

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

ALL EMERGENCIES ..... 911

### ASSEMBLYMAN

KEN ZEBROWSKI ..... (845) 634-9791

### SENIOR SERVICES

Senior Citizens' Resources (United States).....(800) 333-4636  
Website: <http://www.usa.gov/topics/seniors.shtml>

Office for the Aging (Rockland County) .....(845) 364-2110  
Website: <http://rocklandgov.com/departments/aging/>

Office for the Aging (New York State) .....(800) 342-9871  
Website: <http://www.aging.ny.gov/>

Meals on Wheels (Rockland County) ..... (845) 624-6325  
(Meals to homebound elderly)  
Website: [www.mowrockland.com](http://www.mowrockland.com)

### SOCIAL SERVICES

Information Rockland..... (845) 364-2020  
Website: [www.informationrockland.org](http://www.informationrockland.org)

### TOURISM

Dept. of Tourism (Rockland County)..... (845) 708-7300  
(Information on events and places in Rockland)  
Website: <http://www.rocktourism.com/>

### TRANSPORTATION

Dept. of Transportation (Rockland County) ..... (845) 364-3333  
Website: <http://rocklandgov.com/departments/aging/transportation/>

### VETERANS

Veterans Service Agency (Rockland County) ..... (845) 638-5244  
Website: <http://www.rockvets.com/>

Division of Veterans' Affairs (NY State) ..... (888) 838-7697  
Website: <http://veterans.ny.gov/>

Dept. of Veterans' Affairs (United States)..... (800) 827-1000  
Website: <http://www.va.gov/>

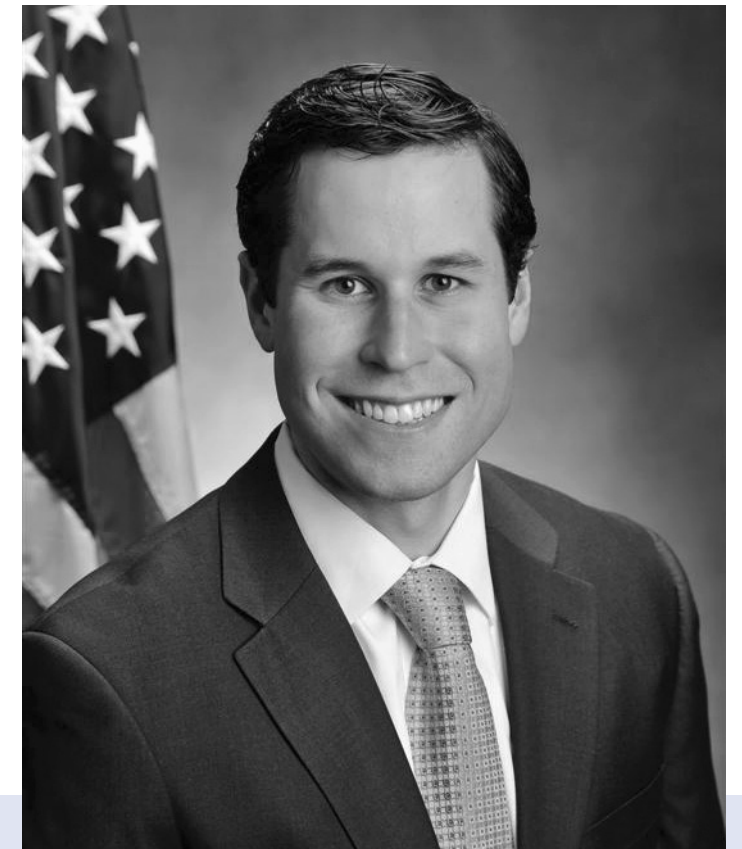


Assemblyman  
**Kenneth P.  
Zebrowski**

## 2014 Senior Update

## Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski

### 2014 Senior Update



#### Dear Neighbor:

I'm writing to provide you with a helpful, updated list of specific services that are available to you. In the past, I have fought to preserve these essential programs that assist New York's senior citizens.

I hope that this flyer will serve as a useful resource for you, however, please do not hesitate to contact my district office if you need any additional information (845) 634-9791.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Zebrowski".

Ken Zebrowski

## PROGRAMS FOR ASSISTANCE

Many seniors find that over time, their fixed incomes are worth less due to the effects of inflation. Fortunately, there is some relief available in the form of assistance programs. While many of these programs have explicit income-eligibility requirements, it is worth checking to see whether you qualify and could use any of the following:

- **EPIC (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage)** is a New York State program for seniors administered by the Department of Health. It helps more than 270,000 income-eligible seniors aged 65 and older to supplement their out-of-pocket Medicare Part D drug plan costs. Seniors can apply for EPIC at any time of the year and must be enrolled, or eligible to be enrolled, in a Medicare Part D drug plan to receive EPIC benefits and maintain coverage. The Fee Plan is for members with income up to \$20,000 if single or \$26,000 if married. The Deductible Plan is for members with incomes ranging from \$20,001 to \$35,000 if single or \$26,001 to \$50,000 if married. It is easy to join the program. For more information contact the EPIC Helpline at (800) 332-3742.
- **EISEP\* (Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program)** provides case management and non-medical in-home services to seniors age 60 and over. Fees are based on a sliding scale. Those already receiving assistance from Medicaid, or any other entitlement program, are not eligible for this program. For more information call (845) 364-2110.
- **HIICAP\* (Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program)** provides information and counseling assistance to seniors concerning Medicare, health insurance issues, private health insurance and related benefits, including EPIC. For more information call (845) 364-2118.
- **HEAP\* (Home Energy Assistance Program)** is a grant program that subsidizes heating bills from November through May. It is available for residents 60 or older, who meet income guidelines or who are already collecting SSI benefits. Monthly income limits are \$2,175 for individuals and \$ 2,844 (combined income) for married couples. For more information call (845) 364-3480.
- **WRAP\* (Weatherization Referral and Packaging)** is a home weatherization service for HEAP-qualified seniors. For more information call (845) 364-2101.
- **CAREGIVER RESPITE\*** provides caregivers (giving care to someone over 60) with various types of relief. There are no income qualifications for the week-long respite program. For more information call (845) 364-2105.
- **SENIOR CARE HELPLINE\*** offers preliminary telephone evaluation of long-term care needs and provides referrals to appropriate service programs ranging from delivery of meals, to nursing home placements. There are no income eligibility limitations on this program. For more information call (845) 364-3444.

*\*These programs are provided through the Rockland County Office for the Aging, which is funded by the Rockland County Legislature, the New York State Office for the Aging, and the Older Americans Act. To contact the Rockland County Office for the Aging call (845) 364-2110.*



## PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

The following is information about the STAR, Senior Enhanced STAR, and Low Income Senior tax exemptions. Please note that all exemption applications must be filed with the Assessor in your town no later than March 1st.

- **BASIC STAR** – Beginning in 2014, all Basic STAR recipients need to be registered with the Department of Taxation. While the deadline was December 31, 2013, late registrations are still being accepted. **Eligibility is based upon income, ownership, and primary residency.**
- **SENIOR ENHANCED STAR** – Enhanced Star has an additional eligibility requirement based upon income; therefore, **this exemption must be renewed each year.** It provides an increased benefit for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older) with qualifying income and exempts the first \$64,200 of the full value of a home from school taxes as of 2014-15 school tax bills (up from \$63,300 in 2013-14). If you have signed up for the automatic income verification program (you must file NYS Income Taxes to do this), you do not have to file a renewal application with the Assessor as long as NYS Taxation & Finance can continue to verify your income eligibility. All applications must be in by March 1 of the year when the exemption will begin. For jointly owned property, only one spouse or sibling must be at least 65 by December 31 of the year when the exemption will begin. The income limit applies to **all owners**, and any owner's spouse who resides at the property.
- **LOW INCOME SENIOR** – **This exemption must be renewed annually.** Renewal notices are mailed at the end of December. Again, you must be 65 years of age or older and reside in your own home. You may deduct out-of-pocket medical expenses, which must be documented.
- For more information about exemptions, contact your local Assessor:
 

Clarkstown.....	(845) 639-2031
Haverstraw .....	(845) 942-3718
Ramapo.....	(845) 357-5100 ext. 255

or go to the website of the NYS Tax and Finance  
<http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/>

## PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- **NEW YORK STATE** – The Golden Park Program allows New York State residents, **age 62 or over and who show a valid NYS Driver License or NYS Non-Driver ID Card**, free vehicle access to state parks on non-holiday weekdays. (This program does not apply to weekends or holidays.) For more information contact the NYS Parks Regional Office at Bear Mountain by calling (845) 786-2701 or online at <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/admission/>.
- **FEDERAL** – The National Park Service offers a “Senior Pass” for \$10, which allows free access to hundreds of national recreation sites throughout the country. It must be purchased **in person** at one of those sites. Two sites nearest to Rockland County are Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt in Hyde Park (845-229-9115 Ex. 2010) and Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace in New York City (212-260-1616). Additional information is available online at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).
- **ROCKLAND COUNTY** – The RC Division of Environmental Resources oversees the county's network of 23 parks comprising 2,579 acres. All of the parks are free to individuals, although there are fees for groups of twelve or more. For a **Parks Brochure** or other information, call (845) 364-2670 or go online at <http://rocklandgov.com/departments/environmental-resources/county-parks-and-dog-runs/>.
- **TOWN PARKS** – All of the towns in the 96th Assembly District have much to offer in terms of affordable recreational facilities, senior clubs, discounts, and activities. For specific information contact your town:
 

Clarkstown.....	(845) 639-6200
Haverstraw .....	(845) 429-4099
Ramapo.....	(845) 357-6100

## EDUCATION

Rockland Community College offers various educational opportunities for seniors. Listed below are just some of them.

(Also see RCC's website at [www.sunyrockland.edu](http://www.sunyrockland.edu))

- Class audits of regular classes for residents 60 and older  
Subject to space availability. (Free)..... (845) 574-4000
- Institute for Senior Education offers non-credit courses geared to seniors' interests. (Fees vary) ..... (845) 574-4234
- SeniorNet@Rockland, administered by Meals on Wheels Programs and Services, teaches computer communication, and technology for residents 65 and older..... (845) 623-5467

Also, most of the school districts offer Continuing Education classes. Contact your school district directly for more information.