



Submitted Photo

Bevian Tucker, ombudsman for Garrett County, left, receives her certification plaque as an ombudsman from Stevanne Ellis, state ombudsman for Maryland.

## Bevian Tucker certified as ombudsman after completing program

FOR THE WEEKENDER

OAKLAND — Bevian Tucker, an employee of Garrett County Community Action Committee's Department of Aging and Nutrition has become a certified ombudsman after completing the state of Maryland program.

The training requires six months to a year of study and practical experience. The course work includes learning and successfully testing on five different areas covering history of the ombudsman program to effective advocacy for residents and families in long-term care facilities. Tucker was required to shadow ombudsmen in several neighboring counties. Representatives from the Maryland Office of Ombudsman then observed her activities locally.

A three-hour exam to assure competency in all the areas of the program is the final step to becoming certified. Upon review and successful completion of all requirements, the state ombudsman office appointed Tucker an ombudsman for

Garrett County.

"I am looking forward to enriching the lives of all our residents and providing resources for the family members of residents in LTC facilities in Garrett County," Tucker said.

The Aging and Nutrition Department at Community Action offers a wide variety of programming and services for senior citizens, which includes dine-in meals, exercise classes, home-delivered meals, insurance counseling, assistance with long-term support services, and information and assistance with a variety of topics important to seniors.

As home of the local Maryland Access Point, department staff can answer questions for seniors and people with disabilities. Maryland Access Point can be reached at 301-334-9431, ext 6168. More information about the programs and services offered by Garrett County Community Action can be found by visiting [www.garrettcac.org](http://www.garrettcac.org) or calling 301-334-9431 and ask for Aging and Nutrition.