



IRS to Mail Economic Stimulus Forms

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will mail forms to millions of households eligible for the recently enacted economic stimulus payment.

Most people will receive their payment simply by filing their 2007 taxes as usual. Individuals who do not normally file a tax return because their income is below the required level, however, must complete a simple IRS 1040A tax form to receive their stimulus payment.

These individuals may be eligible for a payment as long as they received at least \$3,000 in 2007 from Social Security, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement, or a combination of these, along with any earned income. They may qualify for a payment of up to \$300 for individuals or \$600 for married couples filing jointly.

The IRS will mail 1040A forms to households in late March. The forms also are available at most public libraries and post offices, as well as on the [IRS Web site](#) and at the Longmeadow Adult Center.



ECONOMIC STIMULUS WHAT'S IT'S ALL ABOUT ?

Wednesday, April 16th, 10:00 AM

Have questions, need help filling out the forms? Join Jim Law for all the answers and help filling out the Federal Forms. Please register at 565-4150.

SCAM ALERT

A company called Survey Trust is asking seniors to provide extensive personal information, including social security number, Medicare number, financial details, and all health information. The senior also completes an IRREVOCABLE Durable Limited Power of Attorney that gives the company the right to lifelong access of the individual's medical records and he signs a form authorizing and directing his heirs and assigns to provide a copy of the Death Certificate. In exchange for completing this "survey" and participating in the program, the senior is given \$1,000 immediately and receives \$250/year for the rest of his life.

The packet is extensive and confusing, and improper use or disclosure of the information will put seniors at risk for financial exploitation and identity theft. They are now offering scooters and other freebies in addition to the \$1000.

This appears to be a company that purchases information, then may insure the individual or sell the information to a speculator who insures the individual. (Some discussion indicates that in these types of operations, sometimes speculators may be foreign interests, so there is a whole other realm of liability, risk, and jurisdiction that could be of concern.) This company is operating all over the US right now.

While there is a possibility of personal identity theft related fraud, this really seems to be phishing for medical identity theft. Essentially what happens is a bogus clinic with access to real medical information starts billing insurance companies and Medicare/Medicaid for treatment and services that were never delivered. Often, the patients are not swindled out of money, but their medical records have on them fraudulent treatments and conditions. Once on the records, they are exceptionally difficult to remove because of HIPAA. **Additionally, those modified records are the ones used for emergency treatment for the real person (!~).** This can be problematic and even life threatening. If the records reflect diabetes treatment or HIV treatment (likely because the fraudster clinic can make a lot of money from these high value treatments) then the patient may get the wrong or inappropriate treatment for an actual condition.



VOLUNTEER VIEWS

*Ellen Gold
Coordinator of Volunteers*

OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to everyone who has been volunteering his or her time and effort at the Adult Center. You are all pieces of the engine that makes the Center run so well and allows our programs and services to continue. We have many volunteers who work unselfishly and behind the scenes to ensure that all seniors in Longmeadow can continue to have a high quality of life and live independently. In addition, thanks to the following people for their dedication and loyalty: **Shirley Burke**, Blood Pressure Clinic receptionist and substitutes **Sheila Blum, Dolores Farrell and Jean Doyle**; Big Y bakery drivers, **Charlie Paquette, Sharon and Eileen Stockhammer** and their family; Data Entry Assistants, **Miriam Odentz, Irving Ser, Jean Glantz and Verna Nickelson**; **Mike and Karla**, our Mr. & Mrs. Fixit; and our Grocery Delivery Team, **Tom Keane, Eunice Kavanagh, Joanna Krol, Tina deMeza, and Harry Hobdell**. We applaud all of our volunteers for your hard work and support.

DINING ROOM

The attendance at lunch has been growing, thanks to the wonderful meals prepared by Chef Robert and his staff. We would not be able to serve the meals without the help of our volunteers in the kitchen and dining room. These dedicated and helpful men and women assist Chef Robert in preparing and packing up all the food for our Meals on Wheels as

well as our delicious dining room lunches. They also set tables, organize the freezers and do dishes as well as serve the food and clean up the dining room. Our thanks to all of you who have helped weekly and as a substitute in the Adult Center: **Betty Rochford, Gus Kavrakis, Paul Philbin, Alice DelVecchio, Amparo Moran, Nancy Caputi, Camille Dupre, Marcia Lieber, Evelyn Lak, Rosemarie Langlois, Dolly Amadeo, Al Sommer, Charlie Paquette, Rose Troiano, Carolyn Gaffney, Nancy Cole & Claudette Grzywacz.**

MEALS ON WHEELS

We are in need of more **Meals on Wheels** drivers to help with our home delivered meals. If you like to meet new people, want to help others and can volunteer for two hours a month, you are just what we are looking for. With the retirement of many of our Meals on Wheels drivers, we are now experiencing a need for new drivers. The route consists of approximately 20 homes in Longmeadow and requires about 2 hours to complete, from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. We ask for a commitment of one day per month and offer a very flexible schedule. Substitute drivers are available for backup in emergencies or if you are concerned about driving in bad weather. This is a very rewarding volunteer experience and you will immediately realize how much your time and effort helps the homebound members of our community. For information contact Ellen at 565-4150.