

## **Planning For The Baby Boomers**

The United States experienced the largest birth cohort ever born in the years of 1946 through 1964. Those born within these years have been identified as the “Baby Boomers”. By the year 2006, the Boomers will begin their retirement years. The projected 60+ population increase into our five-county area purports a 20% growth by the year 2010, and up to 30% by the year 2030.

While it is anticipated that the Boomers will not become a heavy demand on the overall service system until around the year 2030 (which is when the average age will be 75+), the time is ripe to begin the redesign of delivery systems, legislative efforts, housing planning, community program developments, and community education. Overall, education will prove to be an important component in the Boomer planning, particularly since the Boomers have recognized our five-county region to be ideal for retirement. However, without a comprehensive study available to this population before the relocation is made, they may unfortunately make choices to live in a less than ideal area which may cause health risks later on in life (such as the lack of doctor/hospital care, and other required services needed later in life).

To this end, PSA2AAA will continue to address the Baby Boomer planning issues through the Area Plan and annual updates (both short term and long term) in order to embrace and prepare for the inevitable changes ahead.