

# The Upside Of Aging

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## Happy New Year!

The Commission on Aging will be conducting training the morning of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 20th for our Field Staff. This training could potentially change the time that your staff member arrives for your appointment on this day. Our office will be closed for that day as well.



## Seven tips to avoid energy scams

1. **Know who the salesperson represents.** Don't assume that wearing clothing or carrying a clipboard with a company logo you recognize means the salesperson actually works for that company. Ask to see identification, including proof of employment by an energy company.
2. **Protect your personal information.** This means more than guarding your Social Security, bank account, and credit/debit card numbers. Don't show any door-to-door salesperson your energy bill, which will include your utility account number.
3. **Know your current energy providers.** This will head off that utility bill request above. You get bonus points for knowing the rate you're paying for electricity or natural gas. (It's also on the bill).
4. **Know your state's policy on "cooling off" periods.** Michigan allows consumers up to three business days to cancel purchases without penalty.
5. **Sweat the details of an energy contract.** What's the rate? How long will it last? What happens when it ends? Are there fees, including cancellation fees?
6. **Be aware.** Stay current on local happenings and whether scammers are operating in your area. You can use the [Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker](#) to learn more about potential scams in your area.
7. **Don't be embarrassed to report scams.** If you believe you're a victim of a door-to-door energy scam, call your energy provider, the local police and file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission.

Caring for those who cared for you, since 1975



# Baskets of Bounty

We would like to thank everyone who donated items, volunteered to help us put our baskets together, or delivered baskets to our clients.

Without you there would be no *Baskets of Bounty!*

## AARP Tax Preparation Program

Again this year, the Commission on Aging will serve as a host site for tax preparation through AARP.

We will start scheduling appointments for February beginning **January 17th.**

At this point we are unsure of how many AARP Tax Program Volunteers we will have, or the days that they will be here to provide this valuable service.

To take advantage of this free Tax Preparation program you must be a Grand Traverse County resident, aged 60 years or older.

Your tax return must be simple by nature. A list of the types of returns the volunteers can process will be sent to anyone scheduling an appointment.

### February Staff Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

Patti B - 02/11



#### Anniversaries

Cyndie F- 02/09 - 11 yrs  
Emily R - 02/26 - 2 yrs  
Alicia T - 02/26 - 2 yrs