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Emails to Heaven Newsletter
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ETH News

Writing an Email

Do you miss talking to your beloved spouse, family member, friend or even your pet? I had talked about writing an email in my last newsletter. But I feel this is important, so I would like to talk more about it. Even as I sit here and write articles for my newsletter, I feel this writing time helps me in some ways. The toughest part of my day is in the evening, sitting at the dinner table and staring at an empty chair. So I do most of my article writings after dinner. If there is a time of day that brings you the most sadness, sit down and write to those whom you are missing. Talk about anything you want. I know in my heart that my husband is listening.

Letter to the OR Editor

On February 15, 2024 I wrote a letter to the Editor of the Observer Reporter. I talked about my journey to create a National Day for our widowed family members, friends, and neighbors. I have found since I started this nonprofit that our society does not recognize surviving spouses as a special group. Some have ignored me, some don't know what to say, I was told to get over it and move on, but my biggest challenge is trying to get the media to step up and write about what I am trying to do. I have written many letters over the past 4 years to others as well as the Observer Reporter, and some elected officials, all ignored. I am guessing this is a topic that those others are afraid of. Well, guess what, it is part of life and no one is exempt. There should be more discussions and services created for those in our community who are widowed. Changes are needed, I will keep fighting for those changes even as a one man army.



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Vehicle Registration Fees

If you haven't received your 2024 vehicle registration application yet, the fee has increased from \$39.00 to \$45.00. I made an inquiry with my State Senator and my State Representative as to why this fee had increased to \$45.00. My State Senator responded that the increase was due to Act 89 and the Consumer Price Index. The larger increase was due to higher inflation. I was also sent a link which takes you to a PDF on PennDot's website that talks about Act 89 and registration fees. If you would like to read about Act 89 further, let me know and I will email the PDF to you. For those who are 65 or older you can get your

vehicle registration for \$10.00. I found a retired persons fact sheet on the DMV website. In order to qualify for the reduced registration fee, your annual income cannot exceed \$19,200.

I also received a phone call from one of my Senators assistants to talk about the reduced rate in case I wasn't aware. I told her that I don't qualify. I also told her that the dollar amount needs to be increased and that this type of program should also be available for surviving spouses under 65.

And as always, my State Rep never answered me.

"The Earth has music for those who listen ~ William Shakespeare"



Important Dates:

Application deadline:

June 30, 2024

Rebates begin:

Early July 2024

Pennsylvania Property Tax/Rent Rebates

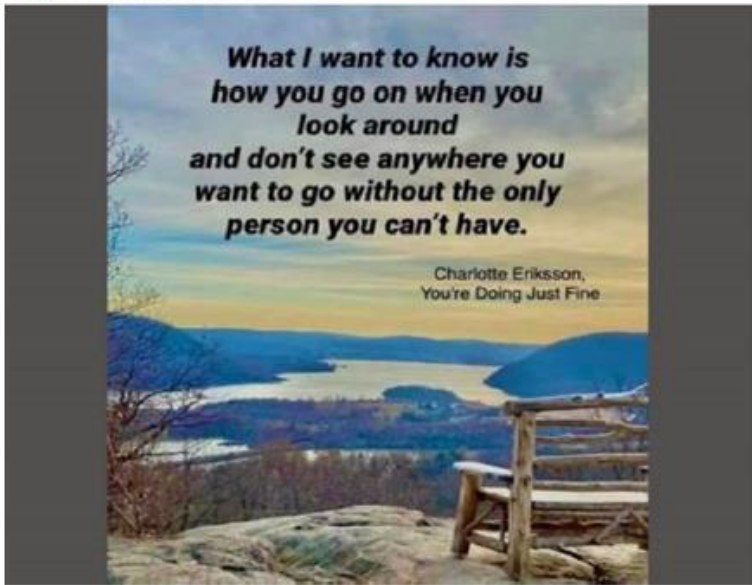
This program was revised for the 2023 property tax or rent rebates. Widows and Widowers age 50 and older who make \$45,000 or less can apply. The maximum rebate amount was increased by \$375.00 but not everyone will get the extra \$375.00. The age limit used to be widows and widowers 55 and older. This program is also for seniors 65 and older and those with disabilities.

Homeowners and renters will receive a \$1000 rebate if their income is 0—\$8,000. A \$770 rebate if their income is \$8,001—\$15,000. A \$460.00 rebate if their income is \$15,001—\$18,000. A \$380 rebate if their income is \$18,001—\$45,000.

If you haven't received your rebate program booklet in the mail, go to www.revenue.pa.gov to complete your application.

Considering how much we pay in property taxes or rent, I feel these rebates can be more. This was the first increase in this program in nearly two decades. Why did it take so long to increase the rebate amounts?

In my opinion, they could have done better by giving each level of those incomes that additional \$375.00.



God's Signs Through Butterflies

There is a group on Facebook called God's Signs Through Butterflies. This screenshot is from one of their Facebook Post's. What caught my eye on this post was all the comments from those who lost a loved one. Below is just a small sample of those comments.

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Elaine Schmicking-Spath
I just lost my love of 60 years on 10/26/23.
4d 🙏 Reply Share 🙏🙏 50
- 

Brenda Gardner
Elaine Schmicking-Spath so sad for you, I know how hard it is.
2d Like Reply Share 🙏
- 

Helen Harris
I just lost my husband very suddenly on 09/24/23
2d Like Reply Share 🙏🙏 2
- 

Sylvia J. Burke
Elaine Schmicking-Spath There are really no words that will ease your pain. We lost our daughter May 2, 2021. Her birthday is in September and then we head into the holiday season. We have a son who is married, but we are still depressed. She was single and lived in a Condo in the next town. It was sudden. We are all just numb. I have tried to pick back up things I use to do, but they don't help. I pray you will have an easier time. 🙏🙏🙏
1d Like Reply Share 🙏🙏 2
↳ View 1 reply
- 

Randilea Chadwick
Elaine Schmicking-Spath Prayers for your broken heart.
1d Like Reply Share
↳ View 1 reply
- 

Adonna Null
Elaine Schmicking-Spath My thoughts and prayers are with you! I lost my husband 4 months shy of being 65 years. It has been 15 months and it is still very hard. I will be thinking about you. 🙏





Create a Book

After my Mom passed away I wanted to create something that my sisters and I could share. Everyone seemed to have a photo or two that the rest of us didn't have, so I went hunting for those pictures and created this beautiful book "All about Mom"



If you haven't done so already, consider creating a book on a family member or a pet in their memory. Let me know if you need any help.

Sitting at my computer, looking at all the photos that I was able to get, some I had never seen before, and to build this book about my Mother was a wonderful experience. I even found a hand written note from her and included her marriage certificate in the book.

Below is a photo of my Mother's personalized license plate from her car. For those who did not know my Mom, her first name was Rose. Hence, Grandma Rose. This was featured in her book as well.





I wish I could say losing a mother gets easier, but it doesn't. I still miss her every day.

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Your Mother
Although you cannot hear her voice or see her smile no more, your mother walks beside you still just as she did before. She listens to your stories and she wipes away your tears; she wraps her arms around you and she understands your fears.
It's just she isn't visible to see with human eye, but talk to her in silence and her spirit will reply. You'll feel the love she has for you - you'll hear her in your heart; she's left her human body but your souls will never part.

"You never know what people are going through and sometimes the people with the biggest smiles are struggling the most, so be kind."

Paws of Honor

Paws of Honor provides lifesaving medical care to retired law enforcement and military dogs who are no longer cared for by the government.

I am pleased to say The Michael S Bertolino Foundation grant program donates to Paws of Honor to help these heroes.

with a check, my mailing address is on the first page of this newsletter. Thank you!

Paws of Honor is just one of several nonprofits that Michael's grant program supports including programs for our veterans and the homeless.



If you would like to support Michael's grant program, you can make a donation using the Donate tab on my website. If you prefer making a donation



Canine Smith was certified in explosive detection and tracking and served with the Pennsylvania State Police from 2013 until his retirement in early 2021. Canine Smith worked throughout the state of Pennsylvania at events such as Penn State Football games, NASCAR Pocono races, the Little League World Series, & numerous others.



Charlie Needs Your Help

Shown is Charlie in the gas station parking lot where he had been for a few weeks.

Charlie is a senior dog from southern WV that was on his own for many months, but it could even be for years. He roamed the streets, begging for food. For two weeks before he was rescued, he lived in the parking lot of a gas station, begging the customers to give him food. Local rescuers brought this sweet but dirty and matted dog to Angel Ridge Animal Rescue.

Our veterinarian has examined Charlie. He has two tick borne diseases. He has abnormalities in both eyes and a mass in one eye that must be surgically removed. He has an abnormality of the mouth and must see a dental specialist to treat it and remove many rotten teeth. He has many open sores on his body that we are treating. His hips and legs are weak, and he has difficulty walking.

Charlie was thrown away like garbage, but he is really a loving gem of a dog who deserves a better life. Please donate so that we can give him a happy rest of his life.

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Charlie/Angel Ridge Animal Rescue

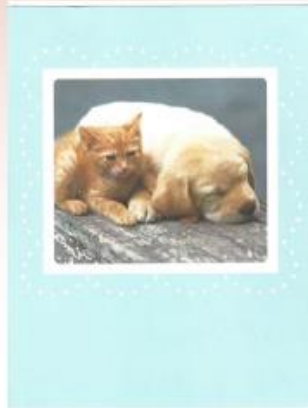
This is Charlie and Charlie's story. I don't understand how anyone can abandon an older dog and expect it to fend for its self.

With the donations that I received in January 2024, on February 14th I made an exception to donate \$100 through my Veterinary Services Assistance Program to help Angel Ridge with Charlie's veterinary care and surgeries.

I hope Charlie is able to receive all the medical care that he needs and finds a Pet Parent who will make him part of their family. He deserves a much better life moving forward and more.

Thank You Cards and Letters

All thank you cards and letters that I receive from those nonprofits that my programs support are saved on my website for everyone to read. For example, I received a thank you card from Angel Ridge Animal Rescue for the donation that was given to them for Brock's medical care. Brock was featured in my last newsletter. Click where it says "See attachment", and the PDF of that card or letter will open in another tab for you to read.



Dear Cheryl,
 Thank you for the donation for Brock's vet surgery care. I am so glad that the "woman" finally realize that Brock needs surgery and really deserves a better life!
 I did look at the email to thank you and I am very impressed with your mission and thank you for the support for the change that we are so in pursuit. Please let me know if anything Animal Rescue can help in any way.
 Nancy Shannon
 Resident



01/19/2024			Received thank you card from Angel Ridge Animal Rescue - See attachment
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