

GOLDEN NOTES



NEW BRITAIN SENIOR CENTER
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WEB ACCESS: <http://www.newbritainct.gov> Go to Documents and click on Senior Center, click on Golden Notes tab to find the current issue of the monthly newsletter

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February 2015



Tax Assistance Offered through AARP Tax-Aid Program

AARP Foundation Tax Aid offers free tax assistance to middle and low income taxpayers through April 15th. Special attention is given to those 60 years and older. Here's all you need to do.

If married, both husband and wife should be present during the tax counseling session. Both signatures are required.

Taxes are completed in one session, so tax payers must bring all required documentation necessary to complete their return:

- Complete copy of last year's 2013 Tax Return
- Social Security or Individual Taxpayer ID numbers and personal identification
- A personal check showing bank account and routing numbers
- All documents that relate to deductible expenses
- All received 2014 income tax forms received, including:
 - SSA 1099 Social Security Benefit Statement
 - 1099 forms
 - W-2 Wage and Tax Statement
 - W-2G Certain Gambling Winner forms

New this year: Individuals should bring in health insurance coverage information for themselves and dependents.

Appointments are required and can be made by calling the Senior Center 860 826-3553.



PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

The Senior Center is taking applications for the Homeowners, Additional Veterans and Freeze Property Tax Relief Program. Persons 65 and older in the year 2014 or those persons receiving Social Security Disability Benefits may be eligible for a discount on their property tax bills. Individuals earning less than \$34,600 and married couples earning less than \$42,200 during 2014 should consider applying for this benefit. Also, those persons receiving benefits under the old FREEZE program are eligible to maintain their property tax relief if their income, excluding Social Security, was less than \$6,000. Those persons who were enrolled in either program in past years will receive a letter from the City Tax Assessor if they must reapply during 2015. If a married couple wishes to apply for the benefit, it is only necessary for one of the spouses to have been over 65 years of age in 2014 to be eligible for the program.

Call the Senior Center (860) 826-3553 if you wish to make an appointment or if you have any questions.

IDENTITY THEFT AND TAXES

Congresswoman Elizabeth H. Esty (CT-5) will be hosting a Fraud Prevention Workshop here at the senior center on Tuesday, February 17th from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Representatives from the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, the Federal Trade Commission and the Internal Revenue Service have been invited to participate. This is a great opportunity to hear from the experts in the area of identity theft and fraud protection. Plan on stopping by and join Congresswoman Esty for this informative session.



FRIDAY AT THE MOVIES

The movie for February 20th will be Shall we Dance? starring Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez and Susan Sarandon

Step out in a delightful sexy comedy with a sizzling all-star cast!
Hope you will join us for this very entertaining film.

February, 2015

Daily Calendar of Activities:

Monday

8:15 am to 11:10 am– Snack bar open
8:45 am to 9:15am. – Line Dancing Instruction for persons wishing to learn line dancing
9:15 am to 10:00 am – Art class open
9:15 am to 10:00 am – Exercise Class Senior appropriate class with Chris
10:15 am to 11:00 am – Line dancing class
12:45am to 3:00 pm - Bingo

Tuesday

8:15 am to 11:00 am. – Snack Bar open
8:30 am to 9 am - Line Dancing Instruction for person wishing to learn line dancing
9:00 am to 3:00 pm Income tax – Call for an appointment
9:15 am to 10:15 am – Exercise Class Senior appropriate exercise class with Chris
9:15am to 11:15 am - Ceramics Class
9:15 am to 1:30 pm – Craft group meets
10:30 am to 11:15 am – Line dancing with Chris
12:30 pm to 3:00 pm – Wii Bowling
1:00 pm to 3:30 pm – Craft group meets

Wednesday

8:15 am to 11:00 am – Snack bar open
9:00 am to 11:30 am - Card group
9:15 am to 11:30 am – Art Class open
9:15am to 11:15 am - Ceramics Class
12:45 pm to 3:00 pm – Bingo
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm – Ballroom Dancing

Thursday

8:15 am to 11:00 am – Snack bar open
9:00 am to 10:00 am –ZUMBA
9:15 am to 11:30 am – Craft Group meets
1:00 pm to 3:30 pm – Pinochle Club
1:00 pm to 3:30 pm – Craft group meets

Friday

8:15 am to 11:00 am – Snack bar open
9:00 am to 3:00 pm Income Tax – Call for an appointment
9:15 am to 11:30 am – Art class open
12:45 to 3:00 pm – Bingo
1:15 pm to 3:30 pm – Square Dancing

**SERVICES BY APPOINTMENT
DIAL-A-RIDE**

At least a 2-day notice is required for rides to the Senior Center, medical appointments, shopping and other destinations at any time within the month. Call 826-3555 for an appointment. There is a suggested donation of \$1.50 each way.

MEDICARE/MEDICAL INSURANCE INFORMATION

Persons seeking help in filing Medicare claims or appeals, interpreting medical bills and assistance in making decisions concerning Medicare supplemental insurance can make an appointment with Senior Center staff by calling the Center at 860 826-3553. Advice on Living Wills and how to deal with advance medical directives is also available.

FROM THE NURSEING DESK

The New Britain Health Department will be offering FREE cholesterol screening to seniors on Wednesday, February 25th from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Please sign up with one of our staff in the nursing office. Sign up early as there are limited time slots available. Each screening will take approximately 15 minutes.

Don't forget to check out our new ZUMBA GOLD class on Thursday mornings starting at 9:00 am. Stop by and join the Zumba party with Amy on Thursdays.

Persons wishing to see the nurse for any reason should call the Senior Center during the morning hours to see if a Health Department Nurse is available on the day you wish to come.

GOLDEN NOTES SUBSCRIPTIONS

NAME _____ DATE _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE & ZIP CODE _____

PHONE # _____

Make checks payable to: **NEW BRITAIN SENIOR CENTER**

Return to: **GOLDEN NOTES**
New Britain Senior Center
55 Pearl St
New Britain CT 06051

Annual Fee: \$6.00 non refundable

Cash _____ Check _____

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SCAM ALERT

AARP Fraud Watch Warns Residents about Tax ID Theft and Scams

As part of Tax Identity Theft Awareness Week, the AARP Fraud Watch Network is launching an educational effort to help Connecticut residents protect against tax scams and identify the everyday behaviors that could put them at increased risk of ID theft. Two tax-related scams making headlines in Connecticut that people need to be aware of are tax identity and the IRS imposter phone scam.

TAX ID THEFT

In this all-to-common tax scheme, ID thieves electronically file a tax return under someone else's name to collect their tax refund. All they need is a birth date and Social Security number, and according to a recent national study released by the AARP Fraud Watch network, many taxpayers are making it easy by:

- Failing to lock their mailbox. Almost six in ten (59%) Americans do not regularly lock their mailbox, which leaves them open to a criminal stealing bills, tax forms and other documents that contain personal information.
- Leaving valuables exposed: Over half (54%) of Americans 18-49 have left at least one valuable personal item in their car in the last week (e.g., a purse/wallet, paystub, laptop) that could be used to steal their identity.
- Failing to destroy personal information: More than one in five (21%) Americans say they never shred any of the personal documents that could be used to steal their identity.

Tips on how to protect yourself include:

- Mail tax returns as early in the tax season as possible before the cons beat you to it.
 - Don't give out personal information unless you know who's asking for it and why they need it.
 - Shred personal and financial documents.
 - Know your tax preparer.
-
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IRS IMPOSTER SCAM

An intimidating and sophisticated phone scam, callers claim to be IRS employees, and say you owe taxes. According to the FCC, Connecticut was one of the top five states impacted by the IRS phone scam during 2014.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The IRS does NOT:

- call to demand immediate payment about taxes owed without first sending you a notification by mail,
- ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone,
- ask for payments to be made through a wire transfer or by debt card, prepaid or otherwise,
- threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement to arrest you for nonpayment.

If you have any doubts, call the IRS directly at 800-829-1040

Book Group

The New Britain Public Library and the Senior Center's monthly book group will be meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 here at the Senior Center. The book read for February is Straight Man written by Richard Russo.



Future book titles will be:

March 17th Grifftopia, Bubble Machines, Vampire Squid and the Long Con that is Breaking America written by Matt Taibbi

April 21, 2015 David Copperfield written by Charles Dickens

Hope you will join us on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM.

Financial Literacy for Seniors

Rev. Fr. Kapriel Mouradjian Prevention Coordinator from the Substance Abuse Action Council of Central Connecticut will be at the Senior Center on Monday, February 23rd at 10:00 AM to talk about Financial Literacy for seniors. Retirement and fixed income doesn't mean you can have the things you want. Spend a few moments to refresh the importance of budgeting and staying away from financial pitfalls. There's no "Sure thing" with money without planning. This is a great opportunity to learn about various financial options that can keep us safe and secure. Plan on stopping by and learning how to stay financially safe.

FREE CHOLESTROL SCREENING

The New Britain Health Department will be offering FREE cholesterol screening to seniors on Wednesday, February 25th from 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Please sign up with one of our staff in the nursing office. Sign up early as there are limited time slots available. Each screening will take approximately 15 minutes.

Don't forget to check out our new ZUMBA GOLD class on Thursday mornings starting at 9:00 am. Stop by and join the Zumba party with Amy on Thursdays.

WII BOWLING

Wii bowling will restart on Tuesday, February 17th at 12:30. We invite all those who would like to join us to come forward for an afternoon of fun and friendly competition. It's fun and great easy exercise. All present members will be more than welcome to come and practice. See you on the 17th.



~ February 2015 ~						
◀ January						March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Commission on Aging 1:00 PM	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday Center Closed	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 President's Day Center Closed	17 Fraud Prevention Program 10:00 AM	18	19	20 Movie 12:45 PM	21
22	23 Financial Planning 10:00 AM	24	25 Cholesterol Screening 9 to 11:30 AM	26	27	28