



# The S.A.L.T. Communicator

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together

Serving & Protecting Senior Citizens

March 2001

Coordinated by Milton Township Trustee Ken McNatt

## Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.)

**T**he DuPage County Sheriff, John Zaruba, sponsors S.A.L.T. in collaboration with Milton Township. Ken McNatt, Trustee of Milton Township and Chairman of the S.A.L.T. Council, have worked to continuously expand and increase the awareness of this program to all seniors in Milton Township. This program was first implemented in 1998 by Milton Township and has continued to grow each year. A significant number of seniors have benefited through the various services available and have provided feedback to the Council about additional needs and concerns of the seniors in Milton Township. This program does not replace the Senior Citizens Coordinating Committee or the senior programs within each community. This program focuses on safety of the seniors.

Milton Township S.A.L.T. Council mailed a community action survey to 6,200 registered voters who were 65 years and over.

*(continued on page 2)*



*Deputy Bill Mennell & Mary Ritschdorff  
Photograph Courtesy of the Sheriff's Office*

## Guardian Angels

**M**ary Ritschdorff signed up for the Guardian Program through Milton Township Senior and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.) Council. She was having the computerized calling service check on her several times a week. Mary lives alone, but has always taken care of herself and been very independent. She never expected to need emergency help.

The Guardian Program sponsored by DuPage County Sheriff John Zaruba and administered

*(continued on page 3)*

## 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.

*S.A.L.T. continued*

The response was significant with over 1,600 returned surveys. The survey addressed the areas of fears and concerns about safety, information desired by the senior population and assistance requested from community services. The S.A.L.T. Council is a result of your feedback.

The Council consists of volunteer seniors and representatives of the Police and Fire Departments of Wheaton and Glen Ellyn, chaired by Trustee Ken McNatt. Joe Vanest has volunteered many hours to assist Trustee McNatt in getting the news out about the S.A.L.T. Council programs. The group meets monthly to discuss needs and develop plans. The goal is to open lines of communication to promote effective programs, train volunteers and identify other needed resources. The S.A.L.T. Council is very concerned about the increasing number of crimes against senior citizens in DuPage County.

The 1,600 responses from the survey indicated a great interest and need for this Township program. The survey showed nearly half of all respondents feared both telephone and door to door solicitors. Public transportation, home security and carbon monoxide are also top concerns. Results indicated:

- 59% would like local police to do home security checks
- 46% feared vendors knocking at their door
- 46% were concerned about telephone solicitors
- 46% did not feel there was adequate public transportation
- 33% would like daily “are you okay” calls
- 32% were concerned about vandalism in their neighborhood
- 21% did not know what to do when a carbon monoxide detector goes off
- 2% felt neglected by family and friends

If you did not receive one of the surveys or have concerns and feedback to provide to the Council, please call or write a letter to the Township office at:

**Milton Township S.A.L.T. Council**  
1492 N. Main Street • Wheaton, IL 60187  
Phone: 630•668•1616  
Fax: 630•668•1608

Chairman Ken McNatt welcomes your feedback and wants to hear from you. The S.A.L.T. Council can only be effective if you, the seniors of Milton Township, communicate your needs.

Since the time of this survey, a number of programs have been implemented and participation is increasing monthly.

- Guardian Program
- Dial-A-Ride Service
- File of Life Packets

The Council will continue to look at ways they can work together to serve and protect the seniors of Milton Township. ■

*Realizing the importance of S.A.L.T. Council services, Glen Ellyn and Wheaton community television stations, broadcast bulletins concerning S.A.L.T. Council services. Community Nursing Services and Hospice have also joined Milton Township in the promotion of the Guardian Program.*

*Guardian Angel continued*

by Milton Township, saved Mary Ritschdorff's life. Bill Mennell, Deputy Liaison from the Sheriff's Department, came to check on Mary when she failed to respond to a routine monitoring call. Deputy Mennell found her on the kitchen floor, semiconscious after she had fallen and had been there three days. Mary had managed to knock the kitchen telephone off the hook, but could not get to the telephone. A persistent busy signal alerted the local police that something might be wrong. The Guardian Program was notified and Deputy Mennell found Mary in distress. Mary now has the program call daily to check on her.

This story demonstrates the real value of this free service to all seniors and disabled persons in Milton Township. The Guardian Program routinely checks on your well-being. You decide how often and what time of the day. If you are in trouble or need help Guardian will automatically alert emergency personnel. Help is just a telephone call away for seniors 65 and older or to anyone with a disability. It has already saved at least one life. ■

**ACT NOW BEFORE YOU  
NEED ASSISTANCE  
630•682•7256**

## Let Guardian Help, It's As Easy As...1,2,3

- 1** Call Milton Township for a Guardian Program Application (630•668•1616)
  - Application can be mailed
  - Volunteer can come to home and provide assistance in completing
- 2** Determine when you want the program to call you
  - Day(s) of the week
  - Frequency
  - Time of day or night
- 3** Establish pass code for computerized service
  - Does not intrude on your privacy
  - Ability to notify program when you will be away from home

## Who Qualifies

- Any DuPage County resident who is over the age of 62 and lives alone
- Any DuPage County resident who is over the age of 62 and lives with a mentally or physically impaired person
- Any DuPage County resident who is physically disabled and requires daily contact to ensure his/her welfare
- The member must have the ability to punch digits on their telephone keypad

The program is free of charge and no installation of equipment is necessary. It is easy, quick and will put your mind at ease in the case of needed emergencies.

**A Guardian Angel is just a telephone call away: 630•682•7256**

## Local Transportation Solution

**F**rustrated with the inability to get around the Township to do errands or go to the local hospital for procedures or tests? Then you need to be signed up to use the Dial-A-Ride Service available to all seniors and individuals with disabilities. Dial-A-Ride provides bus transportation anywhere within the Township boundaries and to Central DuPage Hospital.

Over 1,200 rides were provided in January of this year. It is easy to use and very affordable through the S.A.L.T. Council. You do not have to rely on family members or friends to transport you to social events, shopping or medical visits.

To begin riding, you must first sign up for a Reduced Fare card through the Township office at 630•668•1616. There is no charge to receive this card. Once you have your RTA Reduced Fare card you are then eligible to use the Dial-A-Ride service at .75 per ride. That means \$1.50 will get you to where you are going and back home.

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**Dial-A-Ride**  
**RTA Reduced Fare Card**  
**630•668•1616**  
**Reservations**  
**1•888•405•2064**

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Milton Township has two buses devoted to this service through PACE.

To help you utilize this convenient service follow these few simple steps:

- Obtain your RTA Reduced Fare card by calling 630•668•1616.
- Each time you need a ride call 24 hours in advance to schedule your pick up. The best time to call is early in the day because spots are limited by times and space on the bus. Your reservation can be made by calling 1•888•405•2064.
- The bus operates between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.
- If you have medical appointments, you can schedule them 30 days in advance and you will receive preferential scheduling.
- If you are not certain your destination is within the Township boundaries call 1•888•405•2064. ■

### For General Information Contact:

Milton Township  
S.A.L.T. Council  
1492 N. Main Street  
Wheaton, IL 60187

Jennifer Christopher  
Phone: 630•668•1616  
Fax: 630•668•1608

## File of Life

Free, convenient medical packet for documentation of important information that can save your life

**630•668•1616**

### Life Saving Magnets

**A**ll Milton Township seniors, 65 and over are receiving a “File of Life” packet, sometimes referred to as a “Refrigerator Card.” Over 10,000 of the packets are being distributed. If you have received yours, please fill it out in pencil and put it on the refrigerator in case of emergencies.

These simple medication files have been credited with saving a life already. If you have one and have not filled it out, please take a minute to do it or take it with you to your next doctor visit and have them complete it for you. Put the sticker on your front and back entry if you have one. Carry the smaller version with you or put it in the glove compartment of your vehicle.

If you have misplaced your File of Life kit or did not receive one, call for your free kit at 630•668•1616. These emergency medical cards contain important information that can save your life in an emergency, when you may not be able to communicate or too anxious to remember all the necessary information. This is also a good way to keep your family informed of medications.

When completing this medical card, remember a few helpful tips.



List only the medications that you are currently taking including prescription and non-prescription drugs and herbal remedies. Use pencil so they can be changed or crossed out when medications change.



Please contact your doctor if you have specific questions about your medications or take the card with you to be updated by the doctor’s office.



Fill out the medical cards and put them in the red plastic pouch provided and put it on the refrigerator. Trained personnel will look for it there.



Fill out the pocket size card and carry it with you in your purse, billfold or pocket.

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### “File of Life” has saved lives.

It is very easy to use and informs individuals about your medical needs.

### Act Now!

Pull it out of the drawer,  
begin using it or  
call for a new one.

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## Serving & Protecting Senior Citizens

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

Ken J. McNatt, Chairman • Joe Vanest, Assistant Chairman • Sandy Dutton, Secretary

### DuPage Sheriff's Office

Deputy Bill Mennell • Jim Hatcher, Director of Senior Services

### Citizen's Committee

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

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

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