

Senior News

We're all feeling the ill effects of the bad economy. As this newsletter goes to print, I'm wrestling with our state's budget, and pledge to save the "safety net" that many have come to rely on. Meanwhile, here's a report on some of the newer ways we're helping you to make ends meet. As always, don't hesitate to contact me on any issue of concern.

Sincerely,

Bob

HOUSE DEMOCRATS of CONNECTICUT

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BOB GODFREY

DEPUTY SPEAKER

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ALLOWING SENIORS TO STAY IN THEIR HOMES

In an effort to allow more seniors to remain independent in their own homes rather than nursing homes, I supported legislation expanding access to affordable homecare support and personal care assistance services. For more information about the Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly, please contact me.

HELPING WITH GROCERY BILLS

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the old Food Stamp program, has expanded its income requirements and benefit amounts, making it easier for more seniors to qualify for and afford their groceries. A household of two can earn up to \$2,248 monthly and still qualify for assistance. More information is available at: $www.ct.gov/SNAP \mid 800.742.6906$

SAVE ON AUTO INSURANCE

Driver Safety Program's are a tremendous value to older drivers. These courses help older drivers become more aware, alert and confident on the roads. Unfortunately, the number of seniors participating in the course is shrinking primarily due to the course's length which is an 8-hour course, typically taught in two 4-hour sessions, spanning 2 days. In order in increase participation and ensure seniors are participating in driver safety programs the General Assembly created legislation to reduce the hours required by the course to four hours long.

Currently, by law, a driver age 60 or older is eligible for an automobile insurance premium discount of at least 5% for successfully completing an accident-prevention course approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles. For more information, call 860.263.5700.

USEFUL NUMBERS

INFOLINE	211
Consumer Protection	1.800.842.2649
CT Tax Department	860.297.5962
Healthcare Advocate	866.466.4446
Unclaimed Property Hotline	1.800.833.7318
ConnPACE	1.800.423.5026
CT Veterans Affairs	860.616.3600

Let's Keep In Touch

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