



Calling All Older Artists: Submit Your Work for the Older Artists of PA Showcase

The Pennsylvania Department of Aging and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts are now accepting works of art created by Pennsylvanians aged 60 and older for the first-ever Older Artists of PA Showcase.

The deadline to submit artwork is Friday, April 4.

The exhibition will display winning pieces selected by a three-person panel from each of the five regions across the Commonwealth in the State Capitol East Wing Rotunda during the month of May, which is observed nationally as Older Americans Month.

Both professional and non-professional artists based in Pennsylvania are invited to contribute up to two pieces of art for consideration. There is no cost to enter and the pieces must have been produced within the past 18 months. In addition to hanging their work in the showcase, the winning older adults will also have the opportunity to sell their pieces throughout the month of May. Artists can submit their work online or by mail to Jessie Pierce, Executive Director, PA Council on Aging, c/o PA Department of Aging, 555 Walnut St., 5th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

March: National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

March is recognized as **National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month**, a time dedicated to increasing awareness about colorectal cancer, the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S. This month serves as a reminder of the importance of early detection, prevention, and treatment options.

Colorectal cancer affects both men and women, typically developing from precancerous polyps in the colon or rectum. The good news is that it is **highly preventable** with regular screening, such as colonoscopies, which can detect and remove polyps before they turn cancerous. The **American Cancer Society recommends** that adults begin regular screenings at age 45, or earlier for those with a family history or risk factors.

Adopting a **healthy lifestyle**—including a diet rich in fiber, regular exercise, and avoiding smoking and excessive alcohol consumption—can also reduce the risk of developing colorectal cancer.

Throughout March, healthcare organizations, advocacy groups, and survivors come together to **spread awareness**, encourage screenings, and support research efforts. One way to show support is by wearing **blue**, the official color of colorectal cancer awareness, and participating in local events and fundraisers.

By raising awareness and promoting early detection, we can save lives. If you haven't scheduled your screening yet, now is the perfect time to do so!

AARP's Free Tax Assistance

Please find the following options to schedule an appointment near you.

Mercer Area

East End Fire Department:

DATE & TIME

WE: 09:00 AM - 01:30 PM

TH: 09:00 AM - 01:30 PM

ADDRESS: 104 Wilson Avenue, MERCER, PA, 16137

SERVICE TYPE In-Person

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

To schedule call 724-300-3112.

If you are instructed to leave a voicemail please only leave one.

West Middlesex Area

DATE & TIME

WE: 09:00 AM - 01:30 PM

TH: 09:00 AM - 01:30 PM

ADDRESS: 3747 NEW CASTLE RD,

WEST MIDDLESEX, PA, 16159

SERVICE TYPE In-Person

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

To schedule call 724-418-4119.

If you are instructed to leave a voicemail please only leave one.

Hermitage Area

HICKORY VFW POST 6166:

DATE & TIME

MO: 09:00 AM - 01:30 PM

TU: 09:00 AM - 01:30 PM

ADDRESS: 5550 E STATE ST, HERMITAGE, PA, 16148

SERVICE TYPE In-Person

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED

To schedule call 724-815-0206.

If you are instructed to leave a voicemail please only leave one.



Understanding the Pennsylvania Medicare Savings Program

The Pennsylvania Medicare Savings Program (MSP) helps low-income Medicare beneficiaries pay for their healthcare expenses. This program assists with Medicare Part B premiums and, in some cases, deductibles and copayments, reducing the financial burden on eligible individuals.

There are three main MSP categories:

- Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) – Covers Part A and B premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments.
- Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) – Pays for Part B premiums.
- Qualified Individual (QI) – Also assists with Part B premiums but has a limited number of slots available each year.

To qualify, applicants must meet specific income and resource limits, which are updated annually.

This program provides essential support for seniors and disabled individuals, ensuring they can access healthcare without financial hardship.

For more information, call PA MEDI at 724-662-6222.

HELP FOR HEATING LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is open from November 4, 2024 through April 4, 2025.

LIHEAP grants range from \$200 to \$1,000

CRISIS maximum grant \$1,000*

*Must have a shut off notice or service denial letter

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Who qualifies for LIHEAP?

The 2024/2025 LIHEAP Income Guidelines:

Household Size	Monthly Maximum Income Limit	Annual Maximum Income Limit
1	\$1,882	\$22,590
2	\$2,555	\$30,660
3	\$3,227	\$38,730
4	\$3,900	\$46,800
5	\$4,572	\$54,870
6	\$5,245	\$62,940
Additional members add	\$672 each	\$8,070 each
For income limits for larger households, visit www.LIHEAPhelps.com		

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How to apply? It's easier than ever! Depending on your circumstances, you may apply:

- **Online** - www.LIHEAPhelps.com.
- **By mail** – Download an application at www.compass.state.pa.us.
- **In person** – Applications are taken at all local County Assistance Offices.
- **For more information**, call the LIHEAP hotline at **1-866-857-7095**.
- **By telephone** - Contact the local County Assistance Office.

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What will you need to apply?

- Names of people in your household
- Dates of birth for all household members
- Social Security Numbers for all household members
- Proof of income for members of your household
- A recent heating bill
- Dates of birth for all household members
- Termination notice or denial letter for CRISIS

The best time to plan is before the emergency.



Preparing Together in
Greenville Senior Center



Monday, April 14 at 10:30 A.M.
45 Alan Ave, Greenville, PA
Sign up Today!
(724) 588-3155

During this free Preparing Together workshop, learn what you may want in a “Go Kit” or how to protect your pets. You will decide what you need to be prepared.

Our community emergency management representatives will be here to help answer questions.

You will leave the workshop with an emergency plan workbook that you have started and a flashlight.

The workbook has a magnet on the back so you can keep your plan handy to have when you need it.



Preparing Together was developed by Salvation Army, Disaster Services to help older adults make an emergency plan in a safe, learning environment. Materials for this FREE workshop are provided by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.



UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

National Consumer Protection Week 2025



DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING TO?

NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK:
MARCH 2-8, 2025

As part of National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) March 2-8, postal inspectors are reminding consumers: Beware of the person on the other end of that digital communication — they might not be who they claim to be.

With a few simple tips, consumers can protect themselves from imposter scams:



Take your time to make financial decisions. Whether it's investments or unsolicited offers, like the lottery or sweepstakes, don't rush into sending your money to someone you don't know.



Is it really a representative from your bank sending that email or text? To be certain, call your bank at the number you were given when you opened your account. Don't call a number that you haven't verified, and never click on any links in an email or text.



Grandparents: Before sending money to help your grandchildren who find themselves in a desperate situation, call them or their parents at a number you recognize to confirm they sent you a message.



If you meet someone over the internet who professes their love for you right away, but needs financial assistance to meet you, exit the conversation as quickly as you can.



The Postal Service will NEVER send you an unsolicited text. Any text or email claiming you have a USPS delivery problem is designed to steal your personal information. Delete these messages, but before you do, send the bogus text or email to spam@uspis.gov.



Put your phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry at 1-888-382-1222 or at www.donotcall.gov.



If you are a victim of a scam or suspect fraud, report it: Submit an online report to the Inspection Service or call us at 877-876-2455.

Remembering these simple tips will help keep consumers' personal information and finances safe.



FRAUD SQUAD ALERT

TAX SCAMS & IRS PHONE SCAM

\$1,400 rebate TEXT from the IRS? It's a scam!

If you get a text claiming you're due a \$1,400 stimulus check from what looks to be the IRS, **don't click on any links**. The text is a scam! The IRS doesn't send text messages. Yet criminals are impersonating the IRS to trick taxpayers into sharing personal information by texting them fake alerts of their eligibility for extra money.

The devious texts have a truthful air, as they are connected to recent news. In late December, the IRS said it was sending \$2.4 million in total to 1 million people to cover those who didn't get all of their federal stimulus checks during the pandemic.

BUT, the payments — a maximum of \$1,400 per recipient — **are automatic** and those getting them were sent a letter by the IRS, with most of the payments expected to have arrived by late January, 2025. The money involves taxpayers who did not claim the Recovery Rebate Credit on their 2021 tax returns. **NO ACTION** is required from those taxpayers.

HOW THE SCAM WORKS:

You get a text from what looks to be the IRS claiming you're eligible for a \$1,400 Economic Impact Payment and that you should provide your personal information to have the money deposited into your bank account or mailed by check within 1 to 2 business days.

The phishing scam contains a fake link that mimics an official IRS website. Clicking on it could lead to malware or a fraudulent form asking for personal or financial information. **Be aware that the IRS would never request information in this way — it does not contact taxpayers by text, email or social media.**

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

- **Verify communications:** Real IRS notices are sent through postal mail, not texts or emails.

- **Avoid clicking links:** Never click on links in unsolicited messages. Instead go to IRS.gov.
- **Be cautious of urgency:** Scammers create a sense of urgency to make you act quickly. Take time to confirm claims independently.
- **Report the scam.** Forward suspicious messages to phishing@irs.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Look up the number for your local IRS office or go to <https://www.irs.gov>

OTHER COMMON TAX SCAMS

COVID-19 Pandemic Schemes
 Credits and Refunds Misinformation
 Disaster Fraud
 Dishonest Tax Preparers
 Email and Text Message
 Impersonators

Social Media Bad Tax Advice
 Tax Dept. Settlement or Relief Services
 Unclaimed Tax Refund
 Unemployment Claims Identity Theft
 Unexpected Tax Bill
 W-2 Form Fraud

WARNING SIGNS

Scammers mislead you about tax refunds, credits and payments. They pressure you for personal, financial or employment information or money. **WATCH OUT FOR:**

- **A big payday** - If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Bad tax advice on social media may try to convince you to lie on tax forms or mislead you about credits you can claim.
- **Demands or threats** - Impersonators want you to pay “now or else.” They threaten arrest or deportation. They don’t let you question or appeal the amount of tax you owe.
- **Website links** - Odd or misspelled web links can take you to harmful sites instead of IRS.gov.

To schedule a presentation for 2025, give us a call.

SENIOR JUSTICE ADVOCATES

◆ Cyndie Carioli	(412) 983-0729	CyndieatDA@gmail.com
◆ Joe Giuffre	(412) 427-3770	JoeatDA@gmail.com
◆ Dick Skrinjar	(412) 350-4400	DickatDA@gmail.com

Apply for Property Tax and Rent Rebates for 2024 – Deadline June 30, 2025

The Department of Revenue has officially opened the application period for property tax and rent rebates for the year 2024. If you paid property taxes or rent in 2024 and meet the eligibility criteria, you may qualify for a rebate. Be sure to submit your application by June 30, 2025 to take advantage of this benefit.

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate, you must meet the following requirements:

Age Criteria:

- 65 and older.
- Widows and widowers 50 and older.
- People with disabilities 18 and older.

Income Criteria:

Your household income must be \$46,520 or less annually.

Required Documents:

To ensure your application is complete and accurate, gather the following documents before applying:

- Proof of age.
- Proof of disability (if applicable).
- Proof of death (if applicable).
- Proof of income.
- Proof of taxes paid.
- Proof of rent paid – a completed Rent Certificate (PA-1000 RC) is required.
- Copies of a will, deed, decree of distribution, or trust agreement proving property ownership.
- DEX-41 if filing on behalf of a deceased individual.

Important Note:

Be sure to submit all necessary documents to avoid delays in processing your application. You have until June 30, 2025, to apply for this rebate, so make sure you don't miss out!

If you need assistance or have questions regarding the application process, please don't hesitate to reach out to any senior center near you or by calling 724-662-6222.



MERCER COUNTY FOOD BANK



Mobile Pantry • 2025 Schedule



Sandy Lake, PA

Sandy Lake Presbyterian Church • 3461 Sandy Lake New Lebanon Rd.

from 11am–1pm

or until supplies last

- Jan 8*
- Feb 5
- March 5
- April 2
- May 7
- June 4
- July 2
- Aug 6
- Sept 3
- Oct 1
- Nov 5
- Dec 3



Greenville, PA

St. John's Lutheran Church • 10 Beil Hill Rd.

from 11am–1pm

or until supplies last

- Jan 9
- Feb 13
- March 13
- April 10
- May 8
- June 12
- July 10
- Aug 14
- Sept 11
- Oct 9
- Nov 13
- Dec 11



Reynolds, PA

Reynolds Drive-In Theater
3706 N Hermitage Rd

from 12pm–2pm

or until supplies last


- Jan 17
- Feb 21
- March 21
- April 18
- May 16
- June 20
- July 18
- Aug 15
- Sept 19
- Oct 17
- Nov 21
- Dec 19

If you are in need of food, but are unable to attend a Mobile Pantry distribution, we can help connect you with a local member agency for assistance. Visit [mercercountyfoodbank.org](https://www.mercercountyfoodbank.org) or call 724-981-0353.

2025 MERCER COUNTY SENIOR GAMES

Hosted by Mercer County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

 Join us for fun, friendly competition, and community spirit!

 **Date:** June 2 – June 14, 2025

 **Who Can Participate?**


Mercer County residents age 55+

Events include Horseshoes, Tennis, Bowling, Basketball Shoot, Golf, Pickleball, Track & Field, Cornhole, Dart Baseball, Shuffleboard.

 **Get Involved!**

Want to receive updates, volunteer, or become a sponsor?

 Email: admin@mercercountyaging.org

 Call: 724-662-6222

Let's make this year's Senior Games the best one yet!

Mark your calendars and get ready for some great competition and fun!

Your Voice Can Make a Difference: Help Improve Resident Care

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Transformation Office, is committed to ensuring the highest quality of care for all nursing home residents. We need your feedback to continue advocating for improvements in care!

Take the Survey – It's Quick and Easy!

Simply scan the QR code below to share your thoughts about the care and services you or your loved one receive at your local nursing home. Your input directly supports the effort to improve care standards across Pennsylvania.

Why Participate?

- **Shape the Future** – Help us improve nursing home care throughout Pennsylvania.
- **Ensure Better Care** – Make sure the needs of all residents are met.
- **Support Change** – Aid the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Transformation Office in enhancing nursing home standards statewide.



Your feedback is essential!

Together, we can make a real difference in the quality of care for residents.

If you need assistance, please contact your local Long-Term Care Ombudsman at (724) 662-6222.

The Office of Long Term Living (OLTL) has [announced](#) an increase in the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) amounts for individuals residing in long-term care facilities in 2025.

The PNA is a small amount of money that people living in long-term care facilities, like nursing homes, can keep each month. This money is set aside specifically for their personal expenses, such as buying clothes, toiletries, or other personal items.

The increased PNAs for 2025 is:

Long-Term Care Facility Residents: In 2025, the PNA for residents in long-term care (LTC) facilities has increased from \$45.00 to \$60.00 per month.

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.



"March: Where winter and spring argue every day!"



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