



The S.A.L.T. Communicator

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together

Serving & Protecting Senior Citizens

January 2006

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

Drug Abuse—Costly Crime for Everyone



Sheriff John Zaruba

increase knowledge about current drugs of choice, the dangers of using them and how drug use affects each and every one of us.



Corporal Randy Groh

“Drug crime affects us all and affects every other crime in DuPage County,” stated Sheriff Zaruba, “Statistics show that drug users commit more thefts, robberies, drive while under the influence, and engage in violent crime and other activities that may cause a tragic outcome more often than the rest of us.”



Corporal Wayne Howlett

The U.S. Department of Justice reported that 70% of all inmates in local jails have been arrested for, or convicted of, a drug offense. And more

than 36% of them were under the influence of drugs at the time they committed that offense.

To combat this growing problem, Sheriff Zaruba asked all of us to be aware of the most commonly abused drugs and to act as the “eyes and ears” of law enforcement contacting the Sheriff’s office whenever a problem exists.

There are a significant number of so called “street drugs” that may be injected, snorted, smoked, or taken orally. Several of the more common ones are: marijuana, inhalants (*hair spray, rubber cement, dust remover spray, spray paint, white out, magic marker*), crack cocaine (*very prevalent in our area and is considered “the thing” to do socially*) and methamphetamines (METH).

Methamphetamine is a popular drug of choice today, and a growing problem. This drug is spreading throughout Illinois where laboratories have sprung up that make the drug. Just this past June one such clandestine lab was discovered in Burr Ridge.

To help families fight drug abuse the Sheriff’s Office offers a program called “First Step.” If someone finds a suspicious substance in their home they can bring it

Mission Statement

(continued on page 2)

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.

(Drug Abuse continued from page 1)

to Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory to have it analyzed quickly, anonymously, and at no charge. Criminal proceedings will not be initiated, regardless of the outcome of the analysis.

The goal is to stop the use of these drugs. Calls to the crime lab can be made Monday through Friday between 8:00 am - 4:00 pm to 630.407.2100. Adults are not required to provide their name, phone number or any other identification. You will be directed as to how to package, send or deliver the substance to the laboratory. An identification number will be used serving as a safeguard in the event the person is stopped by the police. In most cases, the drug can be analyzed immediately while the person waits for results.

If drugs are found in your home, there are options for intervention. Adults are encouraged to contact these agencies immediately.

*DuPage County Health Department Crisis Intervention
630.627.1700*



*DuPage County Department of Human Services
630.407.6500*



Any additional questions about the "First Step" program or drug awareness contact the DuPage County Sheriff's Office 630.407.2400 or check out www.co.dupage.il.us/sheriff.

In addition to "First Step," Sheriff Zaruba has brought many innovative programs to DuPage County. Besides fighting the war on drugs he acts as an advocate for crime victims, has focused on combating domestic violence by developing a special unit focused on building long term relationships; and continues to be committed to provide the county's citizens with the best law enforcement services possible. ■

**"The DuPage County Sheriff's Office is fighting the war on drugs on every level. I am asking you to help us, by taking the FIRST STEP if the need arises."
- Sheriff John Zaruba**

Check List for Victims of Identity Theft

Information provided by Community Bank Wheaton/Glen Ellyn and submitted by Joe Vanest

The number of Americans affected by identity theft will top 30 million this year. Identity theft occurs when someone steals your personal information to establish credit.... purchase items...or borrow money in your name. If you become a victim of identity theft, you should do the following:

- File a police report.
- Contact your bank.
- Notify the credit bureau fraud unit.
- Place a fraud alert statement on your credit report.
- Request that credit bureaus identify accounts closed due to fraud as "closed at consumer's request".
- Request free credit reports (*fraud victims are entitled to two free credit reports from each of the credit bureaus. Contact www.annualcreditreport.com or call 877.322.8228*).
- Report checks theft to check verification companies.
- Check post office for unauthorized change of address requests.
- Follow up contacts with a letter and keep copies of all correspondence.

For more information on the prevention of Identity Theft visit: www.ftc.gov and click on consumer protection or call: **1.877.382.4357.**

Consumers can file Identity Theft reports by calling: **1.877.438.4338.**

Transportation in Milton Township/DuPage County

Submitted by Bill Mennell

Thank you to everyone who participated recently in the transportation survey that was in the October S.A.L.T. Communicator. The general consensus of those who responded was that the Ride DuPage program looks to have more access and improved customer service meeting the needs of those who most likely are already using Dial-A-Ride or have transportation needs but have no means of transportation currently.

The overwhelming response from those who responded was positive and they felt there were no major issues or concerns with the proposed Ride DuPage program already implemented in several of our nearby communities. Respondents felt the ability to travel anywhere in the County was a major improvement with increased scheduling abilities and fewer restrictions would definitely allow more individuals the ability to use public transportation.

A number of people took time to write their comments. Thank you for your time and effort. Milton Township and the S.A.L.T. Council appreciate your feedback and will continue to ask you, the consumers about your needs and opinions. The winner of the drawing for a \$25 gift card was **B. Baccarini** of Wheaton. Congratulations!

IRS Scam

The Internal Revenue Service has issued a consumer alert about an Internet scam in which consumers receive an email informing them of a tax refund. The email, which claims to be from the IRS, directs the consumer to a link that requests personal information, such as Social Security number and credit card information.

This is fraudulent. The IRS does not communicate via email with unsolicited requests and would never request tax payer identification information over the Internet.

If you receive such an email, delete it immediately, do not respond, do not, out of curiosity click on the link provided. You will be giving the scammers information about your valid email address. ■

Security at Low Cost

Sheriff John Zaruba recently spoke to the S.A.L.T. Council regarding crime prevention and drug abuse awareness in DuPage County. His advice to the seniors, was a whistle is the greatest crime prevention tool to carry. These small plastic whistles can be carried in your purse, in your car or in your pocket.

The S.A.L.T. Council provides these whistles free to seniors in Milton Township. You can stop by the Township office to pick one up or call and one will be mailed to you at no charge.

Milton Township Office
1492 North Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187
630.668.1616

Life Management Services

PACT was started as a 501c(3) organization in 1981 by families who had relatives with disabilities. Concerned about the future care of their relatives, founders established the agency to assure there would be guardianship and related services for their loved one when parents were no longer able to function in that capacity.



Mary Doherty, coordinator for services at PACT, provided information to the S.A.L.T. audience at the October meeting. Services offered for individuals with disabilities including aging adults include: counseling, case management, personal budgeting/accounting/bookkeeping, trusteeship and linkage with healthcare services.

If you could benefit from these services or know of someone that could call:

 **630.960.9700 ext. 148** 

Need Help With Your Income Tax?

Submitted by Don Russell

AARP TAX – AIDE PROGRAM
Trained volunteers ready to help you!

Call:

Wheaton Park District 630.665.1415
Glen Ellyn Park District: 630.858.2462

If the taxpayer is homebound, volunteers are available for home visits by calling the above telephone number

“File of Life” Saves a Life!

Cliff Mortenson, a fire investigator for the Wheaton Fire Department reported a recent incident where the “File of Life” packet may have very well been the reason for a survival. A six year old child was the first heroin in this story. She had been taught by her grandparents to call 911 if grandma ever needed help. She was spending time with her grandmother who became distressed. The little girl called 911 for help. When the fire department Paramedics arrived, the woman was incoherent and almost unconscious. The “File of Life” packet with her current medications and health history was posted on the refrigerator. The Paramedics were able to determine that she was diabetic therefore identifying the correct action to take saving the woman from further distress and possible death.

The “File of Life” packet is a convenient easy way to maintain your current medications and health history providing family/ professionals easy access to important information in times of need. Having it posted somewhere in your home allows those who need to have this information easy access.

If you have not taken advantage of these **free** “File of Life” packets available through the S.A.L.T. Council, please consider doing so. You can either stop by the Milton Township Hall to pick one up or call Gail at 630.668.1616 and ask about receiving a “File of Life” packet. It might just be **your** life saver.

The SALT Council always welcomes you to attend the monthly presentations. Please contact Gail to find out the date, time and location of the next meeting.

630.668.1616

Visit us at www.miltontownship.net

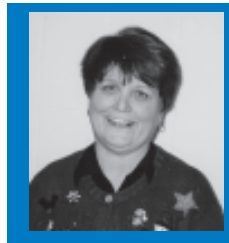
Medicare Part D—The Decision is Up to You!

Submitted by Sue Davison, Senior Services Coordinator,
Village of Glen Ellyn

Medicare Part D is for all people with Medicare Part A and Part B. The enrollment period is November 15, 2005 until May 15, 2006.

What if..

- ✓ you have prescription group coverage, you need to make sure it is “credible coverage”, which means it pays as much as or more than Medicare D covers. If it does not and you choose to keep it beyond May 15, 2006, then sign up for Medicare Part D, there will be a penalty of 1% per month for each month you are not under Medicare Part D past the enrollment period. The penalties may increase so do your research now. You should have received a letter from your insurance company telling you about your benefits and what it covers. Retain this letter for reference.
- ✓ you get your medications from the Veterans Administration and choose to continue doing this there is no penalty if you change to Medicare Part D at a later date.
- ✓ you are currently on Senior Care / Circuit Breaker for 2005; you need to submit an extra help application to Social Security in order to continue getting this coverage.
- ✓ you are not eligible for the “Extra Help” program, you will be eligible for the “state” program. These are through United Health Group or Pacific Care Health. If you have received a letter from Social Security regarding the “Extra Help” program, retain it. You may need this letter when you apply for the additional assistance.



✓ you have a regular pharmacy/ pharmacist you deal with, talk to them. The pharmacist can be very helpful.

✓ you use a computer or have assistance with a computer, go to www.medicare.gov and put in your medications and the pharmacies you use. This site will list the insurance companies, what percentage of your medications are covered and what your co-payment for each covered medication will be through Medicare Part D.

Other resources to consider if you have questions:

Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP)
1.800.548.9034
Illinois Department on Aging
1.800.252.8966

Remember, there are a number of “scams” contacting seniors regarding these programs so be cautious, ask for identification and remember the government is not likely to contact you via email or telephone unless you have contacted them first. ■





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 • Gail Hinkle, Social Services Coordinator • Bill Parbs, Director of Communications

DuPage Sheriff's Office

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

Chief Greg Berk, Wheaton Fire Chief • Sue Davison, Medicare Advocate CDH
Chief Phillip DiMensa, Winfield Fire District • Marcy Fairbank, Community Nursing Service
Rich Janske, Wheaton Police Dept. • Fire Chief Jerry Kleinwachter, Warrenville Fire Dist.
Debbie McKenzie, Glendale Heights Police Dept. • James Monson, Glen Ellyn Police Dept.
Clifford Mortenson, Wheaton Fire Dept. • Chief Douglas Riner, Winfield Police Dept.

Citizen's Committee

Larry Gage • Sister Peg Ivers, St. Daniel the Prophet • William Krick • Rose Palma
Patricia Terkovich, Arden Courts • Jeanne Pitra • Horace Polglaze • Don Russell
Claude de St. Paer • Charles Schlabach • Barbara Smith • Ron Smith • Jack Udelhofen

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

- ▶ Medicare Part D
- ▶ Life Management Services
- ▶ IRS Scam and Help
- ▶ Transportation Survey Results
- ▶ Drug Abuse

HOT Topics

www.milontownship.net
Wheaton, IL 60187
1492 N. Main Street



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