

NEWSLINES



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www.visitmonmouth.com/aging

A New Look For New Times...

In September, 2007 the Monmouth County Office on Aging, the Monmouth County Office on Disabilities and the Monmouth County Office of Veterans' Interment were combined under the umbrella of the Monmouth County Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans' Interment Affairs. The new division is headed by John A. Wanat as Director and Alma Strack as Assistant Director. The three offices remain as separate entities with one administration. The Office on Aging and the Office on Disabilities are housed at 21 Main & Court Center in downtown Freehold, and the Office of Veterans' Interment Affairs is housed in the Human Services building on Kozloski Road. The Division is a part of the Department of Human Services with Lynn Miller as the Director and Barry Johnson as the Assistant Director.

The Office on



Aging continues to offer Information & Assistance services, Care Management services, Outreach services and its "Lasting Lifestyles" web-based interactive service. The Office on Disabilities offers Information & Assistance services, ADA compliance information, and Outreach and Referral services. The Office of Veterans' Interment Affairs deals with recording burial sites of county veterans and placing flags on graves at Memorial Day. Any of the three offices can be reached through the NJEASE number, 1-877-222-3737.

With the change in the organizational structure, it was decided that a newsletter that reflected all three offices was appropriate. You are now reading the Division *Newslines* that contains news and information about all three division offices. *Newslines* will be published four times a year (each season), instead of monthly and will contain sections of interest, helpful hints and alerts as well as a little humor mixed in with the serious articles. We hope that you like our new look and expanded repertoire. We welcome your feedback on our redesigned newsletter. ❖

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Social Security News



Economic “Stimulus Payment”

If you received Social Security benefits last year, you may be entitled to an economic stimulus payment, or tax rebate, from the federal government – even if you otherwise wouldn’t plan on filing a tax return. The IRS will begin sending stimulus payments to more than 130 million taxpayers with over \$3000 in annual income in May. If you

have filed or plan to file a 2007 tax return, no other action is necessary. If you receive Social Security and did not file a 2006 return, the IRS will send you a package over the next couple of months, which includes everything you need to file a 2007 return and receive a stimulus payment. In this situation, if you no longer have your form 1099, you do not need a

replacement form. Instead, simply estimate your total annual benefit on your 2007 tax return. If you file after April 15, 2008, your payment will not be mailed in May, but later in the year. For more information go to the IRS website at www.irs.gov, or call the Office on Aging for assistance. ❖

Alerts

Home Improvement Precautions - by Rich Dalfonzo

As we get closer to spring, homeowners are often approached by contractors who are sometimes dishonest. The housing industry is at a 25 year low and, consequently, there are many contractors looking for work. While it may seem a good time to make those repairs because prices are lower, there are many precautions you need to consider. After you have received at least three different contractors’ proposals for your specified job needs, check them out with the Better Business Bureau (609-588-0808). Getting recommendations from family, friends and clients who have used various contractors may help in your search.

Before signing a contract make sure it includes a detailed work description, warranties, materials list and starting and completion dates and, of course, the total costs on materials and labor. Each

contract should give you information about your contractor’s license number and contact information: name, phone number and address. Remember, in New Jersey contractors must have a business license.

If you have second thoughts about the contract, you have three business days, after you sign, to cancel. Never pay for the entire work up front and don’t pay cash. There will be a percentage needed for materials, but it probably should not exceed twenty-five percent, and the contract should stipulate at what points partial payments are to be made.

One of the most difficult and frustrating problems homeowners face is when a contractor does not show up when scheduled. Make sure your contract indicates a completion date and that your contractor doesn’t subcontract the work out to other companies.



Your home is very valuable to you and you should keep up your investment. Make a careful decision on your repairs, don’t feel bullied or forced into signing a contract and make sure everything is signed and dated. Put your copy in a safe place, and then enjoy your repairs and improvements. ❖



Happenings

2008 Senior Art Exhibit

We are again coordinating the annual Monmouth County Senior Art Exhibit. The exhibit is open to Monmouth County residents age 60 and over. Packets containing guidelines, dates, and the application sheet will be mailed to artists currently on our mailing list as soon as the 2008 guidelines are received from the state. If you wish to be added to our art show mailing list, please contact our office at 732-431-7450.

For those artists who participated in previous events, please note that we are aware of two significant

changes to the guidelines:

1) the maximum outside frame dimension of hanging craft or artwork has been reduced from 38 inches to 36 inches; and

2) in order to qualify as a professional, an individual should meet two of the state's listed criteria instead of one.

The exhibit will be held at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan during the month of July with artwork drop-off on June 26. The Reception and Awards Ceremony is scheduled for the morning of July 14. ❖



Happenings

Public Hearing On Activities/Service Carried Out Under The Monmouth County Office On Aging 2008 Area Plan Contract

The Monmouth County Office on Aging and its Advisory Council will hold a public hearing for the purposes of affording consumers the opportunity to obtain information and provide comment on the services provided to senior citizens under the Monmouth County Area Plan Contract with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday,

June 18, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. at Seabrook Village, Atrium Room, 3000 Essex Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07753, telephone 643-2000 x5211.

Information gathered during the public hearing will provide data and insight to the Office on Aging on those issues most in need of advocacy and funding.

The Monmouth County Office on Aging's Area Plan Contract for 2008 will be available for

review at the hearing.

Persons requesting additional information are asked to contact the Monmouth County Office on Aging at 1-877-222-3737 or (732) 431-7450. ❖

DON'T FORGET



A health fair, health screening, demonstration of exercises, refreshments day at the YMCA of Red Bank. Join us at 116 Maple Avenue, Red Bank, New Jersey, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.



Monmouth County Board of Freeholders
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Robert D. Clifton, *Deputy Director*
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Department of Human Services
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Jointly funded by the Monmouth Board of Chosen Freeholders and the New Jersey
Division of Aging and Community Services, Department of Health & Senior Services

Reminders

May is Older Americans Month

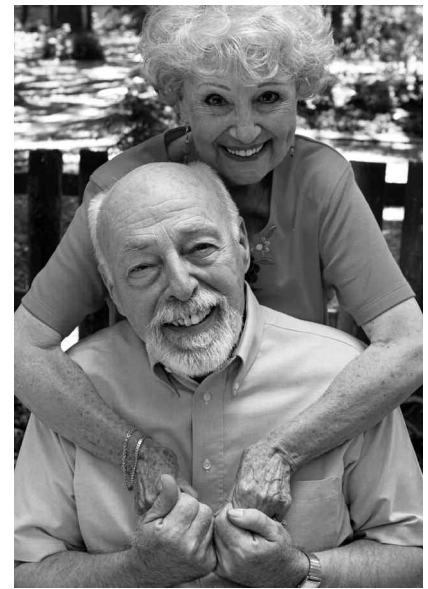
The theme for Older Americans Month 2008 is "Working Together for Strong, Healthy, and Supportive Communities," which speaks to the opportunities we have to create better care and reinforce healthier societies for all ages. Working together, our communities can improve older adults' overall quality of life by helping them:

- Make behavioral changes in their lifestyles that can reduce the risk of disease, disability and injury.
- Obtain the tools they need to make informed decision about, and gain better access to existing health and long term care options in their communities.
- Have more options to avoid placement in nursing homes and remain at home as long as possible.

Americans of all ages and backgrounds can celebrate Older Americans Month. Contact your local Agency on Aging and volunteer for activities in your area, promote community, state and national efforts to serve older adults, and find ways to enrich the lives

of the older adults who touch your life. By working together we can improve the health and well being of our Nation's older adults and pave the way for future generations.

In subsequent editions of *NewsLines* we will feature a wellness article designed to help you keep up with the latest information on health care issues. ❖



Have a wonderful Spring! From the Staff at the Monmouth County Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veteran's Internment

Monmouth County Division on Aging, Disabilities and Veterans' Internment

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