

Aging Times

YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL OLDER ADULT RESOURCES



123 Wyoming Ave. - 4th Fl.
Scranton, PA 18503



570-963-6740



AAA@LackawannaCounty.org



LackawannaAging.org



Lackawanna County Area
Agency on Aging



Sara McDonald, Director



Lackawanna
County

Commissioners
Bill Gaughan • Matt McGloin • Chris Chermak

Department of Health & Human Services
AREA AGENCY ON AGING



If you are interested in receiving this newsletter in your inbox, email **AgingTimes@lackawannacounty.org** to be added to the subscriber list

HELLO!

From the Director's Desk

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is starting 2024 healthy & happy!

A new year means an opportunity to regroup & reorganize. For anyone receiving services from our agency, please remember to save your 2023 income verification, including tax returns, social security and/or pension award letters, etc. Income verification is required for most services annually. If you need assistance in 2024 with tax preparation, The United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne & Pike is once again offering the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program to prepare local, state and federal income tax returns for FREE! There are NO hidden fees or charges - this is a completely FREE Service designed to help people secure all the refunds and credits for which they are eligible. Starting Tuesday, January 3rd, call 570.602.3133 or 866.662.8887 and speak to an agent that can book your appointment over the phone. Please leave a voicemail when/if prompted.

Every January, I look at my family's spending and investigate ways that can help us save money. If you're a retired senior citizen, there's a good chance you're living on a fixed income. That means you're probably on the hunt for ideas to save money as well.

You're in luck. Some of these money-saving strategies will work for any age, but most are aimed at people in their 60s or older. Hopefully, they'll help or inspire your own money-saving ideas. There are two programs I want to share with you that can assist income eligible readers with financial goals/savings. LIHEAP and Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program application assistance is offered through the agency's outreach worker, Howard McIntosh. To schedule an appointment, call 570-904-7792. Learn more about these programs in this edition.

- Sara McDonald

LIHEAP

Purpose: To assist households with low incomes, particularly those with the lowest incomes that pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, primarily in meeting their immediate home energy needs.



For more information or to apply online go to:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/LIHEAP.aspx>

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program

CHANGES STARTING IN 2024

Starting January 16, 2024, the Department of Revenue will open the filing period for eligible applicants to submit applications for rebates on property taxes and rent paid in 2023. Here are the changes that will take effect at that time:

- The maximum standard rebate is increasing from \$650 to \$1,000
- The income cap for both renters and homeowners will be made equal and increase to \$45,000 a year
- The income cap for homeowners will increase from \$35,000 to \$45,000
- The income cap for renters will increase from \$15,000 to \$45,000
- The income caps will be tied to the cost-of-living moving forward, meaning those who receive a rebate won't lose their eligibility in the future due to no fault of their own

For more information or to apply online go to:

<https://prdrevenue.pwpca.pa.gov/IncentivesCreditsPrograms/PropertyTaxRentRebateProgram/Pages/default.aspx>

SHARE SHARED HOUSING AND RESOURCE EXCHANGE

Shared Housing and Resource Exchange (SHARE) is an affordable housing choice that brings together homeowners who want to share their home with home seekers who are looking for housing in exchange for rent, help around the house, or a combination of both. The home seeker receives their own bedroom and agreed upon use of the common areas. One person in the arrangement, home sharer or seeker, must be at least sixty years old. Every arrangement is unique depending on the needs, preferences, and abilities of the participants involved. In Lackawanna County, contact Paula Welsh at (570) 468-5923 or welshp@lackawannacounty.org



Lackawanna County AAA Seeks Dom Care Providers

The Domiciliary Care Program, or Dom Care, is a unique program offered through the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging (LCAAA). Dom Care is commonly referred to as Foster Care for adults.

LIVING ALTERNATIVE

Dom Care provides a quality alternative for those who are unable to live independently due to physical, mental or age-related impairments. The program offers consumers care and supervision within a family-type environment with a certified Dom Care Provider. Individuals receive room, board, personal care assistance, and emotional support.

Unlike larger personal care homes, Dom Care homes are the individual providers' homes. Providers must be certified by the LCAAA to house one to three consumers at one time.

The 2024 Dom Care rate to be paid to the Dom Care Provider is \$1,294.16 for an individual and \$2,272.20 for a couple. Dom Care consumers will receive a monthly spending stipend of \$283.14 per individual or \$490.20 for a couple in 2024.

CAREGIVING OPPORTUNITY

Dom Care Providers are currently in high demand. The program is seeking people residing in Lackawanna County interested in the opportunity to become a certified Domiciliary Care provider. Providers must be at least 21 years old and demonstrate that they have the experience and ability to care for persons with physical, mental, and age-related disabilities.

Dom Care homes are certified annually to ensure they meet health and safety standards. Once certified, providers will be matched with consumers in need and will receive a monthly stipend for providing the necessary care.

Once the LCAAA matches a certified provider with an eligible individual, the individual will move into the provider's home. Providers are responsible for providing room and board, transportation for medical and other appointments, medication management, and preparation of healthy meals.

Most often, consumers and providers grow to become like family. In the past, some providers have included consumers in family events, and have even taken their consumers on family vacations.

MORE INFORMATION ON BECOMING A DOM CARE PROVIDER

Contact Kerri Anzulewicz AnzulewiczK@lackawannacounty.org; 570-963-6740, ext. 1438



Fridays in the Park - Winter Sessions

YOU ASKED AND WE LISTENED!

Join us for food demonstrations, games, crafts, resource sessions,
and more on January 24th, February 16th, and March 15th from
10 am - 1 pm.

The Post 625 Deacon Street, Scranton, PA 18509
Reservations required - 570-963-6740 ext. 1450
Limited space available

Characteristics of Scams



Sense of urgency and limited time offers.

Payment with wire transfer or gift cards.



shush!
quiet!

Secrecy and the need to not tell anyone.

Low or minimal risks with guaranteed high returns.



Unsolicited offers via social media or direct communication.



dobs.pa.gov

You Are Not Alone.

PA Support & Referral Helpline
1-855-284-2494
(TTY: 724-631-5600)

Suicide Prevention
Lifeline: Call or Text 988

Trans Helpline: 877-565-8860

Veteran Crisis Line: Call 988 then Press 1

Disaster Distress Helpline:
1-800-985-5990

Crisis Text Line:
Text PA to 741741

HELP IS AVAILABLE



United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne, and Pike Counties Older Adult Programs



RSVP

RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) is a program that recruits volunteers who are 55 and older, live in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties, who are interested in volunteering their time and talents to address community needs. Develop new skills and meet new friends while giving back to your community.

FRIENDLY CALLERS

A fun, free, and friendly service connecting our older adult community members. The program thoughtfully pairs volunteers with individuals interested in receiving friendly, weekly phone calls. Sign up today to make or receive the calls!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE PROGRAMS, CALL 570-343-1267 EXT. 311

MEDICARE PRESENTATION

- Preparing to retire?
- Confused about your healthcare options?
- Overwhelmed just thinking about healthcare?

Come and listen to some experts at a FREE Medicare Presentation designed to help you choose the right plan!

Presentation Details

Date: Wednesday, January 24th at 5:00 pm

Place: United Way Office
615 Jefferson Ave.
Scranton, PA 18510

Pre-Registration is Required!

To Pre-Register Contact:
Stephanie Miller
Senior Program Manager
570-343-1267 ext. 313
smiller@uwlc.net



pennsylvania
Medicare Education and Decision Insight



United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne & Pike

Visit Our Senior Community Centers

MEALS, ACTIVITIES, SOCIALIZATION, AND MORE!



DUNMORE

1414 Monroe Ave.
Dunmore, PA 18509
570-207-2662



FALLBROOK

185 Fallbrook St.
Carbondale, PA 18407
570-580-9765



HILLSIDE

1151 Winola Rd.
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
570-586-8996



JEFFERSON TWP.

487 Cortez Rd.
Jefferson Twp., PA 18436
570-586-8996



MID VALLEY

310 Church St.
Jessup, PA 18434
570-489-4415



SCRANTON

1004 Jackson St.
Scranton, PA 18504
570-961-1592 ext. 102



TAYLOR

700 South Main St.
Taylor, PA 18517
570-562-0400



THROOP

500 Sanderson St.
Throop, PA 18512
570-383-7906

FREE Federal, State, & Local Tax Preparation!

2023 family income was less than \$60,000! VITA e-filing is FREE and FAST! You may be eligible for up to \$7,430 in Earned Income Credits!

TO MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT, VISIT WWW.UWLC.NET APPOINTMENTS CAN BE MADE AFTER JANUARY 3, 2024 IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE, YOU MAY CALL 570-602-3133 OR 866-662-8887

MAKE SURE TO BRING THE FOLLOWING WITH YOU:

- Valid Photo ID • Social Security Cards for all individuals who will be claimed on the return • All W2's, 1099's, and Unemployment paperwork • Last Year's Return • Any records relating to income & expenses (business & rental income, dividends, interest, sale of stock) • A VOID personal check, if you would like direct deposit • Real estate tax receipts if you qualify for the rent/tax rebate • Form 8332 for non-custodial parents • Any documents relating to health insurance for the year! 1095-A, 1095-B, 1095-C!

WALK-INS ONLY

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON FIRST FLOOR, BRENNAN HALL 300 BLOCK OF MADISON AVE SCRANTON

*Please contact the University of Scranton for their schedule and more information on how they will operate this year! Their number is 570-941-4045

APPOINTMENTS ONLY

**KEYSER VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
103 N. KEYSER AVE SCRANTON, PA 18504**

Monday, February 5th, 12 pm-4 pm
Tuesday, February 6th, 9 am-3 pm
Thursday, February 8th, 9 am-3 pm
*SATURDAY, February 10th, 9 am-1 pm

Monday, February 12th, 12 pm-6 pm
Tuesday, February 13th, 9 am-3 pm
Thursday, February 15th, 9 am-3 pm
*SATURDAY, February 17th, 9 am-1 pm

Monday, February 19th, 12 pm-6 pm
Tuesday, February 20th, 9 am-3 pm
Thursday, February 22nd, 9 am-3 pm

Monday, February 26th, 12 pm-6 pm
Tuesday, February 27th, 9 am-3 pm

Monday, March 11th, 12 pm-6 pm
Tuesday, March 12th, 9 am-3 pm
Thursday, March 14th, 9 am-3 pm

Monday, March 18th, 12 pm-6 pm
Tuesday, March 19th, 9 am-3 pm
Thursday, March 21th, 9 am-3 pm

Monday, March 25th, 12 pm-6 pm
Tuesday, March 26th, 9 am-3 pm
Thursday, March 28th, 9 am-3 pm

Monday, April 1th, 12 pm-6 pm
Tuesday, April 2th, 9 am-3 pm
Thursday, April 4th, 9 am-3 pm

MOBILE LOCATIONS APPOINTMENTS ARE FOR SENIORS (65+) AND THOSE WITH MOBILITY ISSUES ONLY!

Abington Fire Hall

321 Bedford St. Clarks Summit, PA 18411
Monday, March 4th / 9:30 am-5:00 pm

Trinity Episcopal Church - Carbondale

58 River St. Carbondale, PA 18407
Thursday, March 7th / 9:30 am-5:00 pm
Friday, March 8th / 9:30 am-5:00 pm

North Pocono Library

1315 Church St. Moscow, PA 18444
Thursday, February 29th / 11 am-5:00 pm



United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne & Pike



PennState
Scranton