

COUNCIL FOR OLDER ADULTS

Volunteer open house Tuesday

Staff reports

The Council for Older Adults has announced that it will hold a special open house to educate the public on volunteer opportunities available at the Center for Older Adults. Volunteers are needed to assist older adults by delivering meals (Meals-on-Wheels), providing transportation to and from medical appointments, delivering durable medical equipment and nutritional supplements, and volunteering as kitchen assistants or special event volunteers.

This event will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Center for Older Adults, 800 Cheshire Road in Delaware. Presentations describing various volunteer opportunities will be at 4, 5 and 6 p.m. A tour of the new Center for Older Adults will be held after each presentation. Refreshments will be provided. All volunteers receive training, mileage and, in some cases, free lunch on the

day they volunteer.

More than 46,000 meals were served to homebound older adults through the Council's Meals-on-Wheels program and at dining centers during the first three months of 2008. This reflects more than a 30 percent increase over 2007. Additional meal drivers are needed to accommodate this record growth to ensure no older adults will go without a hot, nutritious meal.

If you have been thinking about volunteering in your community, this is your chance to learn more and join an exceptional group of people dedicated to improving the lives of the older residents of our community.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Amy Brown, coordinator of volunteers, at 740-203-2355.

newsroom@delgazette.com

Delaware to host Spring Clean-Up event

Staff reports

The City of Delaware's annual Spring Clean-Up will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 19 and April 26 at the Public Works Facility, 241 Cherry St.

This is an opportunity for Delaware residents to dispose of items that are not accepted during weekly curbside collections.

City of Delaware residents, providing proof of city residency, will be able to dispose of items such as furniture, appliances, construction debris, automotive batteries and up to eight tires per load.

Items not accepted during the event include household hazardous materials (paints and paint products, oils, gasoline, antifreeze, etc.) and yard

waste.

Costs for disposal are \$10 per vehicle (truck, car, van); \$20 per single axle dump truck and \$10 per axle on trailers. Residents will be asked to assist with the unloading of their vehicle. Public questions can be directed to 740-203-1810.

newsroom@delgazette.com



Associated Press Kiichiro Sato

In this Aug. 22, 2007 file photo, streets are shown surrounded by flood waters in downtown Findlay. Tired of worrying every time it rains, residents and business leaders have been gathering to figure out why flooding has become such a big problem along the Blanchard River.

Findlay leaders looking for solutions to stop flooding

Associated Press

FINDLAY — Tired of worrying every time it rains, residents and business leaders are trying to figure out why flooding has become such a big problem along the Blanchard River.

They also want to know when it can be fixed.

The river, which runs through downtown, has topped flood levels 10 times in the past 15 months. Two of those floods — in August and February — forced people out of their homes and closed dozens of streets.

It will take at least five years to finish the work needed to reduce flooding, said Phil Berkeley, a project manager with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"It can be done," he told about 300 people Wednesday night. "I have seen it done before, but it is ambitious."

Before any work can begin, the Corps first needs to study the area, figure out what is wrong and develop solutions.

Options include adding channels to divert the water, building levees and flood walls or straightening the river and making it deeper in areas, Berkeley said.

Although the plans aren't finalized, the head of an organization formed by business leaders to address the flooding issue said he expects the federal government to spend about \$93 million on the project.

The city of Findlay likely will need to contribute about \$50 million, said Tony Iriti, president of the Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership, which is pushing the government to speed up its work.

Voters in the northwest Ohio city probably will be asked to approve a new tax, said Mayor Pete Sehnert.

Iriti said whatever solution is chosen, it won't be one that sacrifices a vast amount of farmland

by diverting floodwater there.

"Taking thousands and thousands of acres of productive farmland out of production is probably not a good plan for northwest Ohio," he said. "The people in the agriculture community don't like flooding any more than the peo-

ple downtown."

The Army Corps is planning separate studies of flooding along the Blanchard River in both Findlay and Ottawa, where hundreds of homes have been damaged by floods.



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Book details Curry's cancer fight

Book signing set for April 18 at Fundamentals

By MARY ROSE
Staff Writer

Connie Curry vividly remembers the night she learned she had breast cancer. She was home alone on a cold October Friday evening in 2004, getting ready for Buckeye Valley's football game, in which her daughter Katie was playing as a kicker. It was an away game — the farthest game from home on the Barons' schedule that fall — and her husband David had left for it straight from work.

Before she left, the phone rang. It was her doctor calling to tell her that the biopsy results had come back and were not good.

But Connie's maternal instincts told her not to say anything to Katie or the others until she was sure. And the timing had to be right. Also, years spent working with the Delaware EMS had shaken her trust in doctors.

"I had seen plenty of mistakes by doctors and misdiagnoses and patients who were overtreated," she said, although she is quick to point out that most of the doctors she worked with were "fantastic." The fact that she had enjoyed good health most of her life made her question her diagnosis even more.

Eventually, she did get a second, and a third, opinion. The scary results were confirmed.

Ultimately, she had to start drug treatments and chemotherapy.

"The chemo kept me awake at night, and the steroids made me hyper," she said. She got in



Gazette Matt Emmons

Connie Curry, a freelance writer and Delaware resident, has written a book about her cancer battle.

the habit of getting out of bed in the wee hours of the night and going to her computer to write. At first, it was just for herself — to try to keep track of her illness and work out her emotions — but then she realized she could turn her experiences into a book and maybe help other women cope with the disease.

"Over 200,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer each year, and most fear it and crave information beyond pamphlets or cold Internet data, as do their support givers," Connie said.

And that was how *Give Me Back My Glory* came to be. The book, 344 pages long, tells about Connie's emotional, mental and physical odyssey dealing with breast cancer and scores of different doctors, and how the disease affected her family members and friends.

The book tells about happy, humorous moments — Connie made having her head shaved into a family affair and had fun making people do double-takes

by wearing different wigs and sunglasses — as well as sad, frustrating ones, such as the setbacks in her recovery and unpleasant side effects of the chemotherapy.

The writing came fairly easily for Connie. In addition to the book, she's contributed articles frequently to the *Gazette*; she wrote a humorous piece about her son Ryan in his middle school days (that earned her the James Thurber Award for Humor Writing); and she has contributed several other articles and stories to numerous magazines.

Connie will have a book-signing for *Give Me Back My Glory* at Fundamentals Parent-Teacher Store, 25 W. Winter St., from 7 to 9 p.m. on April 18. A portion of the proceeds from the evening's book sales will be donated to cancer treatment at Grady Memorial Hospital. The book also is available at Beehive Books on North Sandusky Street in Delaware.

mrose@delgazette.com

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