

# SOYLAND ACCESS TO INDEPENDENT LIVING



## SAIL The Anchor



SPRING 2022

### **Benefit Access Program**

by Brenda Ingle, Independent Living Advocate

The Benefit Access Program offers two benefits for seniors and persons with disabilities. These benefits are

License Plate Fee Discount  
Free Rides on Fixed-Route Transit Systems

Since the on-set of Covid 19, many senior centers have been closed. SAIL has remained open to the public and has been assisting individuals with the online applications. SAIL welcomes any person with a disability, needing assistance in applying for the Benefit Access Programs, to contact a SAIL office located in Decatur, Charleston and Shelbyville.

Eligibility requirements include

- Must be a person with a disability
- Must live in Illinois when application is filed
- Must be 65 years of age or older before January 1 of the current year; or must become 65 years of age this year; or must be 16 years of age or older before January 1 of the current year
- Must qualify by household income guidelines
  - One person household making less than \$33,562
  - Two person households making less than \$44,533
  - Three person households making less than \$55,500.

For more information on these services visit

Illinois Department of Transportation website at

[https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/drivers/drivers\\_license/home.html](https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/drivers/drivers_license/home.html)

Illinois Department on Aging website at

<https://www2.illinois.gov/aging/BenefitsAccess/Pages/License-Plate-Discount.aspx>.

Resources:

Illinois Department of Transportation website [https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/drivers/drivers\\_license/home.html](https://www.ilsos.gov/departments/drivers/drivers_license/home.html)

Illinois Department on Aging website <https://www2.illinois.gov/aging/BenefitsAccess/Pages/License-Plate-Discount.aspx>.

## **2022 Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Illinois**

by Betty Watkins, Rural Outreach Coordinator

In Illinois, the weather may be clear skies and a sunny day, but the next moment, change to thunderstorms and a flash flood. While the inconstant weather is second nature to Illinoisans, it is important to never become complacent about severe weather threats. As part of the 2022 Severe Weather Preparedness Week, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, IEMA, and the National Weather Service, NWS, have teamed up to publish a Severe Weather Preparedness Guide to assist all living in Illinois to be better prepared when severe weather strikes.

“Sharing the dangers of weather hazards and a few preparedness tips are just the first steps. Applying safety actions in an emergency takes practice. This week, our professionals at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency encourage all families, businesses, schools, and communities to plan ahead, build a kit, practice what to do, and be better prepared,” said IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau.

The National Weather Service is reminding Illinoisans to:

- Update your family communications plan
- Make a severe weather preparedness plan
- Build an emergency preparedness kit
- Identify a safe place to go during a storm
- Know the various weather watches/warnings/advisories in your area

Thunderstorms can produce damaging winds, deadly lightning, large hail, flash flooding and tornadoes. Illinois averages about 64 tornadoes each year. Tornadoes that strike at night are even more dangerous. Be prepared.

[www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov)

## **Parking Placards for People with Disabilities**

by Amy Corbin,- Triple C Coordinator

A parking placard is issued to an individual with a disability that meets the eligibility requirements set by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office. A physician must certify the person applying for a placard has a disability and meets those requirements. The placard is to be used in a vehicle that the person it was issued to is a driver or passenger. When parking in a space designated for people with disabilities, the person with a disability must enter or exit the vehicle from that space. After parking, the placard is to be displayed by hanging it from the rearview mirror or placing it on the dashboard in plain sight. The placard must be removed from the rearview mirror before leaving the space as it is illegal for the placard to hang on the mirror while the vehicle is in motion. It is also illegal to misuse a placard which can result in the suspension of a driver's license or revocation of the placard.

[https://www.ilsos.gov/services/persons\\_with\\_disabilities/disabilities.html](https://www.ilsos.gov/services/persons_with_disabilities/disabilities.html)

## MEET “BECKY FROM MEDICARE”

by Bonnie Thomas, Information & Referral Advocate

An article in AARP The Magazine August/September 2021 issue covered fraudulent robocalls that have been bombarding more than 60 million Americans receiving Medicare health care benefits. The robocall states:

“Hi, this is Becky, your patient advocate working closely with Medicare. Currently, Medicare is offering precautionary genetic cancer screening nationwide and has recommended that anyone over the age of 50 be tested. These tests help to detect early signs of cancer and are covered by your insurance. If you do not act soon, Medicare may label you as ineligible for coverage. Please press 1 to speak to a specialist....”

Simply explained, the robocall is wanting the individual’s Medicare number not money. The number is then sold to another scammer who might attempt further fraudulent acts. Such scams threaten Medicare funds. More than \$40 billion of the Medicare budget went to scammers or inappropriate billers in 2020. These scammers encourage people to order unneeded tests so Medicare can be billed.

Be cautious when random calls refer to genetic testing and require a Medicare number. It is recommended to refuse any test kit received in the mail. Be sure to always review the Medicare Summary Notice or explanation of benefits for words like “gene analysis” or “molecular pathology”. These terms may indicate questionable genetic testing. To obtain more information, contact your local Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Program. [smpresource.org](http://smpresource.org), call 877-808-2468, or AARP Fraud Watch Network helpline toll-free at 877-908-3360.



## Ryder’s Bus Stop

by Lori Smith, Administrative Coordinator

Five year old Ryder has had to battle rain, wind and snow for about fifteen minutes every day, using only a patio umbrella as protection. After hearing about his problem, local students in Bradford, Rhode Island, got to work and built him his own bus shelter for the bottom of his driveway during their construction lessons. Ryder’s father said, “Ryder uses it every day before school and his nurses wait inside it every day while they await his return home.” He also likes to hang out in it from time to time as his fort as well.

Ryder was born with spina bifida myelomeningocele and has never been able to walk. He started using a wheelchair when he was two years old. He started attending preschool in June 2019 and every day had to be pushed 75 feet to the end of the road to wait for his school bus by his parents. When Ryder started kindergarten, his dad put up a patio umbrella at the end of the driveway to provide some shelter from the elements. Living in New England, that really didn’t accomplish much unless there was no wind with the rain and that rarely happens, so he would still get wet and cold.

Ryder’s dad put a post on Facebook requesting an old bus hut. It was suggested that he contact Westerly High School which has a class for construction technology. The teacher and students were all excited to design and build the hut. The hut is 5x8 feet so that it can fit both Ryder and one of his parents or a nurse comfortably. It was delivered six weeks later before the first snow. Ryder couldn’t be happier with his new hangout.

Source: [goodnewsnetwork.org](http://goodnewsnetwork.org)

## **Home Services Program**

by Brenda Ingle, Independent Living Advocate

The Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Rehabilitation Services Home Services Program, HSP, is the reason many individuals with disabilities can remain in their homes and live independently. With assistance through this program, people with disabilities are able to live self-directed lives, become active within the community and continue to control and manage services by deciding who to hire to work as a Personal Assistant. Utilizing the services provided by the HSP, customers are encouraged to strive for any and all employment, education, and independent living goals.

To be eligible for the Home Services Program, an applicant must

- ❖ Be under 60 years of age or the recipient of the AIDS or Traumatic Brain Injury Medicaid Waiver Program.
- ❖ Be a resident of the State of Illinois with proof of US citizenship.
- ❖ Be under the asset limit.
- ❖ Be at risk of nursing home placement.
- ❖ Have a significant disability.
- ❖ Applied for Medicaid.
- ❖ Have care cost living in the community that are less than costs living in a nursing home.
- ❖ Have a doctor's approval of the care plan.
- ❖ Score the required points on the Determination of Need ,DON, Assessment.

For more information call the 24-hour automated help line at 1-800-843-6154 or 1-800-447-6404 (TTY) between 8:00 a.m. -5:30 p.m., a SAIL office or visit the website at [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us).

Resources cited: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=60122>

## **CEFS WIOA Youth Services**

by Amy Corbin, Triple C Coordinator

The WIOA Youth Services Program is looking for young adults, ages 16 – 24, wanting assistance with employment. This program can provide paid work experience and opportunities to get a job or complete your education for free. Individuals can receive assistance with jobs and employment, training and certificates, and career counseling. Some of the services provided are access to job fairs and recruitment opportunities, resume assistance, part-time or full-time employment, paid work experience and on-the-job training in addition to acquiring a high school diploma or GED, access to vocational training programs, support services for childcare, transportation, uniforms and tools needed for employment. Assistance with tutoring and FAFSA is also available. If you are interested in this program and live in Coles, Clark, Cumberland or Moultrie Counties, contact the C.E.F.S. WIOA office located at 109 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Mattoon, IL phone number is 217-279-0371 for more information or to see if you qualify.

*CEFS in Partnership with Illinois Work Center: informational WIOA Youth Services flyer, [www.cefs.org](http://www.cefs.org)*

## **UPCOMING SAIL OFFICE CLOSINGS**

The business hours at all SAIL offices are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. During the months of March 2022 through June 2022, all SAIL offices will be closed on the following dates:

- **Monday, May 30th – Memorial Day**
- **Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> - Juneteenth**

Additional closings occur in the Charleston and Shelbyville offices when staff are in the community providing consumer services, education activities and attending meetings. When staff is out, the phone system routes all calls directly to the main office in Decatur. SAIL has an employee dedicated to answer phone calls during normal business hours.

**SAIL OFFICE HOURS** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **SAIL WEBSITE** [www.decatursail.com](http://www.decatursail.com)

## **SAIL IS A FRAGRANCE-FREE FACILITY**

Not all disabilities can be easily observed. People who have a respiratory or breathing disability are unable to breathe when they encounter scents and fragrances in their environment. For that reason, SAIL is a FRAGRANCE-FREE facility.

SAIL reserves the right to require anyone coming into a SAIL office wearing cologne, perfume, scented soaps or lotions TO LEAVE. This policy serves to protect SAIL consumers, visitors, guests and staff.

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!!**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**1-800-358-8080 (V/TTY/VP)**

#### **Decatur Office**

**2449 E. Federal Dr.  
217-876-8888 (V/TTY/VP)  
[sail@decatursail.com](mailto:sail@decatursail.com)**

**Decatur, IL 62526  
217-876-7245 (FAX)**

#### **Shelbyville Office**

**1604 W. Main St. Ste. 100  
217-774-4322 (V/TTY)  
[saisel@consolidated.net](mailto:saisel@consolidated.net)**

**Shelbyville, IL 62565  
217-774-4368 (FAX)**

#### **Triple C Office**

**707 Windsor Rd. Suite B  
217-345-7245 (V/TTY)  
[triplec@consolidated.net](mailto:triplec@consolidated.net)**

**Charleston, IL 61920  
217-345-7226 (FAX)**

**Anyone in need of public safety or emergency services should call 911 for assistance.**