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# Senior Moments

March / April 2021

A publication of the City of Springfield ~ Department of Elder Affairs  
Mayor Domenic J. Sarno



Join us for our CAR-nival parade at the  
Raymond A Jordan Senior Center!  
Giveaways, information, and to wish everyone well.

*Masks Must Be Worn!* 🧐

**Tuesday, April 27, 2021**

**11:00am-12:30pm**

**Registration not required.**



**Mission Statement**

*The Department of Elder Affairs: where we encourage everyone to create their own handbook for aging well via services and programs that support living better.*

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**Department of Elder Affairs Staff**



**Sandy Federico**  
Director of Elder Affairs

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Dashima Washington  
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SHINE Program Outreach Worker

Outreach Coordinator

Ramona Matos  
Outreach Worker

Eliana Gutierrez  
Adult Outreach Liaison

Frank Holmes  
Computer Learning Center

Darrell Mickey  
Transportation Coordinator

Kerry Welch  
Health and Wellness  
Coordinator

Linda Henley  
Hungry Hill Coordinator

Alex Martin  
Clodo Concepcion Coordinator

Doris Feliciano  
Riverview Coordinator

**Dept. Of Elder Affairs**  
**Raymond A. Jordan Center**  
**Council on Aging**

**1476 Roosevelt Ave**  
**Springfield, MA 01109**

**Hours of Operation:**  
Monday-Friday  
**Program Hours**  
7:00am-3:30pm

**Office Hours**  
8:00am - 4:00pm

**Main: 413-787-6785**  
**Fax: 413-750-2698**

Dear Readers,

All of us at Elder Affairs appreciate the "fan mail" that's been sent. We thought it would be nice share. Below are just a few....

- ◆ *It was so good for me to connect , even briefly with each and everyone of you on our drive by visit the other day. To speak to and receive little gifts, pumpkins & meat was so heart felt. You **MADE MY DAY!***  
~ Wanda L.
- ◆ *I miss all of you! ~ Gloria and Wayne D.*
- ◆ *What we love about you is that you are a center, not a divider. Thank you!*  
~ Teresa & Clodo C.
- ◆ *I pray each of you have a healthy, safe and covid free season.*  
~ D McQueen & Prince
- ◆ *Missing you! ~ Alice*
- ◆ *I feel so blessed and loved with the lunches I receive from the Raymond A. Jordan Senior Center. ~ Delores O'J*
- ◆ *I'm very happy with meals. Appreciated the cranberry muffin especially!*  
~ Barbara B.

**Golden Age Club**

413-787-6486 / 413-886-5104

**Senior Community**

**Service Employment Program (SCSEP)**

413-787-6124

**S.H.I.N.E.**

413-750-2893

**Computer Learning Center**

413-750-2090

**Outreach Program**

413-750-2896 / 413-886-5260

**Notary Public** ~ Call for details

Dashima Washington ~ 413-787-6633

*Funding for many of our wonderful programs and activities is provided by Council on Aging grants from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs at the Commonwealth of MA and the Federal Administration for Community Living*

**COA Board Members**

Maurita Bledsoe ~ Magda Colon

Teresa Concepcion ~ Olga Ellis

Donald Evans ~ John Jordan

Donald Roberts

**Greater Springfield Senior Service**

413-781-8800

**PVTA**

413-781-7882

**Domestic Violence**

1-877-785-2020

**24/7 Crisis Behavioral**

**Health Network**

413-733-6661

**National Distress Hotline**

1-800-985-5990

# Your Arts in the Right Place!

Brought to you with love from your Program Coordinators: Kerri, Madeline, Dashima, Alex, Linda and Doris

## Shamrock Bracelet



Supplies and instructions included  
*Register by Wednesday, March 3, 2021*  
*Pick-up will be Friday, March 5, 2021*

## Lucky ~ Be Happy Message blocks



Supplies and instructions included  
*Register by Wednesday, March 10, 2021*  
*Pick-up will be Friday, March 12, 2021*

## Tin Can Organizer



Supplies and instructions included.  
*Register by Wednesday, March 17, 2021*  
*Pick-up will be Friday, March 19, 2021*

## Spring/Easter Paper Wreath



*Supplies and instructions included*  
*Register by Wednesday, March 24, 2021*  
*Pick-up will be Friday, March 26, 2021*

### **Registrations for all projects begin Friday, March 26, 2021**

If you are interested in participating in any of our programs, please call the Raymond A. Jordan Senior Center at 413-787-6785 to sign up. If you would like to sign up for multiple projects, you will be given your first choice and put on a wait list for the others.

- ◆ After registration, you will receive a phone call for confirmation and any additional information.
- ◆ All programs are on a first come, first served basis. Limited number of supplies.

*These programs are brought to you in part by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).*

Brought to you with love from your Program Coordinators: Kerri, Madeline, Dashima, Alex, Linda and Doris

## Spring Chunky Bunny



Supplies and instructions included

**Register by Wednesday, March 31, 2021**

**Pick-up on Friday, April 2, 2021**

## Wooden Ring Votive Candle Holder



Supplies and instructions included

**Register by Wednesday, April 7, 2021**

**Pick-up will be Friday, April 9, 2021**

### ***Department of Elder Affairs ~ Raymond A. Jordan Senior Center***

***Presents***

## ***Bonsai Tree Workshop***

***With Alex Martin***



- \* ***Bonsai Tree Care***
- \* ***Shaping and Styling Techniques***

- \* ***Plant Choices***
- \* ***Care & Maintenance***



**Workshop Begins  
Monday, April 5, 2021**

*Please Call 413-784-4769 between  
Monday, March 15 through Friday, April 2, 2021  
to pre-register or for more information.*

*Course Certificate ~ Tuesday, September 28, 2021*

### **Registrations for all projects begin Friday, March 26, 2021**

*If you are interested in participating in any of our programs, please call the Raymond A. Jordan Senior Center at 413-787-6785 to sign up. If you would like to sign up for multiple projects, you will be given your first choice and put on a wait list for the others.*

- ◆ *After registration, you will receive a phone call for confirmation and any additional information.*
- ◆ *All programs are on a first come, first served basis. Limited number of supplies.*

***These programs are brought to you in part by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).***



REGISTRY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

**Massachusetts RMV Extends Designated  
Wednesday Appointment Hours for  
Customers 75 Years of Age or Older  
Through February & March**

Customers 75 and older will be able to visit the RMV service centers listed above by reservation only, Wednesdays through March.

Select the "Senior Transaction" option in the "Make/Cancel a Reservation" transaction at [www.Mass.Gov/RMV](http://www.Mass.Gov/RMV) to view availability and make a reservation at one of these locations. (Springfield)

**Below are the options for an appointment:**

- If you are a AAA member, you may make a reservation now to renew your driver's license/ID or registration at a AAA location. Visit [www.aaa.com/appointments](http://www.aaa.com/appointments) to schedule your visit.
- If you are not a AAA member, visit [Mass.Gov/RMV](http://Mass.Gov/RMV) to make a reservation to visit an RMV Service Center. Select the "Senior Transaction" option on the "Make/Cancel a Reservation" transaction.
- Email the RMV for assistance at [MassDO-TRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma](mailto:MassDO-TRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma)

**Call the RMV at 857-368-8005.**



*Easter's blessings to the world  
are a way of telling us that love and  
hope still exist in the world.  
May you have a glorious Easter.*



***Strength Class with Kerry Welch***



**Tuesdays at 1:00pm**



If you do not have strength bands or weights you can use cans of water or milk jugs.

Please call 787-6785 to register.

**IMPORTANT!**

To participate in a zoom class you will need a computer or mobile device with a webcam, speakers and microphone. You need to download zoom to your device to join and we will provide you a meeting ID number after you've registered for a class.



## Beware of Social Security and Medicare Scams

Unfortunately, there are scammers who will take advantage of the current situation and try to trick you out of your money and personal information. Don't be fooled! No government agency will contact you offering COVID-19-related grants or economic impact payments in exchange for personal financial information, an advance fee, or gift cards. Please do not respond. These are scams! [Visit Treasury's website](#) if you suspect economic impact payment fraud. [Report Social Security scams about COVID-19.](#)

### **Below are some of the scams we know about, but there can be many variations:**

The Inspector General of Social Security, Gail S. Ennis, is warning the public about fraudulent letters threatening suspension of Social Security benefits due to COVID-19-related office closures. We will not suspend or discontinue benefits because our offices are closed to walk-in visitors.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General is alerting the public about fraud schemes related to COVID-19. For example, scammers are offering COVID-19 tests to Medicare beneficiaries in exchange for personal details, including Medicare information. However, the services are unapproved and illegitimate.

*Trained SHINE volunteers offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to anyone on Medicare. For Medicare related matters (other than an appointment), call 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636), then press or say 3. Once you get the SHINE answering machine, leave your name and number. A volunteer will call you back, as soon as possible.*



## Cuidado con las Estafas del Seguro Social y Medicare

Desafortunadamente, hay estafadores que se aprovechan de la situación actual y tratan de engañarle para obtener su dinero u información. ¡No se deje engañar!

Si usted recibe llamadas, correos electrónicos, y otras comunicaciones que alegan ser del Departamento de Tesoro de los EE. UU., el Servicio de Impuestos Internos, la Administración del Seguro Social, u otra agencia del gobierno que ofrece subsidios o pagos de estímulo económico relacionados con el COVID-19 a cambio de información financiera personal, o tarifa por adelantado, o cualquier tipo de cargo, incluso comprar tarjetas de regalo, por favor no responda. Estas son estafas! [Visite el sitio de internet del Departamento del Tesoro](#) (solo disponible en inglés) si sospecha ser víctima de un fraude relacionado al Pago de estímulo económico.

### **A continuación, hay algunas de las estafas que conocemos, pero puede haber muchas variaciones:**

El inspector general del Seguro Social, Gail S. Ennis, advierte al público que hay cartas fraudulentas que amenazan con suspender los beneficios del Seguro Social porque las oficinas están cerradas debido al COVID-19. No suspenderemos ni descontinuaremos beneficios debido a que nuestras oficinas estén cerradas al público para recibir servicios en persona.

El inspector general del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los EE. UU. (HHS, por sus siglas en inglés) está avisando al público sobre la conspiración para cometer fraude relacionado al COVID-19. Por ejemplo, los estafadores ofrecen pruebas de COVID-19 a los beneficiarios de Medicare a cambio de detalles personales, incluso información sobre Medicare. Sin embargo, estos servicios no están aprobados y son ilegítimos.

*Los voluntarios de SHINE ofrecen asesoría gratuita y confidencial en todos los aspectos del seguro de salud a cualquier persona en Medicare. Para asuntos relacionados con Medicare (que no sea para programar una cita), llame al 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636), luego presione o diga 3. Una vez que obtenga el correo de vos de SHINE, deje un mensaje con su nombre y número de teléfono. Un voluntario le llamará de nuevo, lo mas pronto posible.*

# Drive in Bingo!

In the Raymond A. Jordan Senior Center parking lot!

**Tuesday, March 30, 2021**  
**11:00am-12:00pm**

**Bingo Cards \$1.00**

Participants will play in their cars.

**Door prize, 4 games and cover-all. Cash Prizes!**

Space is limited! **Masks must be worn!**

**Register by Friday, March 26, 2021**



***Weather Permitting!***

## BINGO DE ESTACIONAMIENTO

¡En el estacionamiento del Centro De Ancianos Raymond A. Jordan!

**Martes 30 de marzo de 2021**

**11:00am-12:00pm**

**TARJETAS DE BINGO \$1.00**



Los participantes jugarán en sus coches.

Premio de la puerta, 4 juegos y cobertura.

**¡PREMIOS EN EFECTIVO!**

**¡El espacio es limitado!**

**¡LAS MASCARAS DEBEN SER DESAPLICADAS!**

Registrada antes del Viernes 26 de marzo de 2021



***¡LO PERMITE EL TIEMPO!***



*Thank You*

## *Acknowledging Host Agency For Hiring Our Participants!*

### **Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)**

Serving Hampden and Hampshire Counties

The Senior Community Service Employment Program, funded under Title V of the Older Americans Act through the U.S. Department of Labor, enables us to help employ low-income individuals, age 55 and older, throughout the Commonwealth. Enrollees are placed in temporary training assignments where they gain valuable on-the-job work experience and training needed to gain employment in the private sector.

This training serves as a bridge to unsubsidized employment opportunities for participants. SCSEP participants gain work experience in a variety of community service activities at government and non-profit and public facilities.

One of these organizations, Springfield Partners for Community Action, Inc., is a community partner, and we would like to acknowledge and honor them for partnering with our SCSEP program. Their many, many years of dedicated, continuous work training and employing our participants is greatly appreciated. The commitment to our SCSEP program is a partnership unequalled and many seniors placed with them have secured in employment. Working together to help mature workers in the community gain the work experience they need so it translates into being hired, is the goal of the SCSEP Program. Without this partnership, the SCSEP program would lack the necessary on-the-job training for its participants. Our collaboration is a win-win for all involved, and we thank you for your support and efforts. You have served to not only strengthen the mission of the SCSEP Program, but provided many mature workers the opportunity to re-discover their potential and contribute to the building of a healthy community!

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### **Programa de Empleo de Servicio Comunitario Para Personas Mayors Sirviendo a Los Condados de Hampden y Hampshire**

*Gracias*

El Programa de Empleo de Servicio Comunitario Para Personas Mayores (SCSEP), financiado por Título V de la Ley de Estadounidenses Mayores por el Departamento de Trabajo de los Estados Unidos, nos permite ayudar a emplear a personas de bajos ingresos, mayores de 55 años, dentro el estado de Massachusetts. Los inscritos se colocan en tareas de capacitación temporales donde adquieren una valiosa experiencia laboral en el trabajo y la formación necesaria para obtener empleo en el sector privado. Esta capacitación sirve como puente para las oportunidades de empleo (no subvencionadas) para los participantes. SCSEP los participantes adquieren experiencia laboral en una variedad de actividades de servicio comunitario en gobiernos, organizaciones sin fines de lucro e instalaciones públicas.

Una de estas organizaciones, Springfield Partners for Community Action, Inc., es un socio comunitario, y nos gustaría reconocerlos y honrarlos por asociarse con nuestro programa SCSEP. Sus muchos, muchos años de dedicación continua al trabajo y empleo de nuestros participantes es muy apreciado. El compromiso con nuestro programa SCSEP es una asociación sin igual y resultanda en muchas personas mayores adquiriendo nuevas oportunidades de empleo. El objetivo del Programa SCSEP es trabajar juntos para ayudar a los trabajadores mayores en la comunidad adquirir la experiencia que necesitan para obtener empleo. Sin esta asociación, el programa SCSEP no tendría la formación laboral necesaria para sus participantes. Nuestra colaboración es un beneficio para todos los involucrados, y le agradecemos su apoyo y esfuerzos. ¡Ustedes no han servido solo para fortalecer la misión del Programa SCSEP, pero brinden a muchos trabajadores mayores la oportunidad de volver a descubrir su potencial y contribuir a la construcción de una comunidad saludable!

## Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)



Older Workers...  
**Serving Communities**  
**Learning Skills**  
**Earning Money**

### PUT YOUR TIME AND TALENTS TO WORK

Find out how you can benefit from the Senior Community Service Employment Program:

- Paid training
- Work experience
- Extra income



### SERVING COMMUNITIES

SCSEP participants serve their communities while gaining valuable on-the-job training through paid temporary assignments with local non-profit and government organizations including:

- Schools
- Libraries
- Social Service Agencies
- Hospital
- Senior Centers
- Museums



### SECURING EMPLOY

The Senior Community Service Employment Program helps older workers build the experience and confidence they need to find permanent employment. You may qualify if you are:

- 55 or older
- Income eligible
- Seeking employment

Veterans and their spouse are encouraged to apply.

Learn more by calling : 413-787-6124

Senior Service America's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration.) SCSEP is an equal opportunity program. Auxiliary aides and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



Trabajadores mayores ...

**SERVICIO DE LAS COMUNIDADES**  
**HABILIDADES DE APRENDIZAJE**  
**GANANDO DINERO**

### PONGA SU TIEMPO Y TALENTOS PARA TRABAJAR

Descubra cómo puede beneficiarse del Senior Programa de empleo de servicio comunitario:

- Entrenamiento pagado
- Experiencia laboral
- Ingreso extra

### SERVICIO DE LAS COMUNIDADES

Los participantes de SCSEP sirven a sus comunidades mientras obtienen una valiosa capacitación en el trabajo a través de asignaciones temporales pagadas con organizaciones locales sin fines de lucro y gubernamentales que incluyen:

- Escuelas
- Bibliotecas
- Agencias de servicios sociales
- Hospital
- Centros de mayores
- Museos



### SEGURO DE EMPLEO

El Programa de Empleo de Servicio Comunitario para Personas Mayores ayuda a los trabajadores mayores a desarrollar la experiencia y la confianza que necesitan para encontrar un empleo permanente.

### Puedes calificar si eres:

- 55 o mayor
- Ingresos elegibles
- Buscando trabajo

Se alienta a los veteranos y a su cónyuge a presentar una solicitud.

Obtenga más información llamando al: 413-787-6124

Programa de Empleo de Servicio a la Comunidad para Personas Mayores de Senior Service America (SCSEP está financiado por una subvención del Departamento de Trabajo de los Estados Unidos Y Administración de Capacitación). SCSEP es un programa de igualdad de oportunidades. Auxiliares y servicios auxiliares están disponibles a pedido para personas con discapacidades.

## “SPRING INTO ACTION” FOR SAVINGS AND ASSISTANCE!!

The Outreach Division can help determine if you qualify:



### **CIRCUIT BREAKER TAX PROGRAM**

Age 65 or over whose property tax (or 25% of rent) exceeds 10% of their annual income. Whether or not you owe taxes, you may be eligible for cash or a tax credit of up to \$1,150 this tax year –even if you did not file Massachusetts state income tax forms.

### **WATER AND SEWER DISCOUNT -Age 68 or older; disabled veterans; legally blind**

No income requirement. **NEW:** Reduce your water bill by \$6.25 per month, up to \$75.00 annually.

### **WATER AND SEWER CREDIT (no age requirement)**

Are you a Springfield or Ludlow single family owner-occupied homeowner with water and/or sewer accounts with Water and Sewer Commission? If so, you can earn a credit of \$125 per year. You are required to apply and must currently qualify for low-income heating fuel assistance (LIHEAP). Contact Water and Sewer Commission (413) 452-1300.

### **REAL ESTATE ABATEMENTS: INCOME ELIGIBLE.**

Must be Over 70; Over 70/Surviving spouse/minor; Blind or Veteran.

### **TRASH DISCOUNT FEE: no income requirement.**

Age 65 and over or blind, or veteran with disability or indigent status.

### **COVID-19 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE –INCOME ELIGIBILITY**

Get help with electric bills, groceries, water and sewer, funeral expenses for COVID victims, rent and mortgage and water heater. Contact 413-263-6500.

### **SNAP (FOOD STAMPS) BENEFITS- INCOME ELIGIBILITY**

Get help buying food. SNAP is a monthly food benefit for those who qualify. The monthly benefit amount has increased and we can help.

**BROWN BAG-will continue every third Thursday from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., until further notice.** New applications are always welcome.

### **Tax Preparation Assistance – Need help filing income taxes for 2017, 2018, 2019 or 2020**

Contact Springfield Partners for Community Action. Ask for Mary Ellen @ 413-263-6500 x. 6565 or Martin O’Conner for IRS @ 413-263-6500 x 6566.

**Have more questions about senior services? Contact Ramona Matos (413) 886-5260 or Zee Johnson (750-2896) in the Outreach Division of the Department of Elder Affairs.**



## ¡ES LA TEMPORADA DE AHORRO Y ASISTENCIA!

La División del Alcance puede ayudar a determinar si califica.



### PROGRAMA DE IMPUESTOS DE DISYUNTORES:

Mayores de 65 años o más que tienen el impuesto sobre la propiedad (o 25% del alquiler) superan el 105 de sus ingresos anuales. Independientemente de si debe o no impuestos, puede ser elegible para dinero en efectivo o un crédito tributario de hasta \$1,150 este año fiscal, incluso si no presentó formularios de impuestos estatales de Massachusetts.

### DESCUENTO DE AGUA Y ALCANTARILLADO:

Sin necesidad de ingresos. Mayores de 68 años, veteranos discapacitados y personas

**NUEVO:** Reduzca su factura de agua por \$6.25 por mes y \$75.00 anual.

### ACTUALIZACION: CREDITO DE AGUA Y ALCANTARILLADO (no hay requisito de edad)

Es usted propietario de una casa ocupada por el dueño de una sola familia de Springfield o Ludlow con cuentas de agua y alcantarillado con comisión de agua y alcantarillado? Si es así, puede ganar un crédito de \$125 por año. Usted está obligado a aplicar un debe calificar actualmente para la asistencia de combustible de calefacción de bajos ingresos (LIHEAP). Comuníquese con la comisión de agua y alcantarillado al (413) 452-1300.

### REDUCCIONES INMOBILIARIAS: INGRESOS ELEGIBLES

Debe ser superior a 70 años, más de 70/cónyuge/menor sobreviviente; ciegos o veteranos.

### TARIFA DE DESCUENTO DE BASURA: SIN NECESIDAD DE INGRESOS.

Mayores de 65 años o más o ciegos, o veteranos discapacitados o indigentes estatus

### ASISTENCIA DE COMBUSTIBLE: INGRESOS ELEGIBLES.

Para Nuevo solicitantes, póngase en contacto con el Consejo de Trabajadores Agrícolas de Nueva Inglaterra (New England Farm Workers Council) al 413 272-2209. Para la recertificación, la división de alcance puede ayudar.

### ASISTENCIA DE EMERGENCIA COVID-19: INGRESOS ELEGIBLES.

Obtenga ayuda con facturas de electricidad, comestibles, agua y alcantarillado, gastos funerarios para las víctimas de Covid-19, alquiler e hipoteca y calentado de agua llame a 413-263-6500.

### SNAP (CUPONES DE ALIMENTOS) BENEFIT: INGRESOS ELEGIBLES.

Obtenga ayuda para comprar alimentos. SNAP es un beneficio alimenticio mensual para aquellos que califican. La cantidad mensual ha aumentado y podemos ayudar.

**EL BROWN BAG CONTINUARA CADA TERCER JUEVES de 10-12pm hasta nuevo aviso.** Nueva aplicaciones son siempre bienvenido.

**ASISTENCIA PARA LA PREPARACION DE IMPUESTOS – Si necesita ayuda para llenar sus impuestos para el año 2017, 2018, 2019 o 2020**

**Llama a Springfield Partners for Community Action.**

**Pregunte por Mary Ellen @ 413-263-6500 x. 6565 o Martin O'Conner para IRS @ 413-263-6500 x 6566.**

¿Tienes más preguntas sobre los servicios para personas mayores?

Comuníquese con  
**Ramona Matos (413) 886-5260 o Zee Johnson (413) 750-2896**  
 en la División de Extensión del Departamento de Asuntos de Ancianos.





# Holiday Drive-Thru!

