

COMMUNITY

A Publication of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs



SENIOR CITIZENS MONTH — Governor William T. Cabill signs a proclamation designating May as Senior Citizens Month in New Jersey as Community Affairs Commissioner Edmund T. Hume (left) and Edward L. Donohue, director of the Department's Division on Aging, look on. The Governor called on communities and organizations concerned with aging to set aside time to honor senior citizens.

Elderly Express Their Major Concerns

New Jersey's older citizens want increases in Social Security retirement benefits tied to the cost of living, a national health insurance plan, and a cooperative effort by all levels of government to find alternatives to the property tax structures, according to preliminary results of two State conferences on aging released last month by the Department.

The conferences, sponsored by the Department's Division on Aging in March, were called to help New Jersey prepare for the White House Conference on Aging, to be held during the week of November 29, in Washington, D.C. They were held at Camden County Community College in Blackwood on March 20 for residents of southern New Jersey, and at the Rutgers' Labor Education Center in New Brunswick on March 29 for those in northern New Jersey.

Edward L. Donohue, director of the Division on Aging, said, "Most of the participants expressed the

need for stronger federal action and for greater involvement of state and local governments in order to help solve the problems of the elderly." He said they cited other problems, such as the need for portable pension systems under governmental regulation to avoid loss of benefits when changing jobs, and better coordination of various modes of public transportation.

In addition to the major preliminary recommendations, other considerations were suggested:

► **Income** — Provisions should be made by the federal government not only for "physical sustenance" but for "psychological sustenance." All pensions should be vested by the federal government.

► **Health** — Responsibility for providing broad health services should be shared by the public and private sectors. This cooperation should also provide an intensive program of health education.

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Department Seeks To Widen Services To Older Citizens

The Department of Community Affairs is taking steps to strengthen the State's commitment to improve and enhance the living conditions of older New Jerseyans.

Under a proposed reorganization, the Department plans to integrate the functions of its current Division on Aging into the appropriate program areas of the Department in an effort to maximize the delivery of information and referral services to the State's more than 700,000 senior citizens.

The proposal is part of an overall plan to reorganize the Department along the lines recommended by the Governor's Management Study Commission. It would reconstitute "aging services" as one of 11 sections of a new Division of Human Resources, with additional

EDITOR'S NOTE — The entire May issue of "Community" is devoted to the field of aging. It represents the first of a planned series of issues that will focus attention on the Department's major areas of concern, including housing, economic and community development and youth.

representation in other major areas of the Department, including housing and local government services.

Community Affairs Commissioner Edmund T. Hume and Edward L. Donohue, director of the present Division on Aging, have announced their complete and unqualified support for the integration of aging services throughout the Department. In a statement delivered recently before the Northern New Jersey Conference on Aging, Hume emphasized that the proposed change "not only will continue the functions of the Division on Aging; it will strengthen them."

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Department Acts to Meet Needs of Elderly Through Grants, County Offices on Aging

Four private non-profit organizations have received a total of \$35,604 in State and federal grants from the Department to initiate or continue programs dealing with the various needs of senior citizens.

The grants were awarded by the Department's Division on Aging. They are financing a variety of projects in the areas of recreation, community service and nutrition.

Two grants were awarded from a State-aid fund for demonstration programs in aging in the Division's 1970-71 fiscal year budget. The grants were made to:

► Middlesex County Regional Council on the Arts, Metuchen; \$1,954 — to hold a series of leadership training workshops for senior citizens in selected creative arts, such as puppetry, theatre techniques, armchair ballet, pantomime and arts and crafts. The citizens will use their training to further develop their own skills and to provide instruction to other senior citizens.

► National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section, Millburn; \$6,000 — to expand its Senior Service Corps project, which places senior citizens as volunteers with 38 public and private non-profit service agencies served by the United Community Fund and Council in the West Hudson and Essex areas.

The other two grants were made from federal funds administered by the Department under Title III of the federal older Americans Act. They went to:

► Board of Deacons, First Presbyterian Church of Arlington, Kearny (Hudson County); \$1,250 — to continue the West Hudson Meals on Wheels program, which once a day delivers full course meals at a nominal cost to about 25 homebound senior citizens in the West Hudson area.

► Salvation Army, Trenton; \$26,400 — to continue a nutrition program that provides a hot meal five days a week at 30 cents a meal to about 85 elderly persons primarily from Trenton's Model Cities area.

"We are pleased that we could assist these agencies in their efforts to provide programs for the State's senior citizens," said Edward L. Donohue, director of the Division on Aging. "Through such grants, more than 70 per cent of New Jersey's senior residents are served by agencies which coordinate activities for senior citizens, assist in community planning and provide informational, referral, counseling and direct services."

Included among the agencies which serve senior citizens are the 12 County Offices on Aging which have been established with the assistance of federal Title III funds, also administered by the Department. These offices are situated in the counties of Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Ocean, Passaic, and Sussex. The location of these offices and their phone numbers are listed at the right. In addition, another office will soon open in Warren County.

The primary functions of the offices, which serve as local arms of the Division on Aging, are to inform senior citizens about the private and public agencies that are equipped to handle their problems and to stimulate the development of needed services and the expansion or improvement of existing programs for older people.

As a part of their informational and referral role, the offices have helped senior

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COUNTY OFFICES ON AGING

Bergen County
45 Essex Street
Hackensack, N.J. 07601
201-342-2200

Burlington County
County Office Building
Mount Holly, N.J. 08060
609-267-3300 Ext. 249

Camden County
500 White Horse Pike
Oaklyn, N.J. 08107
609-854-7744

Cape May County
8 N. Boyd Street
Cape May Court House, N.J. 08210
609-465-7111

Cumberland County
Court House
Bridgeton, N.J. 08302
609-451-8000 Ext. 260

Essex County
520 Belleville Avenue
Belleville, N.J. 07109
201-751-6050

Hudson County
114 Clifton Place
Jersey City, N.J. 07304
201-432-1000 Ext. 408

Mercer County
640 S. Broad Street
Trenton, N.J. 08608
609-989-8000 Ext. 220

Middlesex County
591 Brace Avenue
Perth Amboy, N.J. 08861
201-442-7850

Ocean County
113 Hooper Avenue
Toms River, N.J. 08753
201-244-2121 Ext. 256

Passaic County
317 Pennsylvania Avenue
Paterson, N.J. 07503
201-525-5000 Ext. 456

Sussex County
18 Church Street
Newton, N.J. 07860
201-383-5098

MUNICIPAL OFFICES ON AGING

Camden
22 Haddon Avenue, 08103
609-964-4676 or 0997 or 9000 Ext. 295

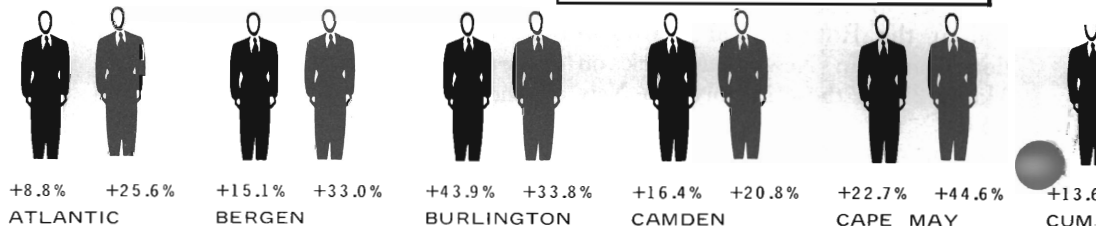
Paterson
185 Carroll Street, 07501
201-684-6408 or 5800 Ext. 34

Trenton Programs for Older Adults
City Hall — Room 220
East State Street, 08608
609-392-3441 Ext. 220

Atlantic City Community Programs
for Older Adults
1000 Arctic Avenue, 08401
609-348-3753

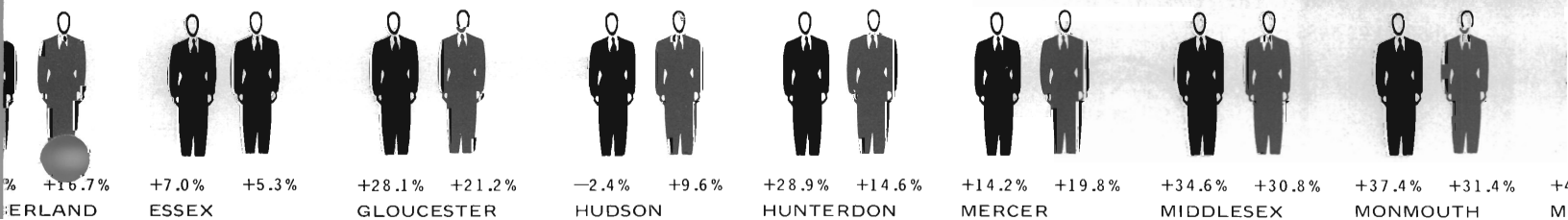
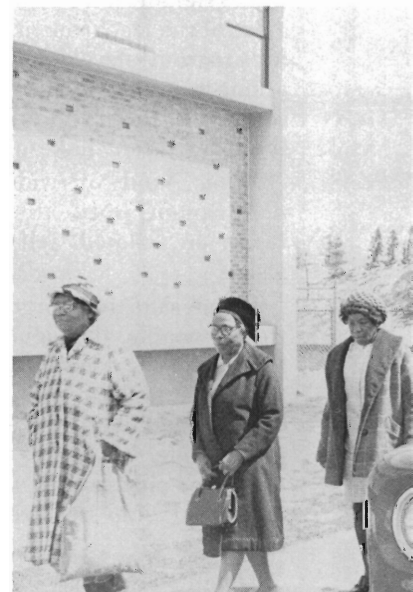
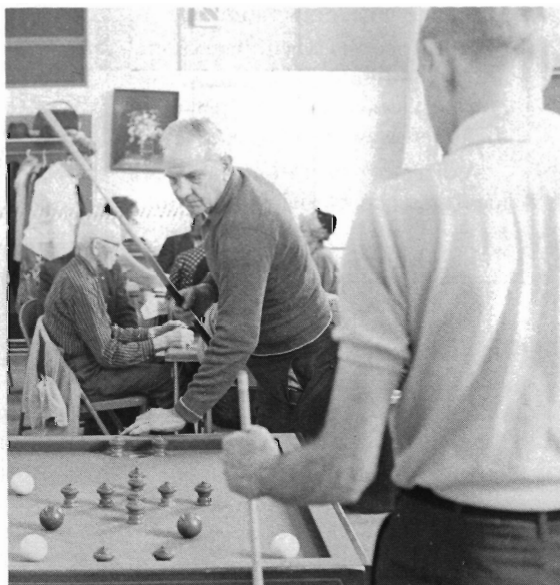
Comparison of New Jersey's total population and 65 years or over population by percentage change in counties from 1960 to 1970.

■ Total population
■ 65 years or over population





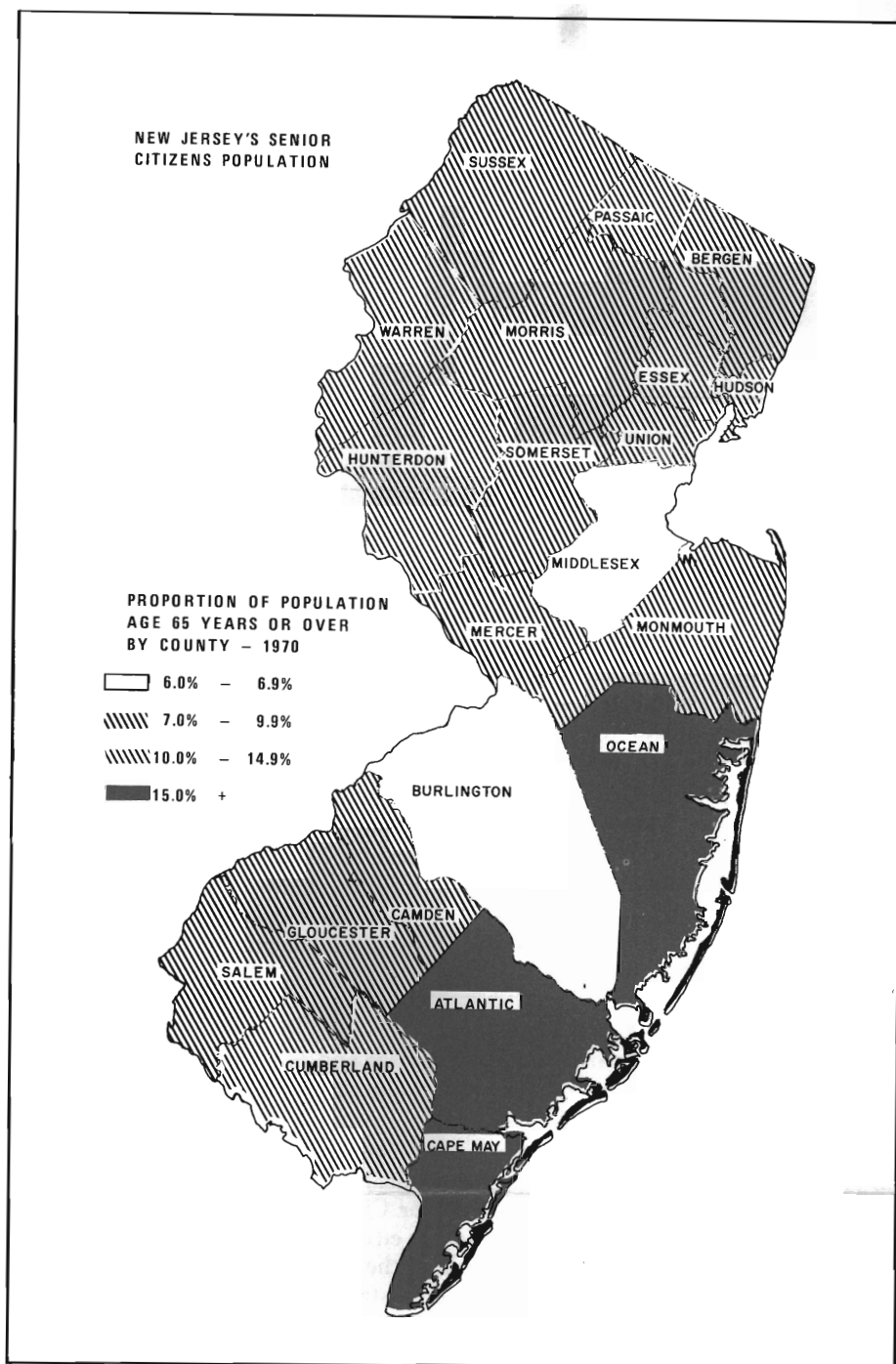
The Greater Plainfield Senior Citizens Center in Piscataway (Middlesex County) offers older people an opportunity to participate in a number of recreational activities (at right and just above and below). The center is served by the Middlesex County Office on Aging, which provides technical assistance and serves as an information and referral source for senior citizens.





The Salvation Army in Trenton, with the aid of federal funds, provides senior residents with free transportation (above) to one of its centers where they are served a hot lunch at a nominal cost (left) and can participate in recreational activities (top right). The hot lunch program is financed with federal funds administered by the Department under Title III of the Older Americans Act of 1965.

Photos by Jim McDonald





Community Affairs Commissioner Edmund T. Hume addresses representatives to a regional conference on aging held in New Brunswick in March. The conference, sponsored by the Department, was part of the State's preliminary efforts to prepare for the upcoming White House Conference on Aging, scheduled for November.

Photo by Jim McDonald

CONCERNS *from page 1*

► **Housing** — Income should be the primary factor in establishing eligibility for low- and moderate-income housing. The federal government should insure that State and local governments produce suitable housing for the elderly and necessary services for social and health needs.

► **Nutrition** — Education programs should be established, strengthened and maintained. Existing resources, both public and private, should be utilized.

► **Education** — Money and manpower should have a higher priority than at present among various services provided for the elderly.

► **Employment** — Placement train-

ing and job assistance should not be restricted to youth and minority groups alone, but should be modified to include older workers. The federal government should enforce the age discrimination law as forcefully as other laws prohibiting discrimination.

► **Retirement Roles and Activities** — Government and private sectors should share responsibility for developing new roles for older adults. Society should continue to foster the concept of family responsibility through social institutions, but should supply supportive programs to supplement family services where necessary.

► **Spiritual Well-being** — Government and private sectors should increase cooperation to meet the needs of the elderly for spiritual well-being. Such needs are, however, primarily the responsibility of religious institutions.

The two conferences represented the second stage in a three-stage program to prepare for New Jersey's participation in the White House Conference on Aging. The first step occurred last fall when each of the State's 21 counties conducted open forums at which older adults indicated their opinions and suggestions in nine categories. One person for

each category was then selected to attend the regional conference.

The local recommendations were then tabulated and combined for discussion at the regional conferences. They will be presented in final form at the Governor's Conference on Aging on May 26 in Trenton's War Memorial Building. At the May 26 Conference, Governor William T. Cahill plans to announce the names of New Jersey's delegation to the White House Conference on Aging. According to Donohue, the delegates will be selected from various communities throughout the State in proportion to the number of older people residing in each locality. Some delegates will be chosen from among persons with statewide prominence in the field of aging.

"New Jersey made an exceptional contribution to the last White House Conference on Aging in 1961 and our program thus far indicates we can provide such leadership again in 1971," Donohue said.

"Recommendations in the nine categories have been varied and indicate the vast scope of critical needs facing older Americans throughout the country — needs which we, in government, must proceed to meet effectively."

DEPARTMENT *from page 2*

citizens receive medical care, obtain eyeglasses and hearing aids, and find suitable housing and employment. They also maintain updated directories of agencies that serve older persons.

The Middlesex County Office, for instance, recently invited its senior residents to an informational session on the various health insurance programs available to them. It is also holding its Annual Senior Citizens Information Day in Perth Amboy this month which will enable senior citizens to meet with representatives of various public service agencies, such as the New Jersey State Employment Service and the U.S. Social Security Administration.

In their efforts to stimulate needed assistance programs, offices inform community and local government leaders about the needs of older people and available financial and training resources. They also provide technical assistance to groups interested in developing or already operating programs for senior citizens.

For example, both the Camden and Middlesex Offices were influential in setting up similar preventative health care programs for senior residents in their areas. Under the ongoing programs, operated in conjunction with the County Boards of Health and local hospitals, senior residents are transported to the hospitals where they receive free complete physical examinations.

Examples of the kinds of programs the offices have helped develop or provided with technical assistance and the population which they serve are shown on pages 3 and 4.

SERVICES from page 1

Hume said he fully appreciated the "concerns of our older citizens who fear that their best interests might be jeopardized" by the proposed change, but he stressed that the new approach would improve the State's ability to meet the pressing needs of the elderly "in the most effective possible way. . ."

He said the elderly, "as one of our State's greatest human resources, should not be considered apart from the rest of the population. Their voice should have advocates in all areas of the Department — in housing, in program development, in recreation, in employment, in community service; in fact in any area in which the elderly can make a contribution.

"This kind of wide representation cannot work effectively if we retain an isolated, self-contained division."

Hume said the reorganization plan would enable the aging component to "retain its identity and gain the flexibility to best carry out its legislative mandate to develop information referral services and programs for senior citizens and integrate their total needs into the over-all plans of the State."

Donohue expressed his complete support for the reorganization and indicated that it would "strengthen the impact of the older generation in all areas of the Department and throughout State government." He said the Division on Aging's mandate to serve the interests of older New Jerseyans "would best be achieved through the recommended

"Added Years" Show Begins 12th Year

"Added Years," a weekly 15-minute radio program sponsored by the Department, began its 12th continuous year of broadcasting in March.

The program is currently aired on 20 AM and FM stations throughout New Jersey with an estimated listening audience of 500,000 people. It is informational and highlights new programs and services which are pertinent to older New Jerseyans.

A directory of stations and their locations, and airing schedules is available from the Office of Public Information.

reorganization plan without any sacrifice whatsoever in either the commitment to or actual realization of vital and necessary programs in behalf of the elderly.

"After careful review of the proposed changes, I want to express my strong personal conviction that the plan will enable the Department of Community Affairs to sustain the strongest and most effective efforts to meet the many and varied needs of our older residents. It will, in my opinion, represent a strengthening — not a diminution — of services to the elderly and I want to emphasize that reassurance to all older New Jerseyans and urge their cooperation and understanding."

Hume emphasized that the revised organization plan would not result in a loss of federal funds to New

Jersey under the Older Americans Act of 1965. He noted that the Governor would retain the power to designate the Department of Community Affairs as the official agency serving the aging, thus retaining its funding eligibility.

The Commissioner also flatly rejected unsubstantiated reports that services for the elderly would be shifted to the State Division of Public Welfare, noting: "This is untrue and would be grossly inappropriate."

Hume added that the Department would continue to fund and assist the existing 12 county Offices on Aging, which serve as extensions of the State's efforts in behalf of senior citizens. He said "the prospects are good that all 21 counties will have such offices by the end of 1971."

"Under the new plan, the interests of older New Jerseyans should permeate every pertinent area of this Department and indeed of every other agency of State government," Hume said, "This parallels our philosophy that the elderly should be integrated into every area of community life — not put aside with no link to the young. The Foster Grandparents program has shown how vital that link can be to both generations: elderly people care for handicapped children in close, mutually sustaining relationships."

Hume concluded that, "the cross-fertilization of ideas produced by this new relationship can only help revitalize our programs for both young and old in the communities of the State."

MAY, 1971

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

WILLIAM T. CAHILL, Governor

EDMUND T. HUME, Commissioner

P. O. Box 2768 TRENTON, N. J. 08625

(609)-292-6055

