



ELDERLY BENEFIT SPECIALISTS:

What is a Benefit Specialist?

A benefit specialist is a person trained to help older persons who are having a problem with their private or government benefits. Benefit specialists are often called “red tape cutters” because they are experts at helping older persons with the extensive and complicated paperwork that is often required in benefit programs. They help older persons figure out what benefits they are entitled to and tell them what they must do to receive them. Benefit specialists are continually trained and monitored by attorneys knowledgeable in elderly law. The attorneys are also available to assist older persons in need of legal representation on benefit matters.

Who Should Seek Help From a Benefit Specialist?

- Older persons who just want to know more about any private or public benefit;
- Older persons who need help in organizing the paperwork and applying for benefits; or
- Older persons who have been denied a benefit that they think they are entitled to receive.

Benefit Specialists Can:

- Provide accurate and current information on your benefits;

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- Suggest alternative actions that you can take yourself to secure benefits or help you appeal denials of benefits;
- Explain what legal action or other possible solution is required; and, if necessary represent you throughout the appeal process, or
- Refer you to an appropriate attorney.

What Can a Benefit Specialist Help You With?

- Medicare
- Medicare Supplemental Insurance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security/Disability
- Medical Assistance
- Consumer Problems
- Homestead Tax Credit
- Housing Problems Landlord/Tenant Issues
- Supportive Home Services
- Food Stamps
- Grandparent's Rights
- Other Legal and Benefit Problems

Who is Eligible for Benefit Specialist Services?

Anyone 60 years of age or older who is having a problem in securing a public or private benefit is eligible for the Benefit Specialist Program.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I sat down this month to write my monthly comments for the newsletter I began reflecting on the fact that this month I have now been at the Housing Authority for three years. The time has gone by quickly and could be described as interesting, educational, challenging, and frustrating and filled with many wonderful moments and some very sad ones. I have met many kind and wonderful people and some people that have left me wondering why I choose this type of work. I must say though that those kind and wonderful people are the ones that keep me coming to work in the morning and make me know that the work I do is important and can be filled with joy.

I also was thinking that many of you would like to understand the total picture of the work that is done at the Housing Author-

ity. When we began the newsletter one of my hopes was for all of the tenants in our buildings to begin to understand that they are part of something much larger than just themselves, and their individual building. I think most of you now understand that we have a total of 165 apartments that we own. We also administer another program called the HUD Section 8 program where we help 182 families with rental assistance. What that means in total dollars is that we handle a little over 1.1 million dollars in our little Housing Authority office. In some of the upcoming newsletters I hope to explain a little more about the programs we administer and about the staff that makes that happen. I wish you all a special 4th of July and a comfortable summer.



Current Building Vacancies as of 7/01/02:

- Old Ashippun - 0
- Reeseville - 1
- Theresa - 1
- Burnett - 1
- Hustisford - 0
- Lowell - 1
- Iron Ridge - 0
- Juneau - 1
- Beaver Dam - 0
- Waupun - 4 (1-1st floor)

Weather Alert Radios Arrive in Community Room

DODGE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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Executive Director

Lawrence Rolefson
Board Chairman

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Sometime during the last month Barb has brought to your building a weather radio and put it in your community room. These special radios only broadcast current weather information which comes directly from the National Weather Service. When you look at the radio you should see a red light by the alert button. That means that the radio is operating. If you wish to hear the weather you can press the weather button and then when you are done press the alert but-

ton and it will revert to automatic mode. If there is a severe storm alert or a tornado warning the alarm will sound on the radio and then the weather will be announced. This will continue until someone hits the alert button. radios have a battery backup so they will also work if there is a power outage.

If you have any questions I will be glad to explain it to anyone when I am doing my building visits or you can call to office for more information .



Tenant News

This month we welcome the following new tenants to our buildings. Please join us in making them feel welcome.

Hazel Meenk, Waupun

Mary Tapp, Hustisford

We congratulate Irma Af-feld, Juneau on 10 years of residency.

Building Fire Alarm Test

The fire alarms for each building will be tested on the following days:

July 2nd	-	Beaver Dam
July 18th	-	Reeseville
July 18th	-	Lowell
July 15th	-	Theresa
July 17th	-	Ashippun
July 15th	-	Burnett
July 17th	-	Hustisford
July 3rd	-	Juneau
July 2nd	-	Waupun
July 17th	-	Iron Ridge