

Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. Newsletter

January 2026



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- As we welcome in 2026, our wish for you is for a new year filled with joy, peace and happiness.

Our mission is to keep you as active and independent as possible. One of the ways we do this is to make activities available to our older adults through our Senior Centers. We have four Centers located throughout Mercer County and transportation is available through Mercer County Community Transit to get you there!

The Senior Centers offer a wide variety of activities each day (Monday through Friday) to keep you active and engaged with other older adults in your community. There you will find book clubs, card clubs, exercise programs, health and wellness classes, educational classes, art and crafts, lunch and socialization with your peers. It is a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and make new friends. More importantly, you can keep your mind active and your spirit light. Check out our website for more information about the services offered at the senior centers.

If you are already participating at one of our four Senior Centers, we hope you find some of that joy we wish for you. Our Senior Centers are free and open to all Mercer County residents who are 60 or older. The programs enjoyed by those who attend, are provided by you through your daily donations, donations from families and friends, community organizations and fundraisers. All of those donations go directly to enhancing activities offered at the Centers. Our other funding provides for the building upkeep, maintenance, utilities, and staffing.

So a great big THANK YOU! to all who are able to donate to the Centers.

We appreciate your generous support of the programs offered to our older adult population!

If you haven't been to one of our Senior Centers, why not start out the new year with a resolution to try it. I think you will like it! Stop in to get a calendar of activities and events or go to our website.

Best Wishes in 2026! *Sandy Swogger, CEO*

2025 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Applications Open January 15, 2026



The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue will open the application period for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate (PTRR) Program on January 15, 2026.

This program provides rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2025 for eligible Pennsylvanians.

Application forms and instructions will be available beginning that date.

For the fastest processing, applicants are encouraged to file online through myPATH, which offers a secure application and automatic calculations to help reduce errors.

How to Apply

Apply Online (Recommended)

Submit your application through myPATH starting January 15, 2026.

Fastest and most secure option with built-in error checks.

Apply by Mail

Order forms online or download and print a paper application.

Mail your completed claim form, proof of income, and required documentation to: PA Department of Revenue Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program P.O. Box 280503 Harrisburg, PA 17128-0503

Tips for faster processing:

Do not staple documents

Sign the claim form

Include all required documentation (tax receipts for homeowners; PA-1000 RC for renters)

First-time filers must include proof of age and/or permanent disability

Apply In Person

In-person assistance is available at hundreds of locations across Pennsylvania, including local senior centers.

Applicants are encouraged to call ahead to schedule an appointment.

If you think you may be eligible, mark your calendar for January 15 and apply early to receive your rebate as quickly as possible.

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Now Underway, PA MEDI Is Here to Help

The annual Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period runs from January 1 to March 31. During this time, beneficiaries who have a Medicare Advantage plan can switch to a different plan or to original Medicare. Changes to their enrollment will take effect on the first of the month following the month in which they enroll.

Pennsylvania Medicare Education and Decision Insight, or PA MEDI, Pennsylvania's Medicare counseling program, is available through local Area Agencies on Aging to help seniors with their Medicare questions. Older adults can receive unbiased, no-cost Medicare assistance from trained PA MEDI counselors who can walk them through their options to assist in making informed health insurance decisions that optimize their cost-savings and access to health care and benefits.

PA MEDI counselors do not sell Medicare insurance products, nor do they endorse any insurance company, product, or agent. Counselors will not recommend policies, companies, or insurance agents but will provide free, confidential, and unbiased personalized assistance.

Older adults can contact their local Area Agency on Aging to schedule a personalized counseling session. For more information, call the toll-free PA MEDI Helpline at 1-800-783-7067 from 8 AM to 5 PM Monday through Friday.

Mercer County News

Mercer County Commissioner's Public Meeting Schedule

Join us on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month at 3:00 pm for the Commissioner's Public Meetings. These meetings are held at the Courthouse in the Assembly Room, and can also be viewed live online, or later through our archives.

Please Note: the January 2026 meetings are not on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays -- they are on 1/8 and 1/22.

Attend the Board of Commissioners' Public Meetings Remotely!

Commissioners' meetings take place at 3:00 pm on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Citizens who wish to attend these meetings but cannot do so in person, now have two remote options:

Join Meeting Online:

[Link to Online Meeting](#)

Meeting number: 2630 881 2509

Password: mK2EvvtTR25

Join Meeting By Phone:

[+1-650-479-3208](#)

Access code: 2630 881 2509

Host PIN: 5407

PLEASE NOTE: ALL MEETINGS WILL BE RECORDED AND WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE COUNTY WEBSITE FOR FUTURE VIEWING. SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE BY SUBMITTING A QUESTION DURING THE MEETING, IT WILL BE RECORDED AS WELL.

2026 TOWN HALL MEETINGS

The Board of Commissioners will hold three Town Hall Meetings in 2026. The following dates are confirmed.

Details on the locations will be available soon.

Tuesday, February 17, Tuesday, May 19, Tuesday, September 22

JANUARY 2026 TAX REASSESSMENT UPDATE—Mercer County

Mid-to-late January: Value notices mailed to property owners.

Mid-February: Informal reviews of value notices begin. These can be scheduled to take place in person in Mercer or remotely.

*Information on how to schedule an informal review will be included in the value notice mailing. Be sure to read this information carefully.

During the informal review, property owners will be able to talk with a Tyler Technology representative about why they disagree with the information on the value mailer.

SilverShield: Fast, Simple Scam Protection

SilverShield is a user-friendly scam detection and protection service designed to help individuals, families, and communities stay safe from fraud — without needing a complex app.

Key Features at a Glance:

Instant Scam Help by Text or Email

Not sure if a message is real? Just text or forward suspected scams to SilverShield — no app or Wi-Fi required. You'll get a fast, easy-to-understand assessment 24/7.

Personalized Protection Plans

SilverShield offers custom response plans and trusted guidance to help you know exactly what to do after spotting a scam. Automated protection for texts, calls, and social media is coming soon.

Designed for Everyone

The service is intuitive and caregiver-friendly, making it especially helpful for older adults and those supporting them.

Community Alerts & Easy Reporting

With one-tap notifications, you can warn family or neighbors about active scams and auto-file reports to agencies like the FTC and FBI — all without wrestling with complex forms.

Pricing:

Standard (\$5/mo): Instant scam validation, guided responses, warning tools, and one-click reporting.

Premium+ (\$20/mo, coming soon): Automatic scam detection across calls, SMS, email, social media, and family usage analytics.

Why It Matters:

With scams on the rise and complex threats targeting people of all ages, SilverShield's mix of instant help, simple workflows, and community-based reporting give users confidence and control — without clunky apps or technical hurdles.



DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR LIHEAP APPLICATION BEFORE APRIL 10, 2026.

Check your SNAP Work Requirements!

Use the online screening tool to see if you must meet the new requirements and learn more: dhs.pa.gov/work. Do You Need to Follow New SNAP Work and Reporting Requirements? SNAP recipients must report at least 20 hours of work, education training, or volunteering per week (or 80 hours per month) if they:

- Are 18-64 years old
- Do not have a dependent child under 14
- Are physically and mentally able to work

SNAP recipients who do not meet these requirements can only receive three months of SNAP benefits within a three-year period. Learn more dhs.pa.gov/work

Are You Exempt from Work Requirements? You may be exempt from the new SNAP work and reporting requirements if you meet an exemption such as: Living in a SNAP household with a child under 14, Unable to work because of a physical or mental health condition, Pregnant, Needed in the home to care for an ill or disabled person, Receiving (or applied for) Unemployment Compensation, Unable to work because of domestic violence, Participating in a drug or alcohol treatment program, Homeless, living in a shelter, or staying with family or friends for 90 days or less, Temporarily unemployed and expect to return to work in 60 days

Are you a Grandparent Raising your Grandchild in Pennsylvania?

The PA Grandparents
Raising Grandchildren
Legal Line is here for you.



1-877-727-7529 Statewide



Pennsylvania
Department of Aging

Mobile Pantry Monthly Schedule

SANDY LAKE

Sandy Lake Presbyterian Church

1st Wednesdays

- 11am–1pm

GREENVILLE

St. John's Lutheran Church

2nd Thursdays

- 11am–1pm

TRANSFER

Reynolds Drive-In Theater

3rd Fridays

- 12–2pm

*Dates and times are subject to change.

Distributions are first come first serve to income
eligible Mercer County recipients
until quantities run out.

Caregiving journeys are unique, but shared experiences can help.



CAREGIVER RESOURCES

The Many Faces of Caregiving

Explore some of the common
caregiver stories from others. Find
reassurance, advice, and resources
for your situation.

PA CareKit

pa.gov/CareKit



Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

ADULT DAY SERVICES

220 N. Buhl Farm Drive, Hermitage, PA 16148

For every person enrolled in an adult day care program,
two people get their lives back:
the Individual and the Caregiver.

Visiting a Center will prove that life does not end with a diagnosis.
Adult Day Services can serve as the cornerstone
of community-based long-term living.

Adult Day Care Programs are designed
to serve adults experiencing a decrease in
physical, mental and social functioning.

The Adult Day environment
recognizes and attends to emotional and intellectual needs,
as well as physical needs.

If you think this program
can help you and your loved one,
call 724-981-7950 or email adc@mercercountyaging.org.

Open Monday through Friday.



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

**MERCER COUNTY AREA
AGENCY ON AGING, INC.**

Are you caring for an aging person?

Please consider joining the Caregiver Support Group. The support group will provide education, support, and resources to caregivers.



**Feeling isolated,
burnt out, or
stressed with
caring for your
loved one? Come
join our support
group!**

**Meetings held the
second
Wednesday of the
month at 5:00pm**

**Please call to reserve
your seat by calling:**

(724)458-6844

Support Group Meetings

**Location:
Grove City Senior
Community Center
301 South Broad Street
Grove City, PA 16127**

WE'RE HIRING!



Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

Are you looking to make a difference?
Consider joining our team and make a difference
in the lives of older adults in Mercer County.

Full-time and part-time positions available:

- Assessor
- Care Manager
- Long-term Care Ombudsman/ PA MEDI Counselor
- Protective Services Investigator
- Senior Center Aide
- Senior Center Director

**If you are passionate about improving the lives of others,
we want to hear from you!**



For more information about our mission, services or job offerings,
check our website at www.mercercountyaging.org or scan the QR
Code. Call 724-662-6222 or email admin@mercercountyaging.org.

Senior Resources

AARP (www.aarp.org)— The National site for AARP a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization for people, ages 50 and older. Call 1-888-687-2277

Benefits Checkup (www.benefitscheckup.org)— An online questionnaire to help search for a list of all state and federal benefits.

COMPASS (Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Application for Social Services [www.compass.state.pa.us])— Enables Pennsylvania citizens to apply for social service programs online. Call 1-800-692-7462.

Medicare (www.medicare.gov)—The official government site for Medicare consumer information. Call 1-800-633-4227

Mental Health Services

Do you need to talk to someone about loneliness or depression?

Locally:

Mercer County Crisis:
724-662-2227

Community Counseling Center Warm Line:
724-981-1741
1-866-853-7758

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
Dial 988 –or- 1-800-273-8255

Veteran Crisis Line: Call 988 then press 1.

Don't forget to check our website!

www.mercercountyaging.org

PRESCRIPTION ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY 		
Call: 800-225-7223	PACE	PACENET
Age 65+	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PA Resident for at least 90 days	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Individual Income	under 14,500	between 14,500-33,500
Married Income	under 17,700	between 17,700-41,500

Local Volunteer Opportunities:

Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

724-662-6222

American Red Cross 1-800-422-7677

Meals on Wheels 724-342-2042

United Way of Mercer County 724-981-1884

Mercer County Food Bank 724-981-0353

MCAAA, Inc. Contact Information:

www.mercercountyaging.org



Administration / Care Management /

Older Adult Protective Services

133 N. Pitt Street, Mercer, PA 16137

724-662-6222

Greenville Senior Community Center

45 Alan Avenue, Greenville, PA 16125

724-588-3155

Grove City Senior Community Center

301 S. Broad Street, Grove City, PA 16127

724-458-6844

McQuiston Center by the Park

29 Railroad Street, Sandy Lake, PA 16145

724-376-3608

Shenango Valley Senior Center

and Adult Day Care

220 N. Buhl Farm Drive, Hermitage, PA 16148

724-981-7950