

"EXPERIENCE"

November 29, 2020

Schoharie County Office for the Aging 518-295-2001

Our offices are now open, **BY APPOINTMENTS ONLY**. We need to stress the importance to be patient so not to lose the progress we have made to keep the virus very low in our county. If you need to see us in person, there will be several new protocols in place that help to keep all of us safe:

1. All office visits must be by appointment. This will ensure time for you to meet with us and then give us enough time to disinfect our meeting space before we visit with someone else.
2. All visitors will sign in & out and have your temperature taken. If it is above 100.5°, you will not be able to stay. You will participate in a brief screening regarding symptoms or proximity to COVID exposure.
3. You will need to wear a mask while you are in the building at all times. Staff will be wearing one as well.
4. **All visitors will use hand sanitizer when entering the building.**
5. Social distancing is mandatory unless it is with those that you are currently living with. There will be signs designating this spacing. Waiting area chairs will be positioned to meet this requirement. When meeting with staff, at first, we will use a large conference table with chairs positioned 6ft apart to continue to promote this safe spacing.
6. The doors remain locked. If you are scheduled for an appt come to the door and call the office number 518-295-2001. There will be a sign on the door with the number in case you forget or don't write it down!

If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call at 518-295-2001

November is National Caregiver Month. As we continue to focus on the dedication of caregivers, Tia Walker states, "Caregiving often calls us to lean into love we didn't know possible." Caregivers play an important role in our society. Caregiving is not easy and can be very demanding, but also has its rewards. Caregiving is love. "Compassion brings us to a stop, and for a moment we rise above ourselves," Mason Cooley.

Drive -Thru Food Pantry: Monday, Nov. 30 at 9:30 AM at Cobleskill Elks, 152 Legion Drive Cobleskill, NY. Distribution will be held in the parking lot rain or shine till we run out of food. The event is a first come, first serve. Food distribution is made possible by Cobleskill Elks and Regional Food Bank of NENY.

HEAP benefits start on November 2nd. All those who did not receive an early outreach application may call for an application to be sent to them. Please be mindful of the directions that are included in the back of the HEAP application. The application cannot be processed without income verification. If you receive Social Security, they are looking for the 2020 benefit letter that you should have received in December of 2019. The edges on both sides tear off to open to a rather lengthy piece of paper. It states that in 2020 you will receive a 1.6% increase and your benefit will be the amount of money you would receive. You should be getting another one this December for 2021 with a 1.3% increase. Put it in a safe place for next year's HEAP.

Open enrollment ends December 7th. This is the time period you can switch or add to your Medicare Advantage Plan or Supplemental and Drug plan. If you are not happy with what you have, please contact us at 518-295-2001

Saturday December 5th at the Cobleskill Fair Grounds at 5 PM will be "**A December to Remember**". This is to replace Cobleskill's annual Christmas Parade with a COVID friendly family holiday celebration. You stay in your car and drive around the track to view all the lights and floats. There is a small fee per car and is only accessed by vehicle, no walk throughs due to safety.