



AREA AGENCY ON AGING VENANGO COUNTY

Volume I, Issue 1

March 2008

AAA Services Offered

Home Delivered Meals	Personal Care	Family Caregiver Support
Senior Centers	Prime Time Health	Adult Daily Living Services
Pre-Admission Assessment	Community Based Services	

A LOOK AHEAD

Our staff and Advisory Council are making time over the next few months to look at existing services and potential service gaps that may benefit from attention over the next 4 years. This is in preparation for submitting a "4 Year Plan" in mid-April that will help guide our operation and development from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2012. You are invited to participate in this process. Let us know what you think!! We are planning a formal survey, but you needn't wait for something as formal as that. Please take time to submit your comments or suggestions to us by dropping them off or mailing them to Venango County Area Agency on Aging, 1283 Liberty St., P.O. Box 1130, Franklin, PA 16323, or e-mail us at vcaaa@co.venango.pa.us. If you would like to look at our last 4 year plan, a copy is posted on our website www.co.venango.pa.us/aging for your review. Or call us at 814 432-9711 and we will mail you a printed version of the current plan. This is your opportunity to help guide and develop the kinds of services funded through the Federal Older Americans Act and PA State Lottery funds that are spent in Venango County to benefit our own residents! Comments are welcome from service consumers, a member of a consumer's family, human services professionals, or even interested community residents or business operators. If you want a personal response to your comments, remember to include your name and contact information!

Finally, the next public meeting of our Advisory Council is scheduled for April 25, 2008, at 10:00 am, in room 309 conference room of the County Exchange Building, 1283 Liberty Street, Franklin, PA. (just in case you would want to attend and provide comments in person).

Do you like to visit people??? Someone needs you!

As we go through the hustle and bustle of our normal lives, let's be sure to remember the residents of Venango County's nursing and personal care facilities. Residents look forward to visitors. While most of us have the ability to get out and seek a change of scenery, the same is not always true for people residing in a long term care facility. A visit to someone who is confined in a facility can make all the difference in the world. Especially to the person who otherwise might not have many or any visitors. This is true for any season, but particularly the long cold winter! The Venango County Area Agency on Aging invites you to join Pennsylvania's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. This program has a trained volunteer component that involves making visits to residents of long term care facilities. It is a chance to make a difference to these individuals through education on resident's rights, taking time to listen to concerns, and providing an array of information and assistance from the PA Ombudsman office. The trained volunteer will set up his or her own schedule. They may visit a couple hours a month, an hour a week, or more; it is at the volunteer's discretion. The possibilities are endless to make a difference in someone's life!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact the Venango County Area Agency on Aging at 814-432-9711 or Toll Free at 866-452-4464 and ask to speak with an Ombudsman.

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN PROGRAM

When thinking of retirement years, thoughts of travel or relaxation come to mind. But for some retirees it is diaper changes, scout meetings, playgrounds, and homework. For some senior citizens, related children are brought to their door in need of full time/long term care when the biological parent is not able to provide care. The reasons vary from incarceration, substance abuse, health problems, death, military jobs, etc. Regardless of the reason, family members (aunts, uncles, single senior citizens and even great-grandparents) take responsibility to keep the children from going into foster care homes.

Some elder adults have found that they must return to work due to the difficulty of raising children on a fixed, limited income. More than 200,000 children are living in Pennsylvania households headed by grandparents or other relatives. In talking with these relatives, they say they love caring for the children. They also feel they are the only ones in their situation. A lot of the children feel the same way.

Due to increased numbers of persons over age 60 providing sole care for related children, the Area Agency on Aging had the opportunity to use 10% of state allocation for the National Family Support Program for grandparents and other relatives who are caring for related children.

Venango County Area Agency on Aging developed a local support group based on the experience of some neighboring county programs. Our first group met on September 29, 2002, at the 4-H Fairgrounds. Regular meetings were held every month starting in March of 2003, when a permanent meeting place was found at the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. These meetings have continued monthly ever since the church opened its doors to the group.

The meetings are informal and begin at 5:00 pm, the first Wednesday of each month. The meetings start out with social time then dinner is served buffet style, but eaten family style with children and adults eating together. After dinner, the children go to a play room for activities with Deanna Reisinger, a childcare worker who is also a senior citizen. She has provided care since April of 2003. A teen volunteer, Gina Snow, assisted until she graduated from high school. From 6:00 pm until 7:00 pm, the adults have discussions and/or speakers. We have had some fantastic speakers over the years from many agencies, schools, and businesses. Many of the families have attended the meetings for years and have started friendships. The children and adults look forward to this time each month. A few of the families travel from neighboring counties to attend. One family is in the process of starting a support group in their own county.

The group has attended retreats and other programs. In the summer we have a picnic. At Christmas time we have a party and Santa has visited every year. The group has had a lot of fun. The grandparent group has provided education, peer support, and socialization for the grandparents and children involved. For more information, please call the AAA office at 432-9711.

Grandparents Responsible for their Own Grandchildren, 2000		
	Number	Percent
Total Persons 30 Years and Over in Households	35,137	100.0%
Living with own grandchildren under 18 years:	698	2.0%
Grandparent responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years:	263	0.7%
Grandparent not responsible for own grandchildren under 18 years:	435	1.2%
Not living with own grandchildren under 18 years (or no grandchildren)	34,439	98.0%

Source: Census 2000 SF3, Table PCT8

AARP TAX-AIDE (Free Tax Help)

AARP Tax-Aide provides free income tax preparation for low income and elderly citizens. Volunteers will prepare federal, state, local, township, PACE, and Rebate Forms. Electronic filing is offered at no cost to the taxpayer, except not available in Tionesta. This service is being offered at four locations in Venango County, starting February 5, 2008 through April 17, 2008:

1. Oil City Public Library, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.
2. First Baptist Church in Franklin, Thurs. and Fri. from 8:30 am until 3:00 pm.
3. Titusville Health & Aging Center, by appointment.
4. Tionesta Library, by appointment.



APPRISE PROGRAM

Area Agency on Aging in Venango County has Apprise counselors to help seniors find the best medical coverage to suite them. These counselors are volunteers. If you would like more information on this service, please contact the Venango County Area Agency on Aging at 814-432-9711 or toll free 866-452-4464.



STIMULUS PAYMENT UPDATE

Stimulus payments are NOT due April 15th. By law, stimulus payments must be paid by December 31, 2008, meaning they can probably be filed by seniors into November to make that cutoff. In mid-late March, the IRS will mail a packet of information to recipients of Social Security benefits who did not file a tax return last year. It will include a letter, filing guidance, 1040A forms, and an example to help these seniors receive the stimulus payment.

IRS will be organizing Super Stimulus Days in late March and more information will be forwarded from the IRS locally where the events will be held. They will organize the event including getting press coverage.

Please remember that completing a "regular" 2007 1040 automatically generates a stimulus payment. The current telephone number for assistance is 1-800-829-1040, but there isn't a human option for stimulus help at this time.

\$10.00 VEHICLE REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. You must be retired and receiving social security or other pensions regardless of age.
Part-time employment is permitted if you are retired from your principal occupation. If you receive only unemployment compensation or public assistance, or are a student or other individual who is not retired, you do not qualify.
2. Total income from all sources must not exceed \$19,200.00. Total income is based on anticipated income for the upcoming registration year.
3. If only a husband or wife qualify, each may register one vehicle for the \$10.00 processing fee. One or both vehicles may be titled and registered in both names jointly.
4. If both husband and wife qualify, each may register one vehicle for the \$10.00 processing fee. One or both vehicles may be titled and registered in both names jointly.
5. Only one vehicle per person may be registered for the \$10.00 processing fee.
6. Any vehicle whose registered gross weight does not exceed 9,000 lbs. may be registered for the \$10.00 processing fee.
7. You must be the principal driver of a vehicle registered for the \$10.00 processing fee unless you are physically or mentally incapable of driving.



Venango County
Area Agency on Aging
1283 Liberty Street
P.O. Box 1130
Franklin, PA 16323

Phone: 814-432-9711
Fax: 814-432-9759
vcaaa@co.vanango.pa.us
Gary Dittman, Administrator

Susan Walters
Sr. Ctr. Services Director
(814) 676-8316
E-mail:creeksideaaa@csonline.net



Venango County Senior Centers

Scrubgrass Neighborhood Senior Center

5104 Emlenton-Clintonville Road

Emlenton, PA 16373

Hours Monday through Friday, 9:15 am to 2:15 pm

Deborah Letke, Manager

(724) 867-2323;

E-mail: scrubgrassaaa@csonline.net

Creekside Center

228 Seneca Street

Oil City, PA 16301

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Pam Moon, Manager

(814) 676-1710; Fax: (814) 677-9578

E-mail: creeksideaaa@csonline.net

Susan Walters, Sr. Ctr. Services Director

(814) 676-8316

Dempseytown Senior Center

Oakland Volunteer Fire Hall

779 Speer Road

Cooperstown, PA 16317

Hours: Wednesday & Friday, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Pam Moon, Manager

FALL REDUCTION PROGRAM

Health Steps for Older Adults (HSOA) is a falls risk reduction program for adults ages 50 and over. The goal of HSOA is to raise participant awareness on the proactive steps they can take to reduce their risk of falls. HSOA engages consumers in an enjoyable, interactive learning experience. HSOA consists of a four hour workshop that provides information on health care, exercise, home safety and other available resources to help older Pennsylvanians reduce their risk of falling. For additional information, go to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging website at www.aging.state.pa.us and click on "Wellness" or call Susan Walters, Senior Center Services Advisor at 814-676-8316 for information on upcoming workshops.

Satellite Centers

Pleasantville Senior Center

Pleasantville Fire Hall
343 West State St.
Pleasantville, PA 16341
Hours: Thurs., 9 am to 2 pm
Helen Blakeslee, Volunteer Manager

Utica Senior Center

Utica Fire Hall
Utica, PA 16362
Hours: Every 2nd & 4th Thurs. 10 am to 2 pm
Audine Deeter, Volunteer Manager
(814) 676-8316 (Sr. Ctr. Services Dir.)

Franklin Towers Senior Comm. Center

1220 Chestnut Street
Franklin, PA 16323
Hours: Wed., 10 am to 2 pm
(814) 437-3343
Jim & Chris Sherman

Frenchcreek Senior Center

100 East Atlantic Avenue
Franklin, PA 16323
Tuesday & Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm
JoAnn Pottle, Volunteer Manager
(814) 437-3359
E-mail: [blessings@earthlink.net](mailto: blessings@earthlink.net)

Cranberry Area Senior Center

3490 State Route 257
Seneca, PA 16346
Hours: Monday 10am to 2 pm
Wanda Thomas, Volunteer Manager
(814) 676-6439
Located in social hall of the Seneca
Volunteer Fired Dept.

