

Our State Office for the Aging has been at the forefront of special programs for New York's seniors.

Hot Line

NYSOFA's toll-free Senior Citizens' Hot Line has operators working from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday: 1-800-342-9871.

Health Care Consumer Information & License Verification Service

Consumer information on each of the professions and a license verification service is available on the web at www.op.nysed.gov or by calling the Office of the Professions at 1-518-474-3817 (TDD/TTY: 1-518-473-1426).



Health Care Proxy

The New York health care proxy law allows people of all ages to designate an agent to make health care decisions on their behalf if they can no longer do so. Forms are available at local offices for the aging, or call the Senior Citizens' Hot Line at 1-800-342-9871.

Hospital Patients' Rights

Upon admission to the hospital, a patient should receive a copy of the Hospital Patients' Bill of Rights. This booklet is designed to help you understand what rights you have during your hospitalization regarding treatment and care.

Health Insurance Balanced Billing

In New York State, a physician who doesn't accept Medicare assignment cannot charge more than 5 percent above the Medicare-approved amount for covered services (this limit does not apply to home or office visits). For more information on this law, contact the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) Hot Line at 1-800-701-0501.



Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC)

Administered by the New York State Department of Health, EPIC helps many elders cope with prescription drug costs. EPIC will work in conjunction with Medicare prescription coverage. For more information, call the EPIC Help Line at 1-800-332-3742.

Health Insurance Information, Counseling & Assistance Program (HIICAP)

Over 400 trained HIICAP counselors answer older New Yorkers' questions about Medicare, Medicare Advantage programs

(managed care), Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medigap and other health and long-term care insurance in local offices for the aging across the state. Counseling is also available through a toll-free HIICAP Hot Line at 1-800-701-0501. Call for an appointment to meet with a counselor. HIICAP information is also available on the Internet at www.aging.ny.gov.

Medicare

Medicare provides health insurance for persons 65 and over, certain disabled persons and those in final stages of renal (kidney) disease. The Social Security Administration takes applications for Medicare and provides information (apply 3 months before your 65th birthday to avoid penalty). For information, call the Medicare Hot Line at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or TTY-TDD 1-877-486-2048.

Legal Assistance

Elders aged 60 and over may access the state's legal system by contacting their local office for the aging. Local offices provide counseling and assistance through legal service providers. Each office identifies services and legal issues that are of concern to elders in their service area, working to increase access to legal assistance.

Consumer Issues

Consumer fraud schemes are most often targeted at seniors.

Seniors targeted by fraud should contact the New York State Attorney General's Consumer Hot Line at 1-800-771-7755 and also your county's district attorney at 1-516-571-3505 who will prosecute offenders.

Real Property Tax Credit

The "Circuit Breaker," New York State's income tax credit program for eligible homeowners and renters, helps elderly and moderate-



income homeowners and renters who pay a disproportionate amount of property taxes in relation to their household incomes. To inquire about this program and to find out if you are eligible, contact the Nassau County Office for the Aging at 516-227-8900.

Other programs and credits that assist New York's elders in keeping their tax liabilities within acceptable levels, especially when living on fixed incomes, include:

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

This program provides cash to help pay heating bills for low-income individuals and families. It is administered by local offices for the aging for people age 60 and over. You can begin applying for a HEAP grant in the fall until the program runs out of funding. For more information, contact the Nassau County Department of Social Services at 1-516-227-8519.

Disability Assistance

The Division of Housing and Community Renewal provides grants that help keep seniors and those with disabilities in their homes by making modifications that will make it easier for them to access as well as move around their homes. For more information call 1-866-275-3427.



Personal Identification Card

For elders who no longer drive, or have never driven, a non-driver photo identification card may be purchased from the Department of Motor Vehicles. For more information call 1-718-477-4820. Some local offices for the aging may also provide identification cards.

Veterans

Veterans are eligible to receive medical care through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care system, which maintains a network of medical facilities and community clinics across New York State (1-888-VETS-NYS). Long-term health care is offered to wartime veterans and certain eligible spouses at New York State Veterans Homes.

Veterans

Veterans may be eligible for a reduction in their real property tax. Your local assessor can assist in determining if you are eligible for such an exemption. For more information about these and other veterans' benefits, contact your local veteran's representative or call toll-free, 1-888-VETS NYS (1-888-838-7697).

On the Web

NYSOFA hosts a number of Web sites designed to help New York's seniors and their families access information that is important to their independence. Find them on the Internet at www.agingny.gov.



ASSEMBLYMAN
Tom McKeivitt

17th Assembly District



Important Local Contact Information from Tom McKeivitt

Nassau County Health Department.....	1-516-227-9697
Nassau County Social Services Department	1-516-227-8519
Nassau County Dept. of Senior Citizen Affairs	1-516-227-8900
NYS Senior Hotline.....	1-800-342-9871
EPIC Program	1-800-332-3742
LIPA	1-800-490-0025
Department of Motor Vehicles	1-718-477-4820
LIRR	1-516-822-5477

U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

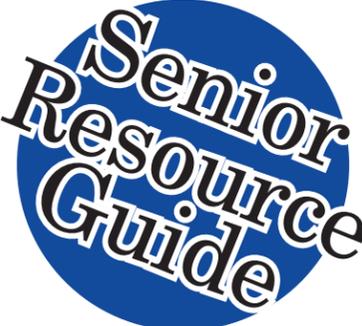
Administration on Aging	1-202-401-4634
Federal Information Center (for all locations)	1-800-688-9889
Health Care Fraud Hot Line (Inspector General)	1-800-447-8477
Internal Revenue Service - Information Line	1-800-829-1040
Medicare Hot Line	1-800-633-4227
Social Security Administration Hot Line	1-800-772-1213
TTY	1-800-325-0778
Veterans Affairs, Department of	1-800-827-1000

TOLL-FREE HELPLINES & OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AARP	1-202-434-2277
Alliance for Aging Research	1-202-293-2856
Alzheimer's Association	1-800-272-3900
American Cancer Society Response Hot Line	1-800-227-2345
American Council of the Blind	1-800-424-8666
American Diabetes Association	1-800-342-2383
American Heart Association	1-800-242-8721
American Lung Association	1-800-586-4872
(Northeast New York)	
Arthritis Foundation Information Line	1-800-283-7800
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission	1-800-669-4000
Help for Incontinent People	1-800-252-3337
Medicare and Medicaid Services Hotline	1-800-MEDICARE
.....	(1-800-633-4227)
.....	1-877-486-2048 (TTY)
National Cancer Institute	1-800-422-6237
National Caregiving Foundation	1-800-930-1357
National Citizens' Coalition for	1-202-332-2275
Nursing Home Reform	
National Committee to Preserve	1-800-966-1935
Social Security / Medicare	
National Eye Care Project Helpline	1-800-222-3937
National Health Information Center	1-800-336-4797
National Hospice Organization	1-800-658-8898
National Institute on Aging	1-800-222-2225
Parkinson's Disease Foundation	1-800-457-6676
Veteran's Assistance.....	1-888-VETS-NYS
	(1-888-838-7697)

Contact Tom:

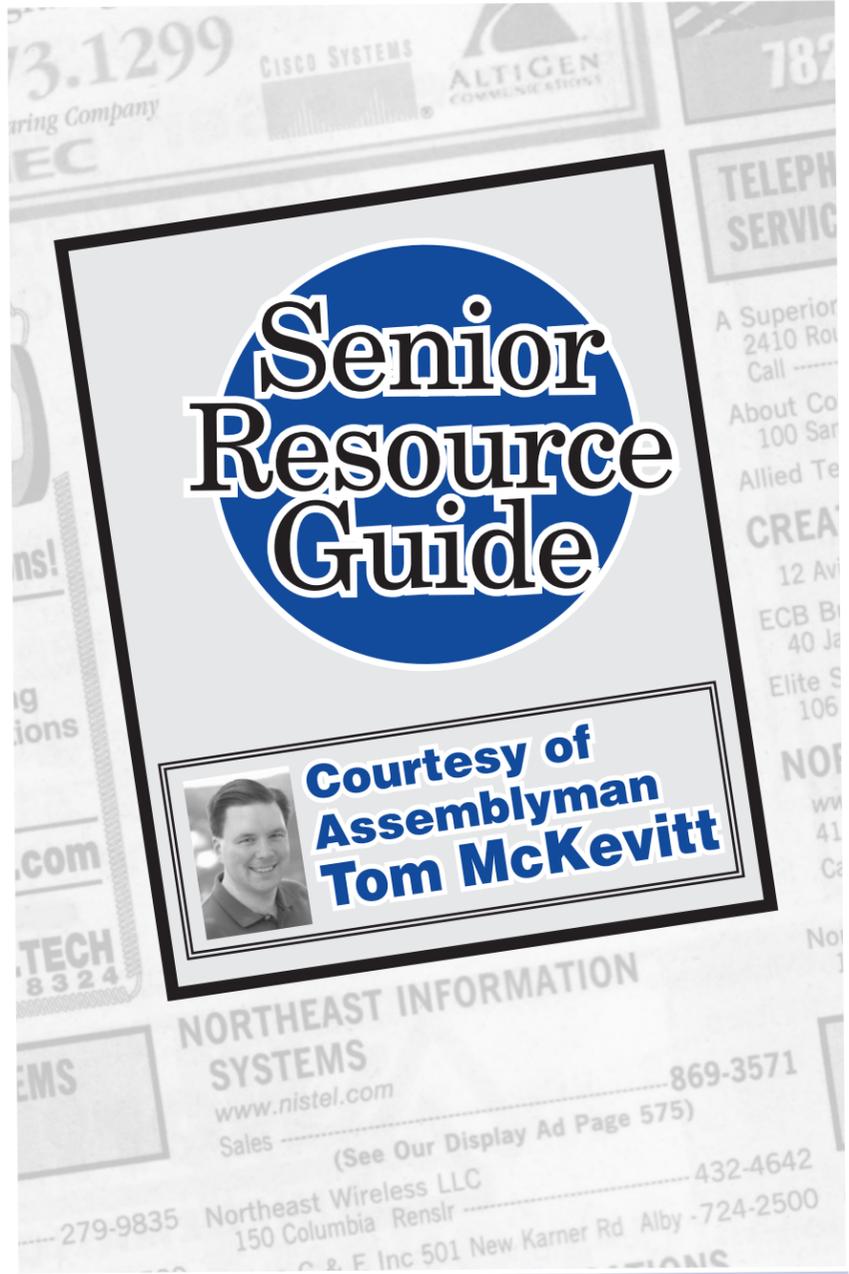
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mckeivitt@assembly.state.ny.us



- Property Tax Benefits**
- Health Care Assistance**
- And Much More for Seniors**



Assemblyman
Tom McKeivitt



Senior Resource Guide

Courtesy of
Assemblyman Tom McKeivitt

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