

## **Planning For The Baby Boomers**

The United States experienced the largest birth rate ever born in the years of 1946 through 1964. Those born within these years have been identified as the “Baby Boomers”. In the year 2006, the Boomers began their retirement years. As a result, the projected 60+ population increase of retirees settling into our five-county area purports a 30% growth by the year 2030.

While it is anticipated that the Boomers will not become a heavy demand on the overall health and social service system until the year 2030 (when the average age will be 75+), efforts to begin the redesign of delivery systems, legislative efforts, housing planning, community program development, and community education is upon us. Overall, education will prove to be an important component in Baby Boomer planning, particularly as many of the Baby Boomers choose our five-county region to retire.

Yet, the choice to relocate to very rural and frontier areas can also be a risky decision for those with specialize needs, major health issues and lacking support systems such as family and friends, given the shortage of doctor/hospital care and other required services.

To that end, PSA2AAA will continue to consider the needs of the aging Baby Boomers through its planning efforts to embrace and prepare for the inevitable changes ahead.