



Dear Friends,

This spring the selectmen of New Marlborough asked one of the members of the New Marlborough Council on Aging to reach out and help seniors apply for Fuel Assistance. In the Process we became knowledgeable about the Food Stamps and the "Brown Bag" programs.

The income of some seniors remains a fixed amount, either a type of pension or Social Security. But the cost of living seems to continue rising. Programs such as Fuel Assistance, Food Stamps and the Brown Bag Distribution are designed to help those whose income doesn't increase as rapidly as the increase cost of basic necessities. If you, or if you know anyone, who could benefit from one of these programs please do not hesitate to call Prue at 413-229-8407.

In conclusion the following programs are available to seniors:

1. Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation which comes to New Marlborough once a week taking seniors to Great Barrington. Seniors can also be taken to doctor appointments in Great Barrington on others days.
2. Real estate abatements accessed through the town assessors.
3. Fuel Assistance offered from November through April.
4. Food Stamps
5. The Senior Tax Work-off Abatement Program.
6. The "Brown Bag" food program.

In closing New Marlborough has SHINE counselor, (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders) Candace Marks, who is certified by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to provide accurate, unbiased information, counseling and assistance regarding health insurance and benefits to Medicare beneficiaries and their family members free of charge. You can call her at 413-229-3038.. She is well prepared and knowledgeable in Medical Insurance Programs and is more than willing to help seniors living in New Marlborough. Don't hesitate to call her!

In closing we are hoping to have another Council on Aging luncheon sometime in August so watch your mail!

Prudence Spaulding
May 15th 2014