



# Special Edition MESSENGER

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Serving Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca and Wyandot Counties

## AAA Receives \$2.1 Million Gift

### Former Hawkins Grocery Store to Become New Agency Headquarters

Ohio grocery store founder Otis Earl Hawkins is donating his building at Park Avenue West and Lexington Springmill Road in Ontario to the District 5 Area Agency on Aging. The building is valued at \$2.1 million.



The announcement was made by Area Agency on Aging Board President Kathy A. Daniels during a press conference on Thursday, November 10, 2011 at the former grocery store site. Approximately 200 people attended the press conference.

The site, in recognition of its generous donor, will be named Hawkins Corner.

The Area Agency on Aging, now located in 22,000-square-foot of rented space at 780 Park Avenue West, will renovate the former Hawkins grocery store and move its office there. This will allow the Agency to maintain its operational space, while expanding programming, significantly improve service access for older and/or disabled adults and caregivers, and provide space for its other non-profit tenants with like clientele. Agency leader Duana Patton envisions a "centralized" approach to service access in the former store's 44,000-square-foot of space.

The Agency has formed a building committee to plan the renovation project, considering the operational needs of the Agency as well as its potential non-profit tenants. Building committee members include Jerry Kithcart, Rick Grazel, Bill Danuloff, Commissioner Gary Utt, Larry Bennett, Duana Patton and Kathy A. Daniels.

Chief Executive Officer Duana Patton shared during the press conference "Our vision is clear, but the details have yet to be worked out. We will be thoughtful in our approach to design of the building and tenant selection. Through the efforts of our building committee, board and staff, we will ensure that this facility is not just about the Area Agency on Aging, but includes a focus on the community and individuals we serve."

Ohio District 5  
Area Agency on  
Aging, Inc.

*Sponsored by a Title III Grant under the Older Americans Act, a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, a State Services Block Grant, and other funds administered through the Ohio Department of Aging.*

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## Awards Presented at Annual Meeting

The Area Agency on Aging recently held the year-end annual meeting on December 1, 2011 at the Mid Ohio Conference Center in Mansfield. There were more than 400 seniors, service providers, Board, Advisory Council members, staff and other dignitaries in attendance.

Chief Executive Officer Duana Patton and President of the Board of Trustees, Kathy A. Daniels, presided over the program and meeting which highlighted accomplishments of the Area Agency for 2011. The Area Agency also presented the following awards: Project Collaboration Award – Red Ball Jets and Mansfield Area Y Running Club; Community Partnership Award – Renaissance Theatre and Richland County Project Lifesaver; Advocate of the Year – Simply EZ Home Delivered Meals;

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## About Otis Earl Hawkins

Otis Earl Hawkins, 95, founded the Hawkins chain of grocery stores, a cafeteria restaurant, and a public golf course called Hawk's Nest near Wooster. A West Virginia native who came to Ohio to find work, he supplemented his earnings in the Ashland-based National Guard unit, which was called into service at the onset of World War II.

Staff Sergeant Earl Hawkins was a highly decorated soldier, serving in the Pacific where he earned the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Silver Star. His wartime service and his business acumen are subjects of his autobiography, [My Experiences in War and Business: One Man's Story of Success in America](#), published in 1999 by Ashbrook Press (John M. Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs, Ashland, Ohio).

Known as "Earl", he worked a number of jobs, from selling insurance to selling balloons, until he and his wife, Betty Myers Hawkins (married in 1948, three daughters), began their fruit stand business near Wooster. And, at the age of 50 in 1965, Earl grew the fruit stand into a full-service grocery store, the first in a chain of seven stores located in Wooster, Ashland (2), Mansfield, Medina, Ontario, and Orrville. His stores were known for efficiency, fair prices, and in-store bakeries considered among the best grocer bakeries in Ohio. From reading his memoirs, Earl's motto seemed to be "with honesty and generosity, trust and commitment are generated".

Creative in marketing his grocery business, which he sold in 1997 to a wholesale grocery company (and later he and Betty sold the cafeteria restaurant), Earl has been generous, serving on a number of community boards and donating to such entities as Ashland University. His generosity continues with his donation in October 2011 of the former Hawkins store in Ontario.



## AAA Establishes Foundation

The AAA has established a foundation for resource and program development and to facilitate its board's grant/scholarship program.

A recognized leader among state and national advocates of older adults, AAA CEO Duana Patton believes the Agency's new foundation will improve the internal tracking and stewardship process for grant makers and donors while broadening the Agency's opportunities to serve "the baby boomer generation, now coming of age," Patton said.

"There is no question that our client base is growing significantly as the population ages in record numbers," Patton said, "And having a sophisticated resource system via

the foundation allows us to enhance the tracking process and stewardship for public and private grant makers and donors, grow our grant/scholarship program, and maintain our Agency's direct focus on the needs of our older and disabled adults."

The Agency has a base of 80,000 clients, more than 200 contracted providers, 75 partner agencies, 30 advocacy specialists, and 500 volunteers through its Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) initiative. Funded by public and private resources, the Agency is governed by a 22-member Board of Trustees with representatives from each of its district's nine counties. The AAA serves Ashland, Crawford, Huron, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Richland, Seneca, and Wyandot counties.

# Sharing Spaces... Sharing Resources... Sharing Expertise



New economic challenges are fueling the growth of shared spaces and resources among today's nonprofit organizations. At the same time, nonprofits are challenged to conserve resources and re-evaluate funding priorities, while day-to-day operating expenses are increasing even when revenue is not.

Multiple organizations, or multiple programs within a larger organization, establish shared spaces to collaboratively and more efficiently make use of physical space, equipment, staff and program resources.

## **Nonprofit Shared Spaces Benefits**

Thriving communities, better social services for more people, new civic infrastructure, and successful models for public and private partnerships are just some of the benefits when nonprofit organizations co-locate and share resources. Models of shared facilities, known as nonprofit centers, are as diverse as the many communities that house them. A study of organizations utilizing this concept has shown the nonprofits have experienced significant improvements in their overall effectiveness and efficiency, which ultimately yield great impacts for the communities and consumers being served.

Organizational efficiencies from sharing spaces include: reduced and more stable rental costs, reduced costs through shared services and spaces and increased productivity through staff retention and staffing capacity. Organizational effectiveness include: increased organizational capacity, increased knowledge, increased IT capacity, improved access to funders, improved quality of back office services, improved service delivery.

Community infrastructure benefits are many and include: new community spaces and opportunities for civic engagement, higher quality space through new or renovated facility, community access to technology, learning and capacity building assets, new environmental and sustainability practices and better location or access for staff or consumers.

## **Collaboration**

Beyond making a variety of services and spaces available to the resident organizations, many nonprofit centers actively encourage both formal and informal collaboration amongst the resident organizations. Collaborating on programs and services and client referrals were the most common ways in which nonprofit organizations housed in centers worked together.

## **Put Life Back In Your Life**

### **Free Healthy U Class**

If you have health challenges such as asthma, arthritis, heart disease, diabetes and other life long conditions.

### **Healthy U** may be for you.

With Healthy U you'll get the support you need and:

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- Learn better ways to talk with your doctor and family about your health
  - Set personal goals
- Find ways to relax and deal with stress



#### **Classes Forming Now,**

January 17, 24, 31, February 7, 14, & 21

Your choice of morning or afternoon classes  
10:00 am - Noon or 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

#### **PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Call the Area Agency on Aging, 419-522-5612, ext 1187

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Elected Official of the Year Award – State Senator David Burke; Awards of Excellence – Seneca County Commission on Aging and Boy Scout Troop #125, Upper Sandusky (Youth) . Inducted into the AAA Hall of Fame was Dolores “D” Wisenbarger of Butler.

Dr. Becky Strickland of Crawford County was recognized as a retiring Board of Trustee member who has fulfilled the maximum number of years of service to the Board.

Thank you to the top sponsors of the 2011 Annual Meeting – Simply EZ Home Delivered Meals (Platinum); Mid- Ohio Home Health (Gold); Silver Sponsors Apple Lane Transportation, Byrne Services, LLC, Galion Medical Supplies, Northeast Professional Home Care and Shaw Ott Medical.



**Visit Our  
New Website**  
[www.aa5ohio.org](http://www.aa5ohio.org)



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*The Area Agency on Aging is an  
equal opportunity employer*



## Information and Referral Offices

*Information, referrals, and caregiver assistance!*

*Where the elderly can turn for help in finding services they need.*

*Where agencies can turn to find out about additional services available to their clients.*

Ashland County Council on Aging .....	419-281-1477
Crawford County Council on Aging .....	419-562-3050
Senior Enrichment Services .....	419-668-6245
The Station Break .....	740-397-3841
Marion Multi-Purpose Senior Center .....	740-387-6100
Morrow County Services for Older Citizens, Inc. ....	419-946-6702
Lexington Senior/Civic Center .....	419-884-1676
Seneca County Commission on Aging .....	419-447-5792
Wyandot County Council on Aging, Inc.....	419-294-5733