

South River Office on Aging
Human Services Building
55 Reid Street
South River, NJ 08882

December 2025
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(732) 257-2340

The Senior Scoop

MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS TREE

This Christmas, we're remembering our departed friends and family with a new memorial Christmas tree display. Unique handcrafted angel ornaments, made by our in-house elves, will be available for members to purchase in memory of their loved ones **for a limited time — Monday, December 1st through Friday, December 5th.** The cost is \$2 and all ornaments purchased will be on display at the Human Services Building from Thursday, December 4th through Tuesday, January 6th.

TREE TRIMMING PARTY

It's that time of year again when we'll be decking our halls, sipping something sweet, and getting into the holiday spirit with festive music, games, and refreshments while we make our tree sparkle. Where: Human Services Building. When: Thursday, December 4th at 12pm. Cost: \$5 pre-paid in scratch-off lottery tickets (any denomination is fine as long as it equals \$5). **Limited space available; sign-up began November 10th.**

ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK @ THE STATE THEATRE

Celebrate the season with the unmistakable voice of Engelbert Humperdinck in a special concert that blends his timeless hits with beloved holiday classics. Where: State Theatre, New Brunswick. When: Tuesday, December 9th at 3:30pm. Cost: \$60 pre-paid + Dinner (**dinner is not included**). **Limited space available; sign-up began November 10th.**

OFFICE CLOSURES

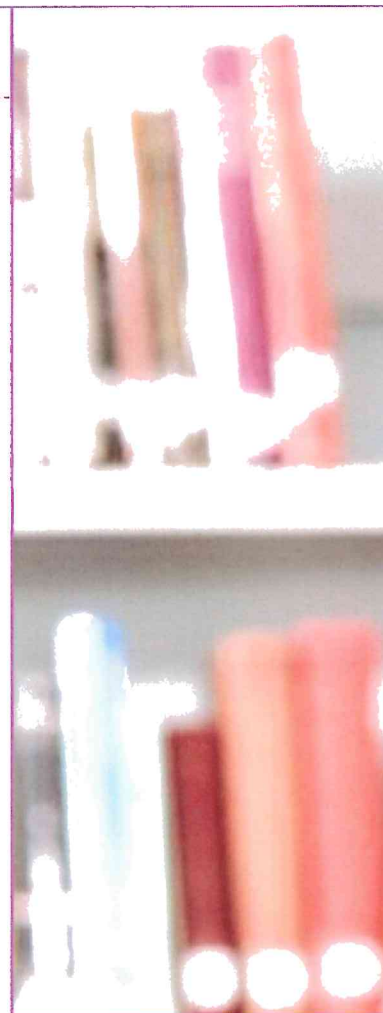
The Office on Aging will be closed on Friday, December 12th for an off-site event and Wednesday, December 24th—Thursday, December 25th for the Christmas holiday.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Borough residents in need of food and fellowship are invited to celebrate the Christmas season with a free, nutritious meal, hosted by the Daughters of the King of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and Manna Café of First Reformed Church. When: Thursday, December 18th at 5:30pm. Where: Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 90 Leonardine Avenue. **RSVP by December 14th** to Beth at (732) 322-8623.

AROUND THE BOROUGH

Christmas Holiday Trash Collection: Due to the Christmas holiday on Thursday, December 25th, trash collection that normally takes place on Thursdays will instead be collected on Friday, December 26th. There will be no bulk trash pick-ups on Friday, December 26th.



It's not what's under the
Christmas tree that matters,
it's who's around it.
— Charles M. Schulz



SOCIAL SECURITY & MEDICARE PART B INCREASES FOR 2026

The Social Security Administration set next year's cost-of-living increase at 2.8%, which will boost the average Social Security payment by \$56 per month, starting in January. However, seniors will pay more for their healthcare in the new year, which will likely erode the Social Security cost-of-living increase for millions of Social Security recipients. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that premiums for its Part B plan will increase 9.7% to \$202.90 in 2026, making it the largest increase since 2022. Part B covers visits to doctors, outpatient care, preventative services such as vaccines, medical equipment like wheelchairs, and home health care. Meanwhile, the annual deductible for all Medicare Part B beneficiaries will rise about 10% to \$283 in 2026, from \$257 in 2025. The reason for the 2026 premium and deductible increases is due to a rise in underlying health care costs, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

NEW SOCIAL SECURITY SCAM

A new "high pressure" scam seeks to convince individuals that their Social Security numbers may be suspended due to criminal activities, according to a new warning. The scheme involves emails sent with the subject line, "Alert: Social Security Account Issues Detected." An attachment with fake letterhead purporting to represent the Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General notifies recipients that their Social Security number may be suspended within 24 hours and that their case may be referred for criminal prosecution. The schemes typically use scare tactics to dupe victims into handing over their money, such as flagging suspicious activity on accounts, claiming personal information is being used to commit crimes, or alleging online accounts or other personal devices have been hacked. When recipients of the fraudulent emails call the phone number provided, they may encounter someone impersonating a Social Security Administration employee. Alternatively, callers may also be directed to send a text via an automated message. The (real) Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General, which provides independent oversight of the Social Security Administration, is warning recipients never to share their personal information in response to these notices. Notably, the SSA OIG will never send communication like this.

NEW APPLE DEVICE SCAMS

New Apple scams include sophisticated phishing attacks that attempt to trick users into revealing personal information, two-factor authentication (2FA) codes, or gift card numbers by impersonating Apple Support or creating a sense of urgency. To protect yourself, never click links from unsolicited messages, never share 2FA codes with anyone, and verify any unexpected alerts by contacting Apple directly. Common new scams are: 1.) **Impersonating Apple Support:** Scammers have created authentic-looking support tickets and impersonate Apple agents, sending alerts about account breaches and then a "helpful support agent" will guide you into giving them your account information and 2FA codes; 2.) **Fake "lost phone" alerts:** You may receive a text or email that appears to be from Apple that claims your lost iPhone has been located, followed by a link that leads to a fake Apple login page seeking to steal your credentials and unlock your phone; 3.) **Storage limit scams:** An email may claim your iCloud storage is full and offer free extra storage if you click a link. This link directs you to a malicious site designed to steal your personal information; and 4.) **Gift card scams:** Scammers may try to trick you into sending them gift card numbers to pay for a product or service. They may also ask you to cash a check for them and send them Apple Cash, with the check likely to bounce later. How you can protect yourself: 1.) **Do not click links in unsolicited messages;** 2.) **Never share 2FA (two-factor authentication) codes;** 3.) **Verify alerts directly:** If you receive an alert that your account is in danger, hang up or delete the message and contact Apple directly through their official support channels; and 4.) **Watch for red flags:** Legitimate Apple emails will come from an @apple.com or @icloud.com domain and use your full name, not generic greetings like "Dear User." Apple support emails won't ask you to download attachments or click links to verify your information.

SIGN-UP 101

Generally, sign-up for the month begins on the first business day of the calendar month, unless otherwise indicated. Sign-up for activities, events or trips scheduled during the first week of that month are accepted the last week of the month prior.

Some programming requires advanced sign-up and payment; information including date and cost are specified in the body of the newsletter, so please read it in its entirety.

Members who commit to a ride, activity, or event and find themselves unable to participate should notify the office as soon as possible and at minimum, before the close of business the day prior (leave a voicemail message if it's outside of normal business hours). Habitual no-shows may result in modified sign-up procedures, and refunds for pre-paid activities, events, and trips will not be issued.

Members may sign up and pay for themselves and one other registered member.

Members will be picked up at their residence and dropped off at their residence, unless previously arranged.

Still unsure? We're happy to explain further. Just ask...



December 2025

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