



City of West Haven

SENIOR HIGHLIGHTS



Dept. of Elderly Services
203-937-3507

West Haven Senior Center
203-937-3507



March



Dear Friends,

It is with very mixed emotions that I announce my plans to retire. This decision has not come easily. There are many factors involved in making this choice. I am now 65 years old. (no secrets, I have learned from all of you to be proud of your age) I need to take better care of some of my health issues and I also have an 87 year old Mother who now requires more of my help. Taking all this into consideration led me to this new path. I also would like to enjoy some retirement years. I will be leaving during the month of March.

I have worked for the City for the past 34 years. My first 7 years were as the Social Worker for the Adult Day Center and the last 27 years have been as the Director of Elderly Services primarily directing the day to day operations of the Senior Center. As many of you know, Senior Centers become an extended family for countless members. I have had the privilege and honor of being part of that family. I have met so many wonderfully diverse people over the years. So many have passed on after all this time but they still hold a very special place in my heart. People come to a Senior Center with an entire life worth of experiences. Senior Center's help to continue adding more experiences to your later years and you honor the staff by sharing it with us. I have learned so much over the years from all of you. I hope, in return that I helped add some quality to your life by my leadership.

I wish that I could have said goodbye in person but this Pandemic has changed everything this past year. Fortunately things are looking a little better and seem to be going in the right direction. YOUR Senior Center will eventually open again. I am just sad that I will not be there to share it with you. Enjoy everyday!!

Thanks for the Memories!!

Sharon

Sharon Mancini



Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday, March 14, 2021 –Turn your clock ahead 1 hour!

Tax Relief Programs for Elderly & Disabled Homeowners
February 15, 2021 to May 15, 2021

Homeowners may receive tax reduction benefits based on their income and marital status. To be eligible you must meet certain Income guidelines.

There are potentially 4 different tax relief programs.

The State run program Income Guidelines: (Including Social Security)

SINGLE: \$37,600/YEAR MARRIED: \$45,800/YEAR

West Haven Senior Tax freeze program: Must be 70 years old and have lived in the city for 20 consecutive years. Income Guidelines:(Excluding Social Security)

Single: \$35,000/year Married: \$50,000/year

State Tax Freeze: Must already be enrolled and reapply each year

Veterans Exemptions: Income: Married: \$45,800, Single: \$37,600

You must show proof of all income for 2020.

Please watch for updates due to the Pandemic. Last year those that were already on some programs were grandfathered in due to the Pandemic. If you do have to reapply there will be special drop off instructions since it is unlikely that people will be able to apply in person. More information to follow.

Questions call: Tax Assessor's office at 203-937-3515.

AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE

In person Driver Safety classes are cancelled until September 1, 2021. You can take the class on the internet, the website is: www.aarpdriversafety.org They are extending their discount to August 31, 2021. The promo code for 25% off is:

DRIVINGSKILLS.

2021 Membership Dues will not be collected at this time!

We will not be collecting dues until we reopen the Senior Center. During the Membership renewal process we also update your information. If any of your information has changed during this time such as: address, phone number &/or emergency contact information please call or send us the updated information. We want to be able to continue to contact you and keep you updated.

View the Newsletter online! (2 options)

- 1. www.cityofwesthaven.com—on the City's web page go the Residents tab, then to Elderly Services. There is a link there to view the latest Newsletter or**
- 2. www.ourseniorcenter.com– follow on screen instructions**

Potential Scams

The State Attorney General William Tong and the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection have sent out warnings of potential scams involving the second round of stimulus checks from the Federal Government.

Stay alert for bad actors and be wary of any text message, email or phone call from someone claiming to be from the federal government. If you think you may have been contacted by a scammer, hang up the phone or don't click that link.

The State Attorney General and Department of Consumer Protection have offered the following tips to prevent falling victim to a scam artist:

- The federal government will not ask you to pay money upfront to receive a stimulus check. No fees. No charges.
- The federal government will never call to ask for your social security number, bank account or credit card number. Anyone who asks for this personal identifying information is a scammer.
- No matter how the payment is disbursed, only a scammer will ask you to pay to receive it.
- Some people will receive the payment in the form of an Economic Impact Payment (EIP) prepaid card. The card is not a scam, and there are ways to cash or use the card without fees.

If you receive any suspicious phone calls, email or text messages or if you feel that you have been a victim of a scam artist please contact the Office of the State Attorney General at 1-860-808-5000 or the Department of Consumer Protection at 1-860-214-0937.

Vaccine Updates

The information on vaccines changes quickly.

You should watch the local news and check the City's Website on a regular basis. The good news is that more clinics are opening up, more vaccine will be arriving and better ways to schedule appointments are being created. Some of the current resources are:

By Computer: register with the **Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS)**. There is a link on the City's website: cityofwesthaven.com (see link at the top of the home page)

By Phone: VAMS: 1-877-918-2224 or YNHH: 1-833-275-9644

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We are pleased to announce that we were able to secure a safe plan to be able to provide the AARP Tax Aide Program.

However, we have limited availability for appointments and it will be a drop off and pick up service only. You will be able to come to the front of 201 Noble St. an AARP counselor will meet you and take your documents inside to be scanned and once they are scanned they will come back outside and return your documents. You will be given a time for the following week to come back and pick up your prepared & printed return, then sign off for your return to be electronically filed. Our office will need to send you an Intake Form that must be filled out completely. This service will begin March 17. We will only be able to service 48 people this year unless the Federal Government extends the filing deadline.

The criteria for utilizing this service is:

- AARP is only servicing those clients who filed at our office last year
- You must bring your 2019 Income Tax Return
- You cannot be self employed
- You cannot have rental income
- You must bring you social security card and an ID (driver's license/suitable ID)
- Please remove all documents from envelopes prior to arrival

If you would like to schedule an appointment and you meet this criteria please call Donna at 203-937-3635 or Jim at 203-937-3660 ext. 2042.

Other Resources for Tax Preparation

VITA: (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Their website is: UWC.211ct.org/taxhelp/ VITA has been around for a long time and is a secure program. They are doing virtual returns. You must register first.

Getyourrefund.org is another platform that does free returns.

You can also check the State of Ct. website. Their web site is www.ct.gov

PORTO FUNERAL HOMES

830 Jones Hill Road, West Haven

203-934-5000

Offering assistance with PRE-planning and PRE-financing
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203-467-3000

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