

Helping Hands

April, 2011



**Caregiver
Advisory
Services**

Ford-Iroquois
Public Health
Department
Paxton & Watseka
(800) 282-3339
www.fiphd.org

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**A Monthly Newsletter for Family Caregivers
and
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

April 15th is Income Tax Day

but it is also a good day to review the

Property Tax Exemptions you might be entitled to for the 2012 tax year. Here's a list specifically for seniors and disabled persons, from the Illinois Department of Revenue.

Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption (SCAFHE) This exemption allows seniors who have a total household maximum income of less than \$55,000, and meet certain other qualifications to elect to maintain the EAV (equalized assessed value) of their homes at the base year EAV and prevent any increase in that value due to inflation. The amount of the exemption benefit is determined each year based on

- (1) the property's current EAV minus the frozen base year value (the property's prior year's EAV for which the applicant first qualifies for the exemption), and
- (2) the applicant's total household maximum income limitation. Each year applicants must file Form PTAX-340, Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption Application and Affidavit.



Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption (SCHE) This annual exemption is available for residential property that is occupied as the principal residence of a person, who is 65 years of age or older during the assessment year. The person must be the owner or a lessee

with an ownership interest in the property with a single-family residence, who is liable for the payment of the property taxes. The amount of the exemption is a \$4,000 reduction in the EAV of the property. Filing requirements vary by county; some counties require an initial application, Form PTAX-324, Application for Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption, or an annual renewal application, Form PTAX-329, Certificate of Status Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption, to be filed with the Chief County Assessment Office.



ELDER ABUSE

Are you or someone you know being mistreated or abused?

If the person being mistreated is 60 years old or older call:

1-815-432-5395

If the person being mistreated is 18 years of age or younger call:

1-800-252-2873

If the person being mistreated is between the ages of 19-59, call your local

Law Enforcement Agency

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/emotions/behavior/bullies.html>

Each day, 10-year-old Seth asked his grandma for more and more lunch money. Yet he seemed skinnier than ever and came home from school hungry. It turned out that Seth was handing his lunch money to a fifth-grader, who was threatening to beat him up if he didn't pay.



Kayla, 13, thought things were going well at her new school, since all the popular girls were being so nice to her. But then she found out that one of them had posted mean rumors about her on a website. Kayla cried herself to sleep that night and started going to the nurse's office complaining of a stomachache to avoid the girls in study hall. Unfortunately, the kind of bullying that Seth and Kayla experienced is widespread. In national surveys, most kids and teens say that bullying happens at school. A bully can turn something like going to the bus stop or recess into a nightmare for kids. Bullying can leave deep emotional scars that last for life. And in extreme situations, it can culminate in violent threats, property damage, or someone getting seriously hurt.

If your child is being bullied, there are ways to help him or her cope with it on a day-to-day basis *and* lessen its lasting impact. And even if bullying isn't an issue in your house right now, it's important to discuss it so your kids will be prepared if it does happen.

What is bullying?

Most kids have been teased by a sibling or a friend at some point. And it's not usually harmful when done in a playful, friendly, and mutual way, and both kids think it's funny. But when teasing becomes hurtful, unkind, and constant, it crosses the line into bullying and needs to stop.

Bullying is intentional tormenting in physical, verbal, or psychological ways. It can range from hitting, shoving, name-calling, threats, and mocking to extorting money and treasured possessions. Some kids bully by shunning others and spreading rumors about them. Others use e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, social networking websites, and text messages to taunt others or hurt their feelings.

It's important to take bullying seriously and not just brush it off as something that kids have to "tough out." The effects can be serious and affect kids' sense of self-worth and future relationships. In severe cases, bullying has contributed to tragedies, such as school shootings.

Although kids can resolve many incidents of bullying on their own, do keep an eye on the situation. If it persists, get involved by talking to your child's teacher or school counselor.



Slow Cooker Barbeque

Ingredients

- 1 three-pound chuck or rump roast ~ 1 tsp. each garlic & onion powder ~**
- 1 bottle of your favorite barbeque sauce**

Directions

1. Place roast into slow cooker. Sprinkle with garlic powder and onion powder. Pour barbeque sauce over meat. Cook on Low setting for 6 to 8 hours.

2. Remove meat from slow cooker and shred with a fork. Serve on your favorite rolls.

TIP: You can buy a smaller roast or freeze half for another meal.

EASY

Ford-Iroquois Public Health Department Caregiver Advisor And Skilled-Nursing Home Health Care Can Be Part Of Your Palliative Care Team...

Palliative care aims to improve quality of life for people who have serious, chronic or life-threatening illnesses, as well as their families. Palliative care also takes into account the emotional, physical and spiritual needs and goals of your Loved One and your Caregivers. Palliative care is provided *in conjunction* with all other medical treatment.

By coordinating medical treatment with palliative care, we help treat signs and symptoms of a disease, ease the side effects of treatment, and give the patient and family new tools for new challenges. In addition to your doctor, nurses, social workers, psychologists, chaplains, registered dietitians, pharmacists and rehabilitation therapists may also be part of the Care Team.

Not just for hospice or end-stage patients, palliative care is important for patients with chronic illnesses as well. It supports the whole family, as everyone learns to cope with the reality of how life is changing.

Whether you live in Ford or Iroquois county, please call Senior Services or Home Health Care at 1-800-282-3339.



"Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will" . . . Mahatma Ghandi

NOW EXTENDING SUPPORT IN TWO LOCATIONS

CAREGIVER & GRANDPARENTS SUPPORT GROUP

Ford-Iroquois Public Health Dept.
235 N. Taft Street
Paxton

**Wednesday, April 13 and the
Second Wednesday of Every
Month Thereafter**
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Marcia 800-282-3339

Ford-Iroquois Public Health Dept.
114 N. Third Street
Watseka

**Tuesday, April 12 and the
Second Tuesday of Every
Month Thereafter**
1:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Marcia 800-282-3339

Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Program

The deferral is similar to a loan against the property's market value. A lien is filed on the property in order to ensure repayment of the deferral. The state pays the property taxes and then recovers the money, plus 6 percent annual interest, when the property is sold or transferred. The deferral must be repaid within one year of the taxpayer's death or 90 days after the property ceases to qualify for this program. The maximum amount that can be deferred, including interest and lien fees, is 80 percent of the taxpayer's equity interest in the property. To apply for real estate tax deferrals, Forms PTAX-1017-TD, Application for Deferral of Real Estate Taxes, and PTAX-1018-TD, Real Estate Tax Deferral and Recovery Agreement, must be completed. To apply for special assessment deferrals, Forms PTAX-1017-SA, Application for Deferral of Special Assessments, and PTAX-1018-SA, Special Assessments Deferral and Recovery Agreement, must be completed. Contact your local County Treasurers Office to receive the necessary forms, or further information on the program.

Disabled Veterans' Homestead Exemption (DVHE)

This exemption provides up to a \$70,000 reduction in assessed value for certain types of housing owned and used by a disabled veteran or his or her unmarried surviving spouse. The [Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs](#) determines the eligibility for this exemption, which must be reestablished annually. This exemption is also available on a mobile home owned and used exclusively by a disabled veteran or their spouse. For a single tax year, the property cannot receive this exemption and the Disabled Persons' Homestead Exemption or Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption.

Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption (DVSHE)

Public Act 95-644 that passed into law in 2007 created a new homestead exemption for disabled veterans beginning with the 2007 tax year (property taxes paid in 2008). This exemption is an annual reduction in EAV on the primary residence occupied by a qualified disabled veteran. The disabled veteran must own or lease a single family residence and be liable for the payment of the property taxes. The amount of the exemption depends on the percentage of the service-connected disability as certified by the U. S. Dept. of Veterans' Affairs. A veteran with a disability rating of 50% - 69% may qualify for the \$2,500 reduction in EAV, and a veteran with a disability of at least 70% may qualify for the \$5,000 reduction in EAV.

For more information, or for forms, you can contact your local township or multi-township assessor or the following officials:

Ford County Supervisor of Assessments, 217-379-9430

Ford County Treasurer, 217-379-9465

Iroquois County Supervisor of Assessments 815-432-6978

Iroquois County Treasurer, 815-432-2081

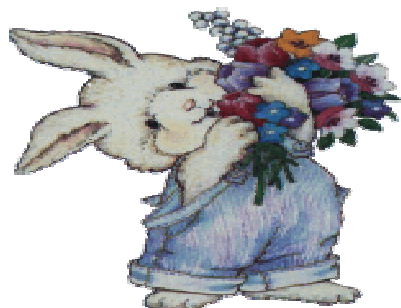
Helpful Website Addresses:

www.revenue.state.il.us/

www.co.iroquois.il.us/

www.fiphd.org

www.fordcountycourthouse.com/soa/

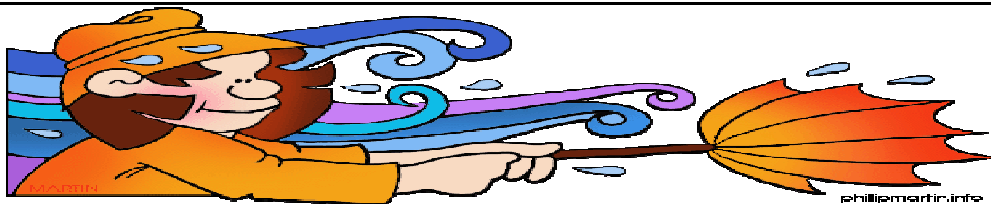


Always at your service: 1-800-282-3339

Ford-Iroquois Public Health Department

Jeanne, Senior Information Services

Marcia, Caregiver Advisory Services



- 1. The American Civil War lasted across five Aprils. Which year did it start and which did it end?**
The first shots were fired on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. General Lee surrendered to General Grant on April 9, 1865. Abraham Lincoln was assassinated three days later, on April 15, 1865.
- 2. The first man in space orbited the earth on April 12th of which year?**
Yuri Gagarin of the USSR was the first man in space when he orbited the earth on April 12, 1961.
- 3. A famous mutiny occurred in April, 1789. What was the name of the ship on which it happened?**
Captain Bligh and 18 loyal crewmen were cast adrift from *The Bounty* on April 28, 1789.
- 4. Otto von Bismarck, a Prussian statesman, born on April 1, 1815, was known by this nickname?**
The "Iron Chancellor" was the architect and first chancellor of the German Empire (1871-1890).
- 5. Which state, originally belonging to France, was admitted to the Union on April 30, 1812?**
Louisiana. While the French claimed this territory in 1682, Spain had been snooping around since 1519.
- 6. Which famous writer was born and died on the same date, April 23rd.**
William Shakespeare, The Bard of Avon, maintains this distinction.
- 7. During which war was Paul Revere's legendary April Ride?**
At midnight on April 18, 1775, at the start of the Revolutionary War, Paul Revere left Boston to warn John Hancock and Samuel Adams of the movements of the British Army, which was sent to arrest them and to seize weapons stored at Concord. He never yelled "The British are coming!" but he did shout that "The Regulars are coming out!" when he got to Lexington where Hancock and Adams were spending the night.
- 8. Who reached the North Pole in April, 1909?**
Robert Peary has this official distinction. On April 9, 1909, he was accompanied by his partner, Matthew Henson, and four Inuits. Of course, the Inuit people lived there for about 11,000 years, but standing on the North Pole was a new experience for Peary and Henson.
- 9. Which islands, belonging to Britain, did Argentina invade on April 2, 1982?**
The Falklands, also known as the Falkland Islands.
- 10. Who was assassinated on April 4, 1968?**
The Reverend Martin Luther King was shot and killed as he walked on the second story balcony of his room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis to have dinner with a local minister.

Who's Who in our April Trivia:



