Wayne County Area Agency on Aging

November

2023

Find us on the web at https/waynecountypa.gov/101/human-services

Issue 159







WHAT IS THE LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP is a grant. You do not have to repay it.

LIHEAP offers both cash and crisis grants. Families may apply for cash grants that help pay heating bills The one-time payment is sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider, and it will be credited on your bill. (In some cases, the check may be mailed to you directly.) Cash grants range from \$300-\$1000 and are based on household size, income, and fuel type. Crisis grants may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your heat. You can receive more than one Crisis grant, as necessary, during the season until the maximum benefit of \$1000 is reached. Crisis situations include broken heating equipment of leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced, lack of fuel, termination of utility service, danger of being without fuel (less than a 15 day supply) or having utility service terminated (received a notice that service will be shut off within the next 60 days).

The income limit for LIHEAP is 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Limit; for an individual, that is a gross income of \$21,870 per year, and for a family of four, that is a gross income of \$45,000 per year. (Add \$7,710 per additional family member.) One does not need to know their own eligibility in order to apply, and those who have applied and were denied previously but have experienced a change in circumstances can reapply.

Pennsylvanians can apply for LIHEAP beginning November 1, 2023 (ending April 5, 2024) and other public assistance programs online at www.dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS, by phone toll-free at 1-866-550-4355, or in person at a County Assistance office. The Wayne County Assistance Office is located at 15 Innovation Drive, Lake Ariel, PA 18436, telephone number 570-253-7118.



The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) is warning seniors about a Medicaid texting scam.

One message coming from a company called Health Solutions alerts the person of needing to review their plan. Another message, from Innovative Partners, requests bank information to pay a balance.

These messages targeting seniors are all red flags for fraudulent messages from phony companies.

Department of Human Services Press secretary Brandon Cwalina says DHS will send text messages from time to time, but never requesting personal information or banking information. "How much you're authorized to receive, what your premiums are, things like that. We will never request specific personal information, especially banking information," Cwalina said.

Consumers are advised to call DHS to report scam text messages. Their customer service number is 1-877-395-8930.

There are 3.5 million people who receive Medicaid and SNAP benefits in Pennsylvania. DHS doesn't know how many people have been contacted by these fake companies, but the state inspector general is investigating it.



NOVE	MBER	Suggested meal price: \$2.50 for 60 and over; \$5.50 all others. Milk is included. Menu subject to change due to availability.							
BACK Your	Happy- anksgiving 3 TERANS Day	1) Roast pork Cabbage & Noodles Carrots Wheat bread/butter Fresh orange	2) Orange juice Fish sticks Macaroni & cheese Stewed tomatoes Wheat bread/butter Peaches <i>NW: Juice, Tuna fish</i> <i>sandwich, bean sal- ad, applesauce</i>	3) Sloppy Joe on wheat hamburger bun Red-skinned potatoes California-blend veg. Applesauce					
6) Breaded fish Baby potatoes Green beans Wheat bread/butter Mandarin oranges	7) Tuscan chicken Veggie pasta w/sauce White beans w/ col- lard greens Wheat bread/butter Fresh apple	8) Meatloaf Scalloped potatoes Roasted broccoli Wheat bread/butter Cantaloupe	9) Veterans Day Orange juice Creamed ham/biscuit Mashed potatoes Carrots Rye bread/butter Red white blue dessert	10) CLOSED					
13) Salisbury steak/gravy Mashed potatoes Broccoli Wheat bread/butter Fresh apple	14) Ham/potato casserole Cauliflower Rye bread/butter Applesauce	15) Orange juice Chicken & biscuit w/ Gravy Red-skinned mashed potatoes Spinach Pudding	16) Thanksgiving Dinner Cranberry juice Roast turkey/gravy Cornbread stuffing Mashed sweet pota- toes Broccoli Pumpkin pie w/ Whipped topping	17) Spinach cheese bake Roast potato wedges Winter-blend veg. Wheat bread/butter Fresh orange					
20) Vegetarian lasagna Italian-blend veg. Italian bread/butter Fresh orange	21) Baked chicken Potato pancakes Red cabbage Rye bread/butter Fresh cantaloupe	22) Juice Shepherd's pie Cauliflower Rye bread/butter Chocolate pudding	23) Closed Thanksgiving Day	24) No congregate meals today, and Hamlin & Hawley Centers are closed.					
27) Orange juice Cheese omelet Sausage patty Breakfast potatoes Wheat bread/butter Fresh apple	28) Orange juice Turkey pot pie Mashed potatoes Carrots Biscuit Pumpkin mousse	29) Pork Cantonese Cauliflower rice Stir fry vegetables Wheat bread/butter Fresh fruit cup	30) Hamburger stew Creamed spinach Biscuit Cantaloupe						

Legend: **Northern Wayne

To make a reservation, please call the center of interest one day prior by 1:00 PM.

Hamlin—570-689-3766; Hawley—570-226-4209; Honesdale—570-253-4262



The homebound meal program has several announcements:

- Starting the week of October 30, all homebound meals will be frozen. You will receive one delivery each week. All of your meals will be delivered on that delivery day. There will be no set day for your delivery.
- The winter months are approaching, and it is time to prepare for those days when your homebound meals will not be delivered. The homebound meal delivery program runs along with the Wayne Highlands School District. When the Wayne Highlands School District closes for inclement weather, you will not be receiving delivery on that day.
- For the months of December, January, and February you will receive a box containing three emergency meals. These meals are for the days when the homebound meal program does not deliver to you due to inclement weather. You will receive a box on the first full week of December, January and February.



Wayne County Transportation System's Consumers-

If the schools are closed for inclement weather which affects roads and travel, the Senior Centers, Home Delivered Meals and County Transportation System will not operate.

Wayne Highlands School District: ALL Centers closed.

Western Wayne School District only: Hamlin Center closed.



Wallenpaupack School District only: Hawley Center & Adult Day program closed.

If the schools are closed for other reasons (i.e. power outages), a determination will be made if the Centers, Home Delivered Meals and Transportation will operate. This will be announced on local radio (Bold Gold Media), TV (WBRE) and the County website (www.waynecountypa.gov) as early in the morning as possible, no later than 7:00 a.m.

If the schools have a delay for inclement weather, the Senior Centers and Home Delivered Meals will work a normal schedule with no delay. Transportation will attempt to run as close to schedule as possible.

PLEASE NOTE: The only time the offices will close is when the Courthouse closes. Home Delivered Meals may not be delivered if clients' sidewalks or driveways are not clear. Transportation may cancel your ride if the local roads are not plowed or safe to transport – even if the department is open/operating during inclement weather or questionable road conditions. A determination will be made on a case by case basis. *Early closing of schools will be considered on a case by case basis.*

Hamlin Senior Center

Election Day - 11/07/23- CENTER CLOSED - POLLING PLACE Chair Yoga - Mon. at 1 PM - 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27 Fun in Games - Mon. & Tues., 8 AM - 11:30 AM and afternoons Wed, & Thur. from 1 PM - 3 PM Healthy Steps - Wed. and Thur. at 10 AM Boomwacker Motion & Music - Thur. at 11 AM Texas Hold "M" Poker Chip Game - Fri., 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM State Capital Tree Ornament Making Party - Wed., Nov. 1 at 1 PM. Enjoy cookies & cocoa while making tree-house ornaments. Veterans Day Recognition & Meal - Thur., 11/9 at 11 AM Veterans Day Observance, Fri., 11/10- CENTER CLOSED Bingo – Tue. at 1 PM and Fri.at 10 AM (Special Thanksgiving BingoTues., 11/21) Shuffleboard Competition- Tue., 10 AM Thanksgiving Celebration - Thur., 11/16. A day of gratitude, wonderful food, and special entertainment from DJ-Alex! Come enjoy the sound of the 50's and 60's. Thanksgiving Day and Friday after- Thur., 11/23 Fri., 11/24 - CENTER CLOSED November Birthday Celebration - Tue., 11/28 at 11 AM

Cheryl Weller Richard Gillette	11/3 11/5	Thelma Evarts Janet Sauers	11/17 11/19	HAPPY
Carl Kellogg	11/3	Joyce Gaus	11/19	BIRTHDAY
Ceil Termini	11/9	Mike Sell	11/25	
Elizabeth Davis	11/10	Diane Krajewsli	11/27	
Joan Moore	11/10	Veronica Narsavage	11/29	

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY HAMLIN SENIOR CENTER

The Hamlin Senior Center celebrated their 25th Anniversary on October 6, 2023. It was fun to look at the photos of yesteryear and remember the events of the past. We were very pleased to have the presence of two commissioners, Brian Smith and James Shook, who presented a certificate of recognition for 25 years of service to Debbie Birtel and also presented a 25 Year Recognition Certificate to the Hamlin Senior Center. Donna Schreyer, a senior member, was recognized for being present the first day the center opened in October of 1998. Also, we were thrilled to have Mary Ursich and Pat Perkins present for this special celebration. Pat was also recognized for her December 1998 start and for overseeing the managers of the Hamlin Senior Center these past 18 years.

John Stevens of Doubleshot provided our Polka music to follow the Oktoberfest theme. The food was very good, and we wish to thank dietary staff. We finished off the day with a rowdy game of Bingo.

It truly is a pleasure to serve our community seniors. I know how George Bailey felt in "It's A Wonderful Life." I'm blessed beyond imagination. Please see photos from the day on page 12.

Submitted by: Becky Klepadlo



Hawley Senior Center

Just a few pictures of activities we had in months past. From left, we celebrated birthdays, gathered for Oktoberfest, enjoyed a cooking class and said goodbye to our dear friend Sarah.

Our activities for the month of November,

- 1) Daylight Savings Time ends on Nov. 6. Turn back your clocks.
- 2) Tuesday, November 7 ---don't forget to go out and vote.
- 3) Thursday, November 9- we will honor our veterans.
- 4) Thursday, November 16—Thanksgiving dinner at the center.
- 5) Center closed on November 23 and 24 for Thanksgiving with family and friends.
- 6) **Coming up in December** LaNota House of Dance will perform a holiday show on December 8, 2023 at 11:00 AM.

Always keep your eyes & ears open for all the activities going on at the centers.

Birthdays for the month of November are; MaryAnn Reynolds, Joan McGuirk, Barbara Wertz, Nancy Halpin, Karen McGhee, Alan Segal, Brenda O'Shea, Cathy Fennell, Kathy Burnett & Bud Davis happy birthda









Monday 9:00-3:00 Exercise Equip. 10:30—11:30 Healthy Steps in Motion Class 10:30 –2:00 Ceramics 11:00—2:30 Mahjong	Tuesday 9:00—3:00 Exercise Equip. 10:30—2:00 Ceramics 1:00—2:15 Bingo *Schedule Subject to Change	<u>Wednesday</u> 9:00—3:00 Exercise Equip. 10:00—10:30 Tai Chi 10:30—2:00 Ceramics 10:30—11:30 Healthy Steps in Motion Class 5:30—8:30 Mahjong	<u>Thursday</u> 9:00—3:00 Exercise Equip. 1:00—2:00 Bingo	<u>Friday</u> 9:00—3:00 Exercise Equip. 10:30—11:30 Healthy Steps in Motion Class	
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Northern Wayne Senior Center

We celebrated Halloween on October 19,. We next meet on November 7; remember just one meeting a month during the winter months. Our holiday party will be held on December 7. Please call 570-253-5540 to make a reservation.

Loretta and Marie got into the Halloween spirit-photo, right.





Honesdale Senior Center

November 3, 2023—Birthday Friday. Celebrating all those born in November! Birthday treat provided.

November 7, 2023—Election Day—Polling place. No congregate meal or activities.

November 9, 2023—Veterans Day observed at the center.

November 10, 2023—Center is closed in honor of Veterans Day.

November 16, 2023—Thanksgiving meal served. Please call Kathy for a reservation at 253-5540.

November 24, 2023—Center is closed in observance of Thanksgiving; no congregate meal served on Friday, November 25.

Coming up on December 6, 2023—Come at 11:00 for holiday performances by the talented La Nota House of Dance!

Monday 9:00-10:00 "Mondays with Marie Chair exercise streamed live on Wayne County PA Human Services' FACEBOOK page 11:00-3:00 Bridge 1:00 PM	Tuesday 10:30-11:30 Healthy Steps Class 1:00-4:00 Billiards Shuffleboard	Wednesday 10:00-11:00 Healthy Steps Class 1:00–2:00 BINGO 2:00-3:30 Caregivers Support Group—2nd Wed. each month NEW—Grief Sup- port Group 4th Wod	Thursday 10:00 AM Northern Wayne Cen- ter—10/5 & 10/19 11:00 AM Chair Yoga*—\$5 fee Crafts/Crocheting 2nd and 4th Thur. 1:00 Shuffleboard Billiards	Friday 10:30–11:30 Healthy Steps Class 1:00 PM Rummikub tile game Shuffleboard
Canasta		Group—4th Wed. each month		



Volunteer Sandy K. visits twice a month to do crafts with older adults. This month was Halloween witch decoration. Thank you Sandy for your time and energy!





October birthday celebrants June and Dawn, left, and Jude on the accordion with dancers Bernie and Nelsa during Oktoberfest!

HEALTHY EATING FOR A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM

Most of us understand that our immune system function begins to decline as we age. Studies have shown that this is due to a decline in various types of white blood cells, including T cells, monocytes, and cytotoxic T cells. The decline in T cells is particularly important, as these are the cells responsible for identifying foreign pathogens and directing our body's immune response. Another important finding was related to the frequency of B cells; A type of white blood cell vital to producing antibodies in response to pathogens. The decline was found to be more evident in men beginning in their early 60s. Women seemed to experience changes to B cells later in life; in their late 60s or early 70s.

There are some ways that we can be proactive in boosting our immune system. According to Harvard University, the following tips may be helpful in building a strong immune system:

Don't smoke. Eat a healthy diet. Exercise regularly. Maintain a healthy weight. If you drink alcohol, do so in moderation. Get adequate sleep. Take steps to avoid infection (handwashing is especially effective). Minimize stress. Discuss vaccinations with your primary care physician.

Nutrients That Support Health:

Protein – Protein is important in antibody production which boosters healing. Good sources are:

- Eggs, milk, yogurt, fish, lean meats, chicken, turkey, beans, soy products, nuts, seeds
- Vitamin A Vitamin A plays an important part in skin, tissues in mouth, stomach and intestines and respiratory system, which in turn helps regulate the immune system. Good sources are:
 - Carrots, sweet potatoes, broccoli, spinach, pumpkin, squash, cantaloupe
- Vitamin D Helps regulate immune cell function. Good sources are:
- Fortified foods milk, cereal, orange juice; fatty fish like salmon, mackerel or tuna and SUNSHINE
- Vitamin C Acts as an antioxidant (a substance that protects cells). Helps with healthy skin production, which acts as a barrier to external microorganisms. Good sources are:

Citrus fruits – oranges, grapefruits, tangerines; strawberries, papaya, bell peppers, Brussel sprouts

Vitamin E – Acts as an antioxidant. Good sources are:

Almonds, sunflower seeds, peanut butter, vegetable oil, spinach, broccoli

Zinc – Helps in production of new immune cells which helps in wound healing. Good sources are: Lean meat, chicken, turkey

Crabs, oysters Milk Whole grains Seeds



If you can't get to the centers for a congregate meal on Tuesdays, here is another opportunity for a meal. Free of charge.



Warm Soup & Sandwich Lunch Central United Methodist Church Church & 11th Street Tuesdays 11AM to 1PM Join us! A warm safe place



FREE COVID TESTS AVAILABLE

Get four free at-home COVID- 19 tests this fall on COVIDTests.gov via the federal government.

Every U.S. household may place an order to receive four free COVID-□19 rapid tests delivered directly to your home. <u>Order Free At-Home Tests</u> (If you are reading this on line, click the link to fill out form) OR place an order by calling 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489), The U.S. government will continue to make COVID-□19 tests available to uninsured individuals and underserved communities through existing outreach programs.

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This project was financed in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and the William E. Chatlos Foundation.

Wayne County Veterans Affairs



Unlike Memorial Day, which honors our deceased veterans, Veterans Day is meant to honor all veterans of our armed forces. It is a day to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good of our great nation! It all began when World War 1 officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when a temporary cessation of hostilities (cease fire) between Allied nations and Germany, went into effect on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month. In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11th as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. In 1938, it was officially made a legal holiday, dedicated to the cause of world peace. Flags should be flown at half-staff and a moment of silence may be observed at 11 am.

More than 4,600 veterans call Wayne County home. Services will be held throughout Wayne County to honor their service and sacrifices

Thank you, Vicki.

Victims' Intervention Program

Home for the Holidays



November. The weather is crisp. What leaves remain on trees are myriad shades of red, gold, and brown. The holiday season is about to kick off. For those of us with family dinners and holiday get-togethers on the horizon, now is a good time to check in on our loved ones. As we sit across from seldom seen siblings, distant aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and other extended kin, we can take stock of any drastic changes in personality and other factors which may hint at abuses and victimizations of all sort.

Some things to keep an eye on in your loved ones:

- --A sudden and drastic increase in drug or alcohol use
- --A change in personality from outgoing and talkative to especially reserved
- --Very expensive gifts out of nowhere
- --Bruising, especially to the face, neck, and arms

Some things to keep an eye on in new partners your loved ones bring home

- --Insulting and demeaning comments to and about your loved one
- -- Talking over your loved one
- --Refusing to let your loved on speak or be alone with anyone
- --Extreme jealousy

If you notice any of these warning signs or other situations which make you wary or uncomfortable, the most important thing you can do to help your loved one is to make them feel supported. Find a way to talk to them in private. State your concern and listen to what they have to say. It's important to not talk down to them or try and force them to do something. If they are truly in an abusive situation, they have already had their power to make decisions for themselves taken away. The best way you can help is to let them know you hear them, see them, and value them.

If you suspect a loved one is being abused and are unsure what to do, Victims' Intervention Program is here to help. Call us anytime, day or night, at 570-253-4401, or visit us online at VIPempowers.org.



VOUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE OMBUDSMANPROGRAM IN WAYNE PIKE AND MONROE COUNTIES

Volunteer Ombudsmen are community neighbors who are specially trained to help clarify responsibilities and rights of consumers in long-term living facilities. If you are available for a few hours a month, over 18 years of age, concerned about the rights of nursing home and assisted living/personal care home residents and interested in making a difference in the lives of long-term living residents, then you may be perfect for the Volunteer Ombudsman Program. For more information, please contact:

Ombudsman Melinda Rispoli at 570-344-7190 or email: mrispoli@servingseniorsnepa.org



Do you have extra space in your home? Would you like some companionship or assistance with living expenses?

The SHARE program may be just what you need!

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 have an option to assist with living expenses, help around the house, or a combination of both.

SHARE is available here, in Wayne and Pike Counties!

Call Larisa Yusko 570-832-5133

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Berks, Pike & Wayne Counties

Volunteer Opportunities

Wayne County Area Agency on Aging Senior Center Food Delivery, Dishwashers, Kitchen Assistants

Wayne County Food Pantry Packing / Distribution Day, Warehouse Pallet Assembly

> American Red Cross Blood Donor Ambassador, Disaster Relief

> > Serving Seniors, Inc. Volunteer Ombudsman

Ladore Camp, Retreat & Conference Center Food Service, Program Instructor, Grounds Maintenance

> Salvation Army Honesdale Extension Honesdale Office/Food Pantry <u>Wayne County Housing</u> Volunteers as needed

Dawn Houghtaling Call: 570-390-4540 or

Email: houghtalingd@diakon.org



*RSVP is funded by AmeriCorps and sponsored by Diakon Community Services.







Grief Support Group



If you've experienced a loss and find yourself needing extra support, please join us.

HONESDALE SENIOR CENTER 323 10th Street Honesdale, PA 18431

Virtual option available upon request

4th Wednesday of each month

2:00-3:30 PM

Please RSVP if you plan to attend (570) 253-4262

All are welcome!

Facilitated by volunteers Anthony Campbell & Bill Reitsma



1406 Main Street Honesdale, PA 18431 570-253-1220 www.waynelibraries.org *Connecting our community*



TO REGISTER CONTACT: Miles Keesler 570-253-1220 or email mkeeslerwaynelibraries.org





1. Dessin Animal Shelter—Presenter Kathy Adams will provide Information on pet adoption and how Dessin serves the community. Wednesday, Nov. 1 from 4:30--5:30 p.m.

2. 25 Ways For Better Health—Presenter Emily Daly will discuss making small changes to maintain a healthy body. Thursday, Nov. 2 from 4:30--5:30 p.m.

3. Movie Friday - Disney's Ratatouille - Friday, Nov. 17 at 1:00 p.m.















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NOVEMBER WORD SEARCH

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• FOR YOUR INFORMATION • 211 is a FREE and confidential service, connecting people to services in Wayne County.

> Get Connected / Get Help Dial 211 or 1-855-567-5341 Website: pa211ne.org Text your zip code to: 898211



Production Coordinator: Kathy Robbins

Menu Coordinator: Lynn Potter, RD LDN

Editor: Leigh Wilson



Find us on Facebook at Wayne County Office of Human Services



Wayne County Area Agency on Aging 323 10th Street Honesdale, PA 18431 570-253-4262 / 570-209-5770 fax Elder Abuse/Protective Services: 1-800-648-9620 **Honesdale Center:** Earl J. Simons Center, 323 10th Street, Honesdale, PA 18431, 570-253-4262/570-253-9115 fax. Located at end of 10th Street across from the Old Stone Jail.

Hamlin Center: Salem Township Building, 15 Township Bldg. Rd, Route 590, Hamlin, PA 18427 570-689-3766 /570-689-5002 fax, Route 191 South to Hamlin 4 corners, turn right onto 590 West, go 1/2 mile, turn right after UPS sign.

Hawley Center: Robert J. Drake Senior Community Center, 337 "A" Park Place, Bingham Park, Hawley, PA 18428, 570-226-4209 / 570-226-3422 fax. Route 6 to Hawley, past ball field across from mayor's office, just before bridge, left onto Park St.

Northern Wayne/Lakewood Satellite Center located at: Northern Wayne Fire Company, 1663 Crosstown Highway, Lakewood, PA 18439. Meetings are November—February, first Thursday only; March—October –first and third Thursday. For reservations, please call Marie at 570-253-5540.

Transportation: 323 10th Street, Honesdale, PA 18431; 8:00 AM—4:00 PM www.waynecountypa.gov. Go to "Human Services" click on "Transportation" Call 570-253-4280; out of 253 exchange 1-800-662-0780.

Wayne County Veterans Affairs Representative: 314 10th Street, Honesdale, PA 18431; For an appointment call 570-253-5970, ext. 3114 or email: va@waynecountypa.gov

Wayne County Adult Day Program: Robert J. Drake Senior Community Center 337 "B" Park Place, Bingham Park, Hawley, PA 18428 We are accepting applications for new participants. Please call: 570-390-7388; fax 570-390-4564.