

Our Voice

January 2021



Welcome to the Naperville Senior Task Force's (STF) quarterly newsletter: *Our Voice*. The STF enhances quality of life for Naperville seniors through supportive independent living, promotion of their health and well-being, education opportunities and recognition of their self-worth and community belonging. Please visit the STF webpage on the City of Naperville website for more information and updates:

www.naperville.il.us/seniortaskforce. Thank you!

Our New Logo

Congratulations to Naperville North High School students Angelica Conwell, junior, and Isabella Chew, sophomore, on their design of the new Naperville Senior Task Force logo. These design students incorporated the elements of life, collaboration, and service, which are core values of the Naperville STF. The blue and yellow figures held together by an orange hand reflect the value of working together and helping each other. The center icon of a globe represents togetherness and community. This new logo will be used for all STF communications. Angelica and Isabella both received a Certificate of Recognition, as well as Downtown Naperville Alliance gift cards, donated by Co-Chairs Rob Williams and Jim Hill.



Senior Task Force Seeks New Members to Serve Three-Year Terms

The Senior Task Force, which was established at the direction of the 2014 Naperville City Council, is seeking applications for new members. The STF promotes coordination among existing senior service providers in the Naperville area; improves awareness among seniors of available resources to assist them; and develops recommendations to address

service gaps related to transportation challenges, housing concerns, and healthcare resources. Working with service providers, the STF promotes efficiencies and new partnerships that address local needs, as well as proactively reaches out to seniors for their thoughts and ideas via interviews, workshops, focus groups, and surveys. Regular reports are issued to the Mayor and City Council on STF findings.



STF members serve a three-year term and are limited to two consecutive terms. Whenever possible, the terms of members shall be staggered so that all members' terms do not expire at the same time. It is preferred that members reside or work in the greater Naperville area and have an awareness of services offered and a willingness to make a difference in the lives of seniors. Members attend monthly meetings and work on projects or initiatives determined by the group. Click here for the [STF Application Form](#).



Dementia Friendly Naperville: Update

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging has officially designated Naperville a Dementia Friendly Community. A comprehensive list of resources for dementia patients and caregivers is available on the City's website:

<https://www.naperville.il.us/services/senior-services-and-resources/dementia-friendly-naperville/>. This list includes adult day care providers, in-home care providers, memory care facilities, legal assistance, medical resources, and more. To become a Dementia Friend, visit <https://www.dementiafriendsusa.org>.

Call4Calm Emotional Support Line is Here to Help

The Illinois Department of Human Services' Mental Health Division has launched a free emotional support text line, Call4Calm, for Illinois residents experiencing stress and mental health issues related to COVID-19. Individuals who would like to speak with a mental health professional can text "TALK" to 5-5-2-0-2-0, or for Spanish, "HABLAR" to the same number: 5-5-2-0-2-0. Call4Calm is free to use, and individuals will remain anonymous. Once a resident sends a text to the hotline, within 24 hours they will receive a call from a counselor employed by a local community mental health center to provide support. Individuals can also text 5-5-2-0-2-0, with keywords such as "unemployment," "food" or "shelter" and will receive information on how to navigate and access supports and services. Visit <https://namiillinois.org/call4calm-emotional-support-line/> for details.



COVID-19 Update: How to Avoid Vaccine Scams

Two COVID-19 vaccines have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration, with more anticipated for approval. Vaccine distribution is beginning. But there is bad news, too: The early stages of vaccine availability provide an opportunity for scam artists to try to trick consumers by exploiting people's desire to be vaccinated. Here are some tips, from the [Federal Trade Commission](#) and the Naperville Police Department to help avoid vaccine scams:

- Only get a vaccine from an approved medical provider.
- Check with your health care provider before receiving or paying for any COVID-19-related vaccine or treatment.
- No one from a vaccine distribution site will call asking for your Social Security number, credit card number or bank information in order to sign you up to receive the vaccine.
- You likely will not need to pay out-of-pocket to get the vaccine.
- You can't pay to get access to the vaccine earlier than others.
- Don't click on social media posts claiming to sell cures or allow you to receive the vaccine earlier than others.
- Beware of providers offering treatments, medicines or other products to prevent the virus.

For more tips, visit <https://www.naperville.il.us/corona-virus-resources/scam-awareness/>.

Circles of Friends Forge Connections

Connecting to friends and community happens differently these days, but one new program – Circles of Friends – is here to help. This series of virtual meetings, sponsored by Naperville & Lisle Townships TRIAD and the STF, allows participants to enjoy conversation and camaraderie from the safety of their homes.

Launched this season to provide weekly virtual meetings among 8 to 10 seniors with shared interests or nearby addresses, the Circles of Friends program will help participants make new friends, share stories, brag about their families, pray together, share information, play games and discuss common hobbies. One Circles of Friends group, for example – hosted Wednesday evenings on Zoom by STF Co-Chair Rob Williams – includes discussion of a different classic movie each week. Williams is seeking new members to join this group.



TRIAD and the STF encourage seniors to consider getting involved with Circles of Friends during the winter and the COVID-19 pandemic – until it is safe to meet in person. To join, please call (630) 276-6128 or email NLTriadOutreach@gmail.com. For technology assistance related to virtual meetings, please contact Technology Assist Naperville at (630) 640-0804 or seniortaskforce@naperville.il.us.



Technology Assist Naperville

Technology Assist Naperville, launched by the STF in July 2020, helps Naperville seniors solve their technology challenges. Assistance has included instruction on iPad use for Zoom and text messaging, new laptop setup, internet and email troubleshooting and new printer installation. We also helped a senior “cut the cord” from their cable provider, saving over \$100 a month on their cable bill! This program was featured in an episode of [“Seniors Today”](#) on NCTV17.

Need Help Paying Your Bills?

The global pandemic has caused financial hardships for many Naperville residents. In recognition of this, the City of Naperville set up a fund to help residents pay their water and electric bills, and their sidewalk replacement bills. For information on how to apply for financial assistance, contact the City of Naperville

Finance Department at (630) 420-6059.

New Health Benefit Coverage for Immigrant Seniors



Effective Dec. 1, 2020, medical benefits similar to those offered under Assistance for Aged, Blind or Disabled, will be offered to non-citizens age 65 and over who do not meet immigration status for Medicaid. This entirely state-funded special program is called Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors. This program becomes effective in IES

with the next release, a tentative date of Oct. 26, 2020. Since the official start date is Dec. 1, 2020, the backdated months are considered September through November, 2020. Coverage cannot be given prior

Sept. 1, 2020, regardless of the application date. For more information, visit <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=128154>.

Volunteer Drivers Needed

Note: Due to COVID-19, non-essential rides have been suspended as of July 1. Driver recruitment and training continues.

Ride Assist Naperville (RAN) is looking for volunteer drivers to transport seniors to medical appointments. If interested, or for more information, please call (630) 864-3087 or visit www.rideassistnaperville.org/home/drivers/.



Senior Task Force Survey

We want to hear from you! Tell us what you like and don't like about living in Naperville. What should the STF suggest to the City to make Naperville more senior friendly? Please take our survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/MFSTMDX.

Our Voice Newsletter Sign-up

Sign up for the STF *Our Voice* quarterly newsletter by registering for the City's e-News at www.naperville.il.us/enews. Don't forget to check the "Senior Newsletter: Our Voice" box!

Disclaimer: The distribution of this information does not imply Naperville Senior Task Force or City of Naperville endorsement.

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