

## Program at a glance

# Social Security notes 50th birthday this year

"A Fifty Year Report Card on the Social Security System," a National Survey conducted by Yankelovich, Skelly & White, Inc. for the American Association of Retired Persons on the attitudes of the American public toward Social Security.

## Summary of findings:

Strong support for Social Security exists among all levels of the American public.

— 96 percent of Americans say Social Security is an important government program.

— 92 percent of Americans believe that Social Security has been a successful program.

— Even among younger persons, significant numbers recognize the importance and the success of the Social Security system.

Strong support exists among all age groups for the continuation of the Social Security Program.

— 88 percent of Americans oppose the phasing out of Social Security and replacing it with reliance on private pension plans.

— The widespread support is derived from the view that the demise of Social Security would lead to undesirable consequences such as increased numbers of the elderly depending on their families or welfare for support.

To some degree, all ages of Americans expect to rely on Social Security as a source of retirement income.

— 80 percent of non-retired Americans say they plan to rely on Social Security to some extent. This applies equally to the young as to those nearing retirement age.

— 94 percent of current workers agree that they hope that Social Security payments will still be made when they retire.

— Although Social Security in the future may no longer be the major source of retirement income for the majority of older Americans, they see it as essential and want it to continue.

Most Americans would choose to remain in the Social Security system if given the option to get out.

— Almost three-fourths of the nonretired population said they would elect to stay in the system.

All age groups realize that Social Security protects the elderly as well as providing a reliable means of self-protection.

Public support for Social Security translates into political support.

— 86 percent of Americans feel that the federal budget deficit is a serious problem. The solution favored by the vast majority is to cut government spending and/or increase taxes.

— When asked to sort through the options for reducing government spending, almost 90 percent of Americans oppose cuts in Social Security benefits.

— Americans are far less worried about the impact of Social Security on the budget deficit than they are about the system's fiscal solvency and the adequacy of benefit payments.

Americans are reluctant to support any of the changes proposed to reduce the cost of the Social Security system.

— None of the proposed changes studied - reductions

in COLAs, a means test which would limit benefits only to the poorer retirees, or a further federal tax on Social Security incomes - receives a majority endorsement.

— The strongest support is for the continuation of full COLAs - supported by eight in 10 Americans.

Concerned about the adequacy of benefits, workers' assessment of the actual performance of the system is less positive than that of retirees.

— 40 percent describe the Social Security payments received by retirees as inadequate.

— Only 21 percent of nonretired persons have a very favorable opinion about the adequacy of Social Security payments.

A significant majority of Americans feel that Social Security should provide a basis for an adequate standard of living.

— While ideas about the role Social Security should play in retirement income are by no means uniform, 70 percent of Americans believe it should provide at least an adequate standard of living.

— Three out of 10 Americans believe that retirees should receive a comfortable living from Social Security.

Almost 75 percent of all Americans consider Social Security to be fair.

— 62 percent believe that the Social Security taxes they are paying to are about right, with only 23 percent saying they are too high.

— By comparison, only 43 percent think that their federal income tax payments are about right; 51 percent believe they pay too much federal tax.

— Only 39 percent of Americans consider the federal income tax to be fair.

Social Security at a glance.

— Social Security benefits are the largest source of income for older Americans, reaching 91.2 percent of the older population.

— The majority of those who receive Social Security depend on it for over half of their income. And 27 percent of all persons age 65 and older depend on Social Security for 90 percent of their income.

— Over 36 million people now receive some type of Social Security benefit - this is one of every six American citizens.

— The average benefit for a married couple in which the husband gets Social Security based on his earnings, and in which his wife receives spousal benefits (based on her husband's earnings), is \$776 per month or approximately \$9,300 per year.

— The average benefit for all other family units (unmarried persons, or married persons receiving benefits based on their own earnings) is \$449 monthly or \$5,388 per year.

— According to the professional actuaries for Social Security, the system is financially sound for as far into the future as it is reasonable to predict.

— 3.8 million physically or mentally disabled workers and their dependents receive disability checks from the Social Security Administration each month. The average monthly payment for a family is \$893 per month; individuals receive \$473 monthly on average.



## Residents honored

Two residents of the Back Mountain Area Jeff Townsend and Jack Wartella and other members of the Wyoming Valley Association of Life Underwriters were honored, by the Wyoming Valley Childrens Association, for their participation in the most successful Coffee Day event undertaken by the Life Underwriters for the benefit of the handicapped children of Wyoming Valley. Charles Elchin received a special award for his 12 years of service on the Coffee Day project and Mike Skopic who was absent was another recipient with twelve years of continuous service. George Russett who is also a member of the board of the Wyoming Valley Childrens Association was absent when the picture was taken has devoted ten years to the success of the Coffee Day project. Shown here from left are Jeff Townsend, President, Wyoming Valley Association of Life Underwriters; William Stroud, 1985 Spring Campaign Chairman; Joseph Pringle, Vice President, Wyoming Valley Children's Association; Charles Elchin, Wyoming Valley Association Life Underwriters; Jack Wartella, 1985 Coffee Day Chairman and member of WVA Life Underwriters; and Bernard Kolodziej, Executive Director, Wyoming Valley Children's Association. Absent when picture was taken Mike Skopic, WVALU and George Russett, WVALU and WVCA board member.

## DISTRICT COURT REPORT

District Magistrate Earl Gregory informed The Dallas Post Wednesday afternoon that his office will be handling all court duties for magistrates Richard Adams of Kingston and Andrew Barilla, Swoyersville until Friday August 16.

Adams and Barilla reportedly are on vacation for the week of August 12 to 16 and Gregory has been appointed as interim magistrate for the week.

Gregory said that he will be taking his vacation next week and either Adams or Barilla will be handling all his cases for the week.

District Justice Earl Gregory said Monday afternoon that Kingston Township police will begin handing out citations to residents who keep junk cars on their properties, which reportedly attract vermin.

Monday afternoon, four citations had already been filed with Justice Gregory and notification of the junk car problem is slated for later this week.

Gregory said junk cars sitting for a long period of time are illegal because they pose a health hazard for Kingston Township residents.

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# F L O R I S T

## POLICE BLOTTER

Kingston Township Police Chief Paul Sabol reported Monday afternoon the theft of a 10-speed bicycle valued at \$250. The theft reportedly took place on Tuesday, July 30.

According to Sabol, the bicycle, owned by Scott Mynes of 246 Meadowcrest Avenue, Trucksville, was taken while Mynes was swimming in Toby's Creek along 309 in Kingston Township.

At the time, the bicycle was stolen it had a "Born in the U.S.A." sticker on the seat and had black tires and a black seat. Anyone with information relating to the theft is asked to contact Kingston Township police.

gusher at the police cruiser and then throwing the empty extinguisher at the police. The vehicle was reportedly stolen from Sally Williams of Rear 29 Charles Street, Ashley.

Willard Nesbitt, 18, of 86 Ashley Street, Ashley allegedly was the driver of the car involved in the high-speed chase. Nesbitt was arrested by Tunkhannock State Police on Thursday while driving a stolen car reportedly taken from the Mahopanny area.

Arrest warrants for Nesbitt and the two other suspects are pending,

Chief Sabol said. Patrolmen Walter Davis and Jim Balavage investigated.

An Edwardsville man sustained minor injuries Sunday afternoon when the 1980 Yamaha motorcycle he was riding along Hunstville road lost its traction and skidded into a drainage ditch.

Injured was John Richards of 74 Atlantic Avenue, Edwardsville.

According to the police report, Richards was traveling west along Hunstville Road when the motorcycle's front tire lost traction.



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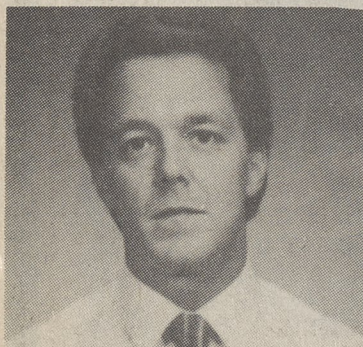
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### OPENS NEW OFFICE



Dr. Thomas M. DeCurtis

Announces the opening of his office in Podiatric Medicine at the Medical Arts Building, 534 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, Pa.

Dr. DeCurtis is a graduate of Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine, Chicago, Ill., with internships at Hines VA Hospital and Tresler Orthopedic Services also in Chicago. He is a member of the American Podiatric Medical Association and the Penna. Podiatric Medical Association.

He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. George M. DeCurtis of Kingston. All aspects of foot care will be emphasized.

Appointments can be made by calling 287-8882.