

PRIME TIME



Volume XXXIX, Number 6 - Nov/Dec 2013

LANCASTER COUNTY OFFICE OF AGING

Funds Available to Reduce Waiting List

As part of Governor Corbett's commitment to meeting the needs of older citizens, this year's state budget included significant increases in funding for expanding home and community based care. Specifically, \$20 million was allocated to 52 area agencies on aging across the Commonwealth to provide additional services to more people.

In Lancaster County more than \$1 million was added to the agency's 2013-2014 fiscal year budget, which will be used to dramatically reduce the existing waiting list of more than 350 individuals.



This funding increase—one of the largest in the history of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging—could not have come at a better time, since budget allocations for several consecutive years have remained flat while the demand for care and services has continually grown.

For more information about available in-home care or an assessment for such services, contact the Office of Aging by phone at 299-7979; email: aging@co.lancaster.pa.us; website: www.co.lancaster.pa.us/lanco_aging; or in person at 150 North Queen Street, Suite 415 of the County's Government Center.



Holiday Program Seeking Gift Cards

Gift cards from local grocery stores will again be distributed to consumers in need this holiday season. This allows recipients to purchase fresh foods or items specific to their tastes and dietary restrictions.

Those interested in participating can donate a gift card from Weis, Giant, Darrenkamp's or Musser's Markets in any amount up to \$25. Monetary contributions in the form of checks will also be gratefully accepted and should be made payable to the Lancaster County Office of Aging noting 'Holiday Program' on the memo line. Donations will be received until November 27 and may be dropped off during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm or mailed to the Lancaster County Office of Aging, 150 North Queen Street, Suite 415, Lancaster, PA 17603.

For more information contact Betty Sementelli or Kathy Kirchoff at 717-299-7979.

Pa Insurance Department Issues Consumer Alert

The following consumer alert has been issued from Governor Corbett and the Pennsylvania Insurance Department:

Now that the federal health exchange is online and has experienced well-publicized issues, scammers may pose as insurance agents or representatives of the federal government and try to sell fraudulent policies or obtain sensitive, confidential information.

Neither the federal government nor the state insurance department will be contacting individual consumers to sell them insurance. Do not give any sensitive information to anyone who claims to be with the federal government, your state insurance department or a navigator for the exchange.

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The Office of Aging will be closed:

Monday, November 11, 2013
(Veteran's Day)

Thursday, November 28, 2013
(Thanksgiving Day)

Friday, November 29, 2013



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Consumer Alert, cont. from page 1

Beware of unsolicited calls from scammers who claim to have your new “Obamacare” or Medicare insurance card and need personal information in order to send it. You are not required to obtain a new insurance or Medicare card under the Affordable Care Act. A legitimate representative will already have that information.

Here are some scenarios where healthcare scams could occur:

- Not using the appropriate website for the federal exchange. The federal exchange website is www.healthcare.gov. Don't trust any other website that asks you to enter personal data such as a Social Security number, bank account number or credit card information.
- Callers posing as navigators or certified application counselors trying to “sell” you an exchange policy. A navigator or a certified application counselor can be an individual or an organization trained to help you learn about the available choices and guide you through the application process once open enrollment begins. These parties cannot sell you a policy, nor can they recommend a specific insurance plan to you. Navigators are certified and trained by the federal government.

Lastly, do not be misled or tricked into believing everything you hear. Here are some “lies” to watch out for:

- **“Premium offer only good for a limited time.”** Enrollment in the exchanges will be open from Oct. 1 to March 31, and rates for plans in the exchanges will have been approved for the entire enrollment period.
- **“You could go to jail for not having health insurance.”** Starting in 2014, all Americans will be required to have health insurance. You will not face jail time if you do not purchase health insurance. However, those who remain uninsured and do not qualify for any exemptions will face a penalty of \$95 (for each adult) or 1 percent of family income, whichever is greater. In 2015, the penalty will increase to \$325 per adult or 2 percent of family income, and in 2016 and beyond, the penalty will be \$695 per adult or 2.5 percent of family income.

The Insurance Department has an educational website, www.pahealthoptions.com, which focuses on health insurance questions and all coverage options.


Consumers wishing to shop on the new federal exchange should use www.healthcare.gov.

Insurance consumers with questions, comments or concerns can visit the department's website at www.insurance.pa.gov to check licensed entities and file complaints. They can also use the department's toll-free consumer services number at 1-877-881-6388.

Senior Games

Lancaster Senior Games has forged a new alliance with On-Line Publishers, Inc. and the Lancaster County 50plus EXPO. For the first time ever, the Lancaster County Office of Aging and On-Line Publishers, Inc. will be working together to present **Lancaster Celebrates Seniors**.



This exciting, refreshed event will be held at:
 Spooky Nook Sports
2913 Spooky Nook Road, Manheim
(just off Rt. 283 at the Salunga exit)

Lancaster Senior Games will be held Monday thru Friday, May 5 - 9, 2014.

Lancaster County 50plus EXPO will be held on Monday, May 5, 2014, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Each event will continue to maintain its own identity. Combining these two organizations' events—each highly recognized in the senior community—together with the dynamic new location, Lancaster Celebrates Seniors will prove to be an enriching experience for the seniors of Lancaster County.

We look forward to seeing you again this year at Senior Games!

For more information, please call Betty Sementelli or Kathy Kirchoff at the Lancaster County Office of Aging at (717) 299-7979.

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PRIMETIME is a publication of the

Lancaster County Office of Aging

150 North Queen Street, Suite 415

Lancaster, PA 17603-3562

Hours are Monday through Friday **8:30 AM to 5:00 PM**

For information on programs, services or issues concerning older adults, stop in or call (717) 299-7979 or TOLL FREE at 1-800-801-3070 or visit the agency's web site at www.co.lancaster.pa.us/lanco_aging.

Senior Art Exhibit Winners

The 20th annual Senior Art Exhibit was displayed recently at the Suburban Outpatient Pavilion. Local art professionals judged the exhibit, which consisted of 81 art works in water-color, photography, pastel, acrylic, oil, and mixed media. Winners are:



Watercolor:

- 1st place: Beverly Felter – *Sycamore Sentry*
 2nd place: Judith Kozma – *Open for Business*
 3rd place: Carol Mastram – *Outer Space*

Photography:

- 1st place: Tony Harnish – *Golden Pond*
 2nd place: Tony Harnish – *Anxious Travel*
 3rd place: William Lau – *Paiutte Sunset*

Pastel:

- 1st place: Herbert Ackerman – *Belted Kingfisher Emerging*

Acrylic:

- 1st place: Doris Mooney – *American Eagle*
 2nd place: Thomas Santosusso – *Flowers for Your Birthday*
 3rd place: Marjorie Lovett – *Into the Woods*

Oil:

- 1st place: Sylvia Goodling – *Magnolia on Red*
 2nd place: Edward Mongeau, Jr. – *Boat Repair*
 3rd place: Sylvia Goodling – *Beethoven*

Mixed Media:

- 1st place: Betty Reiff – *By the Pond*
 2nd place: Janet Ray – *Autumn Leaves*
 3rd place: Robert Davenport, Sr. – *Springtime at the Mill*

Peoples' Choice Award

- Marjorie Maninger – *The Old Mill Stream*

Fuel Assistance Available

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income people pay their heating bills. This year's program began in mid-October and is scheduled to end on March 14, 2014.

Eligibility for the program is based on household income, including Social Security, SSI, wages, pensions, interest from savings or investments, Veterans' benefits, unemployment compensation, public assistance, child support, Black Lung benefits, and any other forms of income received.

The program provides a one-time grant toward heating costs to qualified individuals. There is no resource limit or asset limit, and you need not have an unpaid heating bill to receive this help. LIHEAP grants are not considered public assistance, and no lien is placed on your property.

Beginning January 2, 2014, additional money (a "crisis grant") may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your heat. Emergency situations include broken heating equipment, lack of fuel, and termination of utility service.



Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Income limits for the 2013-2014 heating season are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 person—\$17,235 | 3 persons—\$29,295 |
| 2 persons—\$23,265 | 4 persons—\$35,325 |

Add \$6,030 for each additional person in the household.

In addition to a completed application, proof of all income and a copy of a fuel bill identifying the applicant's fuel dealer must also be submitted to the County Assistance Office. The amount of the grant awarded is based on the applicant's income. Payments are made directly to the fuel dealer or utility company.

Individuals may apply online at www.compass.state.pa.us. Paper applications are available at the County Assistance Office, the Office of Aging, or by calling the LIHEAP Hotline at 1-866-857-7095.

Persons 60 years of age or older who have questions about LIHEAP or who need help completing an application may stop by or call 299-7979.

Job Opportunities E.O.E.

Age 55 or over? Unemployed? The 55+ Job Bank is one of three services offered by the Employment Unit at the Office of Aging. Jobs are matched with those looking for work. Based on an evaluation of your skills and abilities, we can match you with a position needed by a local employer. Some employers are specifically looking for older workers because of the reliability and experience they bring to the work place. There is a mix of full-time and part-time jobs covering all shifts, requiring varying levels of skill and experience, and offering a wide range of salaries. The other services available through the Office of Aging are the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and the regularly scheduled Job Search Workshops.

Assistant Store Manager – FT

Retail coffee company is looking for a customer focused person to assist in all store operations including supervising a team devoted to maintaining the brand experience for its clients. Need 2 yrs. experience and very good communications/problem solving skills.

PT100055.01

Receptionist – PT

Retirement community seeking person to greet/assist residents, visitors and staff. Answer multi-line phone, data entry and handle special projects. Requires 2 yrs. of related work experience, good computer ability, and excellent organizational/communications skills.

PT100056.02

Corporate Account Manager - FT

Resort/tourist destination seeks an individual to assist in increasing the corporate client base using consistent solicitations aimed at establishing rapport/trust with new and existing accounts. Requires BA degree or 8 yrs. related experience and good computer skills.

PT100067.03

Program Assistant – PT

Eldercare services firm needs a person to lend physical assistance/attendant care to seniors in variable settings, including nursing, therapy, personal care, activities and meals. Also provides back-up driver transport services for participants. Need diploma/GED.

PT100072.04

VIEW OUR JOB LIST: We list jobs on the Web at www.co.lancaster.pa.us/lanco_aging.

To learn more about applying for the 55+ Job Bank and these jobs, call the Employment Unit at 299-7979.

Designated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as the Area Agency on Aging for Lancaster County, the Office of Aging is mandated to provide coordinated services to residents age 60 or over and committed to meeting the many needs of older adults, their families, and the community in which they live. Our goal is to assist all older adults maintain their health, safety, and independence.