



January 2024

PRIME TIME

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<https://www.unioncountyohio.gov/senior-services-home>

State agencies and partners expand resources to keep older drivers safe

Ohio Department on Aging

In recognition of Older Driver Safety Awareness Week (Dec. 4-8), Governor Mike DeWine, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO), the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA), and AAA are reminding Ohioans about new resources and programs to prevent serious injuries and fatalities among Ohio's older drivers. One way the state is working to improve older driver safety is through the expansion of CarFit, an educational program developed by AAA, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association to improve older driver safety and comfort behind the wheel. In addition to CarFit, Ohio has a variety of state and local program resources that can help older drivers adopt strategies to stay safe on the road, as well as find alternatives to driving if they can no longer do so safely. These resources can be found on the website, transportation.ohio.gov/older-drivers. Several new resources were added to the website this year, including a free guide about how driver rehabilitation specialists can evaluate older drivers' ability to drive safely.

To help improve safety, state partners offer the following tips for older drivers and their families:

- Stay aware of your changing physical, vision, and hearing abilities and adjust your driving habits accordingly.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist if any medical conditions you have or medications you take could make it unsafe to drive.
- Do most of your driving during daylight and in good weather. Avoid busy roadways and rush hours whenever possible.
- Plan your route before you drive and choose routes with well-lit streets, intersections with left turn signals, and easy parking.
- Avoid distractions while driving, including talking or texting on a cell phone, eating, or listening to a loud radio.
- Leave plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front of you so you can react if the other driver stops or slows suddenly.

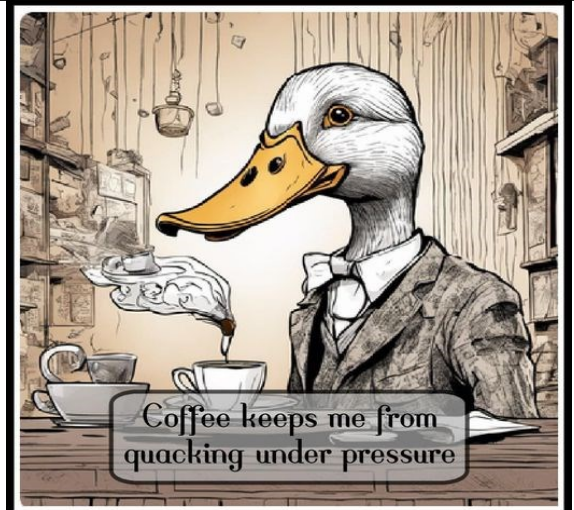
More information about the CarFit program can be found at car-fit.org.

Transportation for Seniors

Union County Senior Services wants to ensure Union County residents 60 years of age or more are getting their transportation needs met to the best of our ability with available resources. UCATS, Legends Lift & Transport, WINGS, and A Way Out are contracted to transport seniors to their activities of daily living (medical, shopping, banking, legal, exercise, library, miscellaneous civic needs, etc.) and activities of socialization free of charge to the senior. The only eligibility criteria is to be 60 years of age or older and a resident of Union County. Below is the contact information for transportation.

- **UCATS** - Call 937.642.5100 to schedule a ride or complete a request online at www.unioncountyohio.gov/ucats
- **Legends Lift and Transport** - call to schedule at 937.358.2024
- **WINGS** - call to schedule at 937.642.9555
- **A Way Out** - to schedule at 614.381.1979

If you need to cancel your trip, please do so as far in advance as possible. You may also contact the **Union County Mobility Manager** at 937.645.2063 for other transportation resources.



Adult Protective Services

Do you have concerns that a senior, 60 or over, is being maltreated? Examples include physical harm/injury, neglect, self-neglect, financial exploitation, verbal/emotional abuse, sexual abuse. Contact the Abuse Hotline at 937-644-1010 Option 1

The Top 5 Financial Scams Targeting Older Adults

Genevieve Waterman, National Council on Aging

1. Government impersonation scams - In government impersonation scams (also known as government imposter scams), scammers call unsuspecting older adults and pretend to be from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Social Security Administration, or Medicare. They may say the person has unpaid taxes and threaten arrest or deportation if they don't pay up immediately. Or they may say Social Security or Medicare benefits will be cut off if the person doesn't provide personal identifying information. This information can then be used to commit identity theft.

Government imposters may demand specific forms of payment, such as a prepaid debit card, cash, or wire transfer. Using special technology, they often "spoof" the actual phone number of a government agency or call from the same ZIP code (202 for Washington, D.C., for example). This can trick some people into thinking the caller is from a valid source.

2. Sweepstakes and lottery scams - The sweepstakes scam is one many people are familiar with. Here, scammers call an older adult to tell them they've won a lottery or prize of some kind. If they want to claim their winnings, the older adult must send money, cash, or gift cards up front—sometimes thousands of dollars' worth—to cover supposed taxes and processing fees.

3. Robocalls and phone scams - One common robocall is the "Can you hear me?" call. When the older person says "yes," the scammer records their voice and hangs up. The criminal then has a voice signature to authorize unwanted charges on items like stolen credit cards.

Yet another popular phone scam is the "impending lawsuit" scam. In this case, someone receives an urgent, frightening call from someone claiming to be from a government or law enforcement agency (like the police). They are told if they don't pay a fine by a certain deadline, they will be sued or arrested for some made-up offense.

4. Computer tech support scams - Technical support scams prey on older people's lack of knowledge about computers and cybersecurity. A pop-up message or blank screen usually appears on a computer or phone, telling the user their device is damaged and needs fixing. When they call the support number for help, the scammer may either request remote access to the older person's computer and/or demand they pay a fee to have it repaired.

5. The grandparent scam - The grandparent scam is so simple and so devious because it uses one of older adults' most reliable assets, their hearts. Scammers call a would-be grandparent and say something along the lines of: "Hi, Grandma, do you know who this is?" When the unaware grandparent guesses the name of the grandchild the scammer most sounds like, the scammer is able to instantly secure their trust. The fake grandchild then asks for money to solve some urgent financial problem (such as overdue rent, car repairs, or jail bond). They may beg the grandparent not to tell anyone. Since fraudsters often ask to be paid via gift cards or money transfer, which don't always require identification to collect, the older adult may have no way of ever recovering their money.

Scams are specially designed to catch us off guard, and they can happen to anyone. There's nothing to be ashamed of if you think it's happened to you.

Union County Senior Centers

Did you know Union County has four Senior Centers for residents to socialize and stay active?

- **Community and Seasoned Citizens** - 900 Columbus Avenue, Marysville, Oh. Contact 937.644.9801 or email casc@columbus.rr.com for more information.
- **Pleasant Valley Senior Center** - 390 Allgyer Drive, Plain City, Oh. Contact pleasantvalleyseniorcenter@gmail.com for more information.
- **Richwood Civic Center, Inc.** - 235 Grover Street, Richwood, Oh. Contact 740.943.2310 or email richwoodciviccenter@gmail.com for more information.
- **Union County Senior Activity Center** - 376-C Rosehill Drive, Marysville, Oh. Contact 937.644.8464 or email activities@windsorseniors.org for more information.



Current residents of Union County, Ohio who are age 60+ are eligible for MyHello.

Connect & Share

Everyone loves a friendly phone call, and that is exactly what MyHello is.



Scan this QR code to signup or call 833-MYHELLO

How It Works

There is no one else like YOU.

MyHello Guides enjoy talking with you and listening to good stories too! Staying connected is important, and it is even good for your health.



Each week, MyHello will call to chat. A unique conversation starter will be asked.

WHEN SHOULD WE TALK?

A MyHello call is made once a week for 13-weeks for people participating in MyHello. Calls are typically 15-30 minutes.

We want to get to know YOU. What is important to you? What is your opinion? Let's talk!

Do you prefer a morning or afternoon call and which day of the week? Give us a call at the number below to SIGNUP!

Signup is easy! Call 833-694-3556 (833-MYHELLO) OR scan the QR Code above OR email myhello@lifebio.com. Organizations and agencies make referrals by using these methods too!

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