



# SEEKONK HUMAN SERVICES

## Town Courier



540 Arcade Avenue ~ Seekonk, MA ~ 508-336-8772

Monday through Thursday 8:30am - 4:30pm ~ Fridays 8:30am - 12:30pm

\*Evening appointments available upon request

### January 2021

#### Important Dates

Seekonk Human Services will be closed  
Friday, January 1, 2021  
For the New Year  
&  
Monday, January 18, 2021  
For Martin Luther King Jr. Day

#### Activities

**Zoom Trivia\***  
Tuesdays at 1:30pm—2:00pm

**Zoom Coffee Chat\***  
Wednesdays @ 1:30pm

#### **Zoom BINGO!\***

Thursdays at 1pm

\*Please contact the office for more information

\*Note: Zoom activities can be done on a laptop, tablet, smart phone or by dialing in the specific number for that activity. If you would like to participate but don't have a tablet, please call the Seekonk Public Library at 508-336-8230. If you are interested in participating in a zoom activity call the office to sign up. If you have a registered email address please inform us so we can send you the log in information for the class!

\*\*Please contact the center to inquire about Chair Yoga & Tai Chi airing date and time.

#### A SEASON OF GIVING MESSAGE FROM SEEKONK HIGH SCHOOL



The puzzle, game, and book drive for the Senior Center was a success! We collected nearly 200 activities to be distributed by the staff of the Senior Center to local residents who have been unable to enjoy in-person leisure activities since the Senior Center shutdown in March. Mackenzie Reilly, a junior, had been planning to volunteer at the Senior Center this year. Instead, as the next best thing, she helped facilitate the collection. Thank you to all who so generously donated. If you or anyone you know may benefit from having a puzzle, game, word search, or color by numbers, please contact the office at 508-336-8772.

#### NUTRITIONAL MEALS TO GO Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Seekonk Human Services will be working with Bristol Elder Services to provide nutritional meals for lunch on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to go. Meals come completely cooked and pre packaged. All you need to do is heat it up! Meals need to be ordered the day before by 9:30am. Payment is \$2.25 per meal which will be due at the time of pickup. Pick up will be between 11am—12pm. If you are unable to pick up at that time or are experiencing financial hardship please reach out to the office to speak with the Outreach Department. Please call 508-336-8772 to hear January's menu and to order!

#### THANK YOU

Seekonk Human Services would like to thank everyone who has donated to our organization to allow us to help our Town residents. With the help from all of you, we have been able to provide holiday meals and gifts to individuals and families, recreation for homebound seniors and emergency fuel assistance just to name a few. Your kindness and generosity has reached the hearts of many individuals through your donations. Due to the continued support from the community, we are able to continue to assist those in need. Year after year, we receive continued support from local organizations and local individuals and families. In behalf of all the benefactors, thank you very much!

*Happy New Year*

## FUEL ASSISTANCE

If you had fuel assistance last year, be on the look-out for your application. File the application as soon as you get it. If you have never had fuel assistance and would like to apply or if you need help filing your application, please call Seekonk Human Services at 508-336-8772 to make an appointment with the Outreach Department.

**Fuel Assistance begins November 1st.**

**Income Guidelines:** Maximum income for 1 person is \$37,360, for 2 people is \$48,855, for 3 people is \$60,351, and for 4 people is \$71,846.

**Income includes your social security, pensions and any interest income. Needed Documents:**

⇒ **Proof of income:**

- 4 consecutive pay stubs
- Social Security Award Letter or 1099
- Pension (Current 1099)
- Interest Dividends (1099)
- List of everyone in household plus their income
- Food Stamps—copy of verification

⇒ **Homeowner's must include:**

- Mortgage statement
- Real estate tax bill
- Insurance bill
- Recent copy of electric bill and gas/oil bill

⇒ **Renters Include:**

- Rent receipt
- Recent copy of electric bill and gas/oil bills

⇒ **Other Documents Needed**

- License
- Social Security Cards for all members in household
- Birth certificates for members under the age of 18

## MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Medicare open enrollment was from October 15—December 7 in which Medicare beneficiaries are able to change their Part D (drug coverage) or Medicare Advantage plan effective for January 1. In past years, we have been able to have one on one appointments with clients in the office. Unfortunately, this year with COVID-19 and the seniors being higher risk we had to alter the way we would normally assist clients. Human Services is fortunate enough to have so many understanding residents when we had to change how things have been done in the past. Our main priority is to keep the seniors safe as well as serve them. We were able to assist 265 clients during open enrollment via telephone and email. We want to thank all of the seniors who trusted us to help them with their Medicare needs this year. We look forward to helping you in 2021!

## HEARTY CHILI

- 1lb ground turkey or beef (browned)
- 2 cans of kidney beans (rinsed)
- 1 28oz can of tomato sauce
- 2 peppers diced (sautéed)
- 1 onion diced (sautéed)
- 1tsp. Garlic
- 1tsp. Chili Powder



After ground turkey (beef) is browned and the peppers and onions are sautéed, everything can be put either in a crockpot (low for 4 hours or high for 2 hours) or simmer on the stove (45 minutes). Top with cheese and/or sour cream and enjoy!

## **Seekonk Veterans Services**

Here is a brief overview of Massachusetts Law and Benefits that are available for Veterans:

### **Property Tax Exemptions**

#### **Eligible veterans, spouses, and parents**

To qualify, all veterans (and spouses where applicable) must:

- Be legal residents of Massachusetts.
- Be occupying the property as his/her domicile on July 1 in the year of application.
- Have lived in Massachusetts for at least six months prior to entering the service (spouses exempted) or,
- Have lived in Massachusetts for five consecutive years immediately prior to filing for a property tax exemption.

In most cases a surviving spouse receives the exemption if he/she was receiving it before the veteran passed away. However, surviving spouses receiving exemption under Clauses 22 and 22D lose the exemption upon remarriage.

#### **M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22**

Clause 22 allows for a \$400.00 tax exemption for the following persons:

- 10% (or more) service-connected disabled veteran;
- Purple Heart recipient;
- Gold Star mothers and fathers;
- Spouse of veteran entitled under Clause 22;
- Surviving spouses who do not remarry

#### **M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22A**

Clause 22A allows for a tax exemption of \$750.00 if the veteran meets the following:

- Loss or loss of use of one hand above the wrist, or one foot above the ankle or one eye;
- Congressional Medal of Honor;
- Distinguished Service Cross;
- Navy Cross or Air Force Cross.

#### **M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22B**

Clause 22B allows for tax exemption of \$1,250.00 if the veteran meets the following:

- Loss or loss of use of both hands or both feet;
- Loss or loss of use of one hand and one foot as described above;
- Loss or loss of use of both eyes (blind).

#### **M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22C**

Clause 22C allows for tax exemption of \$1,500.00 if the veteran:

- Is rated by the VA to be permanent and totally disabled and has specially adapted housing.

#### **M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22D**

Clause 22D is for surviving spouses (who do not remarry) of soldiers, sailors, or members of the Guard whose death occurred as a proximate result of an injury sustained or disease contracted in a combat zone, or who are missing in action with a presumptive finding of death, as a result of combat as members of the armed forces of the United States.

- Total exemption so long as the spouse does not remarry.

#### **M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22E**

Clause 22nd E allows for \$1,000.00 for veterans that are 100% disabled by the VA.

#### **M.G.L. ch. 58, s.8A**

Paralegic veterans, those with service-related injuries as determined by the VA, or their surviving spouses are eligible for total exemption on their property taxes.

For additional information about Massachusetts laws and benefits for Veterans, please contact Seekonk Veterans Services at (508)336-2940 or via email [jlaflame@seekonk-ma.gov](mailto:jlaflame@seekonk-ma.gov).

James LaFlame  
Veterans Services Officer