

## Local, State and Federal Resources Inside



2017 SENIOR BULLETIN  
ASSEMBLYMAN  
**WILL BARCLAY**

New York State Assembly  
Albany, NY 12248

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## What is EPIC?

The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program is a New York State program for seniors administered by the Department of Health.

This year's budget saw an increase of \$1 million to the EPIC program, totaling \$132.66 million, to help seniors afford their medications.

### To join EPIC, a senior must:

- Be a New York State resident;
- Have an annual income below \$75,000 if single or \$100,000 if married;
- Be enrolled or eligible to enroll in Medicare Part D (no exceptions); and
- Not be receiving full Medicaid benefits.

For more information regarding the EPIC program, <http://on.ny.gov/2Aye3o8> or call **1-800-332-3742** (TTY: **1-800-290-9138**).

## Important Local Contacts

### OSWEGO COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

County Office Complex • 70 Bunner St. • Oswego, NY 13126 • Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### JEFFERSON COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

175 Arsenal Street, 2nd Floor • Watertown, NY 13601 • Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### ONONDAGA COUNTY AGING SERVICES

421 Montgomery Street • 10th Floor, Civic Center • Syracuse, NY 13202

#### OSWEGO COUNTY

Oswego County Office for the Aging .....315-349-3484  
Oswego County Health Department.....315-349-3545  
CENTRO Oswego County .....315-342-4400  
Oswego County Opportunities Transportation.....315-598-4713  
Oswego County Opportunities Call-N-Ride.....315-598-1514  
Oswego County Opportunities Meals-on-Wheels.....315-598-4712

#### JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County Office for the Aging.....315-785-3191  
Jefferson County Public Health Services .....315-786-3770  
Jefferson County Office for the Aging Senior Nutrition Program...315-785-3191

#### ONONDAGA COUNTY

Department of Adult and Long-Term Care Services .....315-435-2362  
or 315-435-3355  
Long-Term Care Resource Center .....315-435-5600  
Local NY Connects Office .....315-435-1400  
Onondaga County Health Department.....315-435-3252  
Meals on Wheels of Baldwinsville.....315-638-2171

#### NY CONNECTS: Your link to

Long-Term Services and Supports.....**1-800-342-9871**

#### U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Federal Information Center (for all locations) .....1-800-333-4636  
Health Care Fraud Hotline (Inspector General) .....1-202-418-3300  
Internal Revenue Service - Information Line .....1-800-829-1040  
Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection .....1-518-434-1935  
or 1-800-442-3863

Social Security Administration Hotline .....1-800-772-1213  
TTY .....1-800-325-0778  
Department of Veterans Affairs .....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  
Leading Age .....1-202-783-2242  
American Cancer Society Response Hotline .....1-800-227-2345  
American Diabetes Association .....1-800-342-2383  
American Diabetes Assoc. Professional  
Membership and Subscription Line .....1-800-232-3472  
American Heart and Stroke Association .....1-800-242-8721  
American Lung Association .....1-800-586-4872  
Arthritis Foundation Information Line .....1-800-283-7800  
Medicare and Medicaid Services Hotline .....1-800-MEDICARE  
(1-800-633-4227)  
National Cancer Institute .....1-800-422-6237  
National Consumer Voice for Quality  
Long-Term Care .....1-202-332-2275  
National Hospice Organization .....1-800-658-8898  
National Institute on Aging .....1-800-222-2225  
Parkinson's Disease Foundation .....1-800-457-6676  
NYS Division of Veterans' Affairs .....1-888-VETS-NYS  
1-888-(838-7697)

#### NEW YORK STATE OF HEALTH

The Official Health Plan Marketplace.....**1-855-355-5777**



# Fighting for Our Seniors

This is the third budget in a row in which the Legislature has successfully prevented the governor from making drastic cuts to important senior reimbursements. It's our job to protect our seniors by making sure they can afford to stay in their homes, providing them with essential services, and protecting their fixed incomes. This year, I am pleased to say that the Legislature:

- **Rejected the governor's plan to cap Medicare B reimbursements; and**
- **Prevented the governor from eliminating the Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA).**



Assemblyman Will Barclay (R,C,I-Pulaski), at right, presents an Assembly Resolution to long-time Fulton volunteer Mr. Bob Green. Pictured with Barclay are Mr. Green and his wife, Sandy. Mr. Green was honored for his dedicated service to the community. He was also honored on Older New Yorker Day in 2017 for his work in Oswego County.

## Golden Park Program

If you are a New York State resident 62 or older, on any weekday (except holidays), you can obtain:

- **Free vehicle access to state parks, boat launch sites and arboretums (except at Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park, Irondequoit Bay State Marine and Earl W. Brydges Artpark State Park); and**
- **Fee reduction to state historic sites and state-operated golf courses.**

You can do the above simply by presenting your currently valid New York State Driver License or New York State Non-Driver Identification Card.\*

For locations with pay stations, please contact the facility directly for information. For information about facilities where this program is valid, contact the nearest state park, state park regional office – Central NY Region, 315-492-1756; Thousand Islands Region, 315-482-2593; or contact:

**New York State Parks**  
**Albany, NY 12238**  
**518-474-0456**

TTY/TDD through 711 Relay Service

*\*A New York State Driver License or a New York State Non Driver Identification Card may be obtained from your local Motor Vehicle office. You may want to contact them first to be certain you bring the required forms of identification.*



## What is RSVP?

### THE RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)

Between January 2016 and December 2016, Oswego County had 381 volunteers providing 44,379 hours of service to residents.

- ✦ It provides life-changing opportunities for volunteers aged 55 and over.
- ✦ It helps meet the critical needs of communities by mobilizing tens of thousands of hours of volunteer service.
- ✦ It strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by matching skilled volunteers with vital programs and services.

For more information regarding the RSVP program, call Oswego RSVP at 315-312-2317 or Onondaga County RSVP at 315-424-6079.



## WHAT IS NY CONNECTS?

NY Connects helps anyone who needs information on long-term services and supports individuals with disabilities, older adults, family members and caregivers, friends or neighbors, veterans, and helping professionals.

### NY Connects can help you ...

- ▲ Find care and support
- ▲ Remain independent
- ▲ Understand care options
- ▲ Find transportation
- ▲ Learn about supports in caregiving
- ▲ Find supported employment programs
- ▲ Get answers about Medicare
- ▲ Apply for medical and other benefits

For more information regarding NY Connects, visit [www.nyconnects.ny.gov](http://www.nyconnects.ny.gov) or call 1-800-342-9871.

## Senior Citizens Real Property Tax Exemption

Local governments and school districts in New York State can opt to grant a reduction on the amount of property taxes paid by qualifying senior citizens. This is accomplished by reducing the taxable assessment of the senior's home.

To qualify, seniors generally must be 65 years of age or older and meet certain income limitations and other requirements. To see if your locality provides a tax exemption, call your local assessor.

This year, Assembly Bill **A.1603** was passed and signed by the governor, excluding income from an exchange of an annuity that results in non-taxable gain from being considered as income when qualifying for the Senior Citizens Real Property Tax Exemption.



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