



DISABILITY SERVICES **ABLEGRAM**

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2022

VIRTUAL HOUSING SERIES



In partnership with Open Communities, Disability Services will be hosting a virtual three part series on housing rights for people who are 55+. Each meeting will be a great opportunity to learn about housing protections and resources. Time will be set aside for Q&A. Please note the different RSVP links per session or contact us for registration assistance.

Fair Housing 101 January 11, 10-11am

This online workshop will cover the protected classes under the federal, state, and local fair housing laws. It will also explain reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, dealing with tenants who require service animals, who is liable under the Fair Housing Act, and how fair housing laws are enforced.

RSVP: bit.ly/31EpgW6.

Avoid Foreclosure January 18, 10-11am

This workshop educates homeowners about the various options available to assist them in avoiding foreclosure. It will cover information on the foreclosure process, adjust/restructure your budget, and keep the lines of communication open with your lender to protect your home and prevent foreclosure.

RSVP: bit.ly/3y6myoo.

Rental Counseling January 25, 10-11am

Tenants will learn self-advocacy tips, lease options, selecting a rental, and financial sustainability. Focus also on overcoming potential renting barriers, helping participants prepare for sustainable housing and educating tenants going through an eviction on their rights and remedies, and teaching tenants how to develop a positive relationship with their landlord. RSVP: bit.ly/3rJm4n7.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Department News2
Transportation Services.....5

Program Information3-4
Social Services6-7

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Thank You, Sponsors



We'd like to share a special thanks to B&A Plumbing and the Schaumburg-Hoffman Lions Club for their generous donations for our "Meet and Greet with Santa" held December 15.

This event couldn't have been possible without you. Thank you for helping us make programs like this possible for people with disabilities in our community.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY HOLIDAY PROGRAM HUGE SUCCESS!

Disability Services wishes to thank all the donors who adopted 40 of our Township residents with disabilities this holiday season.

Their generosity made the holidays a little bit brighter for residents!



Thank you Donors!
Adopt-A-Family
Holiday Program



WELCOME, MALONA JACKSON

Disability Services is excited to announce our newest team member, Malona Jackson, Benefit Specialist.

Malona graduated from Northern Illinois University with a B.S. in Community Health and is passionate about helping people.

She likes to spend time with her teenage son, watch her favorite TV shows or just listen to music when she isn't at work.

Feel free to meet Malona at the Township or contact her for assistance at 847-285-4541.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

AARP TAX PROGRAM



Each year, the Township partners with AARP to provide FREE income tax assistance for low- to moderate-income taxpayers to file their state and federal returns at no cost.

Appointments will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Due to the large number of calls for this popular program, we will not have a waiting list to return calls. Please contact our office after January 24th, 2022, for an appointment.

Due to COVID-19, this program is subject to change.

DISABILITY SERVICES RECEIVES ITAC HONOR

Congratulations to the Schaumburg Township Disability Services Department for receiving a special honor from Illinois Telecommunications Access Corp. (ITAC) as the 3rd busiest selection center of all large selection centers in the state. As a reward, Disability Services received \$1,500 from ITAC. This success wouldn't be possible without the hard work and commitment of our staff and the residents who trust us to help them with their ITAC needs.

ITAC provides free equipment for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late-Deafened, DeafBlind, and Speech-Disabled communities. The Disability Services Department is a selection center to test the free equipment for the ITAC program.

Call us today for more information or to test the equipment! It's FREE!



CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The Caregiver Support Group meets the third Monday of each month from 11—12:30pm for those who want to share their experiences and seek practical advice from others facing similar situations. The group meets Monday, January 17 in-person from 11-12:30 p.m. There will be no February meeting.

No registration required. Those interested can call Becky Cordes at 847-285-4541 with questions. Masks are required.

PROGRAM INFORMATION



FREE VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

Beat those winter blues by tuning into free virtual programming Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays weekly at 10am. There's something for everyone—from history to travel to education.

To join:

Zoom.us

Meeting ID: 471 587 2835

Passcode: 8840030

Phone: 1-312-626-6799

MUSEUMS FOR ALL

Get out this winter and visit a museum for free or reduced admission through the Museums for All program for those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) simply by presenting your SNAP card. This reduced rate is available during all normal operating hours for to up to four individuals per SNAP card.

With a year-round open door policy, Museums for All invites low-income visitors to feel welcome at cultural institutions. Visit <https://museums4all.org/participating-museums/> for a full list of participating museums in the Chicagoland area.

START OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH NURSE JANET'S HEALTH PROGRAMS!



Get out and get involved with Nurse Janet's programs at the Township. Nurse Janet is at the Township Tuesday—Thursday from 9am-4pm. Check out our website for a list of all her services!

- ♦ Coffee and Conversation is the first Wednesday of the month at 9am. January 4th topic: Skin conditions and what you should know about skin cancer. February 2nd topic: Heart Health.
- ♦ The Diabetes Support Group is the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 10:30am. If you have diabetes and you are looking for resources and support, join the group by contacting Nurse Janet at 847-285-4551.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES 847-882-1929**CALL EARLY FOR YOUR RIDE**

Due to the increase in ridership, the Transportation Department recommends riders to schedule their rides earlier than normal. The Transportation Department will do their best to accommodate every ride request. Same day service is not available. Please contact Dispatch at 847-882-1929 to schedule your ride, or for questions or concerns.

NEED A RIDE?

Township transportation is available to older adults (55+) and people with permanent disabilities (18+).

Get information about transportation services today!

RTA PROGRAM

The Disability Services Department is an RTA Site for the Ride Free Program and Reduced Fare Program. Depending on eligibility, individuals with a permanent disability may be eligible for the transit pass.

No appointment is necessary and applications are mailed out weekly. Please allow 8 weeks for RTA card to arrive in the mail.

Come in and register for your transit pass today!

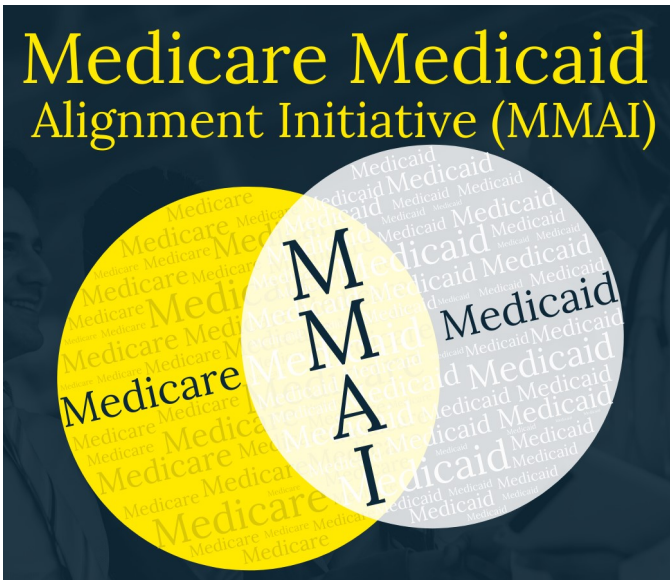
WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Stay safe driving this winter with the following great tips from AARP:

- Check your car battery by turning on the headlights, then start the engine. If the lights brighten when the engine is running, your battery's weak.
- Make sure windshield washer fluid and engine antifreeze levels are full.
- Keep your trunk stacked with winter gear of battery jumper cables, snow brush/ice scraper, cat litter or sand to put under slipping wheels if you're stuck, small shovel, flashlight and batteries, phone charger, drinking water and snacks.
- Clean the inside and outside of the windshield and rear window. Defrost and deice the windshield before you drive.
- Wipe snow and slush off your headlights, brake lights and turn signals.
- Drive slowly! Trying to start too quickly, even with all-wheel drive or traction control, can leave you stuck in place. Abruptly changing speeds — up or down — can cause the tires to slip and spin.

(AARP.org)

SOCIAL SERVICES



MMAI

Medicare-Medicaid Alignment Initiative (MMAI) plans combine all of a member's health care and prescription drug benefits under a single set of benefits.

To be eligible for MMAI, beneficiaries must be at least 21 years old, entitled to Medicare Part A, enrolled in Medicare Parts B and D, have full Medicaid in Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD) category and are not eligible for Medicaid spend-down.

MMAI also offers care coordination to all its enrollees to assist them in meeting their health care goals.

To view plans and to enroll, call us for an appointment today!

FURNACE PROGRAM

Furnace Assistance Program is designed to help income eligible households get their property's furnace, boiler or heater repaired or replaced if they are not working properly or are red-tagged.

To qualify you must be the homeowner living in the property and be income-eligible. If you have been approved for LIHEAP, clients are automatically eligible to apply for this program.

GAME NIGHT AT SCHAUMBURG LIBRARY JANUARY 11

Join Game Night for friends, family and people with disabilities at the Schaumburg Township District Library on Tuesday, January 11 from 6:30-8:30pm. Game Night offers a fun environment for friends, family and people with disabilities ages 16 and older to gather and enjoy themselves. Games such as chess, checkers, Uno, and basic playing cards will be provided. Please feel free to bring a game of your own.

Registration for each member of your group attending is requested at <https://www.schaumburglibrary.org/events>.

Game Nights are a partnership with Schaumburg Township and are coordinated by Library staff and Schaumburg resident Emin Trbonja.

This program will take place in the STDL Workshop. Masks must be worn at all times.

MORE SERVICES AND NEWS**NICOR GAS SHIELD OF CARING GRANT**

Shield of Caring is a new energy and emergency assistance program administered by The Salvation Army to help residential customers who are past-due on their Nicor Gas bill and have a financial hardship including job loss, illness, military deployment, disability or other circumstance.

To qualify for the grant, household gross income in the last 30 days for a one-person household is \$4,293; two-person household is \$5,807. Customers may be eligible to receive a grant of up to \$250 once every two years to apply to their past due account balances.

Customers can apply online at shieldofcaring.com or by calling the Salvation Army Elgin Corps Community Center at 847-741-2304.

**TOWNSHIP HIRES NEW ADMINSTRATOR, DR. MELISSA (MEL) WILLIAMS**

Dr. Melissa (Mel) Williams has been a township resident for 8 years, since returning to the Midwest from a brief stint in the desert of Arizona. She is excited to return to passion and roots, in the public sector.

She obtained her doctorate in management in 2011, with her dissertation focused on employee perceptions of elected leaders' management. Her master's degree in social service administration comes from the University of Chicago.

A proud Wolverine, Mel's bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan focused on civil rights and sociology. Her professional background has various roles and experiences in social services and state government.

In Arizona, her jobs included working for the State Attorney General as the State Victim Rights Enforcement Officer, and at the Department of Economic Security, as Assistant Administrator of the Employment Administration.

While having spent the better part of the last decade working in higher education, every role she's maintained has a focus on continuous quality improvement of organizations and services.

Mel resides in Hoffman Estates with her family and three dogs.

THE TOWNSHIP OF SCHAUMBURG
WILL BE CLOSED:

**JANUARY 3
AND
FEBRUARY 21**





**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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schaumburgtownship.org

**DISABILITY SERVICES
ENEWSLETTER**

Sign up for our enewsletter on our website
www.schaumburgtownship.org to
stay up to date on current
happenings in the Disability Services
Department!

The Disability Services Enewsletter is
emailed on the 1st and 15th of every
month. Sign up today!

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