



Senior Newsletter

Nov, Dec, 2015 & JAN 2016

SUPERVISOR

MARY WROBLEWSKI

TRUSTEES

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HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

SCOTT M. KEGARISE

DIRECTOR

GERRY BARTNICKE

TRANSPORTATION

DIRECTOR

SUSAN VOSMIK

SENIOR SERVICES

- Transportation
- Legal Assistance
- Outreach Program
- Income Tax Preparation Assistance
- Free Notary Services
- Employment Services
- Medicare Counseling
- Social Events/Parties
- Home Visits
- Information and Referrals
- Alzheimer Support Group
- Veteran's Assistance
- Social Security Information
- Property Tax and Energy Assistance Programs
- Pharmaceutical Assistance Information

LIHEAP HEATING 2016

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) started on October 1st this year, a month later than last year due to budget restraints. Households that meet income eligibility will receive a one-time grant assistance paid directly to the utility companies. An applicant can only apply once in a program year.

To be eligible the following documents must be provided:

- Social Security cards for all household members
- Total Income for last 30 days for entire household (SSA, SSI, Wages, Pension, etc.)
- Current Utility bills (Nicor and Commonwealth Edison)
- Medicaid card
- Letter of Support and/or Letter of Permission (if applicable)
- Current Lease

INCOME ELIGIBILITY

FAMILY SIZE	MONTHLY INCOME
1	\$1,471
2	\$1,991
3	\$2,511
4	\$3,031

Contact the senior department for an appointment or for further questions. This program will end May 31, 2016 or until funds are depleted.

*Township of Schaumburg Offices closings
For the Following Holidays:*



*November 26 & 27
December 25
January 1*



SENIOR DEPARTMENT—847-884-0030

SAVE THE DATE

AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE

WHERE: Schaumburg Park District
Senior Center
505 N Springinsguth Rd
Schaumburg

DATE: November 16 & 17

TIME: 12:00 PM

COST: \$15 AARP Members
\$ 20 Non-Members

Call 847-490-7020 to register.



Must attend both days.
You may be eligible for an insurance discount upon course completion.
Contact your insurance agent for further information.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE

WHERE: St. Alexius Medical Center
1515 Barrington Rd
Hoffman Estates

DATE: November 17 & 18

TIME: 9:30 AM

COST: \$15 AARP Members
\$20 Non-Members

Call 855-456-0093 to register.

BINGO/LUNCH CANCELLATIONS:

Due to holiday events, Thursday luncheon and bingo will be cancelled on the following dates:

November 26th

December 3

December 10

December 24

December 31

*Bingo will be held on Dec 17th.

Bingo and luncheon activities will resume on **January 7, 2016**. Make your reservation the last week of December. **Happy New Year!**



TIME CHANGE

Days are getting shorter and it will soon be time to “Fall Back” with standard time resuming.

On Saturday, **October 31, 2015** turn back your clock 1 hour before going to bed.

This is also a good time to change the batteries in your carbon monoxide detectors and/or smoke detectors.



HOLIDAY MUSICALE

The township will be hosting a social holiday evening. Entertainment will be provided by a choral group from Hoffman Estates Park District, “The Noteables”. They will sing a medley of their favorite songs. This should truly get you in the holiday spirit.

Highway Commissioner Scott Kegarise and his wife Char provide a variety of holiday cookies, hot cocoa, flavored coffees and teas for this special event.

DATE: Thursday, December 10, 2015

TIME: 6:00 PM

Contact the senior department for reservations, at 847-884-0030. Bus transportation will be provided (847-882-1929).



SHRED & RECYCLING DAY

WHERE: Schaumburg Township Parking Lot
1 Illinois Blvd
Hoffman Estates

DATE: November 7, 2015

TIME: 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

This free event is for township residents only. Paper shredding is limited to 4 boxes. Electronics recycling will accept computer/IT equipment, cell phones, batteries, small appliances & office electronics. Tube TVs and monitors will have a disposal charge.

MONTHLY EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<i>PINOCHLE-11AM</i> <i>RETAIL SHOPPING</i> <i>11 AM – 1 PM</i>	<i>JOB COUNSELOR BY APPT 10 AM – 3 PM</i> <i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i>	<i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i> <i>YOGA</i> <i>10:30 AM-11:15 AM</i>	<i>** LUNCH/BINGO</i> <i>VETERAN SERVICES</i> <i>9 AM – 4 PM</i> <i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i> <i>ALZHEIMER'S MTG 7 PM</i>	<i>KNIT/CROCHET 9 AM</i> <i>RETAIL SHOPPING</i> <i>11 AM-1 PM</i> <i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i>
<i>PINOCHLE-11 AM</i> <i>RETAIL SHOPPING</i> <i>11 AM – 1 PM</i>	<i>JOB COUNSELOR BY APPT 10 AM – 3 PM</i> <i>WILLS BY APPT</i> <i>9 AM–12 PM</i>	<i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i> <i>YOGA</i> <i>10:30 AM-11:15 AM</i> <i>DIABETIC SUPPORT</i> <i>10:30 AM-11:30 AM</i>	<i>** LUNCH/BINGO</i> <i>VETERAN SERVICES</i> <i>9AM – 4 PM</i> <i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i>	<i>KNIT/CROCHET 9 AM</i> <i>RETAIL SHOPPING</i> <i>11 AM-1 PM</i> <i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i>
<i>PINOCHLE-11 AM</i> <i>RETAIL SHOPPING</i> <i>11 AM – 1 PM</i>	<i>JOB COUNSELOR BY APPT 10 AM – 3 PM</i> <i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i>	<i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i> <i>YOGA</i> <i>10:30 AM-11:15 AM</i>	<i>** LUNCH/BINGO</i> <i>VETERAN SERVICES</i> <i>9AM – 4 PM</i> <i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i> <i>HEALTH CLINIC 12 PM</i>	<i>KNIT/CROCHET 9 AM</i> <i>RETAIL SHOPPING</i> <i>11 AM-1 PM</i> <i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i>
<i>PINOCHLE-11 AM</i> <i>RETAIL SHOPPING</i> <i>11 AM – 1 PM</i>	<i>JOB COUNSELOR BY APPT 10 AM – 3 PM *</i> <i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i>	<i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i> <i>YOGA</i> <i>10:30 AM-11:15 AM</i>	<i>** LUNCH/BINGO</i> <i>VETERAN SERVICES</i> <i>9AM – 4 PM</i> <i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i>	<i>KNIT/CROCHET 9 AM</i> <i>RETAIL SHOPPING</i> <i>11 AM-1 PM</i> <i>GROCERY SHOPPING</i>

** JOB CLUB 4TH TUES OF EVEN MONTHS*
February 23, 2016

*** BY RESERVATION*
**** DIABETES MTG NOW QUARTERLY*

MONDAY RETAIL SHOPPING TRIPS

<u>Nov.</u> DATE	STORES	<u>Dec.</u> DATE	STORES	<u>Jan.</u> DATE	STORES
MONDAY – 2nd FRIDAY – 6th	WALMART BARRINGTON	FRIDAY – 4th	TARGET HIGGINS		
MONDAY – 9th FRIDAY – 13th	TARGET BARRINGTON	MONDAY – 7th FRIDAY – 11th	WALMART BARRINGTON	MONDAY – 4th FRIDAY – 8th	TARGET BARRINGTON
MONDAY – 16th FRIDAY – 20th	WALMART ELK GROVE	MONDAY – 14th FRIDAY – 18th	TARGET BARRINGTON	MONDAY – 11th FRIDAY – 15th	WALMART ELK GROVE
MONDAY – 23rd	TARGET HIGGINS	MONDAY – 21st	WALMART ELK GROVE	MONDAY – 18th FRIDAY – 22nd	TARGET HIGGINS
MONDAY – 30th	TARGET HIGGINS	MONDAY – 28th	TARGET HIGGINS	MONDAY – 25th FRIDAY – 29th	TARGET HIGGINS

MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG

Medicare private drug plans can change their costs and the list of prescription drugs they cover each year. Open enrollment begins **October 15 to December 7** and this is a good time to review your prescription drug plan. You may be completely satisfied with your current coverage, but there may be another plan that offers better coverage at a lower price. Research shows that people with Part D plans could lower their costs by shopping among plans each year.

When considering another prescription drug plan, make sure to look at all the costs and not just the premium. Plans change premiums, deductibles, drug tiers, co-pays, and some may even have fewer restrictions or coverage during the “gap”.

If your physician had to make a special request for your plan to cover a prescription drug this year (such as a prior authorization or exception request), and you will need the same medication in this coming year, call your plan and find out what you must do to make sure your plan keeps covering your medication. Your physician may have to make a new request, and he may be able to do so before the end of this year to ensure your medication will still be covered next year.

If you are considering joining a Medicare Advantage Plan for prescription drug coverage, remember that you will receive all your benefits from that plan. Besides prescription drug coverage, make sure that the plan covers your doctor visits, hospitals and the pharmacy you prefer at a cost you can afford. Sometimes Advantage Plans have a much lower premium but services and out of pocket expenses may tend to be much higher. These plans can be beneficial for some individuals. An upside of Advantage Plans is many plans also offer dental and vision services.

Once you have reviewed your current plan, it would be advantageous to view other options available to you annually. You can do this by calling 1-800-Medicare (1-800-633-4227) or by going online and visiting www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan. Assistance is also available in the senior department by appointment only. Please call 847-884-0030.

Medicare Interactive

AARP INCOME TAX-AIDE ASSISTANCE

Volunteer AARP tax-aide preparers will offer free income tax filing for disabled and/or senior residents who reside within Schaumburg Township. At the beginning of the year, you will begin receiving important tax documents such as Social Security 1099, pension, IRA, W-2, interest and dividend statements. Keep all of your important documents for tax filing.

Appointments are mandatory; Walk-ins will not be allowed.

Contact the senior department the last week of January to make an appointment. If you are interested in volunteering as a tax-aide preparer, please contact Wayne Bessette at 847-895-3796.

SNAP ASSISTANCE

Assistance is available at the township to apply for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. A volunteer is available the first Monday of each month from 9:00-10:00 AM. No appointments are necessary. Call the General Assistance Department for information on required documents or for further information.

IS IT OK TO BUY MEDICINE ONLINE?

Today people are trying to find any way to save money on prescription drugs. Some are even buying from Internet sites outside of the United States. Almost 60 percent of those surveyed last June by the Consumer Reports Center said they're trying to cut health care costs. Many said they get bargains on medications from online pharmacies. In fact, based on the survey, the center estimates that 1.9 million Americans are buying medications in this manner. It can be risky and often websites that look authentic could be selling illegal and even toxic products.

Last June the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) took action against more than 1,050 sites, seizing products being sold fraudulently as FDA-approved prescription drugs and medical devices. Often medications sold have been found to contain too much or too little of a drug's active ingredient, or in some cases, a different drug entirely. Some drugs have even been found to contain dangerous contaminants, including toxic yellow highway paint, heavy metals and rat poison.

In addition, it's illegal to order drugs from outside the U.S., so you may never receive what you ordered. If the prescription is filled incorrectly or the drug contains ingredients that make you sick, you have no legal recourse.

There are legitimate online pharmacies but consumers need to be careful and know what to look for. If you do order online be sure the site is licensed, requires you to submit the paper prescription, has a state-licensed pharmacist available to answer questions, and is within the U.S. (You may want to stick with the websites of drugstores you already know and trust, those connected to chain stores, big box-stores, and local mom and pop pharmacies).

An easy way to tell whether an Internet pharmacy is safe and legal is the word "pharmacy" will appear at the end of the web address. This indicates that the site is licensed and has been verified by the NABP (National Association of Boards of Pharmacy). You may also look for the seal from the Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites program, indicating that the company completed voluntary accreditation through the NAPB. A listing of accredited sites (and those not recommended), can be viewed on nabp.net website.

Other ways to save money on prescription drugs is to enroll in a Medicare plan (Part D), discounted generic drugs through big box stores such as Walmart, Target, etc. The local villages offer a Coast-to-Coast card where drugs may be discounted as much as 75%. Patient Assistance Programs, local Charities or Foundations may also offer assistance depending on available funding.

Consumer Reports 8/30/15

MARKETPLACE OPEN ENROLLMENT

(This does not apply to people with Medicare)

The open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace begins **November 1, 2015 and ends January 31, 2016**. This open enrollment period is for the 2016 plan year. During this time eligible individuals can use the www.healthcare.gov website to enroll in a plan or compare plans to determine if there is a lower cost health plan that will better suit their health needs in 2016. Plan enrollments and changes can only be made during this time unless an individual qualifies for a **special enrollment period**. Individuals should also renew their coverage through the healthcare.gov website even if they decide to stay with their current plan, in order to update their income information and make sure they are receiving the appropriate premium tax credit amount for 2016.

Make Medicare Work

MONITORING IN LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES ACT

The Illinois Department of Public Health reports receiving approximately 6,000 calls a year alleging neglect or abuse in nursing homes. On August 21, 2015 Governor Rauner signed the law titled "Authorized Electronic Monitoring in Long-Term Care Facilities Act". Illinois joins five other states—New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, California, and Washington—in passing legislation that allows cameras to be installed in nursing home rooms. This law will go into effect January 2016.

Specifically, the law allows a nursing home resident to electronically monitor their own room provided that their consent has been given to the facility. The resident must also obtain the consent of any and all roommates and bear all costs of the equipment, installation, maintenance and removal.

Supporters of the law state that it will ensure residents are treated well, provide family with peace of mind regarding the care of their loved ones, and help to resolve disputes regarding suspected abuse and neglect.

Under the law, the facility cannot access any video or audio recording without consent of the Resident or their legal representative. Anyone who destroys or obstructs a device is guilty of a Misdemeanor offense.

Facilities will be required to post signs at the entrance of the building and at the resident's room stating that the room is electronically monitored.

Dutton & Casey
Attorneys at Law

SOCIAL SECURITY

For just the third time in the last 40 years, Social Security recipients, disabled veterans and federal retirees can expect **no increase** in benefits in 2016. By law, the annual cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, is based on a government measure of inflation. The decrease in inflation is due mainly to low gasoline prices.

At the time of this printing, the Consumer Price Index is not expected to increase in the period used to determine the COLA for 2016.

CNBC Oct 12, 2015

FYI

Due to the lack of a state budget, the Secretary of State's office is suspending the mailing of vehicle registration renewal reminder notices. By suspending this service, which will save approximately \$450,000 per month, the office will be able to prolong the ability to mail vehicle registration renewal stickers, titles and license plates to vehicle owners for a few months longer before the postage account is depleted.

Vehicle owners are encouraged to be mindful of their vehicle registration status. Motorists can sign up to receive reminder notices electronically by email, www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Schaumburg Township
 One Illinois Boulevard
 Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
 www.schaumburgtownship.org



PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 154
 SCHAUMBURG, IL

****IMPORTANT** NEWSLETTER ATTENTION !!!!!!!**

If anyone knows of a senior who has moved out of the Township, is deceased, or receives more than one newsletter, please call us with this information.

SENIOR DEPARTMENT 847-884-0030

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT 847-882-1929

YELLOW DOT PROGRAM

The Illinois Yellow Dot Program is a statewide initiative designed to provide vital medical information on vehicle drivers/passengers. Information on the medical card can assist first responders immediately following a serious crash. This can mean the difference between life or death. Information packets may be obtained from the Village of Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg Police Department, Schaumburg Township Senior Department or visiting the website at www.YELLOWDOTILLINOIS.org.

DEPARTMENT CLOSING

The Senior Department will close at **4:00 p.m. daily** so that the staff can return phone calls and process necessary paperwork.

APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY

MEALS ON WHEELS

Are you unable to cook for yourself or need help with shopping?

Contact Kenneth Young at 847-524-8800.

REPRINT REMINDER

We thank other newsletters, which have been reprinting our articles with proper credit. Any organization may reprint articles from any of our newsletters provided that proper credit is given by name of newsletter and date. Any questions? Call 847-884-0030 ext. 2015.