

SENIORS/COMMUNITY

SILVER THREADS

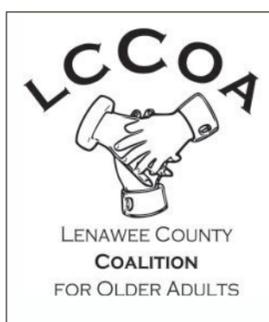
LDA teams up with CAA to offer free help with income tax filing

By Beth Wood

With so many changes happening with federal and state tax law, people are looking for some affordable help to file taxes.

The Lenawee County Department on Aging has teamed up with Community Action Agency to provide VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) trained volunteers who are ready to assist taxpayers with Michigan Homestead Property and Home Heating tax credits, as well as state and federal returns. These volunteers can assist individuals with an annual household income of \$54,000 or less. There is no charge for this service.

The Department on Aging teaming up with Community Action Agency is a great addition



to the volunteer tax program, as all returns are able to be filed electronically. With the support of the Community Action Agency and some grant funding, appointments are available for older adults at a variety of locations across Lenawee County. Volunteers will also be available at multiple senior apartment buildings as well as at locations in Tecumseh and Hudson, for residents of those cities.

The deadline to file state and federal taxes is April 15. Tax credits can be filed through Sept. 30. Community Action Agency also provides free tax help year round by appointment.

Another benefit of these two agencies teaming up is the year-round service and support for the tax program. If, following tax season, a client has a question or concern regarding their tax return, there continues to be VITA-trained volunteers available for assistance. Clients need only to make an appointment.

The VITA program provides IRS-trained volunteers who are able to bring much needed dollars back into the Lenawee County community through tax refunds. These funds help everyone with the cost of daily

living such as groceries, rent, home and auto repairs, property taxes and heat costs.

Adults 60 or over and needing assistance completing state and federal returns may call the Lenawee County Department on Aging at 517-264-5280, Community Action Agency at 517-263-7861 or 211 to schedule an appointment with a VITA volunteer at any site. Anyone under 60 with an annual household income of \$54,000 or less may also schedule an appointment by calling Community Action Agency or 211.

Beth Wood is a case manager for the Lenawee Department on Aging. The Silver Threads column is a project of the Lenawee County Coalition for Older Adults.

NEWS BRIEFS

BRITTON

ID theft program at library

A presentation on identity theft is scheduled for 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3, at the Britton Branch Library, 120 College Ave. A representative of the Michigan Attorney General's office will discuss the signs of identity theft and fraud, how to protect personal information online and off, and what to do if you become an identity theft victim.

There is no charge but registration is required. To reserve a seat call 517-451-2860.

ADRIAN

Learn to play Pickleball

The YMCA of Lenawee County and the Lenawee YMCA Pickleball Club are hosting two, one-hour pickleball clinics on Wednesday, Feb. 1. A morning session runs from 9 to 10 a.m. and an evening session is from 6 to 7 p.m. The two clinics, which will be identical, are being conducted in the Y gymnasium, at 638 W. Maumee St.

Led by instructor and local pickleball club member Andrea Rokicsak, the clinics are designed for players of all abilities, beginners

to advanced. Emphasis will be placed on learning skills, drills and strategies to help all participants improve their pickleball game.

The cost for attending either clinic is \$10, which is payable at the door. There is no charge to Lenawee YMCA Pickleball Club members. Equipment will be provided for all beginners. Those attending will be able to stay and play actual pickleball games for an hour or two immediately following the clinic.

JACKSON

Marriage Matters offers help for couples in crisis

Marriage Matters Jackson offers several resources for couples who have been struggling and contemplating divorce. Among its Marriage restoration options are weekly workshops, "Building Better Marriages," every Monday or Tuesday in Adrian, Hillsdale, and Jackson. Participants tackle a new relationship topic each week.

MMJ does not offer counseling directly, but has a list of counselors who embrace its marriage and family mission. Also available is a lending library of books on nearly

every topic a marriage can face. The library is at the MMJ office, 536 N. Jackson St., and open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. No account or funds are needed to borrow books.

More information on all resources offered by Marriage Matters Jackson can be found online at marriagemattersjackson.com.

ADRIAN

Burgers and chicken

Moose Lodge 1034 invites all members and guests to enjoy hamburgers, cheeseburgers or chicken sandwiches, with all the trimmings, from 4:30 to 8 p.m. every Monday. The lodge is at 427 W. Maumee St.

BULLETIN BOARD

■ Boy Scout Troop 659 meets at 7 p.m. every Monday at the Antique Tractor Club grounds on Forrister Road, just off U.S. 223. For more information, call Tim Wilson at 517-265-6205 and leave a message.

■ The Adrian Amateur Radio Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the CAP building at the Lenawee County Airport.

DEAR ABBY

Without proof, woman should keep quiet

DEAR ABBY: I work in customer service and was helping a guest. During my eight- to 10-minute chat with her, she showed me her phone. The wallpaper on her phone was a picture of the guest and her boyfriend in Times Square. Without mentioning it to the guest, I recognized her boyfriend as the husband of a friend of mine I'll call Julie.

Julie and her husband have two young children. Part of me wants to confront him, but part of me says this would destroy a family. I have resolved to remain quiet unless I hear of marital difficulties, but would that be a disservice to my friend and her children? I feel like I'm carrying a grenade that may devastate many innocents. — WANTS TO CONFRONT HIM

DEAR WANTS TO CONFRONT: Unless you are 100 percent certain that the man you saw on the phone was who you think he was, and not someone with a strong resemblance to Julie's husband, do NOT involve yourself.

DEAR ABBY: My mom told me that when I get engaged, she is going to hire a PI to investigate my fiancé! I know that parents can be concerned, but this seems to me like total paranoia.

She told me a story she saw in the news about a



JEANNE PHILLIPS

seemingly normal man who ended up killing people to steal their money to pay for his wedding. That's scary, but I don't think it warrants hiring a PI to follow my future fiancé around. I think my mom is going beyond being overprotective. What do you think? — FEELING CONFLICTED

DEAR FEELING CONFLICTED: I agree with you. What your mother is proposing is the definition of helicopter parenting. If your boyfriend were to find out, it would be the end of your romance. Perhaps you should ask your mother how she would feel if your

fiancé's family hired a detective to shake your family tree. I'll bet she wouldn't like it one bit.

DEAR ABBY: I would like to see how other wives would handle this. I have a "friend" who constantly calls my husband her "boyfriend." She's married, and I'm sure this irks her spouse too. Every time they come over, she has to give my husband a really big hug (she has a large chest).

I feel what she's doing is inappropriate and want to know what you recommend to put a stop to this. It has reached the point I wish they would quit coming here. My husband and I are both polite people, but I would like for this to cease. — POLITE PAT IN THE SOUTH

DEAR POLITE PAT: I'm a wife and here's how I'd handle it. I would have your husband tell your

friend privately that her effusiveness is embarrassing and to please stop doing it. If he doesn't feel comfortable doing this, talk to the woman yourself and tell her that when she calls your husband her boyfriend, it offends you, and that HER husband should be her boyfriend.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 to: Dear Abby — Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.

MARRIAGES

The following couples applied for marriage licenses at the Lenawee County Clerk's Office:

Ethan James Childers, 21, Manitou Beach and Andrea Michelle Harbach, 21, Adrian.

Derek Shad Long, 43, and Erica Kelly Espinoza, 43, both Adrian.

Sharon Ann Smith, 71, and Johnnie Eugene Craddock, 72, both Manitou Beach.

Bailey Leeanne McCrate, 28, and Andrew Ryan Snow, 33, both Addison.

DIVORCES

The following couples were granted divorces in Lenawee County Circuit Court:

Holly Lynn and Matthew James Bailey.

Ruth Ann and Brian James Ribble.

Cathy Janes and Douglas Stephen Burke.

Andrea Lanay and James Allan Rice.

Jason and Courtney Morris.

Curtis and Shelby Burke.

Amy Raymond and Matthew Paul Eddy.

SENIOR MENU

Meals for area senior citizens will be served next week at the following sites:

Addison Center, 117 N. Steer St., 11:30 a.m.

Adrian Center, 327 Erie St., 11:30 a.m.

Bliss-Liewert Center, 206 S. Lane St., Blissfield, 11:30 a.m.

Hudson Center, 323 W. Main St., 11:30 a.m.

Morenci Center, 811 W. Coomer St., 11:30 a.m.

Onsted Center, American Legion Hall, Onsted, 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday only.

Tecumseh Center, 703 E. Chicago Blvd., noon.

All older adults are welcome. A \$3 donation is asked for those over age 60, \$4 for those under 60.

The menus for the week are as follows:

Monday: Chili, corn, dinner roll, peaches, milk.

Tuesday: Chicken pot pie, salad, fruit cocktail, milk.

Wednesday: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with gravy, broccoli, apricots, milk.

Thursday: Fish, sweet potato tots, green beans, cherries, milk.

Friday: Pulled pork sandwich on whole-grain bun, mixed vegetables, mandarin oranges, milk.

SENIOR SCHEDULE

ADDISON

Center open each day for cards and socializing. Monday: 10 a.m. Wii bowling; 12:30 euchre. Tuesday: 10 a.m. bunco; 12:15 exercise. Wednesday: 9 a.m. euchre tournament; 12:30 card bingo; 1:15 Bible study. Thursday: 10 a.m. chimes; 12:15 exercise, cards. Friday: 10 a.m. penny bingo; 12:30 euchre tournament.

ADRIAN

Every day: Card playing, shuffleboard, pool, visiting and Wii bowling. Monday: 8:30 Starter-cize; 9:15 beginning line dance; 9:30 hand chimes; 10:15 advanced line dance; 12:30 Overeaters Anonymous, harmonica group, chair Zumba; 1:30 Zumba gold; 5 p.m. cards. Tuesday: 9 a.m. Zumba; 10 a.m. yoga and stretching class, remote control flyers, woodburning, needlework group, pinochle; 2 p.m. cardio drumming. Wednesday: 8:30 Starter-Cize; 9:15 beginning line dance; 9:30 Bible study; 10 a.m. 9-ball tournament; 10:15 advanced line dance; 11:30 tai chi; 12:30 chair Zumba; 1:30 Zumba gold. Thursday: 9 a.m. Zumba; 10 a.m. yoga and stretching class, painting class, remote control flyers; noon bridge; 12:30 pickleball. Friday: 8:30 Starter-Cize; 9:15 beginning line dance; 10 a.m. program on Adrian's Civil War monument; 10:15 advanced line dance; 11:30 tai chi; 1 p.m. chair yoga; 2 p.m. Building Balance.

BLISS-LIEWERT

Every day: Pool, euchre, pedro, pinochle, puzzles, Wii bowling. Monday: 9:30 exercise; 10 a.m. pinochle. Tuesday: 10 a.m. spiritual enrichment; 12:15 birthday party. Wednesday: 9:30 exercise; 10 a.m. pinochle. Thursday: 10 a.m. history class. Friday: 9:30 exercise; 10 a.m. travelogue; 12:15 program on financial safety.

HUDSON

Monday: 8:30 exercise with Edith; 10 a.m. pepper tournament, \$1 fee; 1 p.m. 50/50 drawing. Tuesday: 10 a.m. games; 12:15 line/belly dancing. Wednesday: 8:30 exercise with Edith, games; 12:15 bingo. Thursday: 9:30 veggie mobile; 10 a.m. pepper tournament, \$1 fee; 1 p.m. 50/50 drawing. Friday: 8:30 exercise with Edith, games.

MORENCI

Game and exercise room open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day. Monday: 12:30 games. Tuesday: 10 a.m. chair aerobics; noon birthday party; 12:30 games. Wednesday: 10 a.m. coloring; 12:30 games, bingo, \$1. Thursday: 10 a.m. chair aerobics; 12:30 games. Friday: 12:30 pepper tournament, \$1, games.

ONSTED

Monday: 10 a.m. gentle exercise; 11 a.m. snowball fight. Wednesday: 10:30 Bible study; noon Norman Rockwell art. Thursday: 9:15 line dancing; 10:30 chair dancing; noon birthday party; 1:30 "The Day the Music Died."

TECUMSEH

Monday: 10:30 cardio drumming, Wii bowling; 12:30 bingo. Tuesday: 10:30 Wii bowling; 11 a.m. veggie mobile, pepper; 12:30 chair yoga. Wednesday: 10 a.m. Brain Aerobics, euchre; 10:30 Wii bowling; 12:30 bingo. Thursday: 10 a.m. hand and foot, resistance bands exercise; 10:30 Wii bowling; 11 a.m. ping pong tournament; 12:30 chair yoga. Friday: 10:30 Wii bowling; 11 a.m. pinochle, adult coloring; 1 p.m. more pinochle.

Additional senior services

Lenawee seniors should call the Lenawee County Department on Aging (LDA) at 517-264-5280 or visit www.lenaweeseniors.org for information and appointments on the following services:

Home-delivered meals, personal care, homemaking, respite, outreach and medical transportation. Other services include the foster grandparent program, prescription assistance, insurance counseling, legal services, Alzheimer's support group and tax preparation.

MMAP — Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program. Trained volunteers are available to assist with claims.

Seniors 60 and older who need assistance with daily personal hygiene or house-cleaning chores.

Caregivers who need a break from caring for an older loved one 24 hours a day may call for information on the Respite Care Program.

Seniors who have mobility problems and need a handicapped ramp constructed at their home may contact the LDA regarding Project Ramp.

Daybreak Adult Day Services is located in the Piotter Center at 327 Erie St., Adrian, and provides safe, affordable and quality care for families and caregivers of older adults. Services are provided for individuals 55 and older who are experiencing age-related challenges or cannot be left alone safely.

Daybreak is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and offers a home-like environment, professional staff, and social opportunities throughout the day. Cost to utilize services is based on a sliding scale making it affordable for most. For more information call 517-266-2588.



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