

News

Maryland Health Connection announces 'Library Enrollment Day'

Dec 29, 2015

Libraries throughout Maryland will participate in “Library Enrollment Day” on Saturday, Jan. 9. Maryland Health Connection has partnered with the Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators to provide in-person assistance to consumers at 23 libraries across the state. Experts will be on-site to answer questions and enroll Marylanders in health coverage through the state-based health insurance marketplace.

Locally, the Charles County Public Library Potomac Branch, located at 3225 Ruth B Swann Dr., Indian Head, will be hosting the event from 1-3 p.m.

Consumers also can get free, in-person assistance by contacting an authorized broker or an enrollment navigator. More than 1,500 trained experts are located across the state. For a list of hours, locations and contact information, go to MarylandHealthConnection.gov/get-help-enrolling

This year, nine in 10 Marylanders who enrolled through the state marketplace were eligible for federal subsidies or qualified for Medicaid. Individuals who have an annual income of less than \$47,080 or a family of four whose household income is less than \$97,000, for example, may qualify for financial assistance. More than 60,000 Maryland households received more than \$208 million in tax credits to reduce their cost of coverage in 2015.

Enrollment in a private health plan must be completed by Jan. 15 for health or dental coverage to begin on Feb. 1, 2016. Enrollments completed Jan. 16 to Jan. 31 will have coverage beginning on March 1, 2016. After Jan. 31, a qualifying “life event” such as certain changes in income, loss of other health coverage, marriage or divorce, or the birth or adoption of a child would be required to be eligible to enroll. Marylanders who qualify for Medicaid can enroll year-round.

State announces property account reassessments

The Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation announced this week its reassessment of 1/3 of the more than 2 million real property accounts in the state. By law, the Department of Assessments and

Taxation must assess these properties every three years, ensuring property owners pay their fair share of local property taxes.

The properties up for reassessment in 2016 are referred to as Group 1. This group consists of 688,440 parcels, which were last assessed for the July 1, 2013 tax year. To view the map for the group, go to <http://dat.maryland.gov/sdatweb/maps.html>.

The Department of Assessments and Taxation determines the values for both residential and commercial properties. The new assessments are based on the evaluation of 55,572 sales, which occurred in Group 1 during the last three years; 17,429 of those sales occurring in 2015. Within Group 1 properties, 70 percent of residential properties saw an increase with an average increase of 9.5 percent, and commercial property values increased by 16.1 percent. Any increase in property value is phased-in equally over the subsequent three years. Any decrease in property value is fully implemented in the first tax year and remains at the reduced assessment for a full three year cycle.

Residential property owners, who apply and are eligible, can receive a Homestead Tax Credit. The Homestead Tax Credit states that all taxable assessments cannot increase by more than 10 percent per year. The allowed caps to property tax assessment increases are established at the local government level. Those who wish to see if they are eligible for The Homestead Tax Credit and to receive more information, go to www.dat.maryland.gov/sdatweb/HTC-60.pdf.

Extensive statistics and information is available from the Department's website at <http://www.dat.maryland.gov.html> under the heading SDAT/Stats.

Farm bureau to host annual legislative breakfast

The Charles County Farm Bureau will host its Third Annual Legislative Breakfast, featuring local farm-raised food, 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at the Newburg Rescue Squad stations, 12245 Rock Point Road, Newburg.

Cost is a \$10 donation, with proceeds benefiting the rescue squad and Charles County Future Farmers of America.

For more information, contact Melinda Rice at 301-643-4039 or orricefarms3@gmail.com.

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home calls for artists

Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, in partnership with the Charles County Art Alliance, is now accepting submissions for its Winter Art Show, a multi-media exhibit, to be held at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home, 29449 Charlotte Hall Road, Charlotte Hall, from Feb. 18 to June 15. The gallery will be presented along the E-Wing Dining Hallway.

The Crossroads of Hughesville Garden Club will also create floral interpretations of selected art to be included in the show.

Local artists are invited to submit a maximum of two works of art for consideration (there is no submission fee). Artwork entries must be submitted electronically as digital images (jpegs) attached to an email sent to VeteransHomeArt@gmail.com. The theme is “artist choice” and deadline to submit art is Jan. 25.

The email must include:

- Artist’s name
- Artist’s mailing address
- Artist’s email address
- Artist’s phone number
- Artist’s biography (half-page max, in MS-Word)
- Artist’s headshot (jpeg)
- Title of artwork
- Medium/materials used
- Size/dimensions
- Year created
- Price, if applicable

Selections will be made by the Charlotte Hall Gallery Committee and the artists will be notified in early February. All artwork must be wired and ready to hang.

On Saturday, May 21, a “Meet the Artists” Public Reception will be held 2 to 4 p.m., at the Charlotte Hall

Veterans Home E-Wing Multi-Purpose Room, to honor all the artists participating in the winter show.

For more information on the gallery, contact Charlotte Hall Veterans Home at 301-884-8171, ext. 468,
or VeteransHomeArt@gmail.com.