

perspective

April 2009 Vol. 37 No. 1

A NEWSLETTER for WESTPORT'S SENIORS

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Lifesaver Project

The Westport Police Department will soon be offering residents of the Town of Westport the "Project Lifesaver" program. The program consists of a tracking device to quickly locate anyone who may have wandered from their home or loved one. The program is targeted toward those suffering from Alzheimer's or a related dementia and children with autism who may have wandered. The person enrolled in this program will wear a transmitter bracelet which could be easily tracked by trained Westport Police Personnel.

The Police Department purchased the "Project Lifesaver" equipment through the generosity of the Westport Woman's Club, who presented the Department with their Reugg Grant.

It is not known at this time how many residents will enroll in the program. Once the number of enrollees is known, the cost can be determined. Scholarships will be available to those deemed eligible.

Please contact Lieutenant Thomas P. Casimiro II at 203-341-6061 to learn more about

the program and to provide the Westport Police Department with a better idea of how many residents will utilize this valuable tool.

Please Participate !

The Center's Policy and Planning Board will be initiating a phone survey to members of the community who are eligible to participate at the Center or who are fast approaching eligibility (60 or better). The purpose of the survey is to measure how well the Center is doing with its publicity, marketing, program planning, etc. If you receive a call from a board member within the next couple of months, please don't hang up! Your opinion, suggestions and ideas are important and valued. The Center wants to continue to grow and meet the needs of this ever-growing population. We can't do it without your input!



Did You Know That...

“We Do Walkways” offers help by middle school students who will rake leaves or shovel snow. Suggested fee of \$10 an hour. Call Margaret Pinheiro 341-1050.

LINKS: Connections for Independent Living is part of a national movement enabling adults over 50 to stay securely independent as they grow older in their homes. LINKS will provide members the confidence and connections to live in their homes and remain healthy, active members of their communities by providing one-call access to top-notch professionals offering a spectrum of services. The group is in the formative process of setting up committees, policies and completing the legal work. If you wish to work on a committee, send an e-mail to Bunnythomp@aol.com.

the **ConnPACE card** you now have is a permanent one. ConnPACE is no longer mailing a new card each year. It is still necessary to reapply each year. The renewal form arrives in a yellow envelope.

those receiving Social Security benefits and SSI can expect a **bonus check for \$250 from Social Security** as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Checks should start arriving in May. This one time award is good news for couples, each of whom will each receive a check for \$250. This additional payment will occur automatically either as a direct deposit or a mailed check. This one time payment will not be counted toward gross income on your federal income tax.

Westport Police Detective John Rocke is available if you think you have been the victim of a **scam** or have experienced an attempt at **identity theft**. 203-341-6022

a **Reverse Annuity Mortgage (RAM)** can offer a first mortgage for homeowners with long-term care needs. Borrowers must use the equity in their homes **to provide long term health care or supportive services**. At least one borrower must be 70 or older. Household income may not exceed \$81,000 per year. A one time fee of \$1500 is added to the loan, so there is no out of pocket expenses to CHFA (CT Housing Finance Authority). Borrowers need their own attorney. Contact Single Family Underwriting (860-571-3502) or visit www.chfa.org

the Center for Senior Activities has compiled a list of **home maintenance service providers** from recommendations by Westport seniors. This directory offers a single source of information rather than leaving through the yellow pages. If you have trusted service provider you would like to recommend, call the Center (341-5099) for the form.

Department of Human Services	
Senior Services	
Director	Barbara Butler
Assistant Director	Terry Giegengack
Administrative Assistant	Margaret Pinheiro
Social Services Case Worker	Pam Bass
Social Services Case Worker	Sarah Heath
Senior Program Coordinator	Maybeth Wirz
Special Services Social Worker	Sue Lebrija
Senior Services Consultant	Fran Reynolds
Center for Senior Activities	
Director	Sue Pfister
Program Assistant	Joan Joyce
Nutrition Program Coordinator	Joan Upchurch
Secretary	Maureen Seirup
Receptionist	Benjamin Palmer
Commission for Senior Services	
Chairman: Stan Nayer — Members: Teri Klein, Howard Maynard, Bob McGrath, Sharon Rosen, , Michael Stashower, Kelli Walsh	



Film @ the Library: *Pitching Man: Satchel Paige-Defying Time* — Wednesday, April 1 -7:00 pm. McManus Room. Just in time for opening day of baseball season! An American Legend and the single most important player in the League. Serving peanuts and crackerjacks!

Great Hall Art Exhibit: **Elise Black** —“Coloring Outside the Lines” by Elise Black –April 1-May 30. An exhibit of mixed media paintings and assemblages which utilize a variety of found and unconventional materials.

Knit and K'nosh— Saturday, April 4—3-4pm Higgins Room. Join in an afternoon of knitting at the Library. Bring your knitting supplies and the Library will provide the snacks. Socialize with other knitters and lend each other help and encouragement. Just drop in.

“The

Center Celebrates Five Years



The Hoot Owls serenade on Superbowl Sunday

Friends of the Center for Senior Activities” hosted over two hundred and fifty people at their 5th annual Superbowl / Anniversary Party held at the Center for Westporters of all ages. The combination Superbowl party and Anniversary party featured hero sandwiches provided by local delicatessens and hot-dogs served by Lee Papageorge from Oscar’s.

The highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of the lifetime Achievement Award for Service to Seniors to Ted₃ Simons. First Selectman Gordon Joseloff

presented Ted with a plaque commemorating his musical contributions to the senior community. In addition to tickling the ivories at a long list of community programs, Ted founded the Hoot Owls and served as Director of the Center’s Mellow Dears singing group.

Games, cheerleaders and sing-a-longs carried the crowd through the afternoon.

TOWN OF WESTPORT GRAND LIST YEAR 2008 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Applications for tax relief are taken in the Assessor's Office in Town Hall, room 104 (341-1070).

Dates for filing are as follows:

STATE PROGRAMS	February 2-May 15
TOWN CREDIT	February 2-May 15
TOWN DEFERRAL	February 2-December 30
TOWN SEWER DEFERRAL	February 2-November 16
TOWN ADDITIONAL VETS	February 2-October 1

Town Tax Relief must be applied for every year, although the state program applications are required every two years. Many applicants receive assistance from both the state and the town.

Tax relief is available to residents 65 and older or residents who are permanently and totally disabled.

To assist you in determining eligibility, the information is given in the chart below:

INCOME GUIDELINES FOR PROPERTY RELIEF PROGRAMS

Program	Maximum Income	Amount of Benefit	Benefit Type
State Credit	\$30,500 (single)	\$150-\$1000	Waiver
	\$37,300 (married)	\$150-\$1250	Waiver
Town Credit	Under \$25,000	\$3,500	Waiver
	\$25,000-under \$35,000	\$3,000	Waiver
	\$35,000-under \$45,000	\$2,000	Waiver
	\$45,000-under \$55,000	\$1,000	Waiver
Town Deferral	\$75,000	Up to 100% of taxes	Deferral
Town Deferral	\$75,000-\$100,000	Tax increase only	Deferral
Town Add'l Vets	\$55,000 (single)	\$20,000	Off Assm't
	\$62,300 (married)		

The above incomes include **Adjusted Gross Income Plus Non-Taxable Social Security**. Qualified applicants will be allowed to subtract medical expenses greater than 7 1/2% (this amount is located on the itemized page of your tax return) of income from total income amount, as defined by the IRS code for town programs only. **Please bring all information (2008 tax return and 2008 Social Security earning statement) when applying.**

Applicants who qualify for the Town Credit are now able to take advantage of the Deferral Program as well as the Town Credit.

Taxes and interest are not due on the Deferral Program until the home changes title. Simple (non-compounding) interest (4%) is charged.

Residents who find it difficult to get to Town Hall to apply for Tax Relief may call the Department of Human Services, 341-1050 and request a home visit.

THE ABOVE INCOME LEVELS REFER TO THE 2008 GRAND LIST YEAR. ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE JULY 2009 TAX BILL.



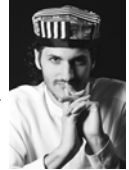
Westport Center for Senior Activities

The Westport Center for Senior Activities is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for adults 60 years of age and older in a pleasant and safe environment. Please stop in and pick up our quarterly newsletter or visit us on the web at www.westportct.gov. You may also request e-mail announcements of upcoming events by e-mailing Maureen at MSeirup@westportct.gov. The Center is open M-F from 8:30 am-4:30 pm, Thursday until 8:30 pm. and Saturday from 8:30 am-

Saturday Socials...

April 25th – The Music of Jazz Pianist Chris Coogan: A Request Hour

Lunch will be served from 12:30 – 1:30 pm. followed by an hour of music performed by the well known Chris Coogan. Reservations are required. Cost per person: \$5.00.



May 16th – Ballroom Dance – A Lesson and Social

Enjoy an afternoon of dancing with your friends under the watchful eyes of dance instructors from Ballroom Dancesport. Refreshments and beverages will conclude this fun afternoon. Time: 12:30 – 3:00 pm. Reservations are required. Cost per person: \$5.00.

June 20th – A Sing-a-Long of Favorite Songs with the Humble Bees.

The Humble Bees have provided entertainment throughout CT. They sing a repertoire of songs and plan on doing an interactive sing-a-long when they visit on the 20th. The groups consists of five men from Meriden, CT. Lunch will be served at 12:30 followed by the sing-a-long at 1:30 pm. Reservations are required. Cost per person: \$5.00.

AARP's Safe Driving Course

In this class, you can expect to learn current rules of the road, how to operate your vehicle more safely in today's increasingly challenging driving environment, and some adjustments to common age-related changes in vision, hearing, and reaction time. Upon completion of the course, you will receive a discount of at least 5% from your insurance company. The class will be offered on Friday April 3 and 10 from 1:00 – 5:00 pm. You must attend both sessions. Cost: \$12.00 AARP member, \$14.00 nonmember. Class size is limited to 30; pre registration required. Call 341-5099 to register.

Nursing & Home Care to Present Workshops

- Wednesday April 8th – Coping with Stress from 10:30 – Noon
 - Thursday April 16th – Coordinating Care for Parents or an Elderly Relative/Friend from 6-8pm.
 - Wednesday May 13th – First Aid for Your soul from 10:30 – Noon
- Wednesday June 17th – Who Am I After Loss? 10:30 - Noon

Nursing and Home Care is a community-based, non-profit agency that provides professional and compassionate home health and hospice care. All workshops are offered at no charge.

21 Imperial Avenue—341-5099

A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON SENIOR TRANSPORTATION

Why should growing older change your ability to continue enjoying all of the things you love to do?

A group of community volunteers has mobilized and is working toward affiliation with ITNAmerica® to bring an additional transportation option to our area for older adults and visually impaired. Retain your mobility and continue to enjoy all of the activities offered in our communities as you gracefully and responsibly transition from the driver seat to the passenger seat. Let CoastalCT take you there day or night whether the trip is planned ahead or spur of the moment. Go to a concert at the Quick Center at Fairfield University; enjoy a football game under the lights at Wilton High School; go to a movie in Norwalk on a dark and rainy night. We can take you there.

Rides will be provided 24/7 in private automobiles to and from any point in Easton, Fairfield, Norwalk, Weston, Westport and Wilton. with no restriction on the purpose of the ride. Monthly statements will be mailed and no money will exchange hands in the car. A key feature of this service will be door-to-door and arm-in-arm service. And please don't tip. This not-for-profit transportation service will be sustainable through user fares and voluntary local community support. Reduced rates and scholarships will be available based on financial need.

We are currently fundraising and presenting our service to groups in the six town service area. We expect to offer rides in 2010 and you can help us achieve that goal by spreading the word, asking us to speak to a group, and through getting involved with the committee. We will happily give a brief presentation to groups of any size. For further information, visit: www.ITNAmerica.org

Leslie Wolf, CoastalCT Senior Transportation
The Committee to Affiliate with ITNAmerica, Friends of the Westport Center for Senior Activities
Leslie2of8@aol.com or (203)856-3737