

# **WINDSOR COA NEWS**

## **September/October 2023**

*Our mission is to serve older Windsor adults by providing opportunities and resources that advance the quality of life in a rural community.*

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs provides financial support for this COA publication

### **BREAKING NEWS**

Windsor is the newest community to be included in the Hilltown CDC "Hilltown Driver Pool" transportation program!

To begin, we need to recruit two or three drivers willing to use their own vehicles to bring local senior residents to necessary medical and other professional appointments.

Hilltown Community Development coordinates the rides and reimburses the driver for time and mileage as W2 employees. This program is grant-funded and limited to a certain number of rides provided per month.

#### **Driver Qualifications**

Driver's license, good RMV record and pre-employment CORI. Preference given to those with previous experience in similar med-ride programs. Good references and previous experience volunteering or working with seniors or those with disabilities.

#### **Abilities**

Must be friendly, patient, reliable and responsible in order to provide the quality service our riders expect from us.

#### **Hours**

Requests to drive will be occasional and on an as-needed basis. We cannot guarantee any minimum hours.

#### **Compensation**

Hilltown CDC pays an hourly rate of \$15 an hour, plus reimbursement of \$ .585 per mile. Hourly and mileage calculations are based on "loaded miles" meaning from the time the passenger is picked up until the passenger is returned home. In most cases, a driver will need to pay for additional vehicle insurance as an up-front cost. As a reward for your efforts to participate despite personal costs – some reimbursable, some not – HCDC will pay a bonus of \$100 upon completion of the first five trips completed each calendar year. However, the number of trips cannot be guaranteed. ONLY trips booked by the Hilltown CDC Transportation Coordinator will be paid.

#### **Terms**

This is a grant-funded, part-time flexible schedule position subject to sick time hours accumulated per Massachusetts employment laws. Continuation of the position is subject to the status of future funding

#### **EOE/AA/Section 3**

Applicants with handicaps and needing assistance will be accommodated. Among equally qualified candidates, low to moderate-income residents of the local region will be given preference.

Once we have the drivers, we can begin offering rides!! Questions? Call Sue Jacobs at 413-446-4295 or Hunt Chase at the Hilltown CDC at 413-296-4232.



### CHP Bus Coming with Flu Shots

Mark your calendars to come to the Town Hall on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 12 to get your annual flu vaccine. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged by calling 413-528-0457. Please call early for an appointment.

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### FUEL ASSISTANCE

#### LIHEAP can help with heating costs

Fuel Assistance, also known as Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), is a free resource offered by Berkshire Community Action Council in partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development. The goal of this program is to help low-income families pay their heating bills. All heating types may be eligible for assistance: oil, propane, electric, kerosene, coal, cord wood, wood pellets, and natural gas included. You may be eligible even if your utilities are included in your rent. The program begins November 1st and ends April 30th each year. All Massachusetts residents are encouraged to explore eligibility for this free program and apply for assistance. Eligibility requirements are listed on their website including how to apply, documents needed and income guidelines.

Jessica is available to assist Windsor residents with help in applying or renewing for the program. Please contact her after October 20<sup>th</sup> to set up an appointment.

### Community Coffee

After a brief respite in July and August, the “Community Coffee” will resume on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to noon. Come for coffee, tea, bagels, fresh fruit, baked goodies, great conversation (and maybe a Bingo game or two). As always, please let us know if you plan to attend by calling or texting Jessica at 413-328-4364 by Monday of that week so we have enough food.

### Do You Know How to Avoid a Scam?

Your phone rings and you don't recognize the number. You get an email that doesn't look quite right. What do you do?

Four Signs that it is a SCAM:

1. Scammers PRETEND to be from an organization you know.
2. Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE.
3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately.
4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way.

How to AVOID a SCAM:

- Block unwanted calls and text messages. (If you don't recognize the number calling, DON'T answer it. If it's legitimate, the caller will leave a message.)
- Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect.
- Resist the pressure to act immediately.
- Know how scammers tell you to pay. (Often a gift card or money transfer service).
- Stop and talk to someone you trust.

(Information from the Federal Trade Commission)

*Just for chuckles....  
We hired a tree trimmer who did a great job. He should take a bough!*

*Last one...  
What do you call a cat that is crossed with a canary? A peeping tom!*