

Dutchess County Office for the Aging's

AGING NEWS

For the week of March 28th

“HEAP” ASSISTANCE CONTINUES THROUGH LATE APRIL

New York's 2021-2022 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is open until April 29th, or until funds are exhausted.

Qualifying older adults who haven't applied over the previous winter (2021-22) are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility and benefits are based on household size, household income, and primary heating source. For a household of one, income must not exceed \$2,729/month. For a household of two, that number is \$3,569/month. Current and prospective clients can contact OFA's HEAP division at 845-486-2553 or zserrano@dutchessny.gov to request an application and review their eligibility. They can also apply online via MyBenefits at mybenefits.ny.gov.

Clients who have already been approved for HEAP and who need additional assistance can apply for an **“Emergency HEAP” benefit**. There are currently two

different Emergency Benefits open. Clients apply via a phone interview with an OFA HEAP examiner. They can also contact OFA to see if they might qualify for an Emergency Benefit in the future. Emergency HEAP has a resource limit and other qualifications different from regular HEAP.

HEAP's **Clean and Tune program** is also still open. Clients may be eligible for a free furnace cleaning once every 12 months. Speak with an OFA HEAP expert to request information or an application.

Looking ahead to warmer weather, the HEAP Cooling Assistance benefit will open on Monday, May 2nd.

SEEKING CENTENARIANS AND COUPLES MARRIED OVER 70 YEARS

2022 may become a record year for the number of centenarians and couples married 70 years or more honored in this summer's "Celebration of Aging" section of OFA's summer newsletter. There are already seven Dutchess County couples confirmed as celebrating an anniversary of 70 years or more this year, and ten individuals who've reached the 100-year milestone – plus one who turns 100 in October. At this rate, we may need two pages to honor all these outstanding feats of successful aging.

If you know – or you are – somebody who lives in Dutchess County and is turning 100 years old or more in 2022, or a couple who are celebrating an anniversary of 70 years or more, let the Office for the Aging know. Contact OFA Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones at ofa@dutchessny.gov or 845-486-2544. Feel free to contribute digital photographs, and stories of their lives and marriages too. Our publication deadline is May 10th.

As of this week the oldest resident of Dutchess County that we know of is 104, but somewhere out there may be a 105-year-old who wants to set the record straight!

SENIOR PICNIC UPDATE

We're putting the finishing touches on the first batch of picnic reminder cards that will soon be mailed to older adults in the Towns of Amenia, Dover, Pawling, and Union Vale. This is the first of our 12 OFA Picnics taking place this summer, supported by The Pines at Poughkeepsie.

There's a picnic serving every community in the county. You can see this year's save-the-date picnic calendar at www.dutchessny.gov/OFApicnics.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114

Delafield St., Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, telephone 845-486-2555, email:

ofa@dutchessny.gov website: www.dutchessny.gov/aging

COUNTY COMPTROLLER, VET ZERO PARTNER ON FINANCIAL SEMINARS

Dutchess County Comptroller Robin Lois has partnered with Hudson River Housing and VetZero to provide local veterans with a free educational series devoted to maintaining financial health, as well as utilizing veteran-specific government services. In consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, Part 1 of the series will include a brief presentation by the New York State Comptroller's Office to provide further guidance within the realm of pandemic-related relief. A free dinner will also be provided by a local Poughkeepsie eatery.

Part 1: Personal Finances, will be on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 5:30-7:30 PM at the Poughkeepsie VFW Post 170, 1 Violet Avenue, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., 12601. Part 1 will cover how to balance a personal budget, understanding and raising credit scores, and filing income taxes. Veterans who wish to attend are advised to bring their tax documents, bank statements, and any other questions they might have. Resources will be available on site to provide direct assistance.

Parts 2 and 3 of the series are scheduled for the summer and fall, with details to be provided in the coming weeks.

VetZero is a specialized support system within Hudson River Housing that assists the veteran community “through specialized housing, transportation, advocacy, and care management.” More at www.veteranzero.org.

LAST CHANCE TO TAKE DUTCHESS HIGH SPEED INTERNET SURVEY (Closes 3/31)

Time is running out for residents, nonprofits, and business owners — both with and without Internet access — to complete Dutchess County’s High-Speed Internet Access Survey! The survey closes March 31st and takes just five minutes. By completing it, you can help us better understand where to invest in infrastructure and develop a plan to ensure access to this critical utility for students, businesses, nonprofits and government agencies alike. Take the survey and learn more at dutchessny.gov/highspeedinternet

SCAM OF THE WEEK – FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION IMPERSONATORS

Scammers are back at it, pretending to be FTC Commissioner Rebecca Kelly Slaughter and staff at the FTC. They're emailing, saying there's an award ready to be collected (for a fee), or an outstanding COVID issue requiring your immediate attention (and, ultimately, money). But it's NOT the FTC emailing. And even if they switch to phone calls or the messages switch, those are scammers.

Here are a few things to know:

- **The FTC won't email, call, text, or message you to ask for money or information.** Not your bank account, credit card, or Social Security number. Not your birthdate. And never, ever money.
- **The FTC doesn't give awards or funds related to COVID-19.** Anybody who says the FTC has a prize or award for you, or has a benefit related to COVID-19 — that's a scammer.
- **Only scammers will demand payment by gift card, cryptocurrency, or money transfer. Period.** Scammers love getting you to pay in those ways because it's easy for them to disappear with your money — and hard for you to get it back.

If you get an email from anyone asking for personal information or money, report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/whats-new/2020/04/report-fraud-1).

This week in birthdays:

3/27: NASCAR driver Cale Yarborough (83)

3/28: Singer/songwriter Reba McEntire (67)

3/29: Comedian/actor Eric Idle (79)

3/30: Rapper/actor MC Hammer (60)

3/31: Actor Richard Chamberlain (88)

4/1: Novelist/poet Milan Kundera (93)

4/2: Mets infielder Al Weis (84)

And a Bad Joke:

Q: What do you call a girl with a frog on her head?

A: Lily.