. F and C will continue to be available for anyone who was eligible for Medicare 2019 or earlier.
- Status of the Part D donut hole? It is being eliminated in 2020 for generic drugs; it was eliminated in 2019 for brand names. This means that in 2020 out-of-pocket costs are limited to 25 percent for brand name and generic drugs.
- Medicare Advantage plans continue to gain in popularity. Some of the expanded covered benefits include meals, transportation, home helper, dental, vision, hearing aid allowance and over-the-counter allowance.

**Check out the Calendar of Events (page 4) for information about upcoming Medicare Education programs offered by Serving Our Seniors or call the office if you need an individual counseling appointment.**

# Do you find **MEDICARE** confusing?



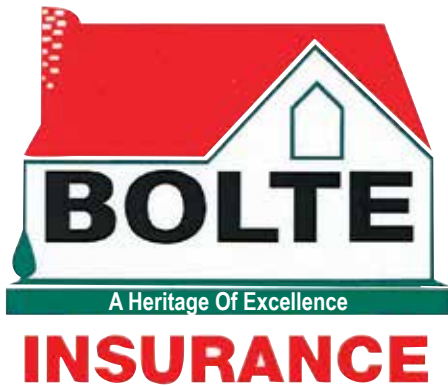
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# US Census 2020: We're Counting on You!

The U.S. Census will be conducted in the spring of 2020. Let's see how much you know about the census, which is required by the U.S. Constitution and defined as the "enumeration of inhabitants."

## Questions—from the beginning

1. When was the first U.S. census?
2. How many people were counted in the first census?
3. Who were the first census takers?
4. What was the primary purpose of the first census?
5. What was the cost of the first census?

## Answers

1. The first census was conducted in 1790, as required by the U.S. Constitution and instituted by President George Washington.
2. Just under 4 million people.
3. 650 U.S. marshals went house to house on horseback all over the nation to count people (writing with quills!). Most of the U.S. census was taken door-to-door until 1960.
4. The primary goal of the original 1790 census, which was collected not long after the Revolutionary War, was to provide information on men eligible for the military.
5. The cost of the first census project was \$45,000.

## Questions—fast forward to 2020

6. What is the date for Census Day in 2020?
7. How many people were counted in the 2010 census?
8. What is a new method for responding to the census in 2020?
9. What is the primary purpose of the 2020 census?
10. What is the projected cost for the 2020 census?

## Answers

6. Completed census forms will officially be due on April 1. Data collection for the census will begin on January 21. Since 1990, rural

Alaskan villages have been counted first before the spring thaw makes travel impassable. The rest of the country will receive their first census invitation in mid-March.

7. More than 308 million people were counted in 2010. The estimated population for 2020 is 333 million.
8. The biggest change coming in 2020 is that it will be the very first census that can be completed online. Most U.S. households will receive a mailed invitation in March to go online and complete the census. Only households that fail to complete the census by early April will receive a paper questionnaire.
9. The main purpose of the census is to figure out how many seats each state receives in the U.S. House of Representatives. Since 1911, there have been 435 seats in the House, and each state is guaranteed at least one. Additional seats are apportioned by population. Ohio has 16 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.
10. The projected cost for the 2020 census is \$15.6 billion or close to \$100 per U.S. household.

Planning is well underway for the census in Erie County. If you are interested in a short term job working on the census, you can learn more at [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs). You will be required to have your own transportation.



*Tim King and Carrie Whitaker, Erie County Regional Planning, are working with Talon Flohr, City of Sandusky, on the 2020 census.*

# SENIOR EXPO 2019



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## Give the gift of independence to an older adult in Erie County.

- Please consider making a financial donation, in any amount that is meaningful to you for Serving Our Seniors. An envelope is enclosed in this magazine for your convenience. All gifts are sincerely appreciated and help us achieve our mission to help Erie County residents as they grow older.
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- Donate your vehicle to Serving Our Seniors and discover how easy it is to give back to our community. Serving Our Seniors accepts all types of vehicles—cars, trucks, motorcycles, trailers, boats and more. Pick up is free, whether the vehicle is running or not. Call 1-855-500-7433 seven days a week or visit the Serving Our Seniors website at [www.servingourseior.org](http://www.servingourseior.org) to complete your donation, schedule your pick-up, and we'll take it from there.

## Give your most precious gift—your time!

- Volunteer drivers are always needed for Meals on Wheels and the Out of Town Transportation program to healthcare appointments. We understand that our volunteers are busy people. We will accommodate your schedule to make volunteering as convenient as possible. Last year, more than 63,000 meals were delivered in Erie County, and 468 rides to medical appointments were provided by our dedicated volunteers. This year, several volunteers have retired from driving for the Out of Town Transportation Program. We are actively recruiting new volunteers to be able to continue to provide this important service. Serving Our Seniors provides the vehicle, you provide the conversation. To volunteer, please call 419-624-1856.

## Give yourself more room in your closet—donate your STUFF.

- Donate general supplies to help us defer administrative costs. We can always use white copier paper, toilet paper, postage stamps, file folders, paper towels, etc.
- Donate unused undergarments, hearing aid batteries, testing strips for diabetics. All of these can be costly for those who use them regularly. We are happy to distribute these to our clients in need.

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*Sue Daugherty accepts donation from Tom Ripley, General Manager and Bob Mathews.*

## We Passed the Test Drive with Flying Colors!

In July, Serving Our Seniors received a donation of \$2,420 from the Ford Motor Company. A huge "THANK YOU" to Mathews Ford-Lincoln in Sandusky for designating Serving Our Seniors as its charity for the "Ford Motor Company Drive 4 Your Community" event in April. The amount of the donation is based on the show of community support. One hundred-twenty-one people showed up to test drive a Mathews Ford vehicle. The Ford Motor Company donated \$20 to Serving Our Seniors for each person who took the test drive. The Mathews Ford crew were wonderful hosts and made sure that this was the easiest fundraiser we have ever held. It couldn't have happened without all of you! Thank you for believing in the work that we do to help older adults of Erie County maintain their independence and health.



*Dick Peitz, Serving Our Seniors Board Chair and Bob Mathews in a restored 1964 Mustang.*



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