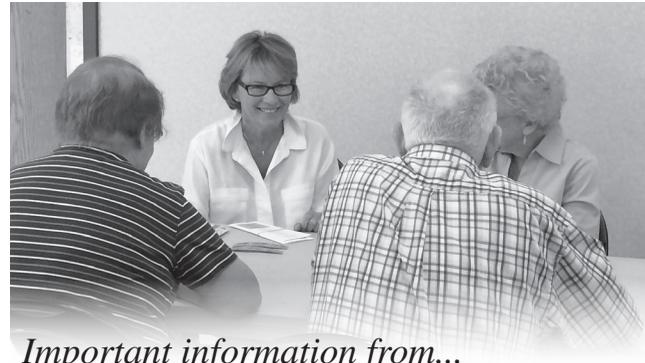


## Weatherization Assistance

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) helps people reduce their heating and cooling costs by making their homes more energy efficient. The average household can save more than 20% annually on their energy costs. WAP can help pay for sealing cracks and holes in your home, insulation of attics and walls, heating system repairs or replacement, installation of energy-efficient lighting and refrigerators, and other energy saving measures. For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, please call RECAP at 845-342-3978.

## Important Phone Numbers

Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther  
Middletown NY .....845-342-9304  
OC Office for the Aging .....845-615-3700  
OC Sheriff's Department .....845-291-4033  
OC District Attorney .....845-291-2050  
OC Veteran's Service Agency ....845-291-2470  
OC Emergency Management ...845-615-0400  
NYS Elder Abuse Hotline.....844-697-3505  
NYS Office of Victim Services..800-247-8035  
NYS Senior Consumer Info Line  
.....800-503-9000  
NYS Public Service Commission  
.....800-342-3377  
NYS Attorney General Poughkeepsie Office  
.....845-485-3900  
Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage  
(EPIC) .....800-332-3742  
Newburgh Social Security Office  
.....866-504-4801  
Do Not Call Registry .....888-382-1222  
Mid-Hudson Better Business Bureau Office  
.....914-333-0550  
Free Annual Credit Report .....877-322-8228



*Important information from...*  
**Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther**

*A Message From...*

## Assemblywoman Aileen M. Gunther



Dear Friends:

I hope you enjoyed the beautiful fall foliage, and are now getting ready for the winter weather. I was fortunate to have a visit from my three granddaughters this past summer. Being a grandmother is one of the greatest joys of my life, and I cherish every moment I have them.

I've also been busy with my annual Senior Tour. It has been great to travel around the district—from Livingston Manor to Middletown and everywhere in between—to talk about

what's happening in Albany, get valuable feedback from seniors, and be a resource connecting people to the services and help they need.

In this mailer, you'll find some highlights of my work in Albany, as well as some helpful tips and important phone numbers. If there is any other information you'd like, or if I can be of assistance in any way, please reach out. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your representative in the New York Assembly, and I will continue to work every day to ensure that you get the support that you need to live a happy, healthy life.

Sincerely,

Aileen M. Gunther  
Member of Assembly

18 Anawana Lake Road  
Monticello, NY 12701  
845-794-5807

16 James Street, 3rd Floor  
Middletown, NY 10940  
845-342-9304

[GuntherA@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:GuntherA@assembly.state.ny.us)

## Property Tax Relief

I am proud to have supported a property tax relief bill that will send checks directly to homeowners. Homeowners who qualify for the STAR or Enhanced STAR programs will see rebate checks each year from 2016-2019. By 2019, the average taxpayer will receive a rebate of \$530. This is in addition to the property tax freeze that reimburses you for the increase in your property taxes. If you would like more information on this program, please call my Albany office at 518-455-5355.

## Preserving Funding for Long-Term Care

The average annual cost for nursing home care in New York State is over \$131,000 per year. Spousal refusal can help protect your assets if your spouse ever needs long-term care. This year, I fought to keep spousal refusal in the state budget. No one should ever have to go into poverty to ensure that a loved one receives the care he or she needs.

## EPIC

The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program helps more than 265,000 seniors afford their prescription drugs. EPIC provides secondary coverage for Medicare Part D and EPIC-covered drugs purchased after your Medicare Part D deductible is met. EPIC can also help pay for your Part D premium. Seniors aged 65 and older can join at any time during the year. The annual income limits are \$75,000 if you are single and \$100,000 if you are married. If you have any questions, please feel free to call my office or contact EPIC at 1-800-332-3742.



*As part of her 2015 Senior Tour, Aileen met with the Liberty Seniors this summer.*



*Aileen speaks with World War II Veteran Thomas Griffith after he was awarded four medals and the Honorable Service Lapel Pin by Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney in Middletown.*

## Ensuring Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs

Access to affordable prescription drugs is a necessity. I'm proud to have successfully fought against millions of dollars in cuts to pharmacies in this year's budget. Many pharmacies would have been forced to stop selling certain medications. This would have devastated small businesses, and most importantly, would have made it more difficult for people to get the medicine they need.

## CARE Act

Transitioning from the hospital back into your own home can be a difficult and overwhelming process. Despite how important a caregiver is in the daily life of a person discharged from the hospital, they are often told very little about what to do when their loved one returns home.

This year, I was proud to champion a very important piece of legislation for seniors, the CARE Act.

The CARE Act will require hospitals to share more information with caregivers and will provide training on how to properly take care of their loved ones. This will lead to lower readmittance rates in hospitals, better-prepared caregivers, and most importantly, safer outcomes for patients. This bill passed both houses of the legislature and has been signed by the Governor.



*The Gunther Granddaughters: Scarlett, Ginger, and Rosalie.*



*Aileen and Sullivan County native, Blake Washington, who works for the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, meet with a group from the Senior Legislative Action Committee during their trip to Albany.*

## HEAP

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps New Yorkers with the cost of heating their homes. Your eligibility for HEAP will depend upon your income and household size. If you are ever in need of heating assistance, please call my office or HEAP at 1-800-342-3009.



*Aileen joined Boomer Bojo, Chief Nursing Officer at Catskill Regional Medical Center, to deliver cookies to CRMC's nurses during Nurse Appreciation Week. Aileen is the only registered nurse in the New York State Assembly.*