

700 Hamilton Boulevard, Peoria, Illinois 61603 Telephone: (309) 674-2071, Toll Free: 1-877-777-2422 Website: http://www.ciaoa.net

Serving Fulton, Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties

Office Hours: Monday — Friday: 8:30 am—5:00 pm Saturdays: Closed

SENIOR GAZETTE

2023, December Issue

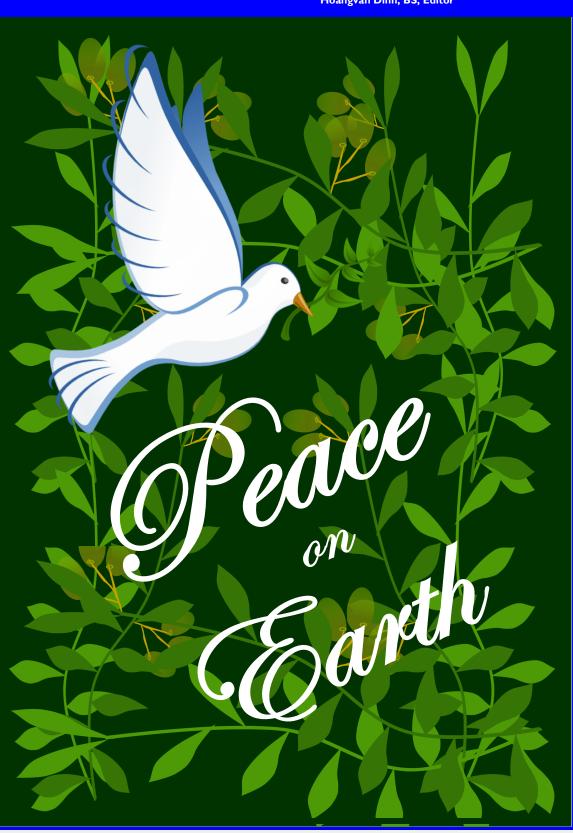
Tessa Mahoney, MSW, MBA, Executive Director Hoangvan Dinh, BS, Editor

IN THE ISSUE

Peace on EarthI
Older Adults Are at High Risk for Severe RSV Illness2
Fight Flu3
Get Free at-home COVID-19 tests on COVIDTests.gov4
Don't Wait — Time is Running Out5
Virtual Caregiver Roundtable Discussion6
SUBARU Share the Love® Event7
Season's Healing: 5 Tips To Reduce Holiday Stress8
USDA Actions on Nutrition Security9
How to Get Emergency Food Assistance10
4 Keys to Holiday Toy Safety
Beware of Scams During the Holiday Season12
Caregiver Chat at the Peoria & Creve Coeur Public Library by Bradley CRTC13
988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline14
Planning a Group Trip or Outing15
Take Charge of Your Health16-17
Our Office Holidays Closed List, Places to GoThings to See, and Facebook18
U.S. House of Representative, U.S. Senators for IL, IL General Assembly, Board of Directors and Council Rosters

Happy New Year 2024!

To Receive Senior Gazette, e-mail Hoangvan Dinh at hdinh@ciaoa.net



Older Adults Are at High Risk for Severe RSV Illness

Respiratory **S**yncytial **V**irus, or **RSV**, is a common virus that affects the lungs and breathing passages

- ✓ RSV vaccine is available to adults 60 and over
- ✓ It can PROTECT against severe illness
- √ Talk to your doctor to see if vaccination is right for you

RSV can de dangerous for older adults

Adults who are 60 years or older are at highest risk, especially:

- Adults who have chronic heart or lung disease
- Adults who have weakened immune systems

RSV can lead to serious conditions

- Pneumonia (infection of the lungs)
- Hospitalization
- More severe symptoms for people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- More severe symptoms for people with congestive heart failure

Everyday preventive measures help protect against respiratory viruses

- Wash hands often
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean frequently touched surfaces
- Stay home when sick



EACH YEAR

RSV

causes serious illness in older adults

60,000—160,000 hospitalizations

6,000—10,000 deaths

www.cdc.gov/rsv



FIGHT FLU





of US adults agree flu vaccination is the best way to prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths ····





but 43%
say they do not plan to
or are unsure if they will
get vaccinated against
flu during the
2023-2024 season

#StopTheSpread #GetVaccinated #FightFlu





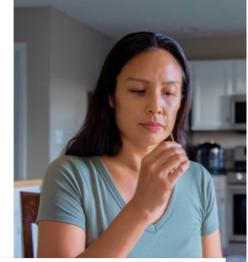
www.nfid.org

Get free at-home COVID-19 tests on COVIDTests.gov

As of November 20, 2023, residential households in the U.S. are eligible for another order of 4 free at-home tests from USPS.com. Here's what you need to know about your order:

- Each order includes 4 individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests
 (COVIDTests.gov has more details about at-home tests, including extended shelf life and updated expiration dates)
- If an order has not been placed for your address since the program reopened on September 25, 2023, you can place 2 orders now
- Orders will ship free

Order Free At-Home Tests





Source: COVIDtests.gov

Need help placing an order for your at-home tests? Call <u>1-800-232-0233</u> (TTY <u>1-888-720-7489</u>).

The U.S. government will continue to make COVID-19 tests available to uninsured individuals and underserved communities through existing outreach programs.

Please contact a <u>HRSA-funded health center</u> or <u>Increasing Community Access to Testing (ICATT) location</u> near you to learn how to access low- or no-cost COVID-19 tests provided by the federal government.



Reminder: Medicare Open Enrollment ends on December 7. Have you compared your coverage options yet? You could save money, find better coverage, or both!

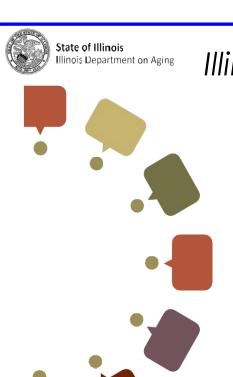
Just as your health care needs can change from year to year, so can Medicare plans. And not all options offer the same benefits. On <u>Medicare.gov</u>, you can compare all the coverage options in your area — Part D drug plans, Medicare Advantage Plans, and more.

Compare Coverage Options

Some things to consider when shopping for 2024 Medicare coverage:

- Check if your preferred doctors are still in-network.
- Make sure your prescriptions are on the drug plan's list of covered drugs (sometimes called a "formulary").
- Consider how the plan's deductible and other out-of-pocket costs factor into the plan's total costs.

Review your current health care coverage and see if it still meets your needs for 2024. If you're happy with the coverage you have now, and the plan is still being offered next year, you're all set. If you choose a new option for 2024, it's easy to enroll on Medicare.gov, and your new coverage will start January 1.



Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) invites you to ...

Join the Conversation!

A Virtual Caregiver Roundtable Discussion

Central IL—Tuesday, December 5, 2023; 9AM-10:30 AM Southern IL—Friday, December 15, 2023; 2PM—3:30 PM

IDoA will focus on identifying the needs and challenges faced by caregivers, both met and unmet, and explore additional support that can enhance your caregiving journey. Your valuable insights will help shape future policies and initiatives that address the specific concerns of caregivers like yourself.

Please register for your region by clicking the link below:

https://illinois.webex.com/webappng/sites/illinois/webinar/series/register/93a5950d2931446f954e3e3094021a2f

Please make sure to note on the registration if any accommodation or interpretation is needed.

Your voice matters, and we believe that by working together we can create a more supportive and caring environment for all caregivers in our state.



The Illinois Department does not discriminate against any individual because of his or her race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, order of protection status, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, or unfavorable discharge from military service in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department on Aging.

For information call the Senior Helpline: 1-800-252-8966; 711 (TRS)



SUBARU **share the love** EVENT



This holiday season, we hope you'll share the love by supporting our aging neighbors nationwide

MILLIONS OF SENIORS ARE LEFT BEHING, ALONE AND HUNGRY, AND THE PROBLEM IS ONLY GROWING.



1 IN 2 SENIORS LIVING ALONE

lacks the income to pay for basic needs¹

THE SENIOR POPULATION IS SET TO REACH 93M

in the next decade, with 118M EXPECTED by 20601



ABOUT 10 MILLION SENIORS are threatened by or experience hunger.²

MEALS ON WHEELS DELIVERS NUTRITIOUS MEALS AND COMPANIONSHIP, WE HELP SENIORS AGE IN THEIR HOMES.



"I am so grateful for the volunteers people who have it in their heart to help. They don't have to do it, but they do."

> ✓ MARTHA MEALS ON WHEELS CLIENT

Over the last 16 years, Subaru and its retailers have helped the Meals on Wheels network provide more than **MORE THAN 4.3 MILLION MEALS** to seniors in need across the country.

GET A GREAT VEHICLE AND SUPPORT A GREAT CAUSE.

WITH EVERY NEW SUBARU PURCHASED OR LEASED, SUBARU AND ITS RETAILERS ARE DONATING A MINIMUM OF \$300 TO CHARITY, LIKE MEALS ON WHEELS.

NOVEMBER 16, 2023 THROUGH JANUARY 2, 2024.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.MEALSONWHEELSAMERICA.ORG/SHARETHE LOVE.

Information data sources available at www.MealsonWheelsAmerica.org/Facts;

1 The Escalating Issue of Senior Hunger, pg.1; 2 The Escalating Issue of Senior Hunger, pg.2



Season's Healing: 5 Tips to Reduce Holiday Stress

This time of year, nature's crisp beauty invites us to unwind, embrace family and friends and renew connections that help sustain us. Here are a few ideas on how to tap into the season's healing bounty.

1. Stress Less

Give yourself space — and grace. Try:

- Not saying "yes" to all that is asked of you.
- Making realistic holiday plans and to-do lists and learning what you can "let go."
- Breathing deeply and slowly before starting each new task.
- Refreshing your coziest spot at home with a soft chair, warm throw, fire logs or a candle, and a place to rest your head.
- Setting aside time for a book you've been meaning to read or show you've wanted to watch.



No matter what you're doing, be present. Try:

- Noticing the details that make up one of your favorite places.
- Stretching to reach a falling leaf and crumbling it in your hand.
- Indulging in only your absolutely favorite treats —
 and experiencing their taste, smell and texture fully.
- Giving someone your complete attention.
- Gazing at the stars or looking for shapes in the clouds.

3. People Power

Connect with your whole heart. Try:

- Turning shopping or cooking into a pairs or team event.
- Scheduling a festive lunch date or a walk outdoors with someone new.
- Sharing a favorite food or <u>recipe</u> with a friend or co-worker.
- Retelling a favorite memory at a gathering or in a holiday greeting.
- Enlisting a friend to help you rake leaves or build a snowman.



4. Giving Thanks

Note blessings big or small. Try:

- Listing objects that comfort you. Think about your morning coffee, a favorite meal, a pair of snuggly socks or a warm, chunky scarf.
- Smiling as the winter sun shines on your face.
- Jotting down all the things that went right today.
- Savoring the abundance of food at a local market (and taking a bite of a perfect apple!)
- Thanking someone for making your life better.

5. Rest for Your Best

Replenish both body and mind. Try:

- Sticking to a regular <u>sleep schedule</u> of seven to nine hours per night.
- Renewing your stamina with <u>exercise</u>, yoga or a good stretch.
- Closing your eyes for a few minutes at work.
- Scheduling "me" time to relax with a hot bath or cup of tea.
- Snoozing one afternoon, for no good reason.



Source: https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/healthy-lifestyle/mental-health-and-wellbeing/seasons-healings

USDA ACTIONS ON NUTRITION SECURITY

WHAT IS NUTRITION SECURITY?

Consistent and equitable access to healthy, safe, and affordable foods that promote optimal health and well-being.



HOW DOES NUTRITION SECURITY INTERSECT WITH HEALTH EQUITY?

Structural racism increases food insecurity and the risk of diet-related chronic diseases for historically underserved populations. Efforts to improve nutrition security also promote health equity.

WHY DOES NUTRITION SECURITY MATTER?



Poor nutrition is a leading cause of illness in the United States.

Americans die each year due to diet-related diseases







Diabetes



Heart Disease



Diet-related chronic diseases disproportionately impact historically underserved populations and hit hardest in communities with high food insecurity.



Black households experience food insecurity at more than triple the rate of white households.



Beyond health, this has negative impacts on other things.

of health care spending is related to diet-related chronic disease



Military





Healthcare Productivity

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE NUTRITION SECURITY?



Provide nutrition support throughout all stages of life.



Connect all Americans to healthy, safe, affordable food sources.



Develop, translate, and enact nutrition science through partnership.



Prioritize equity every step of the way.

WHAT IS USDA DOING TO PROMOTE NUTRITION SECURITY?

USDA's approach to nutrition security recognizes that structural barriers and inequities make it hard for many Americans to maintain an active, healthy life. Therefore, our effects emphasize equity to ensure all Americans have access to the nutrition they need. Some of our key initiatives underway include:

ADJUSTING SNAP BENEFITS

USDA re-evaluated the Thrifty Food Plan, the basis for calculating SNAP benefit amounts, to make sure SNAP participants can afford a healthy, and practical diet.

UPDATING SCHOOL NUTRITION STANDARDS

Working closely with school meal stakeholders, USDA is developing practical, long-term school nutrition standards that build on the success of the school meal programs.

REVISING THE WICE FOOD PACKAGES

USDA is updating the WIC food packages to align with recommendations from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine and the latest Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA).

PROMOTING NUTRITION EDUCATION

USDA supports a variety of nutrition education efforts such as SNAP-Ed, MyPlate, and WIC breastfeeding support. The department will continue to invest in data-driven strategies that acknowledge diversity and help people put the DGA into action.

 $Learn\,more\,about\,USDA's actions\,to\,promote\,nutrition\,security\,at\underline{www.usda.gov/nutrition-security}.$



How to Get Emergency Food Assistance

You can get immediate food assistance from government and private organizations. If you are hungry now, learn where to find food in your area.

Contact government or private organizations for immediate food assistance:

- Call 211 to find agencies and community organizations that can assist you with finding food in an emergency.
- Call the USDA National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (1-877-842-6273). Information is available in English and Spanish.

 The hotline operates Monday through Friday, 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM Eastern Time.
- Use <u>HUD's Find Shelter tool</u> to enter your zip code and find your closest food pantry.
- Contact community or religious organizations to find a local food bank or food pantry.



Facing financial hardship

Find more government programs that can help during tough financial times.

Source: https://www.usa.gov/emergency-food-assistance







- For children under 3, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking.
- Do not allow children under 8 to play with un-inflated balloons orballoon pieces.

 They can present an aspiration/suffocation hazard.
- For children under 8, avoid toys with sharp edges and electric toys with heating parts.
- Look for labels with age and safety advice.



U.S. Consumer Product Safety CommissionCPSC HOTLINE: 800-638-2772
And 800-638-8270 (TTY)

This alert was produced by CPSC's Neighborhood Safety Network program. Sign up to receive free NSN safety alerts and posters at

www.cpsc.gov

ILLINOIS SENIOR MEDICARE PATROL

MEDICARE FRAUD





Beware of Scams During the Holiday Season

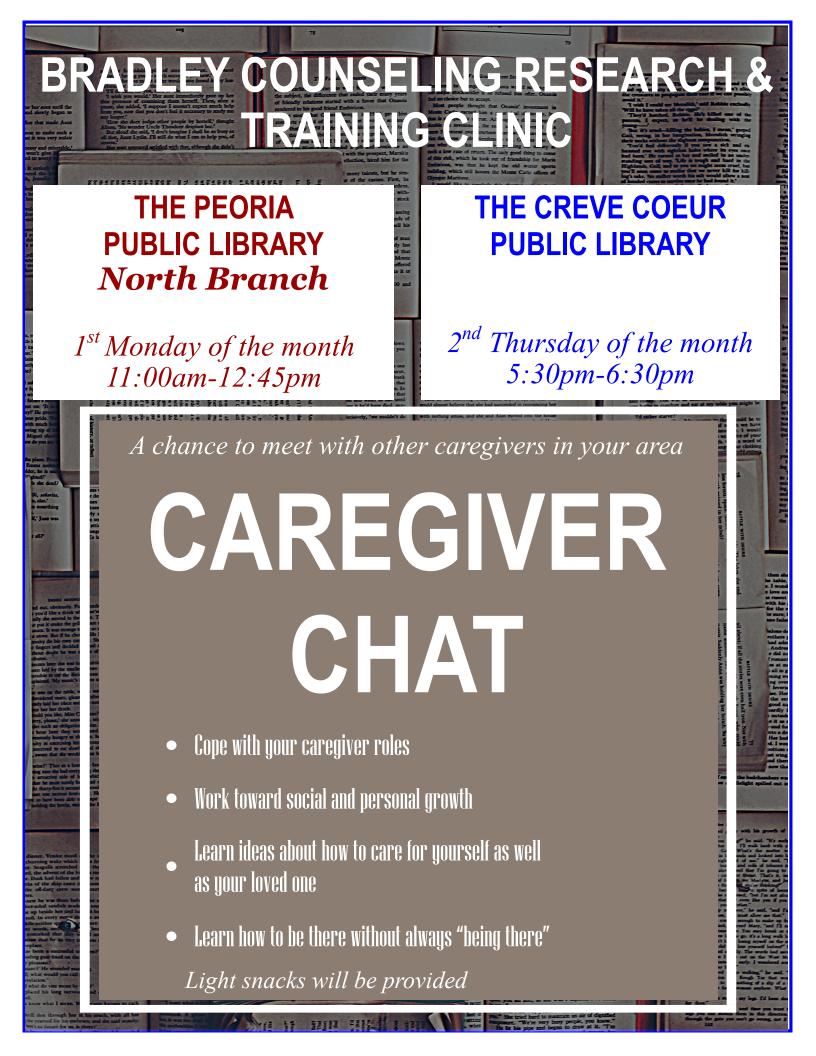
Now that the holiday shopping season is in full swing, thousands of people will become victims of holiday scams. Fraudsters can scam you of your money, personal information, and, at the very least, a festive holiday mood

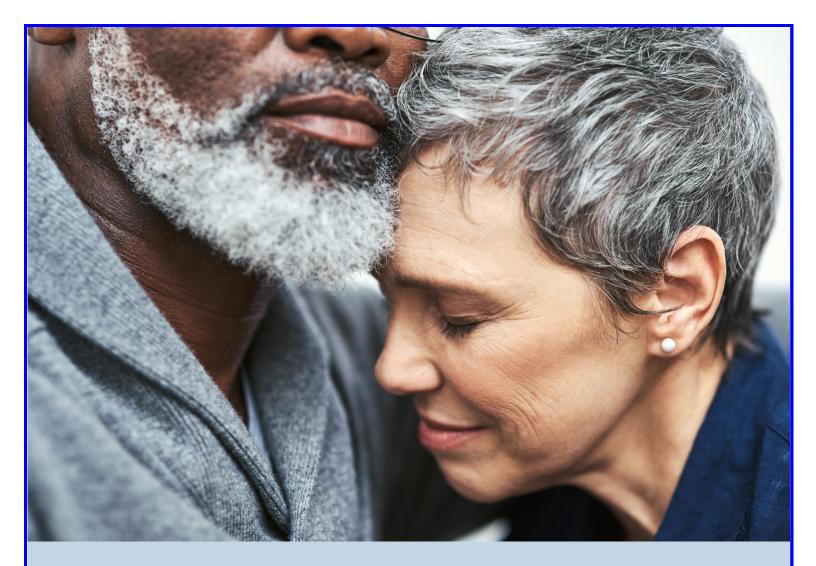
A lot of scammers also view the holiday season as an opportunity to take advantage of the giving spirit. They make bogus phone calls, often spoofing legitimate charities' phone numbers, or may even create fake charities to try to steal your money or personal information.

Here are some tips for what to watch out for during the holidays this year.

- Don't click any suspicious links or attachments in emails, on websites, or on social media. Phishing scams and similar crimes get you to click on links and give up personal information like your name, password, and bank account number. In some cases, you may unknowingly download malware to your device.
- Avoid paying for items with pre-paid gift cards. In these scams, a seller will ask you to send them a gift card number and PIN. Instead of using that gift card for your payment, the scammer will steal the funds, and you'll never receive your item.
- Always get tracking numbers for items you buy online, so you can make sure they have been shipped and can follow the delivery process.
- Pay by credit card. Credit cards give you extra protection for most online purchases. And many cards offer benefits, like protection for returns and purchases. If unauthorized charges pop up on your statement, you'll be able to dispute those charges.
- Donate to trusted, well-known charities. Beware of scammers who create fake charities. Always verify a charity's legitimacy through its official website. If you have doubts, you can check with Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator, Charity Watch, or GuideStar.
- Verify information in online solicitations. Double-check any social media solicitation for charitable donations before you give. Crowd-funding websites often host individual requests for help, but they are not always vetted by the site or other sources to ensure legitimacy.

The Illinois SMP is also here to offer assistance if you feel you have been affected by any potential Medicare fraud, please call the Illinois SMP at AgeOptions at (800)699-9043 or visit www.illinoissmp.org.





There is hope.



If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text **988** or

chat 988lifeline.org

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE





Planning a Group Trip or Outing?

Come Ride With Us!

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Available for Group Excursions

- Wheelchair lift for our friends with mobility issues
- AM/FM/CD stereo with 4 speakers and 3 T.V. screens for pleasurable DVD viewing
- Trips to group outings/functions/ shopping, out of town (i.e. Chicago/St. Louis)
- Transportation services available any day of the week, including evenings and weekends
- We can accommodate :
 - ➤ 20 passengers without wheelchairs
 - > 18 passengers with 1 wheelchair
 - > 16 passengers with 2 wheelchairs





For more information contact:

Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc. 700 Hamilton Blvd. Peoria, IL 61603 P: (309) 674-2071

Email: ciaa@ciaoa.net



TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH

We invite you to participate in this exciting interactive program!

Get support and encouragement from others living with ongoing health conditions just like you!

WHAT IS TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH?

Take Charge of Your Heath programs generally last 6 to 8 weeks. Participant and facilitators meet weekly for two and a half hours. Workshops are led by facilitators who have professional or personal experience with ongoing health conditions.

- * A Matter of Balance is a program designed to reduce fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Participants learn to view falls and fear of falling as controllable, set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors, and exercise to increase strength and balance.
- * Medication Management Improvement

 System (MMIS) Home Meds is an in-home,
 medication review and intervention that includes a
 computerized risk assessment and alert process, plus a
 pharmacist review and recommendation for
 improvement.

determine the scope and duration of the program.



* Healthy IDEAS (<u>Identifying Depression</u>, <u>Empowering Activities for Seniors</u>) is a depression self-management program designed to detect and reduce the severity on depressive symptoms in older adults with chronic conditions and functional limitations. The program includes screening and assessment, education, referral to appropriate health professionals, and behavioral activation. The presence and severity of depression will

For more information on classes or class schedules contact us

By telephone: 309-674-2071 or

By email at <u>ciaa@ciaoa.net</u>

Space is limited.



Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc.

Participants are asked to make a personal commitment to attend all of the sessions if at possible.



Each program's researched based curriculum is proven to work and is offered to the community on a suggested donation basis to cover the cost of materials.

Healthy Living

SIGN UP NOW SPACES ARE LIMITED

Learn new information and tools to help you manage your health, such as:

- * Find out how healthy eating can improve your condition
- * Create an exercise program that works for you
- * Learn ways to improve communication with your family, friends, and healthcare providers
- * Develop your own weekly goals to help you manage your condition
- * Learn problems -solving strategies to help cope with pain, fatigue and frustration
- * Gain Support and encouragement from others living with ongoing health conditions

LEARN HOW TO THRIVE - NOT JUST SURVIVE!

For more information contact:

Central Illinois
Agency on Aging, Inc.
309-674-2071 or
email ciaa@ciaoa.net



Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc. does not discriminate in admission to programs or activities to treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the U.S. Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Age Discrimination Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint by calling, Tessa Mahoney, Executive Director, Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc. at 309-674-2071 or with the Illinois Department on Aging at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TDD).

Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc.

700 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria IL 61603 309-674-2071 FAX 309-674-3639

An independent, not-for-profit organization serving older adults and informal caregivers in Fulton, Marshall, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell and Woodford Counties

http://www.ciaoa.net

Our Office will be Closed on These Holidays

Christmas Eve (Observed) Christmas Day New Year Eve (Observed) New Year Day

Friday, 12/22/2023 Monday, 12/25/2023 Friday, 12/29/2023 Monday, 01/01/2024





From Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc.



Places to Go ... Things to See

To see what's happening in Peoria, visit these websites:

Hult Center For Healthy Living

5215 N. Knoxville Avenue Peoria, IL 61614 692-6650

www.hulthealthy.org

The Peoria Playhouse Children's Museum

2218 N. Prospect Road Peoria, IL 61603 323-6900

www.peoriaplayhouse.org

Peoria Riverfront Museum

222 S.W. Washington St. Peoria, IL 61602 686-7000

www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org

Peoria Park District

Luthy Botanical Gardens— Owens Center Forest Park Nature Center 2218 N. Prospect Road Peoria, IL 61603 682-1200

www.peoriaparks.org

RiverPlex Wellness & Recreation Center

600 NE Water Street Peoria, IL 61603 282-1700 www.riverplex.org

Central Illinois Agency on Aging is now on <u>Facebook</u> and our fan base is on an upward trend. CIAA wants Facebook to be a place where our



fans/those we serve and those interested in what we do as an agency can come to find information and updates that pertains to those that visit our page or for those wanting to know more about our services and programs. CIAA also wants to know what you/our fans would like to know more about. ? Please email ciaa@ciaoa.net with your thoughts/ideas. Thanks to all of our fans and continue to let others know about CIAA's Facebook page and all that CIAA does.

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Darin LaHood (District 16—R)

100 NE Monroe Street, Room 100 Peoria, IL 61602 (309) 671-7027, Fax (309) 671-7309 Congressman Eric Sorensen (District 17—D)

Conductor's Quarters Building 403-1/2 NE Jefferson Street Peoria, IL 61602

U.S. Senators for Illinois

Senator Richard J. Durbin (D)

525 South 8th Street Springfield, IL 62703 (217) 492-4062, Fax (217) 492-4382 Senator Tammy Duckworth (D)

8 South Old State Capitol Plaza Springfield, IL 62701 (217) 528-6124

Illinois General Assembly

Senator Win Stoller (37th District—R)

5415 University St., Suite 105 Peoria, IL 61614 (309) 693-4921 senatorstoller@gmail.com Rep. Ryan Spain (73rd District—R)

5407 N. University, Arbor Hall, Suite B Peoria, IL 61614 (309) 690-7373, Fax (309) 690-7375 repryanspain@gmail.com Rep. Sharon Chung (91st District—D)

216 N. Center St Bloomington, IL 61701 (309) 808-2351 info@repchung.com

Senator Dave Koehler (46th District—D) 1203 East Kingman Avenue Peoria Heights, IL 61616 (309) 677-0120, Fax (309) 346-4650 senatordayekoehler@gmail.com Rep. William Hauter (87th District—R)

133 S. Main Street Ste. A Morton, IL 61550 (309) 819-8701 hauter@ilhousegop.org Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth (92nd District—D)

300 E. War Memorial Drive, Suite 303 Peoria, IL 61614 (309) 681-1992, Fax (309) 681-8572 repjgordon@gmail.com

FY 2024 CIAA Board of Directors

Wanda Aberle, Chair Robert Mueller, Vice-Chair Roger Wiseman, Treasurer JoAnn Olson, Secretary

Barry Beck
Philip Grgurich
Frances Hackwith
Terry Hillegonds
Margaret Jacques
Carolyn Little
Kathleen Sipes



Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc. does not discriminate in admission to programs or activities to treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the U.S. Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Age Discrimination Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint by calling Tessa Mahoney, Executive Director, Central Illinois Agency on Aging, Inc. at 309-674-2071 or with the Illinois Department on Aging at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice & TDD).

FY 2024 CIAA Advisory Council

Autum Jones, Chair Joe Hendel, Vice-Chair

Cassandra Anderson
Alfreida DeGroot
Robert Herath
Genevieve Howard
Becky Jones
Sharon Kennedy
Delores Lassiter
Cindy Levingston
Timothy McMillen
Charles Miner
Frank Sciortino
Jan Wherley



May the New Year bring peace, joy, health, and prosperity to you and your family.