

AARP CHAPTER 710

P.O. BOX 22
SEA ISLE CITY, NJ 08243

MAY 2007

Hello Membership,

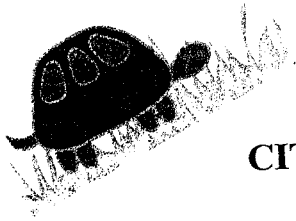
I want to thank Gary Esnasko, of the North End Association for his presentation on the proposed concept for a Passive Park at the former landfill (5th and Landis Ave). The Passive Park concept is endorsed by the Mayor and all the candidates for Mayor and Council. Eleanor Moore and I have been recruited to be members of a committee to get ideas from the community to enhance our city.

George Marinari, President

TRAVEL

June 26: Surf Light Theater. "AIDA". Lunch at Bucklew's Resturant and Bar. There are only 45 seats. \$60. See Helen Dobrowski 263-1695 or Grace Felix 263-6353.

<u>Calendar</u> May 17 Buffet and Bingo – Lodge Noon	June 13 Luncheon: Atkinson's Resturant RT 9, CMCH
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CITY NEWS YOU CAN USE...BY IRENE JAMESON MAY 10, 2007

The election is over and it's time to get behind our leaders

The AARP Newsletter went to press before the election results were in. The elected officials will take office July 1st. In the meantime, the transition period will be a busy one. Put the election behind you and be ready to offer your assistance and support. It will be a new era for Sea Isle.

Turtle Party tickets going...going...almost gone

Charlotte's Turtle Party, named in honor of Charlotte Moretti, originator of the event more than 20 years ago, will take place on Friday, May 18th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Lodge. The cost is \$15 per person and includes a great evening with a buffet dinner by Mike's Seafood, music by Frank Brad, dancing, door prizes, and an auction. Who could ask for anything more?! For tickets, see Eleanor Moore. Take my advice and get your tickets today.

Beachcombing Guides on the move

This year to accommodate the many residents and visitors in the south end of town, the Beachcombing Program will be held on Tuesdays at the 29th Street Beach and on Thursdays at the 94th Street area, according to Eleanor Moore, the coordinator of the program. Great idea, Eleanor! Now support the program, all you Southenders!

Clang,...clang...clang goes the trolley

By summer, there will be a trolley running through the city to help relieve the parking problem. Support the trolley and ask your visitors and tenants to ride the trolley. Details of cost, schedule, and route are still being worked out. Leave your car home and your parking worries behind.

Take time to stop and smell the flowers

The Sea Isle Garden Club is holding its annual flower sale on Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Marina Recreation Bldg. Advice: get there early!

Winter mode ends on May 15th

Beginning on May 15, Sea Isle slips into summer mode. That means seasonal beach tags go to \$15, parking meters go into effect, and dogs are banned from the beach and promenade. Enjoy!

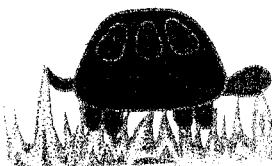
Upcoming dates of interest

- May 12 - Surf Fishing Tournament, northend beaches, DVSA 50th Anniversary Celebration
- May 15 - Commissioners' meeting, 10:00 a.m., Public Safety Bldg., 2nd floor
- May 28 - Memorial Day Ceremony, Veterans Park, 10:00 a.m.
- June 12 - Commissioners' meeting, 10:00 a.m., Public Safety Bldg.

Annual City/AARP Heart Walk/Run

Walk or run to the promenade on Saturday, June 9th, at 8:30 a.m. to register for the annual Heart Walk/Run. Start time is 9:00 a.m. Donation of \$10 includes prizes for the run winners, bagels, and water. All proceeds go to the local Heart Association. Have a heart!! Support this event!

SARA WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOU AT HER PARTY



BUFFET LUNCH AND BINGO

Thanks as always to all who pitched in and helped at the April B&B. We had 64 attendees – a new record! Remember that these events are open not only to Chapter 710 members, but to all seniors who live in Sea Isle City, so bring your neighbors.

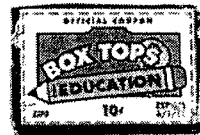
Our last B&B of the season will be held on May 17 at the Community Lodge starting at noon. Please sign up at today's meeting. If you can't sign up today but would like to join in, you have until Monday 5/14 to call Bob at 263-3256.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Monthly Donations

The following may be brought to our monthly meetings or donated at any time:

- A.C. Rescue Mission: Travel Size Toiletries (unused) and Men's Clothing
- Animal Shelters: Blankets, Towels, Quilts, Comforters, Sheets, Cat and Dog Food/Treats/Toys.
- Beacon Animal Rescue: Cell Phones and Depleted Printer and Toner Cartridges
- C.A.R.A. (Coalition Against Rape and Abuse): Regular Size (unused) Toiletries
- Schools: Campbell Labels (complete) & General Mills "Box Tops for Education."



If you'd like anything picked up, call Joan or Bob Thibault at 263-3256.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE – MARY ROBINSON, KATHLEEN PAPP

Please contact Mary (263-3841) or Kathleen (545-0177) regarding get-well or sympathy cards to be sent to our members.

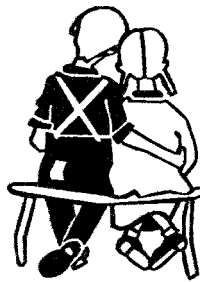


MAY BIRTHDAYS

16 Shirley Gill
18 Kathleen Wilson
21 David Helfrich
23 Frank McGuckin
Dorothy Kellich
24 Mary Caruso
27 Mary Elizabeth Berry
31 Shell Beese

JUNE BIRTHDAY

3 Irene Corey
4 Helen Viccarriello
6 Francis Peterson
Julia Bry
7 Sara Roberts
8 William Hinshillwood
12 Dan Costantini
14 Margaret Pollnow



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5/25/1947	James & Doris Coulter	60 Years
5/02/1953	Ralph & Janet Griggs	54 Years
5/30/1953	David and Theresa Barry	54 Years
5/26/1957	Larry & Jacqueline Cahill	50 Years
5/07/1960	Tony & Rita Skubish	47 Years
5/25/1963	Walter & Shell Beese	44 Years
5/23/1964	Andrew & Mary Ann Karanozinski	43 Years
5/15/1965	John & Barbara Ratzke	42 Years
5/22/1965	Tom & Lorrette Henry	42 Years
5/30/1970	John & Claire Lamb	37 Years
5/22/1993	Jack & Ada Steinberg	14 Years

File Form PTR-1
NJ Property Tax
Reimbursement
Application
by June 1st

Income Limits

Single / couple

2005 - \$41,972 - \$51,466

2006 - \$43,693 - \$53,576

Brightside April 18-May 1

Property Tax Assistance For Seniors

The Avalon Public Library will offer free assistance senior citizens who qualify for New Jersey PTR-1 Property Tax Reimbursement. PTR-1 is a separate special senior citizen property tax refund.

To qualify you must be 65 or over, must have lived in New Jersey continuously for the last 10 years as a homeowner or renter, and must have lived or owned your current home for the last three years. Your total income must be less than \$42,000 if single, or \$52,000 if married (this includes all income - social security, pension, interest, dividends, capital gains, and rental income, etc.). You also must have paid the full amount of property tax due in 2005 and 2006.

Volunteers will be available to help prepare the application at the Avalon library at 1:00 Friday afternoons now through May 25th by appointment only. The Avalon library is located at 235 - 32nd Street, Avalon. Call 967-7155 to make an appointment.

Property Tax Relief Available for Seniors

By AL CAMPBELL

RIO GRANDE — Helen Thompson, a barber here, seems an unlikely source of tax relief information. That's what she has become to many senior citizens who know nothing of property tax relief that may be available to them from the state.

Thompson told the Herald recently she has taken it upon herself to copy and distribute information to her customers, although the information is widely available from many sources.

Many of her customers are unaware they may qualify for property tax relief. They only see higher taxes after recent revaluations.

Those desiring to talk with someone should call the state's Property Tax Relief hotline at (800) 882-6597.

The following information was taken directly from the state Division of Taxation's Web site:

www.nj.gov/treasury/taxation/index.html?relief.htm

Those who do not own a computer can use one, free, at any branch of the Cape May County Library.

"You may be eligible for a reimbursement of the difference between the amount of property taxes you paid in the base year (the year you first became eligible) and the amount paid in the year for which you are applying for a reimbursement if you met all the following requirements for the base year and for each succeeding year, up to and including the year for which you are claiming the reimbursement.

1. You are age 65 or older or receiving Federal Social Security disability benefits; and

2. You have lived in New Jersey continuously for at least the last 10 years, as either a homeowner or a renter; and

3. You have owned and lived in your home (or have leased a site in mobile home park on which you have placed a manufactured or mobile home that you own) for at least the last 3 years; and

4. You have paid the full amount of property taxes (or site fees if you are a mobile home owner) that were due on your home for the base year and for each succeeding year, up to and including the year for which you are claiming the reimbursement; and

5. You meet the income limits for the base year and for each succeeding year, up to and including the year for which you are claiming the reimbursement.

Residents applying for the 2006 reimbursement must have total income for 2005 that is less than \$41,972 for single applicants and \$51,466 (combined income) for married couples, and total income for 2006 that is less than \$43,693 for single applicants and \$53,576 (combined income) for married couples.

If your residence is in a multiple-unit building that you own, and the building has more than four units, you are not eligible for a property tax reimbursement. You are also not eligible if the building has four units or less but more than one commercial unit.

AARP deals could double its HMO membership

UnitedHealthcare, Aetna deals to bring \$1.5B in royalties

By Julie Appleby and Richard Wolf
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — AARP, the advocacy group for seniors, said Monday that it has signed seven-year agreements with major insurers Aetna and UnitedHealthcare that could double the number of people in its branded health insurance offerings.

The deals could help shape the growing movement toward paying incentives to insurers who meet certain quality-of-care benchmarks.

Under the agreements:

- Aetna will begin selling health insurance policies for AARP members ages 50 to 64 by Jan. 1, 2008. Initially, they will be available in about half of the states.

- UnitedHealthcare will begin

offering a Medicare HMO plan to those over age 65. The plan will have no monthly premium; subscribers will pay co-payments for doctor visits and drugs. It will initially be available in about half of the states, also starting next year. The policies will come with a promise that United will stay in the market for at least two years.

Both insurers will have to meet quality benchmarks, such as boosting the percentage of diabetics who get all recommended treatments. If they don't hit those marks, they risk losing incentive pay.

"By tying carrier compensation to the health of our members ...

we are on the leading edge of health care reform," Dawn Sweeney, CEO of AARP Services, said in a written statement.

Sweeney told reporters that AARP receives an average of \$185 million a year in royalty and revenue payments from health insurance products it now offers. It currently has about 7 million policyholders in a variety of programs, all offered by United. They include Medicare prescription drug plans and supplemental insurance that pays for some of the co-payments and deductibles that Medicare does not cover.

AARP expects to double the

number of people in its branded products over the seven years and estimates it will garner an additional \$1.5 billion in royalty payments as a result.

The organization says it will spend the money on ongoing lobbying efforts for health care reform and for measures to improve seniors' long-term financial security, and will spend \$500 million on a new program to help people navigate the health care system.

The move is a boost for United, which already is the largest insurer offering Medicare prescription drug policies. It is also a coup for Aetna, which gains access to the 18 million

AARP members who are ages 50 to 64.

"By getting the younger members, they position themselves for the future, because there's a good chance they will stay with Aetna when they move into Medicare," says Dan Mendelson, president of Avalere Health, a consulting firm in Washington.

Aetna may also gain some United customers. That's because United currently offers an AARP-branded insurance policy to about 28,000 people ages 50 to 64 in 24 states.

Those members will be offered a choice to switch to an Aetna plan or stay with United, AARP said.