
SENIORS NEWSLETTER

Staten Island Inter-Agency Council for Aging, Inc.

**** A Coalition of Agencies Serving Staten Island's Elderly ****

c/o Sea View Hospital
Administrative Building, Room 123
460 Brielle Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314
(718) 667-3162

Funded by the Office of the Staten Island Borough President &
The New York City Department for the Aging

Carol Dunn, Executive Director

February 2010

The Editors:

February Celebrations

2nd - Groundhog Day ; 7th - SuperBowl Sunday ;
14th - Valentine 's; 15th - Presidents' Day; 16th
Fat Tuesday ; 22nd Washington's Birthday ;
Engineers' Week .

February:

If apples were pears
And peaches were plums
And the rose had a different name.
If tigers were bears
And fingers were thumbs
I'd love you just the same.
- Valentine's Day Songs and Poems

BULLETIN BOARD

- **IAC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG -**
Thur. Feb.18, 9:00am; @
Community Board 2 on the Grounds of
Seaview Hospital, 460 Breille Ave.
- **FREE Income Tax Return Preparation:**
Tax Season: FREE help is available to
prepare your income tax returns.
1. AARP -TCE/Vita ; Volunteers receive

training certified by the IRS, For
information and site locations -
see page 4,
2. IRS - Free efile and tax return
preparation available online -
<http://www.irs.gov/> , Free File.

- **Volunteers Wanted - Meals on Wheels**
As the demand for meals continues to
grow, so does our need for volunteer
drivers. If you are available for
approximately two hours, one day a week,
you can volunteer to deliver meals to
elderly neighbors in your community, or
volunteer in our office. Please contact
Roseann Holt, Volunteer Coordinator at
718.727.4435 for further information.
Applications are available on our website
www.mealsonwheelsofsi.com
- **Annual Mardi Gras Party...** is on Thur.
Feb. 11th ; For information call 718 667-
3162.
- **DATES TO SAVE:**
**IAC Caregiver Seminar- for Baby
Boomers & their Aging Parents ,
tentative date - April 15th .**

9th Annual Housing Forum 55+ , pre-registration required - April 20th .
Education Committee Program - May 20th
Annual Recognition Lunch - June 1st .

RSVP/SERVE - Looking For Your Help -

The Retired and Volunteer Program needs Seniors -55 years & older to volunteer out in the community.

Some opportunities include: Meals on Wheels; Docent in a Museum; Soup Kitchen or Food Pantry; Tutoring children; S.I. hospitals and nursing homes always need clerical help; friendly visitor to talk to patients; etc..

For information contact RSVP/SERVE at 718-494-3222 .

Tax Season Is Upon Us

We have a few tips for you in hopes of making this inevitable situation a little less taxing. The most important tax tip isRelax. There is plenty of help available whether you - need help preparing your own tax return; need a trained volunteer tax assistor to prepare a return for you; need guidance to free software ; or just a source for information on income tax concerns. AARP provides **free** volunteer assistance through the IRS sponsored TCE (Tax Counseling for the Elderly) & VITA (Volunteer Tax Assistance) Program. These volunteers will be available at numerous sites throughout the borough from February 1 to April 15 - see the site location list at the end of this newsletter. Also, preparation assistance, information and forms are available at the IRS office located on the 4th Fl. of Borough Hall, Stuyvesant Place, St. George; open Mon., Wed., Fri., (9am-5pm). Since 1998, the IRS has been encouraging taxpayers to e-file (electronically) and they have made the process both user-friendly and free (income limits , age, etc. may apply.) . If you are at ease on a computer and have internet access, that's all you need to use the www.irs.gov website and use the link to **Free File**. This will lead you to the IRS Free File Services which is an approved list of tax-filing service companies , the Free File Alliance, with such names as Turbo Tax and H&R Block , TaxAct .

Only if you use the IRS Free File link are you assured of getting the tax filing service without charge. Some Alliance members also offer free State return e-filing. E-filing benefits both the IRS and the taxpayer. Paper returns have to be re-type into the IRS computer increasing the risk of entry and calculation errors slowing the processing of returns and refunds. Another helpful place to visit on the internet is the www.aarp.gov website. The AARP Tax-Aide program has a lot of information and answers to frequently asked questions.

The Learning Center

At this time of year, people may be thinking of options for getting away from the winter blues but find themselves hampered due to inclement weather and lack of transportation.

The computer with internet access is a great convenience for communicating with family and friends especially for those who are in any way confined or limited in traveling. These days people are often directed to the Internet to get information on every facet of our daily lives ; for instance - filing tax returns or getting forms; checking on your bank balances (for direct deposited pension or SSA); applications for various government benefits - Heat/utility , STAR real estate tax, Housing applications, rebate information, etc., etc., etc..

One can even browse the book shelves of the Public Library and reserve your selections for pick up at your convenience. The NYPL also has a selection of E-Books which can be downloaded to your computer, read at your leisure and , best of all, you don't have to worry about returning the book and /or paying late fees.

For those who are not at ease with a computer and/or the internet, there are programs on the Island for learning how to use the computer and accessing the internet , such as the New York Public Library and another, especially focused on teaching seniors - **SeniorNet**.

SeniorNet-SI courses are for beginners as well as more advanced students and all courses are taught by senior volunteers.

Classes start every three months. Winter classes began the last week of January, 2010. In Person

registration is held at the Bernikow Jewish Community Center at 1466 Manor Road. Classes meet for 2 to 3 hours once a week and schedule ranges from 9:00am thru 5:00pm. The computer Internet course is held at least once or twice a year. For more information, call the Bernikow Jewish Community Center at 718-475-5200, ext.1182 or Email Info@seniornetsi.org your name and address to be put on the mailing list before the next term begins.

Health and Safety

1. RESTORE – Emergency Home Repair Program for Elderly Home Owners (60 + years old) - If you have a condition in your home that poses a threat to life, health or safety of building inhabitants, then you may be eligible for a government program that allows up to \$5,000 in emergency repairs by qualified and licensed contractors. Income eligibility applies.

2. ACCESS TO HOME - a NYS funded Program designed to make the homes & apartments of low and moderate income residents with disabilities more accessible. Modifications may range from - Wheelchair Ramps & Lifts - Handrails - Grab bars - to Kitchen/Bath modifications, etc..

For more information, call Richmond Senior Services (718) 816-1811.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR COLD WEATHER (From the Department for the Aging)

Apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) by calling 311 .

- ! If you are vulnerable (homebound, aged, frail, sick, etc) contact your utility company and inform them of your situation.
- ! Do not compromise your health by forgoing taking your medications in order to pay fuel bills.
- ! If you are a tenant without heat call 311 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).
- ! Do not use agas stove, electric range or charcoal grill to heat your home.

- ! Be careful if you are using a portable heater, Keep it away from all combustible materials such as : furniture, bedding, clothing, pets, and people.
- ! Put on several layers of clothing for warmth.
- ! Attend a senior center during the day to stay warm and to reduce home heating costs.
- ! If you are freezing and have no heat or place to go - call 911.
- ! If you make a complaint to a city agency - write down the Complaint number given to you.

On the Lighter Side.....

She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist, you get repossessed.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.

He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

Every calendar's days are numbered.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

*- The End -
-Happy Valentines Day-*

AARP TaxAide Income Tax Assistance Sites Beginning February 1st

BRING THESE ITEMS TO THE SITE:

- * Photo I.D. & Soc. Sec. Cards for Taxpayers ;
SS cards for all dependents,
 - * Copy of last years tax return
 - * W-2's , Wage & Earning statements; 1099 Statements for Social Security , Pension, Interest, dividend, capital gains, other income, etc.
 - * Economic Recovery INFO FROM SSA- IF NOT RECEIVED.
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RICHMOND COUNTY SAVINGS BANK
3879 AMBOY RD -10308
Handicap Accessible
Wed.. - 10:00A - 2:00P

ARROCHAR FRIENDSHIP CLUB
85 JEROME AVENUE , 10305
Call to Schedule: 718-720-6110
Tues.- Feb.23 & Mar.23

OAKWOOD HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CHURCH
FALCON & GUYON AVENUE , 10306
Handicap Accessible;
EVERY OTHER Tue. - 11:30a- 2:30P
Beginning Feb. 2
(Feb.2&16, Mar.2,16&30; Apr.13 only)

MT. LORETTO FRIENDSHIP CLUB
6581 HYLAN BLVD , 10309
Call to schedule : 718-984-8589
Tues.- Feb.9, Mar.9 & Apr.6

NORTHFIELD SAVING BANK
2706 HYLAN BLVD, 10306
Handicap Accessible
Wed.&Thu. - 10:00A-2:00P

TODT HILL WESTERLEIGH LIBRARY
2550 VICTORY BLVD , 10314
Handicap Accessible
(Begin Mar. 8th), Mon. 11:00A - 3:00P

DONGAN HILLS PUBLIC LIBRARY
1617 RICHMOND RD , 10304
Handicap Accessible
Mon. 11:00A-4:00P, Thu.11:00A-4:00P

RICHMONDTOWN LIBRARY
200 CLARKE AVE
Mon. 11:00A - 3:00P

WEST BRIGHTON LIBRARY
976 CASTLETON AVE.
Tue &Wed., 12:30P - 4:00P