

McCollister will be honored at Ohio State Fair as Fairfield County's Outstanding Senior

By JEAN SPUNG
Special to Eagle-Gazette

Aug. 10 is State Fair Day for Senior Citizens in the Central Ohio Area and Ralph McCollister, of 5570 Chillicothe/Lancaster Pike, Amanda, will be honored as Outstanding Senior Citizen of Fairfield County.

The program to honor McCollister and others from the central Ohio area will take place in Martin Janis Center, on the fairgrounds, after 1 p.m. A program by senior citizen groups from throughout the area will take place between 10 and 12:30, and will include Olivedale String Band, performing around noon.

Olivedale Senior Center will provide transportation to the fair by bus. Reservations must be made in advance. Also, tickets are available for those persons who are going on their own.

McCollister was born Oct. 30, 1901 in Ross County. He graduated from Wilmington College and took post graduate work at Ohio State University. He spent 50 years in public schools as a teacher, band director, principal and superintendent. He spent 30 years training teachers and 20 years teaching private lessons for band students.

In 1942, McCollister helped to organize the Fairfield County Fair Band Show, which still is an annual event of the fair. He served as the band announcer at the annual show for 10 years.

Since his retirement in 1972 at age 70, McCollister remains an active member of the Adelphi Band, practicing once a week and performing at local fairs, old car shows, parades, festivals, etc. 30 to

40 times a year. He plays clarinet. He acts as school master at the old school house on Wednesdays during the Fairfield County Fair.

McCollister helped to promote the funding for the new educational unit of the Amanda United Methodist Church in 1986, is active on several church committees and teaches a Sunday School class.

Instrumental in getting the Fairfield Community Meals nutrition site started in Amanda, McCollister attend and supports the site regularly. He still maintains an orchard in back of his house, picks and distributes fruit to his family, neighbors and friends at harvest time. His wife, the former Garnet Whistler, is now deceased. There is one daughter, Jean Stebelton, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren that add much joy to his life.

"He is a credit to the senior citizens of our community and he is much admired by all who know and have been taught by him," commented Betty Carpenter, manager of the Amanda Nutrition Site, who with pride participants nominated McCollister for this honor.

Guide available

Senior Citizen Service Guide for Fairfield County is now available at Olivedale Senior Citizen Center. This service guide is handy, not only for the senior citizen living in Fairfield County; but, also for family members who might be needing to reach any of the various agencies that provide services to seniors. This

is recently updated with current addresses and phone numbers.

"Prime Times," a monthly guide to life after 55, is available at Olivedale Center, 253 Boving Road, after the working day each month. The publication is Free of charge and contains current happenings, programs and activities of special interest to those persons over 55.

55 Alive, mature driving class, will be offered by local American Association of Retired Persons after 10 have signed up in advance. Dates will be announced. The charge is \$7 per person; checks should be made out to AARP and sent to Lee Brotherton, 136 Union St., Lancaster. For further information call 653-5650.

Fairfield Chapter P.E.R.I. (Public Employee Retirees, Inc.) will meet Friday, Aug. 12 at 1 p.m. at Olivedale Senior Citizen Center. Mark Himmelberger, who is chief of public relations for the P.E.R.I., will be guest speaker.

Himmelberger began his career with the system in 1961 as field representative.

Loans approved

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The Ohio Housing Finance Agency has approved three development loans for the acquisition, construction and interim financing of low income housing projects in Columbus and Springfield, the Ohio Department of Development said.

Clipped By:



mathew5554

Sat, Mar 23, 2019