

March 24, 2018 newsletter

The Baxter Senior Center is operating four days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the location of 101 Elmore Town Rd. Baxter TN. The Center is pleased to be in our larger home and thank the many people who made this possible for us.

The Center has many activities during the 9-3 hours and on Tuesday night the Center is open for dance lessons after regular hours. These lessons are taught by John and Marion Barwick and the public is invited to attend. Classes are from 5:30-8:00 and donation is \$5.00 per person to the teachers, John and Marion.

This month, the Center would like to highlight a program being funded by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and administered by the state's Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS, Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability (TCAD) and the Area Agencies on Aging and Disability (AAAD) saw the extensive need for Older Adult specific SNAP outreach and application assistance. As a result, the AAAD now has a SNAP Coordinator to assist in these efforts.

Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is formerly known as Food Stamps. This is the Nation's largest entitlement food security program. There are over 1.3 million participants in Tennessee with 35 percent over age 60 or adults with disabilities.

There are some common concerns

1. "\$15.00 is all I will receive". Average monthly benefit for 60+ households is over \$100.00.
2. "I'll be taking money away from families with small children". Entitlement program-everyone who qualifies receives benefits.
3. "I'm embarrassed to take handouts". Funded through taxes that you've paid throughout your life.
4. "The application is too long and complicated." Nine questions and a signature.

5. "I don't want friends or neighbors to know that I'm on SNAP." Older adults can request phone interview. EBT card looks just like a bank card. You can authorize another person to use card for you.

Spread the word to friends, family and neighbors that there is screening and application assistance, special deductions and benefits for older adults with the potential to have more money to spend on other needs.

Baxter Senior Center welcomes you to the center for activities and fun and the companionship of others. You may call anytime at 858-5657.