

✓ WilCo celebrates Older Americans Month

By ELLEN GREENEY

With local seniors in attendance, County Judge Dan Gattis and all four commissioners, Lisa Birkman, Cynthia Long, Valerie Covey and Ron Morrison, unanimously declared May as Older Americans Month, a national tradition that began in 1963.

The county's current senior population is estimated at almost 87,500 and officials project the number of seniors living in the county in 2025 will be more than 159,800.

Judge Gattis expressed his support for the county's seniors and their local involvement, "Williamson County is blessed to have active and vibrant senior residents. The commissioners court was honored to recognize some of these individuals and groups on May 24. They are an asset to our community and a testament to the quality of life that exists in Williamson County."

Commissioner Long chairs the Executive Committee of the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG).

"I was delighted to sponsor the agenda item recognizing our senior WilCo residents,"



she said. "Our seniors have given so much and continue to contribute to our community in amazing ways. On May 24, we were able to highlight a few of the many examples."

Nina Stancil, an area representative for CAPCOG Area Agency on Aging, organized the event and selected several Sun City groups to exhibit their community involvement in the courthouse rotunda, including Women

Helping Others, Quilters, Georgettes, Woodworkers and Angels.

The Quilters are involved in several projects including the Lady Heroes Project for the VA Women's Recovery Center in Temple, the Children's Charity Project by donating approximately 200 quilts annually to the Children's Advocacy Center, and the Veterans Project by donating a quilt to the family of any soldier



killed in action and patriotic-themed quilts to the Fisher House at Fort Hood.

The Woodworker's Club has contributed to Camp Discovery for almost two decades. The club makes model kits and works with the kids at the camp helping with assembly. Its annual Toys for Tots program provides heirloom, quality toys for several local charities, averaging 1,000 toys each year. In ad-

dition, club volunteers help charities, churches and non-profits.

The Sun City Angels provide knitted hats for patients at cancer centers as well as knitted caps for people in nursing homes, donating over 300 throughout the year. Last Christmas, they provided over 100 knitted hats and scarves for the Christmas Day dinner for Meals on Wheels and Caring Place recipients.

The lively Georgettes dance, perform and entertain at local middle and high school games, Red Poppy parades, Christmas Strolls, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, memory care and nursing homes, and day care and church events.

Fundraisers included Nifty 50's, Senior Senior Prom and Sun City's Got Talent with a portion of the funds being given to local charities. Also last year and this year, the University of Texas athletics department invited the Georgettes to perform at several of the Longhorn basketball games.

Women Helping Others work tirelessly throughout the year to provide money to charities through member donations, crafts sales, fundraising, bake sales and matching funds. Last year, these efforts raised almost \$45,000.

"Plans for next year's Older Americans Month have begun and we promise it will be an even bigger event showcasing what our seniors do and how they give back," Ms. Stancil said.

society@wilcosun.com