



DISABILITY SERVICES ABLEGRAM

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2021



Township of Schaumburg Disability Services is hosting a special meet and greet photo session with Santa!

Bring the family and get your picture taken with Santa on Wednesday, December 15 from 3-6pm at the Township. Each family will have their own 10 minute appointment with Santa.

Don't miss your chance to come tell Santa what you want for Christmas in a sensory-friendly atmosphere. Children will be able to talk with Santa and parents can take pictures if they wish. Township staff will also take a photo and email it to you.

Reservations are necessary to ensure each family gets a chance to meet with Santa. Time slots are 10 minutes each and can be scheduled by calling 847-285-4541 by Friday, December 10.

The Township is asking all those who enter our building to wear masks until further notice regardless of vaccination status. This includes all in-person programming inside and outside the Township. The Township is following the guidance from the CDC and state health agencies.

We appreciate everyone's assistance as keep everyone healthy and safe.

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DEPARTMENT NEWS



LEARN ABOUT IL ABLE

Learn all about the wonderful benefits of the Achieving a Better Life (ABLE) accounts managed by the Illinois State Treasurer's Office virtually on Wednesday, November 17 at 2pm.

Join us by Zoom:

Online at [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us)

Meeting ID: 471 587 2835

Passcode: 8840030

Phone In: 312-626-6799

ABLE accounts allow individuals with disabilities the ability to plan, save, and spend money on services, products and education without affecting their means tested benefits.

Topics:

1. Who is eligible to own an Illinois ABLE account?
2. Will I lose SSI, SSDI or Medicaid if I have an Illinois ABLE account?
3. What are the financial benefits of owning and contributing to an Illinois ABLE account?
4. What are qualified disability-related expense? Examples of qualified disability-related expense.
5. How much can I contribute to an Illinois ABLE account?
6. Can I work if I have an Illinois ABLE account?

Register for this program at 847-285-4541.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM UPDATE

The Adopt-a-Family matching process is in full swing! Donors will be receiving communication regarding their adoptee by the second week of November.

Donors may drop off their gifts *Thursday, December 9 from 12pm – 7pm and Friday, December 10 from 9am – 11am*. These will be the only drop off days available as we do not have a storage area for gifts arriving early. Please be sure to stop at the check-in table in the main lobby of the Township with your gifts so we can correctly match them with the assigned family. Carts and flatbeds will be available to assist you.

Clients may pick up their gifts *Friday, December 10 from 1 – 7 pm or Saturday, December 11 from 9am – 12pm*. ID will be required to ensure each client receives the correct gifts.

Please contact Lauren Ewan at 847-884-0030 with any questions.



PROGRAM INFORMATION

**SPEECH IPAD PROVIDED BY ITAC**

The Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation (ITAC) is offering an Apple iPad with Augmentative and Alternative Communication Apps to help individuals with speech disabilities communicate.

The Apple iPad and the communication apps loaded onto the iPad are part of a loan program.

To qualify for the iPad with AAC apps, certification of the applicant's speech disability from a speech language pathologist is required on the application. Applications are available in the Disability Services Department or by calling ITAC at 1-800-841-6167.

**NURSE JANET'S HEALTH TOPICS**

See below for Nurse Janet's Health Topics for November and December on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm. Health Topics are held virtually on Zoom and in person. To attend in person, call 847-285-4551 as seating is limited. Masks will be required.

11/9	Pancreatic Functions and Diseases
12/7	How to Set Holiday Expectations

Please note the Bridges to Memory Support Group will be meeting on Wednesday, November 17 and Wednesday, December 15. For more information or to register to attend, call Nurse Janet at 847-285-4551.

**FLU CLINIC NOVEMBER 18**

11am-2pm

Jewel Osco is hosting a walk-in shot clinic at the Township! Vaccines that are confirmed to be available are flu, tetanus, and pneumonia. Other vaccines may be available. Please bring a photo ID and medical insurance cards.

PROGRAM INFORMATION



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) TASKFORCE SEEKS MEMBERS

The Township of Schaumburg Board of Trustees has created a new DEI Taskforce whose duties include assessing current Township practices and making recommendations on opportunities for growth related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. People with disabilities are encouraged to apply to be a member. The Taskforce meets at 7 pm the first Wednesday of each month. Please contact Becky at 847-884-0030 or bcordes@schaumburgtownship.org for more information or to request an application.



APPLY FOR PASSPORTS EARLY TO TRAVEL INTERNATIONALLY

Did you know the Township of Schaumburg is a passport acceptance agency? We can help with new and renewal passports for people of all ages! At the time of printing, routine passport processing can take up to 14 weeks with expedited service taking up to 10 weeks. Expedited service is an extra \$60 per application. The Township also takes passport-approved photos for \$10. No appointments are needed. Passport applications are accepted Monday-Friday from 9-4pm. Don't hesitate to call 847-285-4561 or check the township website for all the information you need to apply.



FAIR HOUSING SERIES FINAL PRESENTATION

The Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance (CAFHA) and Disability Services will conclude their virtual three-part series on fair housing and renters' rights on November 18 from 3:30-4:30pm. The free program will discuss housing rights for families with children, immigrant households and sexual harassments in housing

Registration is required at 847-285-4541.

- Meeting ID: 823 7248 4204
- Passcode: 675200
- Phone: 312-626-6799
- <https://bit.ly/3ig556s>

SOCIAL SERVICES

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP helps income-eligible households pay for home energy services. Enrollment will be open until May 1 or until funds are exhausted. To learn eligibility and to arrange an appointment to apply, please call 847-285-4541.



FOOD ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The Township offers several options for those experiencing food insecurity. Whether it is a food pantry appointment or assistance applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Township staff can help make sure your family has enough food on the table. Call 847-285-4541 to make an appointment.



MEDICARE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD OPEN UNTIL DECEMBER 7

Medicare can be very intimidating and many residents don't know where or how to get started. The Township can help! The annual enrollment period for Medicare Part C ("Advantage") and Part D ("Prescription Drugs") occurs every year from October 15th – December 7th. The Township has several Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselors who can provide free, unbiased information. SHIP is a program from the Illinois Department on Aging, and is designed to help older adults with their Medicare and other health insurance options. If you would like to meet with a counselor, appointments are required. Please contact 847-285-4541 — appointments are limited. We are happy to conduct your appointment over the phone if preferred. You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE or the State of Illinois SHIP Hotline at 800-252-8966 for assistance. We look forward to assisting you with the annual enrollment period, or other Medicare questions.



NEED A RIDE?

Call 847-882-1929

SOCIAL SERVICES



AARP INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

AARP Tax Aide helps low- to moderate-income taxpayers file their state and federal returns at no cost. Appointments at the Township will likely be available from early February through April. Individuals are reminded to contact our office after January 24, 2022, to schedule an appointment. Appointments will be scheduled in date order to ensure the most individuals can be assisted. Due to COVID-19, this program is subject to change. Up-to-date information will be available on schaumburgtownship.org, including how to make an appointment as this year the process for scheduling an appointment has changed.

AARP TAX AIDE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Each year AARP relies on skilled volunteers to help run this incredibly popular program. This year, AARP needs to fill Local Coordinator and Counselor volunteer positions. Local Coordinators are responsible for implementing program plans for one or more Tax Aide locations and to ensure program compliance with AARP Foundation program policies and IRS Quality Site Requirements. Counselors provide tax assistance and preparation services to taxpayers under the supervision of the Local Coordinator. Full job descriptions can be found at schaumburgtownship.org or by calling Anna at 847-285-4541.



HEARING AID AND EYEGASSES ASSISTANCE

Did you know that The Lions of Illinois Foundation and the Schaumburg-Hoffman Lions Club can assist Township residents with obtaining reconditioned over-the-ear style hearing aids and exams at a discounted price. Through the Hearing Aid Assistance Program. They can also help with getting an eye exam and glasses with their Eyeglasses Assistance Program. The Township of Schaumburg Disability Services Department can help determine if you qualify and help you apply. To learn more about either program, call 847-285-4541!

MORE SERVICES AND NEWS



TOWNSHIP HOLIDAY HOURS

The Township of Schaumburg's holiday closing dates and times are listed below. We wish you a wonderful holiday!

- Wednesday, November 24—Close at Noon
- Thursday, November 25— Closed
- Friday, November 26—Closed
- Friday, December 24—Closed
- Friday, December 31—Closed

COLD, COVID-19 OR THE FLU?

Cold and flu season is here but when mixed with the threat of COVID-19, how can you tell the difference between each illness? Each disease has similar symptoms, like cough, sore throat and runny nose. There are some distinguishing symptoms as well such as COVID-19 can cause a loss of smell and taste. While there are effective and proven vaccines for the flu and COVID-19, there is no vaccine for the common cold. Vaccines help reduce the risk of catching COVID-19 and the flu as well as help lower the severity of symptoms in a breakthrough case. There are common ways to avoid all three illnesses:

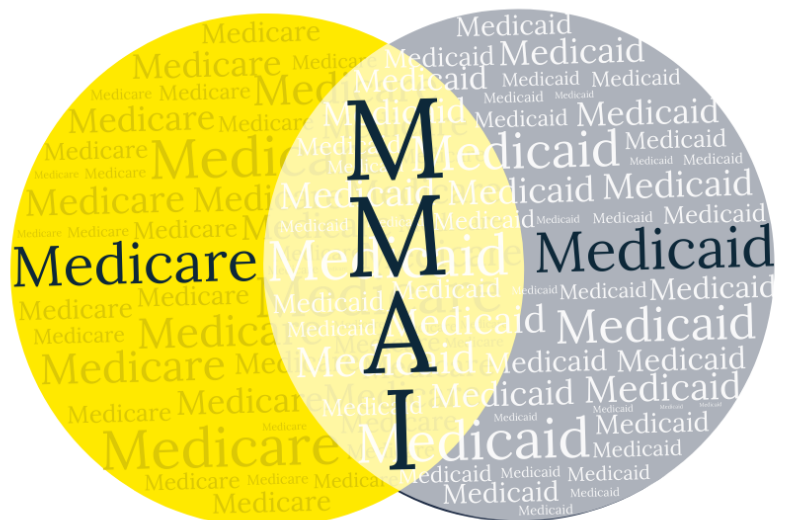
- Avoid close contacts with anyone outside your household.
- Wear a facemask in crowded areas.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Clean high-touch surfaces,

If you think you have symptoms of any of these illnesses, please contact your doctor.

Source: <https://mayoclinic.org/3GnRFz>

MEDICARE MEDICAID ALIGNMENT INITIATIVE (MMAI)

Do you have Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B, as well as Medicaid with no spend down? If so and you are aged 21 or older, you are eligible for the Medicare Medicaid Alignment Initiative (MMAI) that allows you to access all of your benefits in one plan. Call 847-285-4541 to discuss MMAI options with one of our certified Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) Counselors today!





**Township of Schaumburg
Department of Disability Services**


1 Illinois Boulevard
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

Phone: 847-884-0030

Disability Services Direct: 847-285-4541

Deaf Services Videophone: 224-520-9763

www.schaumburgtownship.org

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CALL FOR ART

Come by the Disability Services Department to see the variety of artwork from our clients! Current artwork has been on display since March, 2021 and will be up through the end of January, 2022.

Do you have artwork you would like to have displayed? Pieces should be any two-dimensional type of work (drawing, painting, photography, etc.) and no larger than 18"x24". Please submit art and direct any questions to Lauren Ewan, Interim Director of Disability Services at 847-884-0030 or lewan@schaumburgtownship.org.



TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS



SUPERVISOR
Timothy M.
Heneghan



TRUSTEE
Robert N. Fiorio



TRUSTEE
Demetrius J.
Gibson



TRUSTEE
Lauren Saternus



TRUSTEE
Matthew J.
Steward



CLERK
W. Robert
Vinnedge



ASSESSOR
John R. Lawson, CIAO



HIGHWAY
COMMISSIONER
Scott M. Kegarise