

Empire State Senior Games Winners

Each year, New York State hosts the Empire State Senior Games. The games give thousands of our seniors the opportunity to compete and prove that there is no age limit to determination, skill and the competitive spirit. Participants certainly live up to the games' motto: "You don't stop playing when you grow old; you grow old when you stop playing."

I salute all who competed in the 2012 games and extend my personal congratulations to the following medalists from the 140th Assembly District:

John Baronich – Volleyball
David Barrett – Road Race
Suzanne Brewer – Volleyball
William Brewer – Volleyball
Howard Eichhorn – Volleyball
Thomas Emborsky – Golf
Karen Grabowski – Volleyball
Kenneth Grabowski – Volleyball
David Grzechowiak – Disc Golf
William Hansen – Volleyball
Michael Indian – Archery
Mark Irlbacher – Archery
Wallace Krull – Archery
Paul Kuczowski – Volleyball
Robert Lingenfelter – Racewalk
Nancy Osolkowski – Badminton
Jim Slayton – Basketball
Walter Suter – Volleyball
Donald Voisinet – Volleyball
Frederic Washburn – Pickleball
Debra Weaver – Volleyball
Reinhart Zimmermann – Racquetball

60 Plus!

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**Helpful Information from
Assemblyman Robin Schimminger**

Summer 2012

Dear Friend,

Issues affecting seniors have always been important to me, and I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you information on several topics that may be of interest to you, your family, friends and neighbors.

If you have any questions or comments on these or any other matters, please feel free to contact my office at 873-2540.

Sincerely yours,





Social Security Checks Going Electronic by 2013

In its archives, the Social Security Administration (SSA) has a 1940 photo of Ida May Fuller posing next to her mailbox with her Social Security check. Today, many New Yorkers still receive a paper check while others have opted for direct deposit. But that will be changing soon.

In order to comply with the 1996 Debt Collection Improvement Act, the SSA is moving toward a paperless system for distributing benefit checks. This change will provide significant savings to taxpayers who will no longer incur the annual \$120

million price tag for processing and mailing paper checks and at the same time eliminate the task of reissuing the 600,000 checks that are lost or stolen in an average year.

The transition began on May 1, 2011 when all new Social Security applicants were required to sign up for either direct deposit or debit card payments. **Another deadline is now approaching in that individuals who receive paper checks must make arrangements to convert to an electronic payment format by March 1, 2013.**

While that seems like a long way off, it is not too early to begin the process of selecting a payment method that meets your needs. If you are not sure what option to choose – direct deposit or debit card – discuss the matter with a family member, friend or consult a representative at your local bank. It is important to note that individuals who wait and do not choose an electronic payment method by the March deadline will have their Social Security benefits automatically switched to the Direct Express Debit MasterCard.

The Direct Express Debit MasterCard, originally designed for individuals who did not have bank accounts, allows recipients to either use an ATM machine for withdrawals or make purchases at retail locations and receive cash back with purchases. However, the debit card comes with several fees. While the first ATM withdrawal per month is free, there is a 90 cent charge for each subsequent withdrawal. Also, there is a \$1.50 fee for transfers made from the debit card to a checking or savings account and a 75 cent charge for each month a paper statement is issued.

Individuals with an account at a bank or credit union can sign up for direct deposit by contacting their financial institution or by calling the U.S. Treasury's electronic payment helpline at 800-333-1795 or visiting their website at GoDirect.org.



Seasonal Flu Shot Clinics Scheduled

Seasonal flu is a contagious respiratory illness that occurs every year, most often during the winter and early spring. It most severely affects individuals 65 years of age and older, therefore every year a new vaccine is made available.

This fall, I will once again be sponsoring a series of seasonal flu shot clinics in conjunction with the Visiting Nursing Association. While flu vaccines are recommended for people of every age, health care professionals strongly suggest vaccinations for individuals 65 years of age or older; persons being treated for chronic conditions such as diabetes, anemia, asthma, heart and lung disease; those with weakened immune systems; and caregivers who provide care to at-risk patients.

Appointments are necessary in order to ensure that seniors do not have to stand in long lines, to schedule staff efficiently, and to order adequate supplies of serum. Each site will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To schedule an appointment for one of the following sites, please contact my office at 873-2540.

Thursday, September 6th – Brighton Community Church, 1225 Brighton Road, Town of Tonawanda

Wednesday, September 12th – Knights of Columbus, 755 Erie Avenue, North Tonawanda

Flu shots are \$35 each; however, they are free for those insured under Medicare-Part B, Independent Health Encompass 65, Blue Cross/Blue Shield Senior Blue or Univera Senior Choice upon presentation of one's insurance card.