

SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISABILITY SERVICES

ABLEGRAM

November—December 2018



**Schaumburg Township
Disability Services Holiday
Luncheon with Santa for
Children with Disabilities!**

Free Admission!

Join us for a delicious holiday luncheon and meet Santa! All children with disabilities and their siblings under age 16 visiting Santa will receive a gift!

When: Saturday, December 15th

Time: Noon—2 p.m.

**Where: Schaumburg Township Hall
1 Illinois Boulevard
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169**

Reservations are required with the disability services department by calling 847-884-0030 (Phone) or 224-520-9763 (Videophone—Deaf Services)

Space is limited for this event. Reservations will be accepted until Friday, November 29th or until space is full.

****A sign language interpreter will be provided upon three weeks notice****

Schaumburgtownship.org

 @SchaumburgTownship

 @SchaumburgTwp



Voice 847.884.0030

Deaf Services Videophone 224.520.9763

One Illinois Blvd, Hoffman Estates

Check Up on Your Medicare Benefits Plan

The annual open enrollment period for Medicare Health and Prescription Drug Plans ends December 7, 2018. The Township's disability department staff is here to help review your options for 2019 to ensure you select the best plan for you at the lowest cost possible. Plans can change from year to year and staff can share what options are available to you and assist you in choosing a plan. New plans are effective January 1, 2019. Bring your Medicare card and complete list of prescriptions including: dosage and frequency. The Township is not affiliated with any insurance group and does not sell plans. **Appointments are required with the disability services department. Make an appointment at (847) 884-0030.** Additional information available at medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-633-4227.

Village of Hoffman Estates Commission for People with Disabilities First Friday Events

The Village of Hoffman Estates' Commission for People with Disabilities monthly social for people with disabilities ages 14 and older is hosting First Friday events November 2nd and December 7th 6:30—8:30 p.m. at the Hoffman Estates Village Hall. Admission is free! Registration is not required. There will be pizza, karaoke, and various games and pizza for \$2/slice.

The November 2nd event is a sock hop and the committee is graciously asking participants to bring socks, toiletries, calendars and puzzle books for veterans at Hines Hospital. For the December event, there will be a grab bag for those who want to participate. To participate, you must bring a \$5 grab bag gift/item. Guests will receive a special visit from Santa too!

LIHEAP

The disability department is now accepting applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for income-eligible older adults (60+) and people with disabilities.

LIHEAP is administered by CEDA and provides assistance for gas and electric bills. **You must have all the required documents listed below to apply for the program. You will not be able to apply if you have incorrect or missing documents.**

If you have not already applied for LIHEAP benefits, please call the disability services department for an appointment at 847-884-0030.

Documents Required to Apply:

- 2018 Social Security Benefit Letter - ALL PAGES REQUIRED BY CEDA
- ORIGINAL Social Security cards for every member of the household
- Most recent utility bills – Nicor and ComEd
- Proof of gross monthly income for every household member – paycheck stubs, unemployment, pensions, TANF, child support, etc., **30 days from your appointment date**
- Proof of disability (Medicare card, letter from Social Security)
- Other documents may be required depending on household situation

LIHEAP Program Year 2019 Income Guidelines:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>30-Day Income</u>
1	\$1,518
2	\$2,058
3	\$2,598
4	\$3,138
5	\$3,678

For more information or concerns, call CEDA at 800-571-2332.

U.S. Access Board Releases Animation on Sales and Service Counters

The U.S. Access Board has released an animation (online video) on accessible sales and service counters as part of its online guide to standards issued under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA). The 12-minute animated film shows how access can be achieved to different types of counters, including sales counters and hotel check-in counters. It also covers access to teller and service windows, queues and waiting lines, check-out aisles, food service lines, self-service shelves, and food and beverage dispensers.

Other animations address wheelchair maneuvering, entrances and doors, toilet and bathing facilities, protruding objects, parking and passenger loading zones, and signs. The animations can be viewed or downloaded through the Board's website at <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards/animations>. They are also available on the Board's new YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5tRWTtV5eSw68N3tSpmyWw> along with videos about the Board and its work.

The U.S. Access Board is a federal agency that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership in accessible design and the development of accessibility guidelines and standards. Its guidelines and standards address access to the built environment, information and communication technology, transportation, and medical diagnostic equipment. The Board also provides technical assistance and training on these design requirements and enforces accessibility standards that apply to facilities funded by the federal government.

(United States Access Board 7/26/18)

Goodman Theatre's Sensory-Friendly Performance of "A Christmas Carol"

Goodman Theatre is pleased to announce the sensory-friendly performance of "A Christmas Carol" on Saturday, December 29th at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

In partnership with Autism Speaks-Chicago, sensory-friendly/relaxed performances are designed to create a performing arts experience that is intended for families with members who have autism or other social, cognitive and physical challenges that create sensory sensitivities.

Accommodations for the sensory-friendly performance includes:

- Lower sound level, especially for startling or loud sounds
- House lights remain on at a low level during the performance
- A reduction of strobe lighting or lighting focused on the audience
- Patrons are free to talk and leave their seats during the performance
- Designated quiet areas within the theater building
- Space throughout the theater for standing and movement
- Limited crowds and visitors at Goodman Theatre during the day and timing of the performance
- Goodman Theatre staff trained to be inviting and accommodating to families' needs

To purchase tickets for the sensory-friendly performance of "A Christmas Carol" visit goodmantheatre.org, enter the promo code SENSORY at checkout. Families will also have access to resource materials: social stories, a seating map etc. to prepare for their visit.

For more information please e-mail Access@GoodmanTheatre.org.

Questions? Please contact Goodman Theatre's Box Office at 312-443-3800 (open daily 12 noon to 5pm).

Citizens Utility Board (CUB) Tips for When Looking for Alternative Gas/Electric Supplier

So far this year, a state report showed losses for Illinois customers of unregulated electricity suppliers have reached a new high, surpassing \$550 million dollars since 2015.

To protect yourself, below are some helpful tips on how to evaluate an alternative supplier if you plan to switch:

- Don't give out your electric bill or account number unless you are sure you want to switch. An unethical marketer could use that information to switch you to an alternative supplier without your consent.
- Ask if the rate you are being offered is an introductory or promotional rate. If so, ask when that rate ends and what the new rate will be.
- Ask if the rate you are being offered has any fees tied to it—such as a monthly fee that will inflate the per-kilowatt-hour rate, or an exit fee. Exit fees are capped at \$50. You can avoid getting slapped with an exit fee if you cancel a contract within 10 days of the supplier's charges first appearing on your bill.

Visit CUBHelpCenter.com for money-saving tips on avoiding bad deals and practicing energy efficiency at home.

CUB is Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog group. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has saved consumers more than \$20 billion by helping to block rate hikes and secure refunds. For more details, call CUB's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-669-5556 or visit CUB's award-winning website, www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.

(CUB News Release 7/31/18)

Gov. Rauner Approves Landmark Legislation to Cover Hearing Aids for Children

Signs bipartisan House Bill 4516

In late August, Gov. Bruce Rauner signed landmark health legislation that requires Illinois insurers to cover replacement costs of hearing aids every three years for hearing-impaired children who are 18 or younger.

“This bipartisan legislation will enhance the quality of life for young Illinoisans who are hearing impaired,” Rauner said. “Because they are growing, children need replacements for their hearing aids more often. The devices are costly. Children who have to go without struggle not only with day-to-day interactions but also are at a disadvantage in their classrooms.”

Hearing aids can cost about \$4,000. **The new law requires insurers to provide one hearing instrument for each ear every 36 months for those 18 and younger. The law also provides that repairs are covered when deemed medically necessary and provides ear examinations, selection, fitting and adjustment of ear molds are covered when medically necessary.**

“When a child cannot hear properly, a host of problems can arise, including falling behind in school and behavioral challenges,” said State Sen. Julie Morrison, D-Deerfield, who sponsored the bill in the Senate. “Hearing aids are medically necessary for children to successfully go to school and grow. We must ensure they are available to all children who need them.”

“This legislation will help families afford to give their children a tool for success,” said Rep. Laura Fine, D-Glenview, the chief sponsor in the House.

HB 4516 is effective immediately.

(Illinois e-News Release 8/22/18)

2019 Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace Open Enrollment

The ACA's Marketplace Open Enrollment period to enroll or change plans for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is only from **November 1st through December 15th, 2018**. Plans sold during Open Enrollment start January 1, 2019. Visit HealthCare.gov to view plans, enroll or find a local navigator to help you choose a plan. If you have questions, please call 1-800-318-2596.
(healthcare.gov)

Connect to Community's Friday Forum Seminar November 9th

Friday Forums are designed to provide families, educators, and service providers with useful information related to the transition process as well as life in the community after educational entitlements end.

November 9th Friday Forum Topic: Understanding Government Benefits

By: Sherri Schneider, President, Family Benefit Solutions, will explain the who, what, when and where of the four major government benefit programs (SSI, SSDI, Medicaid and Medicare), how they change over a lifetime, and how to protect them.

Friday Forums are at the Palatine Library on the **SECOND FRIDAY** of each month from 11 a.m.—12 p.m., in meeting room 1. The Palatine Library is located at 700 North Court in Palatine. **Please note: There is no Friday Forum in December.**

Events are free, but advanced registration is required at www.Eventbrite.com; space may be limited. Registration deadline is the Wednesday before the event.

CEUs/PDs are available upon request.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/friday-forum-understanding-government-benefits-registration-48622158184>

Monday and Friday Shopping Trips Schedule with the Township Bus

Below are the **Monday and Friday** retail shopping trips schedule for November and December 2018. Reservations are required by calling the transportation department at 847-882-1929. If you are not already registered with the transportation department to use this service, please contact dispatch at 847-882-1929 for the registration form your doctor must complete.

November

Friday - 2nd	Woodfield
Monday - 5th Friday - 9th	Walmart Barrington
Monday - 12th Friday - 16th	Target Barrington
Monday - 19th	Walmart Elk Grove
Friday - 23rd	Closed
Monday - 26th Friday - 30th	Target Meacham

December

Monday - 3rd Friday - 7th	Walmart Barrington
Monday - 10th Friday - 14th	Target Barrington
Monday - 17th Friday - 21st	Walmart Elk Grove
Monday - 24th	Closed
Friday - 28th	Target Meacham
Monday - 31st	Closed



*Township of Schaumburg Supervisor, Mary Wroblewski,
and
the Township of Schaumburg Officials
Cordially invite you to the
Senior and Disability Services Holiday Party*

*Thursday, December 6, 2018
CHANDLER'S CHOPHOUSE
401 N. Roselle Road
Schaumburg, IL 60194*

**Please submit the completed form and proof of residency to
Schaumburg Township
1 Illinois Blvd.
Hoffman Estates, IL, 60169
Attn: Senior Services Department**

NAME: _____ **DATE OF BIRTH** _____

SPOUSE: _____ **DATE OF BIRTH** _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16.

Due to limited space, a lottery system will be used to draw the reservations. To be considered for the holiday party, you must complete the form completely, attach proof of residency (like a recent utility bill), and submit by Friday, November 16. A confirmation letter will be mailed to selected attendees.

Please note, if you are under the age of sixty and have not previously registered with the Disability Department, you will need to attach proof of disability as well. If you are selected for the luncheon, but can no longer attend, please notify the senior department as soon as possible at 847-884-0030 so that we may accommodate another individual. We look forward to celebrating with you.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Schaumburg Township Disability Services
One Illinois Blvd.
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
www.shaumburgtownship.org
847-884-0030

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Upcoming Events

November 2018

- ◆ CANCELED: Fibromyalgia Support Group— See you in January!
- ◆ Committee for Disabled Citizens Meeting—Wednesday, November 14 at 7:00 PM
- ◆ Wednesday, November 21—Township closing at noon
- ◆ Thursday, November 22—Township closed—Thanksgiving Holiday
- ◆ Friday, November 23—Township closed—Thanksgiving Holiday
- ◆ Wednesday, November 28—Township Board Meeting at 7:00 PM

December 2018

- ◆ CANCELED: Fibromyalgia Support Group—See you in January!
- ◆ Committee for Disabled Citizens Meeting—Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 PM
- ◆ Wednesday, December 19—Township Board Meeting at 7:00 PM
- ◆ Monday, December 24—Township closed—Christmas Eve
- ◆ Tuesday, December 25—Township closed—Christmas Day
- ◆ Monday, December 31—Township closed—New Year's Eve

Wishing everyone a happy and festive holiday season!