



SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISABILITY SERVICES
ABLEGRAM
January—February 2020

**TOWNSHIP
OFFICIALS**

SUPERVISOR
Timothy M. Heneghan

CLERK
W. Robert Vinnedge

TRUSTEE
Diane Dunham

TRUSTEE
Jeffrey S. Mytych

TRUSTEE
Nimish Jani

TRUSTEE
Charlotte Kegarise

ASSESSOR
John Lawson, CIAO

**HIGHWAY
COMMISSIONER**
Scott M. Kegarise

**DISABILITY
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**
847-285-4541
DIRECT NUMBER

847-884-0030
MAIN PHONE

224-520-9763
VIDEOPHONE

**DIRECTOR OF
DISABILITY
SERVICES**
Megan Conway

**DEAF SERVICES
COORDINATOR**
Sarita Phadke

**PR/EVENT
COORDINATOR**
Lauren Ewan

**BENEFIT
SPECIALIST**
Ami-Nell Scurry

**BENEFIT
SPECIALIST**
Sharon DeMarchi-
Belter

Disability Services Presents the 2020

Valentine's Day

Ice Cream Social & Dance

February 15 | 6-8pm

Join us for a Valentine's Day Ice Cream Social and Dance at the Township building (One Illinois Blvd, Hoffman Estates). The dance is for Township residents ages 18+ with developmental and cognitive disabilities. Enjoy a night of pizza, ice cream and dancing with a DJ! Dress up for a chance to win a prize.

**Call Disability Services at 847-884-0030
for a reservation by Friday, January 31st.**

Special Events and Programs

Citizens Utility Board (CUB) Utility Bill Clinic

Wednesday, March 11

10 a.m.

Free

Join representatives from CUB who will be onsite to review utility bills and counsel people on how to save money on utilities.

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

The Village of Hoffman Estates' Commission for People with Disabilities is hosting a First Friday event February 7, 2020 from 6:30—8:30 p.m. for people with disabilities ages 14 and older at the Hoffman Estates Village Hall. **There is no January First Friday event.**

Admission is free and registration is not required. Come and enjoy an evening with a painting/craft activity, bingo and more! Pizza is available for \$2/slice.

NWSRA Sibshops Program

Date: Friday, February 14, 2020

Time: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Where: Hanover Park Community Center
1919 Walnut Ave., Hanover Park

Northwest Special Recreation Association (NWSRA) has paired up with Building Great Beginnings for this AMAZING program. Through this collaborative program, siblings of children with special needs ages 5-12 are invited to play games, get creative with crafts and have fun! Teenagers that would like to volunteer at the program are welcome! To learn more about the program and to register please contact Lauren "LJ" Jevaney at ljevaney@nwsra.org or 847-392-2828 ext.246. There is a \$5 fee to participate in the program.

Career Coach

Are you looking for guidance in today's workplace economy? Are you trying to find employment or move on to the next phase of your career? The Township of Schaumburg can help through career coaching. The Career Coach is available by email and phone. In-person meetings can also be arranged if needed. The Township's Career Coach offers assistance in resume writing, searching for a job, interviewing, negotiations and more. For more information, visit the Township's website or email the career coach at empservices@schaumburgtownship.org.



Save the Date!

Our second annual Breakfast with the Bunny will be on Saturday, April 4th! Come and enjoy breakfast and meet the Bunny without the long wait! More details and registration information in the March/April Ablegram. We hope to see you there!

Second Sense (formerly Guild for the Blind) Presentation

Wednesday, March 18

10 a.m., Free

Learn about the resources and tools that are available to help you adjust to vision loss. Second Sense is trained and certified to help you select the right magnifier, feel more comfortable dining in public, organize your home, etc. Registration required with disability services at 847-285-4541.

Talk Techy Classes

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

10—11 a.m. (Apple Users)

1:30—2:30 p.m. (Android Users)

FREE

Join Benefit Specialist Ami-Nell Scurry on learning how to navigate touchscreen smartphones. For more information and to sign up for the class, please call the Township at 847-884-0030 and ask for Ami-Nell Scurry!



Schaumburg-Hoffman Lions Club Hearing Aid and Eyeglasses Assistance Programs

The Lions of Illinois Foundation and the Schaumburg-Hoffman Lions Club can assist Township residents 18 years and older obtain reconditioned over-the-ear style hearing aids and exams at a discounted price. Applicants can apply in the disability services department with Lauren Ewan. Applicants will be screened for the program by appointment only. There is no income limit for the program. For more information or to apply for the program, please contact Lauren Ewan at 847-884-0030 ext. 2025 or lewan@schaumburgtownship.org.

The senior and disability staff can now screen potential residents with obtaining eyeglasses through the Lions Club who show financial hardship. **Approved applicants must go to the Pearle Vision in Lake Zurich for the eye exam and eyeglasses—no exceptions.** For more information please contact our office.

Services and Programs

SNAP Issues New Income Guidelines

The State of Illinois recently announced new income limits for the SNAP program. SNAP provides monthly assistance toward your grocery bill that can be used at most area grocery stores to purchase things like fresh produce, dairy, canned goods, meat, and more. For households with a person over the age of sixty or with a disability, income guidelines are as follows:

Gross Monthly	Income Guidelines
1 person household	\$2,082
2 person household	\$2,818
3 person household	\$3,555

Township staff are trained to help file SNAP applications. Benefits are available on a Link card and reloaded automatically each month. The process is simple and we are happy to help! Call 847-285-4541 to schedule your appointment.

LIHEAP Still Available

If you have not yet applied for LIHEAP this fall, funding is still available to apply. Contact disability services to schedule an appointment and for a list of documents that you need to bring.

CEDA Accepting Weatherization and Furnace Applications

Furnace Assistance

Furnace Assistance is designed to restore the home's heating system back to a safe and effective operation. Assistance is only available to approved households that have or are eligible to receive a LIHEAP benefit and whose heating systems are not operational or have been red-tagged by their utility company. The services are free of charge for income qualifying households. **Renters are not eligible to apply.**

Weatherization Program

Weatherization provides health and safety improvements to enhance indoor air quality and ventilation; replacement or repair of heating systems; sealing drafty areas; and insulation for attic, wall, basement, and crawl spaces. These services will save energy for customers and help to keep homes warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

Households must meet the income guidelines identified by the program and be able to provide supporting documentation. The home must be structurally suitable to receive energy efficiency work.

Contact disability services for more information or to schedule an appointment to apply for either of these programs.

Telephone Check In Program

Between the Polar Vortex, tornadoes, and extreme heat, the weather in our area is unpredictable to say the least. The Telephone Check-In program consists of a list of people in our community who would like to be contacted in case of emergency or extreme weather. In the event of extreme weather or other situation, staff or volunteers would reach out and touch base with the resident. Staff will then work with other providers or departments to establish services, if needed. To be added to our call list, please contact 847-285-4541.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Volunteers Provide FREE State and Federal Income Tax Preparation

Each year the Township of Schaumburg partners with AARP Foundation Tax-Aide to provide free tax preparation to low- to moderate-income taxpayers. Appointments for the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide are available from early February through mid-April. Residents can schedule an appointment by calling 847-285-4597 after Jan. 27. Appointments are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. Visit our website for a checklist on what to bring to your appointment: schaumburgtownship.org/departments/senior-services.

Annual Tax Seminar

Tuesday, January 14

9 a.m.—12 p.m.

Free

Need help preparing for tax season? Come to the Township of Schaumburg's free tax seminar on January 14th, 2020. Tax counselors will share information on basic filing instructions and requirements, record keeping tips, identity theft protection and new changes for the 2019 tax year. There will be time for questions. Register with the senior department at 847-285-4541.

Veteran Services

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) has a Veterans Service Officer, Shynae Murphy, available at the Township of Schaumburg every Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m.—3:30 p.m. Ms. Murphy provides information on available services and assistance in applying for veteran benefits. An appointment is not necessary in the morning. Afternoons are by appointment only; email Shynae Murphy: shynae.murphy@illinois.gov to schedule your appointment.

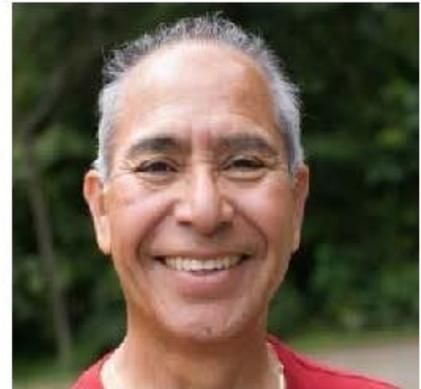
Services and Programs

<p style="text-align: center;">SHIP Program</p> <p>Township of Schaumburg Disability Services provides free health insurance counseling through the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP). Our department has trained counselors who can assist you with Medicare, Medicaid, and prescription drug issues. <i>SHIP does not affiliate with any insurance company and does not sell or solicit any type of insurance.</i> Please call for an appointment or for information.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Direct Phone Number to Disability Services</p> <p>Get quicker access to disability services at 847-285-4541! Call 847-285-4541 and speak directly with Intake and Referral Coordinator Helen Bisioulis who will be more than happy to assist you.</p>																				
<p style="text-align: center;">Medicaid Redetermination</p> <p>The Illinois Medicaid Redetermination Project (IMRP) will be reviewing Medicaid recipients benefits yearly to ensure they are still eligible for benefits. Many individuals on Medicaid will receive a letter and a redetermination form explaining that they need to renew their Medicaid coverage. The letter may request additional documentation to support the individual's redetermination. It is very important to respond to this as soon as possible. Failure to respond, could result in losing Medicaid benefits. The Disability Department can assist you with your Medicaid paperwork at 847-285-4541. We look forward to assisting you!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Referral Binder</p> <p>The disability services department recently updated the referral binder that lists community resources for support groups, events, social service programs, recreational activities, transportation and more! Stop by and take a look.</p>																				
<p style="text-align: center;">Free Amplified Telephones and Cell Phone Amplifiers</p> <p>The Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation (ITAC) offers free amplified telephones and two cell phone amplifiers for qualified Illinois residents with a certified hearing loss. Disability Services is a selection center to test the phones. There are five phones to choose from and every three years you are eligible for another free amplified telephone and/or cell phone amplifier. Please contact disability services for more information, or for an appointment to test the phones and/or cell phone amplifiers.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monday and Friday Retail Shopping Trips Schedule With the Township Bus</p> <p>Below are the Monday and Friday retail shopping trips schedule for January and February. <u>Reservations are required</u> by calling the transportation department at 847-882-1929.</p>																				
<p style="text-align: center;">Collection Spot</p> <p>Our department is a collection site for various household items. Please drop off items between 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyeglasses, sunglasses, hearing aids and hearing aid batteries for the Lions Club • Pop can tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities • Small electronics: VCR, DVD, cords, cell phones, etc. for Avenues to Independence • Calendars and greeting cards (new or used) for Connect to Community 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">January</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday—6th Friday—10th</td> <td>WALMART 850 S. Barrington Road Streamwood</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday—13th Friday—17th</td> <td>TARGET 2621 Schaumburg Road Schaumburg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday—20th Friday—24th</td> <td>WALMART 801 Meacham Road Elk Grove Village</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday—27th Friday—31st</td> <td>TARGET 1235 Higgins Road Schaumburg</td> </tr> <tr> <th colspan="2">February</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday—3rd Friday—7th</td> <td>WALMART 850 S. Barrington Road Streamwood</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday—10th Friday—14th</td> <td>TARGET 2621 Schaumburg Road Schaumburg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday—21st</td> <td>WALMART 801 Meacham Road Elk Grove Village</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday—24th Friday—28th</td> <td>TARGET 1235 Higgins Road Schaumburg</td> </tr> </table>	January		Monday—6th Friday—10th	WALMART 850 S. Barrington Road Streamwood	Monday—13th Friday—17th	TARGET 2621 Schaumburg Road Schaumburg	Monday—20th Friday—24th	WALMART 801 Meacham Road Elk Grove Village	Monday—27th Friday—31st	TARGET 1235 Higgins Road Schaumburg	February		Monday—3rd Friday—7th	WALMART 850 S. Barrington Road Streamwood	Monday—10th Friday—14th	TARGET 2621 Schaumburg Road Schaumburg	Friday—21st	WALMART 801 Meacham Road Elk Grove Village	Monday—24th Friday—28th	TARGET 1235 Higgins Road Schaumburg
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Take Charge of Your Diabetes



"The American Diabetes Association identifies this program as meeting the Diabetes Support Initiative criteria for support programming."



Do you have Diabetes or Pre-Diabetes?

Join us for a free six-week workshop

Learn about:

- Healthy eating and nutrition
- Stress and depression management
- Physical activity to increase your energy
- How to be a healthy caregiver
- Problem solving
- Meeting personal goals
- Partnering with your healthcare provider

Schaumburg Township

1 Illinois Blvd
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Tuesday

01/21/2020 – 02/25/2020
9:30AM – 12:00PM

To register call
Megan Conway
(847) 285-4541 or email
mconway@schaumburgtownship.org



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News You Can Use

Spreading the News About ABLE Accounts in the Disability Community

On December 19th, 2019, the Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) will be five years old. Why are we excited? Because this five-year-old has influenced 41,000 people to open ABLE accounts that can earn tax-free income.

The ABLE Act allows an estimated eight million Americans with disabilities to save money for qualified disability expenses for their short-term needs and long-term future. ABLE account holders can use the funds for qualified disability-related expenses including housing and maintenance, as well as costs related to employment, transportation, health, technology and financial and benefits planning.

Forty-two states and the District of Columbia have ABLE programs. Even if your state hasn't established an ABLE program, you can enroll in any state's program, if they accept out-of-state residents, which many do. State ABLE programs are managing more than \$220 million in savings and investment accounts.

These ABLE savings accounts will largely not affect your eligibility for Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI), Medicaid and other public benefits. ABLE account owners, who are SSI beneficiaries, are no longer stuck in a life of poverty or have to face the \$2,000 asset limit and be disqualified from receiving SSI benefits.

In 2018, the ABLE National Resource Center (ABLE NRC) established its national ABLE Ambassadors to help millions of ABLE-eligible individuals and families learn that there are ABLE account holders very similar to them - and ABLE accounts grew by almost 17 percent in the fourth quarter last year, while assets under management grew by 19 percent for the same period.

To learn about ABLE accounts and state ABLE programs, please visit the ABLE NRC at www.ablenrc.org, which is managed by the National Disability Institute. The website has information on how to become ABLE ready, a state ABLE program comparison tool and guidance on setting short- and long-term financial goals. More than one million individuals took advantage of the resources on the ABLE NRC website last year.

The ABLE program should not be the best-kept secret in the disability community. Help spread the word!

Source: Michael Morris, Executive Director, National Disability Institute 7/11/19

The Disabled Persons Homeowner Exemption

The Disabled Persons Homeowner Exemption provides an annual 2,000 Assessed Value (x Tax Rate) is the amount you will receive on your bill (roughly around \$200-300.00). The property must have been owned and occupied on January 1st of the assessment year by a disabled person who is responsible for the payment of the property taxes and is the primary owner of the property.

Who is eligible?

To qualify for this exemption, the resident must:

- Disabled or become disabled during the tax year,
- Own or have a legal or equitable interest in the property, or a leasehold interest of a single-family residence,
- Occupy the property as the principal residence on January 1, 2018 and
- Be liable for the payment of property taxes.

Note: Rental or commercial property owners do not qualify for this exemption.

Moreover, the resident must complete the exemption application with the Cook County Assessor's Office or the Township Assessor's Office and must provide one of the following documents:

- Class 2 Disabled Person Illinois Identification Card from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office;
- Proof from the U.S. Social Security Administration disability benefits. This proof includes an award letter, verification letter, or annual cost of living adjustment;
- Proof from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits. This proof includes an award letter of total (50% or more (up to 100%) disability, pension statement, or statement showing compensation rated at a minimum of 50%.)

However, if a taxpayer cannot provide proof with one of the items listed above they will need to submit the Illinois Department of Revenue's **Form PTAX 343-A** Physician's Statement of Proof of a Disability, which can be reviewed, signed and approved by the resident's doctor.

For more information or questions regarding the Disabled Persons Homeowner Exemption, please contact the Township's Assessors Office.

Medicare News

2020 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have released the 2020 premiums and deductibles amounts for Medicare Part A and Part B.

Medicare Part A Deductible

Medicare Part A covers inpatient hospital, skilled nursing facility, and some home health care services. The Medicare Part A inpatient hospital deductible that beneficiaries will pay when admitted to the hospital will be \$1,408 in 2020.

Medicare Part B Premium and Deductible

The standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees will be \$144.60 and the annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries is \$198 in 2020.

Medicare Savings Programs

Beneficiaries who face challenges paying for Medicare premiums may qualify for the Medicare Savings Programs to help pay for Medicare premiums and other costs. Contact our office today to see if you qualify.

2020 Medigap Changes

Medigap plans that cover the Part B deductible (Medigap Plans C and F) will no longer be available for purchase by newly-eligible Medicare beneficiaries as of January 2020. This rule change was part of MACRA (the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015). Beneficiaries who already have Medigap Plans C and F will be able to keep them, and those who were already eligible for Medicare prior to 2020 will still be able to buy those plans.

Source: <https://www.medicareresources.org/faqs/when-is-the-next-medicare-open-enrollment-period/>

Most Claims Using Old Medicare Numbers Will Be Rejected

As of Jan. 1, 2020, most Medicare claims submitted with the old HICN numbers (Social Security Number) will be rejected, no matter what date the service was performed. Please be sure you give your healthcare provider your new Medicare card to avoid rejected claims. If you have not received your new Medicare card, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 as soon as possible to get your new Medicare card.

Expanding Social Security Office Hours

Beginning January 8, 2020, Social Security offices will remain open until 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, with typical field office hours from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Enrolling in Original Medicare

If you didn't sign up for Medicare A and B when you were first eligible, you have a chance to do so each year from **January 1 to March 31**, with coverage effective July 1. However, you may be subject to a late enrollment penalty. For Medicare Part B, the penalty is an additional 10 percent of the premium for each 12 month period that you were eligible but not enrolled.

There's a late enrollment penalty for Medicare Part A as well, but it only applies to people who have to pay premiums for Part A. Most people get Part A for free, based on their work history or a spouse's work history.

Source: <https://www.medicareresources.org/faqs/when-is-the-next-medicare-open-enrollment-period/>

Changing Medicare Advantage Coverage After the Annual Enrollment Period

Between January 1 and March 31 each year, if you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan, you can leave your plan and return to Original Medicare, and buy a Part D prescription drug plan to supplement your Original Medicare. As of 2019, you also have the option to switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan during this time. From 2011 through 2018, there wasn't an option to switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan outside of the fall open enrollment period unless you had a circumstance that allowed you a Special Enrollment Period. But the 21st Century Cures Act (Section 17005) expanded the timeframe of the window (from one and a half months to three months) starting in 2019, and allows people to switch from one Medicare Advantage plan to another.

Beneficiaries can only switch to a different Medicare Advantage plan (or back to Original Medicare) once in the first quarter of the new year. But if you signed up for a Medicare Advantage plan in the fall and then decide you don't like it once it takes effect in January, you have until the end of March to make a change.

You can only sign up for Part D coverage during the first three months of the year if you're switching from a Medicare Advantage plan back to Original Medicare. You cannot, for example, be enrolled in Original Medicare with a Part D plan and then switch to a different Part D plan during the January — March enrollment period. Instead, you'd need to make that change during the fall election period (October 15 to December 7).

Source: <https://www.medicareresources.org/faqs/when-is-the-next-medicare-open-enrollment-period/>



**Township of Schaumburg
Disability Services Department
1 Illinois Boulevard
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169**

Phone: 847.884.0030

Deaf Services Videophone: 224.520.9763

www.schaumburgtownship.org

f @SchaumburgTownship

t @SchaumburgTwp

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Schaumburg Township Disability Services wishes to thank the following sponsors for the 2019 Children with Disabilities Holiday Party!

**Village Tavern and Grill, Inc.
Bolger Properties
Mr. Tess Joo
B&A Plumbing
Schaumburg-Hoffman Lions Club
Carpenters Union Local 839**

We also would like to thank the following sponsors for the 2019 Annual Holiday Luncheon at Chandler's!

**Ms. Bobbi Sloan
Ahlgrim & Sons Funeral and Cremation Services, Ltd.
AristaCare
Hoffman Estates Community Bank
ITAC
Cook County Commissioner Kevin B. Morrison
Friends of Trustee Nimish Jani
Robert Schmidt
Fabbrini Flowers
Asbury Court**