

Senior News

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From the Director's Desk

ur Meals on Wheels clients opened their doors on the Tuesday before Valentine's Day to a beautiful sight—their volunteer drivers delivering a lovely, long-stemmed red rose as well as their meal. Since 1995, thanks to the kindness and generosity of Lorraine Merrill, the



Valentine's Day rose delivery has been a SMAA tradition. When Lorraine died in 2003, she left a bequest to the Agency to es-

tablish an endowment fund assuring the rose tradition will continue in perpetuity. What a wonderfully touching legacy! Planned gifts, such as Lorraine's, enable the Agency to sustain and grow valuable programs that have a profound impact on the lives of seniors in southern Maine. I encourage you to contact Kate Putnam, SMAA's Chief Advancement Officer, to find out how you can leave a legacy through your will.

SMAA recently completed another successful Medicare Open Enrollment that ran from October through early December. This year, 56 highly trained SMAA volunteer counselors and Agency staff helped 1,336 individuals find the best Medicare plan for their circumstances for 2018. As I've written about in previous issues of Senior News, in many cases, a yearly benefit review during Open Enrollment can save a person hundreds of dollars in annual outof-pocket expenses. That that was indeed the case this year. Thirty percent of the people who attended a one-on-one session with a Medicare volunteer during Open Enrollment qualified for out-ofpocket savings in 2018—the average savings equaling \$1,322 per person!

As one of five Area Agencies on Aging in the state of Maine, SMAA offers many programs and services to older adults in southern Maine that are also offered by

continued on page 13

Nearly Four Decades of Service Honored: Jo Ann McPhee Retires

o Ann McPhee was recently honored for almost 40 years of service to the Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA). During that time, Jo Ann has been helping feed seniors in southern Maine through the many nutrition programs offered by SMAA. What started as a volunteer opportunity turned into a job and then became a career with Meals on Wheels. Initially, Jo Ann worked in local communities coordinating meal delivery. She soon rose to be a site coordinator and ultimately to manage SMAA's nutrition program. A common thread in all the positions Jo Ann has held is she felt that she was helping improve people's lives. Early on, she understood the value of the human connection of offering people a meal and a visit.



Jo Ann receiving the first ever "Spirit of SMAA" award.

"Jo Ann represents the best of SMAA. She always puts the needs of our clients first. Jo Ann never forgets the importance of what we do and how much frail seniors depend on us for a good meal but also for the regular visit." commented Laurence W. Gross, SMAA's Chief Executive Officer. "In fact, she was

awarded Employee of the Year for 2017, recognizing her incredible commitment to her work in our Nutrition Department. We will miss her infectious smile, humor and can-do attitude."

We wish Jo Ann well in her retirement! And we know if she finds she has extra time, we are always looking for Meals on Wheels volunteers!



Jo Ann's service with a smile throughout the years.





In February,
Jo Ann was
honored at a
retirement party
including many
colleagues from
over the years
as well as her
family.



SMAA Specialist Provides Local Support for Yarmouth's Seniors

aureen Brosnan, a Community Resources Specialist from the Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA) is now available to provide support and resources for Yarmouth's older adults and caregivers.

Maureen will connect Yarmouth's older residents, those with disabilities, and their caregivers with community resources they need related to nutrition, housing, financial security, health insurance, transportation, Medicare, and other issues. Maureen is based in the tutoring room of Merrill Memorial Library on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11AM-3PM, or by appointment. She can be contacted at 835-9866 or by email at mbrosnan@yarmouth.me.us.

Maureen has worked with the Southern Maine Agency on Aging since 2015, providing education and processing referrals for programs like Matter of Balance, Meals on Wheels, and Chronic Pain Management. Prior to joining SMAA, Maureen worked with SeniorsPlus in Lewiston, coordinating home care services and evaluating the effectiveness of care plans. Throughout her career, Maureen has worked closely with MaineCare, Medicare, private insurers, and other services. Maureen is a Licensed Master Social Worker, and has a Masters Degree of Social Work from the University of New England.

"I am very excited and thankful for the opportunity to work with Yarmouth seniors and caregivers, providing them with education and connecting them with resources to help them improve their lives", said

Brosnan's presence will support Yarmouth's seniors, proactively support at-risk residents and augment the ongoing Aging in Place initiatives administered through YCAN—Yarmouth Cares About Neighbors. SMAA has seen a 40% increase in requests for information and services from Yarmouth residents in the past year.

The Yarmouth Town Council approved the appointment and funding of a dedicated resource specialist from SMAA in October 2017. In addition to the Town of Yarmouth, SMAA currently provides Dedicated Resource Specialists for the Plummer-Motz Senior Living Complex in Falmouth, and a large health-care provider, and previously with the Town of Cumberland. These Specialists support aging in place initiatives, and to connect seniors and caregivers with the resources they need.

Have questions about Senior News?
Call 396-6594 or email seniornews@smaaa.org

Southern Maine Agency on Aging 136 U.S. Route 1 Scarborough, ME 04074

Thank You from Larrabee Village

his past holiday season residents of Larrabee Village were recipients of assorted gift cards provided by individuals in the Information and Technology Department within ON Semiconductor (Formerly Fairchild Semiconductor). The generous donation totaled \$305 in gift cards that were shared with 13 residents of Larrabee Village. The gift cards ranged from grocery stores to coffee shops to clothing department stores. One resident shared that he really appreciated the gift as he did not have anyone that sent him even a Christmas card. Another resident had shared it was so long since she bought herself a new clothing item that she did not even know the name of the stores one would buy clothes in. The gift cards were truly appreciated and very helpful!! THANK YOU to our anonymous donors.

Also we, staff and residents, would like to extend our tremendous thanks to Jo Dill and her amazing team of holiday elves who kept Larrabee Village residents in mind again this holiday season and donated essential items to the residents through the Free Food Pantry. They provided a long list of items including: toilet paper, paper towels, laundry detergent, soap, calendars, hats and scarves. With such a cold winter, it was a real treat for the residents to pick up essential items right inside the building without having to get to the store.



Larrabee Village resident volunteers with essential item donations through the Free Food Pantry.

Update at Plummer Senior Living

By Doug Wilson, Resident Resource Coordinator

esidents are now moving in to the Plummer Senior Living, a 55+ Active Independent Community in Falmouth. Twelve of the 34 units are occupied and the residents tell me on a daily basis how much they love this place! What's not to love! It's a safe, secure and beautifully renovated facility (the original Falmouth High School, built in the 1930s and now on the National Registry of Historic Places), with an opportunity to build a community from scratch! We have an amazing common area (the former gymnasium) that serves as a gathering place for residents (we had our first potluck supper just before the Super Bowl) and we're adjacent to the Mason-Motz Activity Center where Falmouth Community Programs offer a host of activities and programs on a daily basis. There are over four miles of walking

trails throughout the Ocean View campus, right out the back door of Plummer!

SMAA has a contract with DC Management (the building management company) to provide resource coordination and assist Plummer residents in getting connected to an array of local services. As the Resident Resource Coordinator, I am thrilled to be in "on the ground floor", helping the residents build their new community. This is a very exciting time to be here! If you have any questions or know someone who might enjoy an active, independent community, feel free to contact me at Plummer (781-4418 between 11AM and 3PM) or Jody, at DC Management (772-3225) anytime.

CONNECTIONS: Flower Power

By Deb Folsom, Manager, Sanford & Kezar Falls Meals on Wheels Sites

ONNECTIONS are an important component to the Meals on Wheels program. Every time one of us makes a connection with another agency or person, there is an opening for better service to our Meals on Wheels clients. The more we know, the more we may be able to help.

One connection in particular I think about is the special connections we at the Sanford meal site have been able to forge with Waban Projects' Work Opportunities (WO) and Shaw's Supermarket. It's known as "Flower Power". Thursday mornings, some of the folks from Work Opportunities go to Shaw's and pick up the flowers that are close to being thrown away. For the most part, the flowers are still in very nice shape. The Flower Power folks bring them to our Amherst Street location and make smaller bouquets. Our Meals on Wheels volunteer drivers deliver the flowers along with the meals. The recipients of the flowers' day (and sometimes week) have been brightened. The Flower Power folks feel happy and fulfilled that they have been able to give back to the community that has given so much to them and made someone else happy, too. Their joy is contagious!



Left to right: Maureen Harvey, Jennifer Merrifield (WO staff), Christopher Heywood and Holly Holland.

You

Tube



"I'm as happy as a clam at high tide!" ~ Jean

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NOW HIRING!

Southern Maine Agency on Aging is hiring for the following positions:

Assistant Site Coordinator (Greater Portland Meal Site)

Southern Maine Agency on Aging's Nutrition Program is seeking a part-time 16 hours per week Assistant Site Coordinator for our Greater Portland Meal Site in Westbrook. The Assistant Site Coordinator will be responsible for training volunteers, inventory management, supporting the home delivered meal preparation, and delivering meals directly to the clients' homes. Candidate must have reliable transportation and be computer literate and proficient in all traditional or current office equipment. Excellent interpersonal skills are required as the Assistant Site Coordinator must deal tactfully with staff, clients, volunteers and the general public. Benefits are pro-rated; starting pay is \$11.00 per hour.

Resident Attendant (Larrabee Village)

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging supported housing services program is seeking a Resident Attendant for 32 hours per week to help sustain the health, safety, and independence of frail elder residents including one-on-one assistance with IADL and ADLs. Candidate must be available to work days, evenings, weekends and holidays.

Qualifications: Accomplished ability to problem-solve in emergency situations, excellent customer service abilities with residents, family members, and others. Attention to detail and ability to work independently with minimal supervision. Habitually maintains the highest of personal health and safety practices, and works effectively in a team relationship. Candidate must provide proof of valid PSS certificate.

If you're interested in either position, please send cover letter and resume to:

Job Posting Southern Maine Agency on Aging 136 US Route One Scarborough, ME 04074 jobposting@smaaa.org

To view all of our listings, please visit www.smaaa.org/careers.html

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



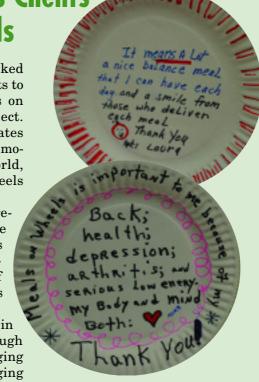
www.smaaa.org

Meals on Wheels Clients Share Kind Words

t the end of 2017 we asked Meals on Wheels recipients to participate in the Meals on Wheels Paper Plate Project. We provided blank paper plates and asked clients to take a few moments to let us, and the world. know what Meals on Wheels meant to them.

We received over 140 responses and we're thrilled to see the kind words from our clients and their families. Some responses show a great sense of humor while other responses will bring a tear to your eye.

The plates are on display in our main office in Scarborough downstairs in the Healthy Aging hallway and the Healthy Aging classroom. The public is encouraged to visit and view the plates during normal business hours.



Some of the plates on display in Scarborough.

Meals On Wheels Community **Leaders Day**

eals on Wheels will be holding its annual Community Leader's Day on Tuesday, March 20. On this day, we invite community leaders to go out into their communities and deliver meals to homebound seniors. It is a great opportunity for community leaders to see first-hand what a wonderful impact the Meals on Wheels program has on seniors. If you are interested in participating, please contact Renee Longarini, Nutrition Program Manager, at 396-6510.

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Senior News

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For details on advertising in "Senior News," log on to www.smaaa.org and see Senior News on home page and/or send an e-mail to seniornews@ smaaa.org. You may also reach "Senior News" representative Janet Bowne at 396-6533.

Marketing options include, full color ads, advertorial columns and inserting pre-printed materials into the newspaper. Reach your potential customers with Maine's only newspaper specifically for people age 50 and older!

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Mission Statement

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging's mission is to improve the quality of life for older adults, adults with disabilities, and the people who care for them.

Commitment to Reasonable Accommodation:

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging will, with adequate notice and upon request, provide appropriate auxiliary aids and services to persons with disabilities, to assist in effective communication and to participate equally in programs, services and activities. Call 1-800-427-7411 x503 or from the Portland calling area call 207-396-6503 to make your request.

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA) is a non-profit, charitable organization. Services of SMAA are supported in part by state and federal funds provided through the Office of Aging and Disability Services of the Maine Department of Human Services. Learn more at www.smaaa.org or by calling 207-396-6500 or 1-800-427-7411.

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging is committed to providing a safe and welcoming space for everyone regardless of his/her race, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, age, economic status, faith tradition, veteran status or life situation.

MONEY MINDERS: Helping to Keep Seniors Financially Safe

hen Elaine retired from a long career in banking, she looked for ways to volunteer that would utilize her money management skills. She was referred to the Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA) and thought the Money Minders Program seemed like a perfect fit. "I enjoy the program," says Elaine. "I get to meet new people, and I know I can help them."

Money Minders is a program that matches trained volunteers with low-to-mid income seniors who need help with check writing and checkbook balancing. "The program has some rules, and it's really important to stick to them for your client's protection as well as your own." Elaine values the oversight that is built into the Money Minders Program, and she

feels confident knowing that once the forms are submitted by the volunteer, "they are scrutinized by the program coordinator and the monitors, as well."

Elaine has had four clients during her eight years as a Money Minders volunteer. In addition, she uses her banking background to work with others to monitor client reports and bank statements. Monitors look for any evidence of fraud, a scam, or unauthorized access to the account.

One of the things Elaine has learned since becoming a Money Minders volunteer is how easy it is for families to take advantage of a person. She had a client with that problem, and she was able to help the client contact Legal Services for the Elderly, who were able to stop it. "It was handled very well," Elaine says.

Being a Money Minders volunteer, Elaine says, reminds you that people are different, with different personalities and different ways of dealing with money issues.

For example, one of her clients was losing her sight, and she was unable to read her mail or sign checks. Elaine discovered that her client was being sent duplicate bills by a company, and Elaine was able to contact the company and get it straightened out.

One piece of advice that Elaine would give to seniors is to "set up a budget, and once you do, don't let ads for low-interest credit cards tempt you to go off your budget — don't buy on impulse." She had a client who was quickly overwhelmed by the amount of credit card debt that built up through her impulse buying.

For more information about the Money Minders Program, and to find a volunteer like Elaine to help you keep your finances in order, please call the Southern Maine Agency on Aging at 1-800-427-7411 or 396-6500 and ask to speak to a Resource Specialist. For Money Minders like Elaine, the best part of their job is providing help when it is needed.

Do Not Call Registrations Don't Expire By Amy Hebert, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC Someone, pretending to be Don't buy it Do Not Call

Someone pretending to be from the FTC is sending out fake emails telling people that their Do Not Call registration is expiring. The emails use the FTC's logo and send people to a phony Do Not Call website to register their numbers again.

Don't buy it. Do Not Call registrations never expire. Once you add a number to the Do Not Call Registry, you don't need to register it again—ever. We only remove your number when it's disconnected and reassigned, or if you ask us to remove it.

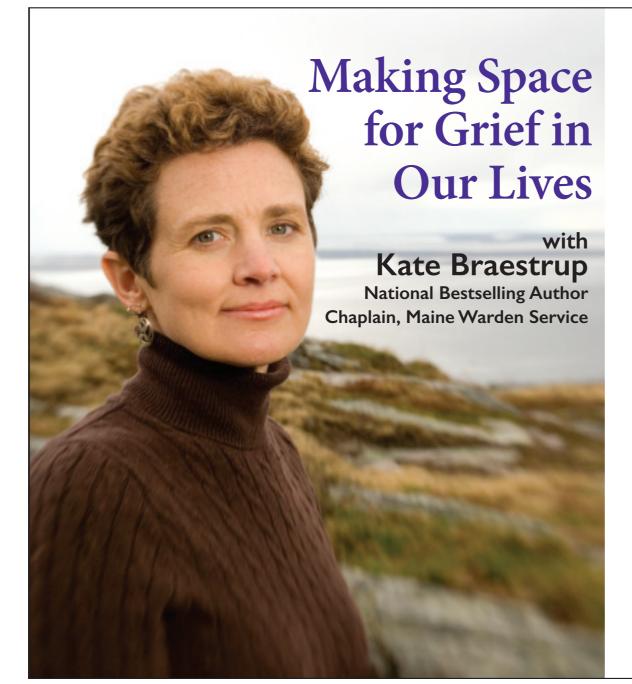


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Medicare Open Enrollment Comes to a Close

n December, The Southern
Maine Agency on Aging
wrapped up another
Medicare Open Enrollment period. SMAA would like to thank the
numerous individuals and couples

we saw these past few months who



trust us to help them make informed choices about their Medicare plans. We are pleased to report that from October 15 through December

7 we served 1,336. Collectively we saved clients over \$576,000 on their premiums. Of the clients who experienced a savings, the average annual savings was \$1,322 per client.

Our ability to serve so many is truly because of the team effort and partnerships that SMAA has with our Medicare host sites and with our team of volunteers. We would like to extend thanks to the following locations for their support. Without their hospitality, we would not have been able to serve as many individuals throughout southern Maine.

Sam L. Cohen Adult Day Center, Biddeford **Bridgton Community Center** Dyer Library, Saco **Freeport Community Library** Larrabee Village, Westbrook Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Windham **Parsonsfield Town Office** Prince Memorial Library. Cumberland Louise B. Goodall Memorial Library, Sanford St. Martha's Church, Kennebunk The Stewart Adult Day Center, **Falmouth** The Center at Lower Village, Kennebunk **Westbrook Community Center**

We would also like to thank our amazing team of volunteer State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) counselors. Our dedicated volunteers worked diligently in order to accommodate the number of individuals seeking to review their

York Hospital

Medicare OEP 2017 Volunteers

Medicare options. We take great pride in knowing that our volunteers routinely go above and beyond for our clients and that together we will have helped consumers save substantially in out-of-pocket health care expenses for 2018. We could not do it without them.

Thank you Volunteers!

Doris Ames Jane Ashley **Terry Bagley** Jim Baker Ron Bolduc **Mary Bruns** Paulette Burbank **Donald Caouette Dennis Coleman Lindsay Copeland Paul Doherty** John Dyhrberg **Sharon Eastman Annette Fournier** Warren Giering Fred Gifford Peggy Gilbert Fran Gleason **Nancy Goddard Carol Goldberg Copeland Nancy Gordon Connie Grant Jerry Harkavy** Martha Henderson John Holland **Therese Johnson Maryann Lawton** Patricia Lennox **Cindy Lord** Jim MacLeod **Dave Mikesell Ann Milliard** Julie Morgan **Steve Murphy** Sue Ellen Muse Judy O'Brien Tom O'Connor Phil Ohman Wayne Olson **Susan Pendleton Maurice Proulx Doug Robinson Fred Ronco** Steve Sawyer **Dave Smith Linda Sprague Lambert Gary Starbuck Deb Weldon** Linda Westinghouse **Barry Wolfson**

In addition, we would especially like to thank the following volunteers who took the time to greet and direct clients at SMAA with a welcome smile: **Dot Lee, Denise Smith, Susan Laughton**, and **Nancy Sulides**.

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From Jo Dill's Notebook

2018 Maine Senior **Games Schedule**

Celebration of Athletes: June 1, Friday, Fireside Inn

Pickleball: June 9, Men's/ Women's Doubles, A-Copi Sports Center, Augusta, Saturday

Pickleball: June 10, Mixed/ Singles, A-Copi Sports Center, Augusta, Sunday

5K Road Race/Power Walk: June 14, 6PM, Sanford Springvale YMCA, Thursday

10K Road Race: June 17, Scarborough High, Sunday

Golf: June 25, 8:30, Willowdale, Scarborough, Monday

Track & Field: July 22, Scarborough High, Sunday

Men's Softball: August 5, Wainwright Field, South Portland, Sat/Sun

Cornhole: August 15, (rain 16) Sanford/Springvale Y, 4PM, Wednesday

Archery: August 19 (rain 26) Lakeside Archery, Sunday

Horseshoes: August 22 (rain 23), Deering Oaks, Portland, Wednesday

Racquetball: August 25, Racket/Fitness Center, Portland, Saturday

Triathlon: Pumpkinman Tri, September 8, 8AM, South Berwick

Tennis: September 8, Women's Singles/Men's Dbls, Mixed, A-Copi Sports Center, Saturday

Tennis: September 9, Men's Singles, Women's Dbls, A-Copi Sports Center, Augusta, Sunday

Bowling Candlepin: September 13, Big 20, Scarborough, Thursday

Swimming: September 15, Kennebec Valley Y, Augusta, Satur-

Cycling: September 16, K'Port Bicycle Company, Sunday

Basketball (Men's): September 22, Cape Elizabeth High, Saturday

Basketball (Women's): September 23, Cape Elizabeth High, Sunday

Table Tennis: September 29, Lewiston Armory, Lewiston, 0Saturday

Bowling 10 Pin: September 30, Sparetime Bowling, Augusta

Darts: October 14, The Gold Room, Portland, Sunday

Power Walk

The Power Walk is in for the 2019 National Senior Games. For this year only, you do NOT have to qualify and if you are already participating in two events at Nationals you may still participate in the power walk! The 1500 power walk will be done at the track and the 5K will be done on a course. The two main rules for power walk are that one foot MUST be on the ground at all times and it must be heel-toe at all times. The difference between power walk and race walk is that race walk has to have your front knee straight. Power walk is basically a fast walk. I hope you all take advantage of this! We will continue to offer the 1500 power walk and race walk at our track meet and the 5K power walk will be part of our 5K Road Race on June 14 (Flag Day).

Registration

Registration for the Maine Senior Games will open by April 1 (hoping for mid-March). We have made some changes this year. Be sure to check the end registration date as there are a few sports that WILL have a deadline. Most sports allow onsite registration but a few will not. If you register online you must use a credit card or the registration will not be complete.

Sponsors

Maine Senior Games depends on sponsorships to keep us going and bring you the best games possible. Please let our sponsors know that you are an athlete. Tell your doctor, dentist, banker or other businesses that you are an athlete or volunteer of the Maine Senior Games. I tell anyone who will listen in hopes that if enough folks tell them they will come to US for a sponsorship. Thanks for your help! So far, our lead sponsor is Martin's Point, our gold sponsors are Piper Shores and Aging Excellence and our silver sponsors are Cross Insurance and Bangor Savings Bank. Thanks for your help!

Raffle Calendar

Maine Senior Games is once again selling a raffle calendar. If you are willing to donate something for the raffle please let Jo know at 396-6519 or email: jdill@smaaa.org. I am putting together a Boston teams basket. If you have a Celtics, Bruins, Pats or Sox item that is new and you are willing to donate it would be appreciated. Thanks so much for your help.

A Gift of Roses

ince 1995, Meals on Wheels recipients celebrate Valentine's Day with a special delivery of a beautiful red rose with their meal. This year over 600 roses were delivered to homebound older adults throughout southern Maine.

"Rose Day" is something that not only clients, but volunteers and staff, look forward to each year. It is



a wonderful opportunity to put an extra smile on our client's faces thanks to the generosity of the late Loraine Merrill. Mrs. Merrill was a kind woman and Meals on Wheels recipient. She wanted to brighten the days of her fellow Meals on Wheels recipients and did so through anonymously gifting roses. Since her passing in 2003, SMAA has been able to acknowledge and thank her for her gift.

Since its inception, it is estimated that over 16,000 roses have been delivered in the past two decades. Thanks to Mrs. Merrill's planned gift to SMAA, her generosity will be able to continue for decades to come.

If you have a vision of how you'd like to support a SMAA program like Loraine Merrill, contact Kate Putnam, Chief Advancement Officer at SMAA, 207-396-6590 or via email at kputnam@smaaa.org.



Sanford Site Manager Deb Folsom

L to R: Volunteers Ann Reardon and Archie Archibald, George the Dog, Nutrition Manager Jo Ann McPhee, Volunteer Eric Booker, Nutrition Manager Renee Longarini, and South Portland Site Coordinator Liz Engel.

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Is caring for a family member or friend leaving you feeling tired, isolated, sad, guilty, stressed? Caregiving may be the most difficult and rewarding thing you'll ever do. The Family Caregiver Support Program can help.

Basics for Family Caregivers Class Offered in Falmouth

nderstanding Cognitive Loss: Basics for Family Caregivers is a class developed for family caregivers: those who may have questions about someone's cognitive abilities and losses, those who are helping someone early in the course of a dementia, and those who may not be able to attend a full Caregiver series. The class

covers different conditions that can affect a person's cognitive abilities, how specific thinking skills might change, and strategies that can be helpful for family caregivers. If you are a family caregiver for a person who has been diagnosed with dementia, or about whom you have concerns, we hope you will register to join us.

Join us on Wednesday, March 14 from 3-5PM at the Lunt Auditorium in Falmouth.

This event is co-sponsored by SMAA and OceanView at Falmouth. Tours of the Stewart Center and Legacy Memory Care will be available following the class.

Space is limited, please register by calling 207-781-4460.

Are You a **Caregiver** in **Need of Respite?**

If you said yes, then the Caregiver Respite Program may be able to help.

he Caregiver Respite Program supports family caregivers of people with dementia by reimbursing them for part of the cost of respite care. This break for the primary caregiver might take place in the home, at an adult day program, or overnight in a facility (on a limited basis). The person receiving the respite care must meet financial eligibility guidelines, have a physician-confirmed diagnosis of some form of dementia, and being living in the community. The caregiver arranges for care, pays for it up front, and then submits the expenses for an 80% reimbursement, up to an annual cap set by the Maine Office of Aging and Disability Services.

Funds are currently available through this program for people who meet the eligibility criteria. For more information, please contact Lori Campbell at 396-6540 or email lcampbell@smaaa.org.

SIGHT IS PRECIOUS.



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Upcoming Series

May 1 - June 5

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Is It the FLU or a COLD?

t's easy to confuse a common cold with seasonal flu. A cold is milder than the flu, but since the flu can make older people very sick, you should know the difference. That way you will know when to call the doctor, who might want to give you a prescription for medicines that can help you get over the flu.

People with the flu can have fever, chills, dry cough, general aches and pains, and a headache. They feel very tired. Sore throat, sneezing, stuffy nose, or stomach problems are less common. What some people call "stomach flu" is not influenza.

If it's a Cold

Fever: Rare Headache: Rare General aches, pains: Slight Tiredness, weakness:

Sometimes
Extreme exhaustion: Rare
Stuffy nose: Common
Sneezing: Usual
Sore throat: Common
Chest discomfort, cough: Mild to

If it's the Flu

moderate hacking cough

Fever: Usual Headache: Common General aches, pains: Usual; often severe Tiredness, weakness: Usual; can last two to three weeks

Extreme exhaustion: Usual; when first become sick

Stuffy nose: Sometimes
Sneezing: Sometimes

Sore throat: Sometimes

Chest discomfort, cough: Common; can become severe

If you get the flu, there are things you can do to feel better. First, call your doctor to see if there are medicines that can help. Remind him or her if you are taking drugs to fight cancer or other medicines that make it hard for your body to fight illness.

If you are sick, try to rest in bed and drink plenty of fluids, like juice and water but not alcohol. Medicine such as acetaminophen can bring down your fever, which might help with the aches and pains. It is important not to smoke if you are sick with the flu. It is a respiratory illness that can infect your lungs, as well as your nasal passages.

Adapted from www.nia.nih. gov/health/all-about-flu-and-how-prevent-it

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An informative, free event for people who care for parents and spouses with memory loss.

In Partnership with Caregivers

Memory loss is not only a challenge for your parent or spouse, but also for you - the caregiver. We know through research that social interaction, physical activity, and good



nutrition are keys to a good quality of life. Our members have days full of laughter and activity.

Join us for an informative morning with other caregivers at one of our two Adult Day Centers and learn about our unique and affordable program. Find out how your loved one can become a member right away.

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- Learn About Our Program and Its Benefits
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- . Take a Tour of Our Center
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Visit www.smaaa.org/openhouse

Or call 1.800.427.7411



Stewart Center 74 Lunt Road, Falmouth

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The Southern Maine Agency on Aging's Adult Day Centers are state-licensed, Adult Day Health Providers for VA, MaineCare, and Office of Aging and Disability Services.

CAREGIVING HELP

'a gift you can give yourself'

By In-Home Senior Services

A loved one who needs personal care and can't be left alone presents a major problem for the family. This is especially true if the loved one lives far away or if the family caregivers are also employed full time.

The caregiving responsibilities can be overwhelming, too: transferring from bed to wheelchair or out of a chair; challenging behavior if the family member is living with dementia; time-consuming errands and chores such as shopping, banking, house-cleaning and food preparation.

Hiring help can relieve you of some of the tasks you are responsible for, freeing you to have some time for yourself. For long-distance caregivers and working caregivers, help can provide the care and assistance needed when you can't be there on a daily basis yourself. According to the nonprofit Family Caregiver Alliance, caregiver duties can cover some or all of these items:

- **Personal care:** Bathing, eating, dressing, toileting, grooming
- Household care: Cooking, cleaning, laundry, shopping
- Health care: Medication management, physician's appointments, physical therapy
- Emotional care: Companionship, meaningful activities, conversation

Interestingly, writes the Family Caregiver Alliance on its website, "caregivers have found that in some instances the person receiving care can be more cooperative with someone other than the primary caregiver, so that, for example, taking a shower might not be the battle that it can otherwise be. Engaging an attendant can help to preserve your relationship as daughter or partner, rather than always having to be the chore person or task master.

"Hiring help might not only be a necessity but a gift you can give yourself."

For more information on in-home caregiving, call In-Home Senior Services in Gorham, (207) 222-0740, or see www.inhomeseniorservices.com

This advertorial is paid for by In-Home Senior Services for the benefit of "Senior News" and its readers.

Watch Out for Scams

"scam" is when someone tricks you to get your money. Most scammers use the telephone or the internet to get in touch with you. Often the scammer calls or writes from out of state or even outside the country. This means that if they manage to trick you, it is almost impossible to get your money back.

Don't Get Scammed:

- NEVER give any personal information in response to a phone call or email.
- NEVER wire money or give your personal information based on a phone call or email.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is! Never send money or provide any personal information in response to a phone call or email that says you won a contest. Remember, you can't win a contest that you did not enter and legitimate sweepstakes never ask for money up front. If you would like to check out an offer that sounds too good to be true, call the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation at 1-877-624-8551.
- There is never a legitimate reason for someone to give you a check or money order and ask you to wire them money in exchange. Do not ever send money or provide any personal information in response to a phone call or email.
- Before giving any money to charity do your homework. Real charities have to be licensed with the state. Check with the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation's Charitable Solicitations Program at 207-624-8525 to make sure that it's a real charity.

The best way to avoid falling for a scam is to be careful when it comes to your money and personal information. Make sure your number is listed on the National Do No Call Registry. You can register your telephone number for free by calling 1-888-382-1222.

Most importantly: do not give money or personal information to anyone in response to an email or telephone call. If a caller claims there is an emergency, insists on secrecy, or pressures you to send funds: HANG UP.

If you think that you have been scammed and you are a Maine resident who is 60 or older, you should call the Legal Services for the Elderly Helpline at 1-800-750-5353 to speak to an attorney for free.

You can also contact the Maine Attorney General at 1-800-436-2131 or the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation at 1-877-624-8551.

*"Excerpt from "Watch Out For Scams", Elder Rights Handbook, Maine Legal Services for the Elderly, Inc. available at https://mainelse. org/handbook

Foster Grandparents: Volunteering with Students in their Communities

t the age of 71, Aldeyne Friel didn't think there was much she could do to help the schools in her community. But as a Foster Grandparent at Biddeford Primary School, she is making a difference in the lives of children every day.

Aldeyne volunteers with the Opportunity Alliance's Foster Grandparent Program. Foster Grandparents are adults 55 and older that serve in schools, Head Start programs, or child development centers across Southern Maine, serving 15-40 hours per week at their site.

In addition to helping in the classroom, Aldeyne assists in her school's library, helping students find books and reading with them.



With a little help from a Foster Grandparent a classroom assignment becomes much more fun to complete.

At first, Aldeyne thought she might not be qualified to work with students, but she found that just being there as a friend and a good example to the kids couldn't be easier. Along with training provided by the program, Aldevne said she learns right along with the kids; "I might not be able to teach the class, but I can really do something here." Her favorite part of being a Foster Grandparent is when the shy students start to break through their shells and come read with her; "we get to help children learn their strengths, and then all of a sudden they realize they can do things they didn't think they could."

Aldeyne enjoys great relationships with the teachers at her school, and having something that

> gets her out of the house every day. She shared, "It really makes me feel valued. It's encouraging to see seniors—both men and women—involved in our communities."

> Volunteers meeting generous income limits receive a non-taxable stipend for their volunteer time, as well as meals, travel assistance, pre-service and ongoing training and recog-

nition. To learn more about the program, please call 207-773-0202.

A MEDICARE NUGGET

From Stan Cohen

New Year's Resolution -Medicare Can Help

f addressing alcohol misuse is on your list of New Year's resolutions, Medicare can help. There are many preventive health screenings available free of charge under Medicare. They include mammograms, prostate cancer screening, diabetes tests, cardiovascular disease screening, and colonoscopies to cite a few.

Alcohol misuse screenings are also covered when done by primary

care providers, such as a beneficiary's family practice physician, internal medicine physician, or nurse practitioner.

This benefit also includes four behavioral counseling sessions per year furnished by the primary care provider if a beneficiary screens positive for alcohol misuse. If you know of a person on Medicare who may have an alcohol problem, please inform that person that help is available. Medicare questions?

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- Reading to patients/ writing letters
- Light housekeeping/ running errands
- Meal preparation
- Patient caregiver relief
- Emotional and spiritual support
- Assist with grief support groups
- Helping with health fairs/ community education





VOLUNTEER!

Next Training Series 5 Consecutive Fridays March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Ross Community Center 189 Alfred Street Biddeford, ME 04005

9 - 11 am

Contact Volunteer Coordinator,

Julia Boucher at

julia.boucher@compassus.com

Call us to find out more! (207) 761-6967



Are you concerned about the proper disposition of your estate?

Join us for a seminar on planning your final estate matters in advance. This seminar is specifically designed for people who have no heirs or whose remaining family will not be able to manage the duties required to settle an estate.

We've assembled a panel of professionals to help you understand how to ensure everything from your pet, household possessions and assets are dispersed properly.

Wednesday, April 4 from 11:30am-1pm Southern Maine Agency on Aging, Scarborough

Our panel will include:

- Jennifer Kruszewski, partner at Epstein and O'Donovan
- · Jessica LaPlante, Locations Real Estate Group
- Kim Dorksy, Simply Sized Home
- · Brad Crowther, A.T. Hutchins Funeral and Cremation Services

Registration is required as space is limited.

Contact: Janet Bowne, 207-396-6533 or jbowne@smaaa.org





Agewell Schedule

Preregistration is required for all Agewell Workshops. Please call: 207-396-6500 or 1-800-427-7411

A Matter of Balance

March 5-28 Mondays & Wednesdays, 10AM-12PM Hazleton House, Bldg. 1 7 Smith Lane, Saco

March 20 - May 8 Tuesdays, 1-3PM Southern Maine Agency on Aging 136 US Route One, Scarborough

April 23 - June 18 Mondays, 10AM - 12:00 PM Kittery Community Center 120 Rogers Road, Kittery For more info or to register, please call Kittery Community Center: 207-439-3800

May 1 - June 19 Tuesdays, 1-3PM MaineHealth Care at Home 15 Industrial Park Rd., Saco For more info or to register, please call OOB/Saco Adult Ed: 207-934-7922

May 1 - June 19 Tuesdays, 9-11AM Cape Elizabeth Community Services, 345 Ocean House Rd., Cape Elizabeth

May 3 - June 21 Thursdays, 1-3PM Yarmouth Town Hall 200 Main Street, Yarmouth

Tai Chi for Health & Balance

April 2 - May 23 Mondays & Wednesdays, 3-4PM Martin's Point, 153 US Route One, Scarborough

April 3 - May 24 Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9-10AM Southern Maine Agency on Aging 136 US Route One, Scarborough

April 3 – May 29 (no class 5/3) Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9-10AM Woodfords Church 202 Woodford Street, Portland

April 10 - May 31 Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-11AM JR Martin Community Center 189 Alfred Street, Biddeford

April 10 - May 31 Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1-2PM Plummer Senior Living 192 Middle Road, Falmouth

April 3 - May 29 Deepening Class (no class 5/3) Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:15-11:15 AM, Woodfords Church, 202 Woodford Street, Portland

Living Well for Better Health

Beginning late March South Portland Housing Authority Please call 207-396-6578 for more

May 3 - June 7 Thursdays, 6-8PM OOB/Saco Adult Ed OOB High School Library, 40 E. **Emerson Cummings Blvd** For more info or to register, please call OOB/Saco Adult Ed: 207-934-7922

Living Well with Chronic Pain

March 6 - April 10 Tuesdays, $9:\overline{30}$ AM -12PM **Cancer Community Center** 778 Main Street, South Portland

Beginning in April Southern Maine Agency on Aging 136 US Route One, Scarborough

Balance Screenings

Monday April 9 Kittery Community Center

Wednesday May 2 Maine Senior Guide Expo

Driving School

Have your balance and strength checked, and learn what you can do to prevent falls and stay independent! Call 207-396-6578 for more information or to reserve your spot!

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering with SMAA in your community, we are looking for coaches to lead our Agewell Programs. We have many classes coming up and there is a lot of interest in them, but we need enthusiastic, caring coaches to help us deliver the classes!

A Matter of Balance Volunteer **Training**

March 29 & March 30 8:30am - 12:30pm Southern Maine Agency on Aging 136 US Route One, Scarborough

Chronic Pain Self-Management Cross Training

This training is open to those who are already trained in Chronic Disease Self-Management March 22 & March 23 Southern Maine Agency on Aging 136 US Route One, Scarborough

Pre-registration is required for all Agewell Workshops. Please call: 207-396-6578 or 1-800-427-7411

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CLASS SCHEDULE

MARCH 15

68 Marginal Way Portland, ME

746 Daniel Webster Highway #3

Merrimack, NH

452 High Street Somersworth, NH

MARCH 21

Hilton Garden Inn 14 Great Falls Plaza Auburn, ME

MARCH 28

Hampton Inn 140 Commercial Street Bath, ME

APRIL 4

Homewood Suites by Hilton 377 Western Avenue Augusta, ME

APRIL 18

68 Marginal Way Portland, ME

All classes are 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Integrative Health and Chronic Pain Symposium to be Held in May

ne of the primary issues facing Americans today is chronic pain management. The Integrative Health and Chronic Pain Symposium 2018 will focus on proactive solutions to both the management of chronic pain and alternatives to highly addictive opiates.

Through a collection of panels, presentations, and insightful discussions, participants can learn how integrative and alternative approaches complement conventional medicine in the treatment of chronic pain. Topics to be discussed include Chinese medicine, acupuncture, Ayurveda, osteopathy, homeopathy, yoga, qigong, and medical cannabis and the relationship between cancer, PTSD, and chronic pain—to name a few!

Southern Maine Agency on Aging's own Nicole Petit will be joining in a panel discussion on Cancer and Chronic Pain. Nicole is SMAA's Agewell Program Coordinator and has been instrumental in the recent successes in our Living Well for Better Health and Chronic Pain Self-Management Programs. She will be bringing her experience and knowledge about the benefits of evidencebased programming and the benefits to those struggling with cancer and chronic pain.

Integrative Health and Chronic Pain Symposium

May 18, 8AM-4:30PM USM Campus, Hannaford Hall, Portland

Please visit http://wellnessleadership.org/symposium2018 for tickets and more

From the Director's Desk continued from page 1

our counterparts across the state. We are always looking for opportunities to share and compare how we are delivering our programs and how we might learn from each other. It was my pleasure to host Joy Saucier, the Executive Director of the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging at SMAA recently. We were able to ask questions about best practices in each of our Agencies, have staff learn how our colleagues in northern Maine provide similar programs and services, and discuss challenges and opportunities for more collaboration in the future. As AAA's plan for long-term sustainability, there will be increased need for all of us to work together to extend the same level of quality programs and services across the state, regardless of existing Agency boundaries. I am pleased that SMAA is a leader in this process through such programs as "A Matter of Balance," "Money Minders" and "Living Well."

For almost 37 years, I have had the pleasure of working with Jo Ann McPhee, SMAA's Nutrition Manager. During her tenure, Jo Ann performed just about every job there was in the Meals on Wheels and Senior Dining programs—from volunteer MOW driver to head of the de-

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partment. She has excelled in every area and with a warm, cheerful attitude and innovative can-do approach to every challenge. Jo Ann led the transformation of SMAA's nutrition services, developing both the nationally recognized "Simply Delivered" and "As You Like It" programs. Now heading into a well-deserved retirement. Jo Ann was instrumental in selecting and nurturing her successor, Renee Longarini, who has been a MOW site supervi-

sor for several years. Although she is leaving full time employment behind. Jo Ann has already agreed to continue with SMAA as she beganas a volunteer Meals on Wheels driver! Thank you, Jo Ann, for your invaluable service to seniors in southern Maine!

Laurence W. Gross **Chief Executive Officer**



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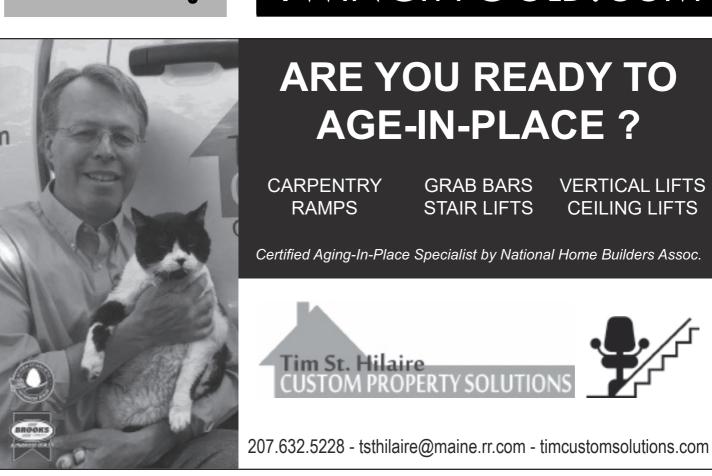
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VOLUNTEER SERVICES & RSVP

"An Invitation to Make a Difference"

Vet to Vet: Reaching Far and Wide

vers ago as a pilot program with 13 veterans who volunteered to visit 13 aging veterans. Some of those veteran pairs are still together, enjoying a friendship that has deepened with every visit.

What began as an experiment with a peer-to-peer program developed by Southern Maine Agency on Aging for veterans in York and Cumberland counties has jumped across the continent! Recently a staff member charged with establishing a volunteer program for veterans in the state of Oregon contacted Vet to Vet to seek information to help jumpstart their project. The staff member heard about Vet to Vet through the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) website, which features Vet to Vet as a

2016 national achievement award winner and describes the program in detail.

An agency on aging in Vermont likewise requested Vet to Vet materials to help formulate a similar project in that area.

Vet to Vet gladly supplied a comprehensive manual and instruction CD on the program to both these organizations—and we hope to provide many more.

None of this would have been possible without those first intrepid veteran volunteers who were willing to try a new venture because of their commitment to help another veteran. And the program would not have survived without the dedicated volunteers who signed on after that first team and continue to bring friendship and support to veterans who eagerly await their visits.

SMAA's veteran volunteers have all made a huge difference—not only in the lives of the veterans they visit, but in the lives of veterans across the country who will benefit from their example.

Great work and a big thank you to all our Vet to Vet volunteers!

Legal Help for Veterans

orth a click: A website dedicated to legal help for military members, veterans, and their families is available at http://statesidelegal.org/. From forms to a list of local VA-accredited lawyers to articles on benefits and finances and information, STATESIDE LEGAL offers a wealth of useful information. The website is the work of Pine Tree Legal Assistance of Maine and the Arkansas Legal Services Partnership, with help from volunteers, including private attorneys, members of the Judge Advocate General Corps, civilian Legal Assistance Attorneys, and veteran service officers.



A meal, and so much more.

"One of the largest volunteer networks in southern Maine delivers 800 meals to homebound seniors struggling with hunger. Along with those meals, they deliver dignity and compassion. Please join me in making a gift today for Meals on Wheels so that no senior goes hungry."

-Senator George Mitchell

Donate or Volunteer—Either Way, YOU Deliver!

Contact the Southern Maine Agency on Aging at www.smaaa.org or call 1-800-400-6325 or (207) 396-6583

Meals On Wheels
So no serior goes hungry.







Volunteer Help Wanted!

Food Service Volunteers Needed At Stewart Day Center

he Stewart Adult Day Center in Falmouth needs volunteers to assist in serving lunch to members. Tasks include setting tables, plating and serving meals, and cleanup. The perfect volunteer would love working in a kitchen, be fun loving and able to follow written instruction for dietary restrictions and allergies that need to be accommodated.

Phone Pal Program

Volunteers are needed for SMAA's new Phone Pal program. As you may know, fund restrictions have reduced the number of days per week meals on wheels are delivered. Although people still receive five meals per week, they are delivered only two days per week. The other three days many of our homebound seniors have neither visitors nor phone calls to check on their wellbeing. We are recruiting a team of Phone Pals for the days they do not receive a meal delivery. We will be having a volunteer training in late spring/early summer for Phone Pal Volunteers.

For more information, call 207-396-6595 or email volunteer@smaaa.org

Mark Your Calendar for the May 1 Health and Wellness Fair at the Italian Heritage Center

outhern Maine Agency on Aging and Opportunity Alliance SeniorCorps programs (RSVP, Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion) are sponsoring a HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR on May 1, 2018. The Fair is open to the public from 9AM to noon at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland. There will be demonstrations on TaiChi, Maine Senior Games, Cookery and many other information booths for you to enjoy and learn from. Please drop in and visit with us.

YOUR 1ST STOP FOR ANSWERS 1-800-427-7411 www.smaaa.org

New Volunteers

MAA welcomed 11 new volunteers in December 2017 and January 2018. Among them are:

Paul Dettore – South Portland Food Cupboard

Michael Freeman – South Portland Meals Program

Donna Frodyma – AARP Tax Counselor

Jeanette Gugliemetti – Matter of Balance

Richard Kaye-Schiess – Meals on Wheels

Shawn Pettengill – Meals on Wheels

Raymond Strozewski – Meals on Wheels

John Testa - Matter of Balance

Welcome and thank you to all!

New Estate Planning Seminar Announced: Estate Planning for Solo Acts!

n 2017, SMAA hosted two seminars on estate planning led by Jennifer Kruszewski, a partner with Epstein and O'Donovan, a law firm specializing in wills, trusts and estates. During each seminar, at least one attendee asked about how to manage their estate without support from family. In some cases, the questioner was estranged from family or had family living in remote locations or they had no heirs at all. Some of the concerns were practical like how does a house get cleaned out and sold and what happens to pets and valuable possessions. Other concerns included how to ensure the proper distribution of their assets, planning for a memorial service and how to support a favorite charity.

If you share these concerns, consider registering for our next

estate planning seminar specifically designed for people who have no heirs or whose family will not be able to manage the duties required to settle an estate.

Our seminar will be held on Wednesday, April 4 from 11:30AM-1PM at the SMAA office in Scarborough. Our panelists will include:

- Jennifer Kruszewski, partner at Epstein and O'Donovan
- Jessica LaPlante, Locations Real Estate Group
- Kim Dorksy, Simply Sized Home
- Brad Crowther, A.T. Hutchins Funeral and Cremation Services

Space is very limited so preregistration is mandatory—there's no charge for this seminar. Contact Janet Bowne, 207.396.6533 or via email jbowne@smaaa.org for more information or to register.



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AFRAID OF FALLING?

FOR OLDER ADULTS, THE MAINE STRONG BALANCE CENTER HAS A REMEDY

- We provide Physical Therapy and specialize in improving Balance and Walking
- There are over a dozen factors and systems that contribute to fall risk; we look into every one.
- Using targeted treatments, we routinely improve balance by 25-40% based on objective measures
- We offer Aquatic Physical Therapy in our heated pool; a successful treatment for Arthritis and Back Problems

We accept all major insurances
Appointments are one hour long
Call us at (207) 303-0612 for an appointment.

Phone: (207) 303-0612

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