

# The Royal News

presented by:

## Senior Advocate Program

*Partially funded by Aging & Disability Services Division*

A division of Clark County Social Service

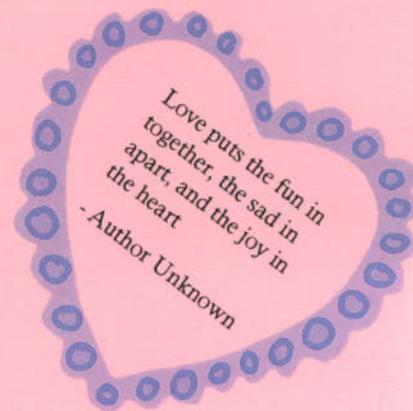
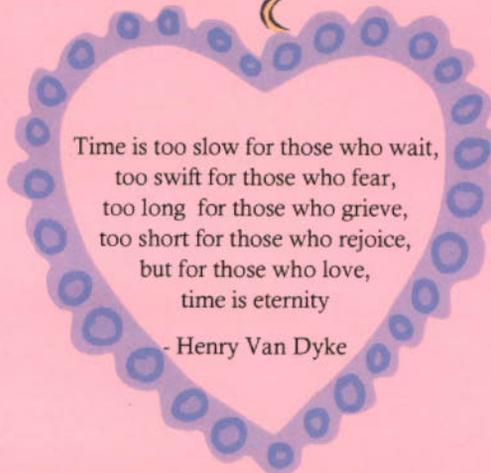
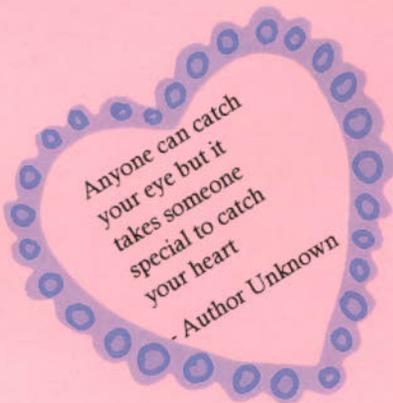
Las Vegas, NV

702-455-7051



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### Clark County Social Service

Timothy Burch, Director

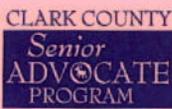
Sandy Jeantete, Assistant Director - Bobby Gordon, Acting Assistant Director

### Board of County Commissioners

Susan Brager, Chair - Steve Sisolak, Vice-Chair

Tom Collins - Lawrence Weekly - Beth Scow - Chris Giunchigliani

Larry Brown





Medicare Part D beneficiaries will experience slightly better coverage when they reach the donut hole in 2012. When enrollees spend \$2,930.00 in prescription costs they fall into the coverage gap and their drugs cost more. While in the coverage gap, enrollees will be able to purchase their brand named medications at a 50% discount. Generic brands will be available at a 14% discount, an increase from the 7% discount in 2011. As part of the Health Care Reform Act, the coverage gap will eventually phase out and will no longer be a concern for those who struggle to pay for their much needed medications when they fall into the gap.

Info retrieved from money.usnews.com



### *The History of Valentine's Day*

There are a number of stories surrounding the origin of Valentine's Day. One story suggests that Valentine's Day originated during the 3rd Century in Rome when a priest named Valentine performed secret marriages for young lovers although Emperor Claudius II forbade such unions. When the emperor learned of Valentine's deeds he ordered the priest's death. It is also rumored that Valentine was imprisoned and during his tenure, he fell in love with his young female jailor whom he wrote a letter to before his death. The letter he wrote was signed "*From Your Valentine*" and is considered to be the first "valentine" ever written. However, another story circulating about Valentine's Day claims that the oldest "valentine" is a poem written by Charles, Duke of Orleans. He supposedly wrote the poem to his wife while he too was in prison!

There are several other stories and beliefs regarding the origin of Valentine's Day - one really doesn't know what to believe. But whatever it's origin, people all over the world celebrate the day by showering their loved one with gifts and affection.

Valentine's Day is Tuesday, February 14 - see page 4 to locate a Valentine's Day event that may be of interest to you!

### *AARP Tax Assistance*

AARP is offering free tax preparation assistance to seniors and those with limited incomes. The service is provided by AARP volunteers at various sites throughout Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City, Laughlin, Overton and Mesquite.

To receive information on dates and times, visit the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide website at [www.AARP.org](http://www.AARP.org). You may also call the Senior Advocate Program at **702-455-7051** for assistance with locating a Tax-Aide site in your area.



## Nevada Legislature Takes Steps to Prevent Elder Exploitation

During the last legislative session, Assembly Bill 533 was passed to help prevent the exploitation of persons who reside in medical facilities or group care homes. The bill prohibits owners of such facilities from receiving money, personal property, or land devised by the will of current and former residents. Also, owners of such facilities may not be named as beneficiaries of a resident's life insurance policy.

The legislature also revised the rules relating to powers of attorney in that a resident may not name owners, operators, or employees of hospitals, assisted living, or skilled nursing facilities as his or her agent. The statute does not apply if owners or administrators of such facilities have familial or guardianship ties to the resident. However, such persons may only act as agents if they are assisting the resident with establishing eligibility for Medicaid - using the power of attorney for any other purpose would make them guilty of a Class C felony.

The Nevada Legislature has enacted laws to help protect the elderly; however, abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of this population is a frequent occurrence. Oftentimes, when instances of elder abuse or exploitation occur, victims and witnesses don't know what course of action to take. If you are a victim, a witness or if you suspect that someone is being abused or exploited, please contact Elder Protective Services at **702-486-6930** Monday thru Friday from 8am - 5pm or the Crisis Call Center (after hours, weekends and holidays) at **1-800-992-5757**.

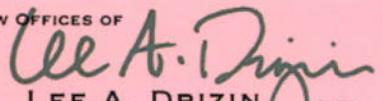


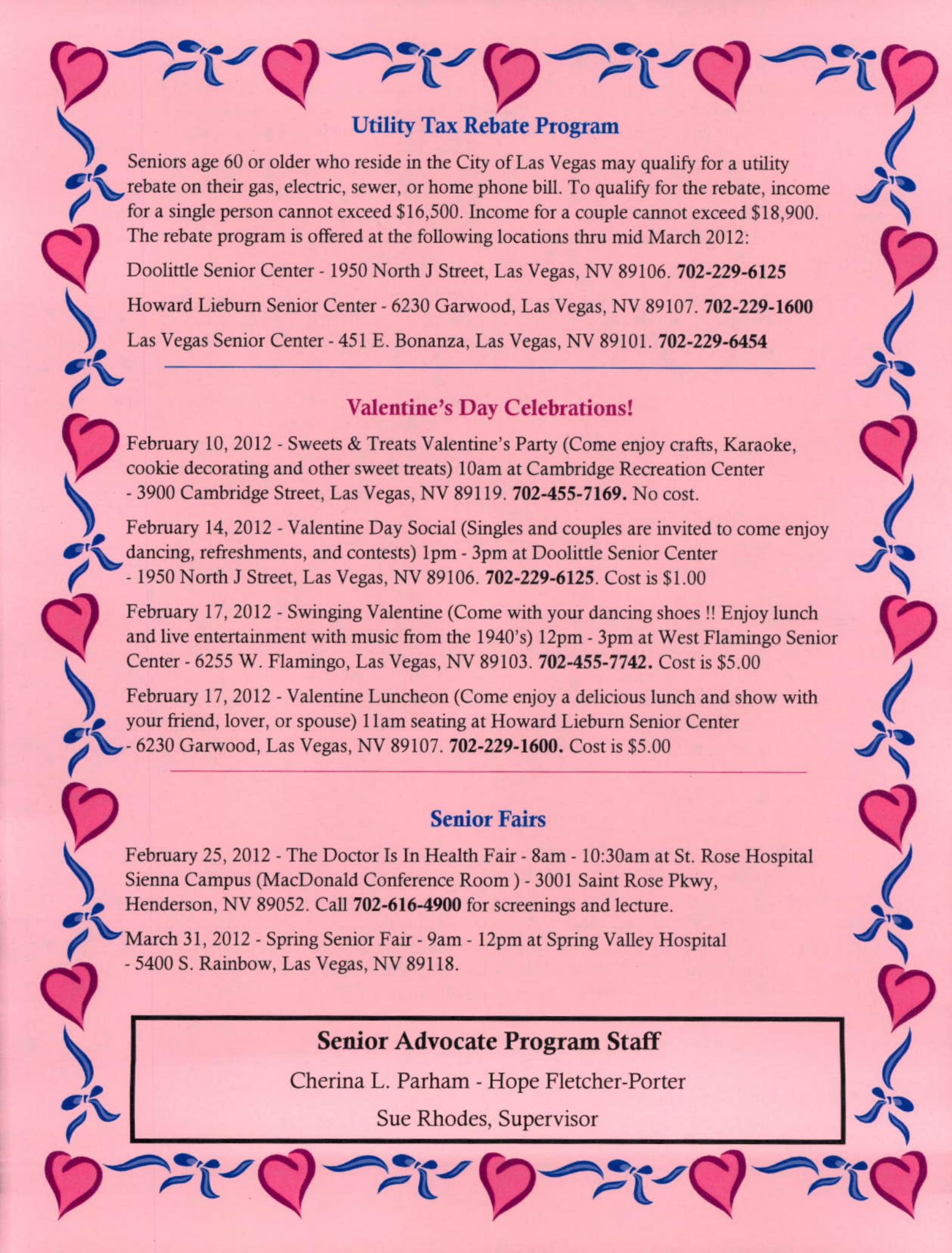
While there are laws and public entities charged with protecting the elder when they find themselves in an abusive or exploitive situation, there are times when assistance or information from a well-qualified legal professional may be what is needed to help seniors and caregivers better handle certain situations.

Elder Law Attorney, Lee Drizin has been an advocate for the elderly for more than 16 years and provides information on a variety of topics aimed at protecting the elderly from abuse or exploitation. Via his website ([www.drizinelderlaw.com](http://www.drizinelderlaw.com)), interested parties may access a Library of information on topics such as Estate Planning, Exploitation, Guardianship, Medicaid, Probate and more. The content available on the website is very informative and educates readers on issues which impact the elderly population.

The services offered by Attorney Lee Drizin go beyond the traditional services one would expect from a law firm. Drizin offers a Families in Transition service which provides assistance to families who need some guidance as they make decisions for their loved ones. Drizin's firm helps families identify options for placement in health care or residential facilities. Issues such as financial, medical, and mental health are all considered in locating the appropriate living facility for a family's loved one. Once an appropriate facility is located, the firm can arrange for transportation and provide moving assistance. In situations where the loved one is available to remain in their home, the firm is available to interview and coordinate in-home care providers to locate an appropriate caregiver.

For more information on the Families in Transition program and other services available through the Law Offices of Lee A. Drizin, please visit [www.drizinelderlaw.com](http://www.drizinelderlaw.com) or call **702-798-4955**.

LAW OFFICES OF  
  
 LEE A. DRIZIN CHTD.



## Utility Tax Rebate Program

Seniors age 60 or older who reside in the City of Las Vegas may qualify for a utility rebate on their gas, electric, sewer, or home phone bill. To qualify for the rebate, income for a single person cannot exceed \$16,500. Income for a couple cannot exceed \$18,900. The rebate program is offered at the following locations thru mid March 2012:

Doolittle Senior Center - 1950 North J Street, Las Vegas, NV 89106. **702-229-6125**

Howard Lieburn Senior Center - 6230 Garwood, Las Vegas, NV 89107. **702-229-1600**

Las Vegas Senior Center - 451 E. Bonanza, Las Vegas, NV 89101. **702-229-6454**

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## Valentine's Day Celebrations!

February 10, 2012 - Sweets & Treats Valentine's Party (Come enjoy crafts, Karaoke, cookie decorating and other sweet treats) 10am at Cambridge Recreation Center - 3900 Cambridge Street, Las Vegas, NV 89119. **702-455-7169**. No cost.

February 14, 2012 - Valentine Day Social (Singles and couples are invited to come enjoy dancing, refreshments, and contests) 1pm - 3pm at Doolittle Senior Center - 1950 North J Street, Las Vegas, NV 89106. **702-229-6125**. Cost is \$1.00

February 17, 2012 - Swinging Valentine (Come with your dancing shoes !! Enjoy lunch and live entertainment with music from the 1940's) 12pm - 3pm at West Flamingo Senior Center - 6255 W. Flamingo, Las Vegas, NV 89103. **702-455-7742**. Cost is \$5.00

February 17, 2012 - Valentine Luncheon (Come enjoy a delicious lunch and show with your friend, lover, or spouse) 11am seating at Howard Lieburn Senior Center - 6230 Garwood, Las Vegas, NV 89107. **702-229-1600**. Cost is \$5.00

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## Senior Fairs

February 25, 2012 - The Doctor Is In Health Fair - 8am - 10:30am at St. Rose Hospital Sienna Campus (MacDonald Conference Room ) - 3001 Saint Rose Pkwy, Henderson, NV 89052. Call **702-616-4900** for screenings and lecture.

March 31, 2012 - Spring Senior Fair - 9am - 12pm at Spring Valley Hospital - 5400 S. Rainbow, Las Vegas, NV 89118.

## Senior Advocate Program Staff

Cherina L. Parham - Hope Fletcher-Porter

Sue Rhodes, Supervisor