

Dutchess County Office for the Aging's

AGING NEWS

For the week of February 17

Note: The Office for the Aging and OFA Friendship Centers are closed on Monday, February 17th, in observance of the Presidents Day national holiday. Clients of OFA's Home Delivered Meals program receive meals in advance of the holiday.

There are two kinds of people in the world:

1) those who immediately recognize the SSA-1099 as the annual IRS statement detailing your Social Security benefits for the year just past, and who already have their tax paperwork ducks in a row. If this sounds like you, we have a special volunteering offer at the end of this article.

2) the rest of us, saying *my SSA what now?* Maybe you don't remember receiving an SSA-1099, or maybe you can't remember where you put it.

At the Office for the Aging, we call this an "uh-oh moment." Fear not: we can help you get Social Security paperwork issues straightened out as tax season gets underway.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) is making it easier for beneficiaries to replace their benefit statements, which show the total amount of benefits received in the previous year. It's a number that needs to be reported to the IRS.

Whether you misplaced your SSA-1099 or never received one when they were mailed in January, you no longer have to visit a Social Security office or wait on the phone. If you have an online My Social Security account, you can replace the form online:

- 1) Go to **ssa.gov** and log in to My Social Security.
- 2) Select the "Replace Your Tax Form SSA-1099/SSA-1042S" link.
- 3) Choose a year from the dropdown menu, which goes back six years.
- 4) Select the "Download" link to view and print your form.

If you don't have a printer, you can save the document on your computer.

If You *Don't* Have a My Social Security Account Or Aren't Online

It's easy to create an online My Social Security account at the Social Security website **ssa.gov**. Those of you who don't have internet access or are having trouble creating a My Social Security account can still get your needs taken care of, by using Social Security's automated phone services to request a replacement SSA-1099. Automated services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling **1-800-772-1213**. When you hear “How can I help you today?” say “1099”.

If a beneficiary died before the end of 2024 or before they received their SSA-1099, the form will be mailed to the last address on their record. The form is used to file any final tax return, if necessary.

For those of you with TTY equipment, Social Security can be reached at **1-800-325-0778**.

If You're Still Stumped, Contact OFA

Reach out to us at ofa@dutchessny.gov or **845-486-2555** and can help you through the process of getting your Social Security tax forms. We can work with you over the phone, or in-person at our Poughkeepsie office at 114 Delafield St., open 9:00am - 5:00pm weekdays.

For General Tax-Prep Questions

Free tax preparation once again is available, from AARP Foundation TaxAide's IRS trained and certified volunteers, through the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition. Last year, 6,418 residents of Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam Counties received help preparing and filing their taxes, with a goal of helping 8,000 residents file returns this tax season. The tax service is open for low to moderate income residents of all ages who meet the eligibility guidelines. Membership in AARP is not required. This free tax preparation service is provided to all those who are eligible thanks to AARP Foundation Tax-Aide and Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition members including the Community Action

Partnership for Dutchess County, which receives partial funding from the Dutchess County Office for the Aging.

To receive help, dial **2-1-1** to schedule an appointment through United Way's Hudson Valley Region 2-1-1 Helpline; or call **1-800-899-1479**. 2-1-1 is available to take appointment calls from 9am to 4pm Monday through Friday. There are 15 tax sites located throughout Dutchess County, with many day, evening, and Saturday appointments available.

That Special Volunteering Offer We Mentioned At The Top

OFA's Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) is looking for volunteer counselors who can convey often complex insurance information in ways that'll be easily understood. We provide ongoing training for all HIICAP counselors. You'll be able to use your specialized skills to help hundreds of Dutchess County older adults. Visit **dutchessny.gov/hiicap** for details on HIICAP volunteering and services.

In next week's issue: What to know about your 2025 Social Security benefit verification letter.

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

Social media: www.facebook.com/DutchessCountyOFA

TRI-TOWN (PLEASANT VALLEY) FRIENDSHIP CENTER NEEDS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

The OFA Friendship Center at Tri-Town (1576 Main St. (US 44), Pleasant Valley, at the First Presbyterian Church) needs volunteer drivers for our Home Delivered Meals Program clients in central Dutchess County.

We're especially in need of volunteer drivers on Mondays and Fridays, but welcome volunteers for all days of the week. Hours are 9:30am-12:30pm weekdays. Mileage can be reimbursed for drivers who use their own vehicles for deliveries.

For more information and a printable volunteering form, see dutchessny.gov/ofavolunteer. For an online signup form, visit surveymonkey.com/r/WLQKB3Q.

DUTCHESS COUNTY LAUNCHES ‘GOGO VETERANS’

FREE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR LOCAL VETERANS

Dutchess County Executive Sue Serino and Dutchess County Veterans Affairs Director Adam Roche have announced the launch of ‘GoGo Veterans,’ a new transportation program providing free rides to veterans in need of reliable transportation for essential services. Officially starting on March 1st, this initiative underscores Dutchess County’s unwavering commitment to those who have served our nation, ensuring they have access to the care and resources they deserve.

Through the ‘GoGo Veterans’ program, eligible veterans can receive:

- Two free rides per month in Dutchess County to medical appointments, including VA hospitals and local healthcare providers.

- One free ride in Dutchess County per month to a grocery store, pharmacy, or personal visit, helping veterans maintain independence and quality of life.

Veterans interested in enrolling in the program can call the Dutchess County Office of Veterans Affairs at 845-486-2060 to register for the program. Instructions on how to schedule rides will then be provided to enrolled veterans.

The GoGo Veterans program will enable the County to significantly expand ride availability for local veterans. The County has already successfully been utilizing GoGo services through the Dutchess County Office for the Aging's "GoGo Grandparent), with nearly 2,000 rides provided to older adults in 2024. Contact OFA during business hours at **845-486-2555** for more information about OFA's "GoGo Grandparent" program.

For veterans who had a ride previously scheduled through VetZero for the month of February, those rides will continue as scheduled.

To learn more about the GoGo Veterans program as well as other on available veteran programs and benefits, visit DutchessNY.gov/Veterans.

LOW/MODERATE INCOME TAX PREP

FREE tax preparation once again is available, from AARP Foundation TaxAide's IRS trained and certified volunteers, through the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition.

Last year, 6,418 residents of Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam Counties received help preparing and filing their taxes, with a goal of helping 8,000 residents file returns this tax season.

The tax service is open for low to moderate income residents of all ages who meet the eligibility guidelines. Membership in AARP is not required. This free tax preparation service is provided to all those who are eligible thanks to AARP Foundation Tax-Aide and Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition members including the Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County.

There are 15 tax sites located throughout Dutchess County with many day, evening, and Saturday appointments available.

To receive help, dial 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment through United Way's Hudson Valley Region 2-1-1 Helpline; or call 1-800-899-1479.

2-1-1 is available to take appointment calls from 9am to 4pm Monday through Friday.

“SENIOR PARK PRINTS” RETURNS FOR OLDER ADULTS IN DUTCHESS

(FILLING UP FAST!)

The annual Senior Park Prints series art class for beginners age 60 and up is about to get underway, co-hosted by the Office for the Aging and Dutchess County Parks. If you're a Dutchess County older adult (60+) who's looking to develop a new skill, register and join us at one of the following free classes:

- **Tuesday, March 18th - 2:00 pm** - Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie – ONE SPOT LEFT as of the morning of Friday 2/14
- **Tuesday, April 8th - 2:00 pm** – Millerton-Northeast Library Annex, 28 Century Blvd., Millerton

Space is limited to 12 registered older adults per event, one class per registrant. Call OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 to register.

All art supplies will be provided, and each artist can take home their new masterpiece after class.

Other news:

Just to our east in New England, the population is aging as it is here. The result: [a shortage of workers](#).

[Seven ways veterans can protect themselves from scams](#).

Speaking of scams some more...we just discovered a site called [fraudoftheday.com](#). It's a lot to take in all at once, but that's a great reminder of how pervasive and clever scams and identity theft can be. Remember to visit [dutchessny.gov/scamprevention](#) for localized contact information to spot and report scams and scam attempts.

When it comes to aging in place, [not all the pieces are in place](#).

This week's birthdays:

2/14: Former New York City mayor [Michael Bloomberg](#) (83)

2/15: Actress/producer [Jane Seymour](#) (74)

2/16: Actor/director [LeVar Burton](#) (68)

2/17: NBA Hall Of Famer [Michael Jordan](#) (62)

2/18: Actor/singer [John Travolta](#) (71)

2/19: Singer/songwriter [Smokey Robinson](#) (85)

2/20: NBA Hall-of-Famer/sportscaster [Charles Barkley](#) (62)

And the Bad Joke:

Q: What do you call a retired miner?

A: Doug.