

SILVER THREADS

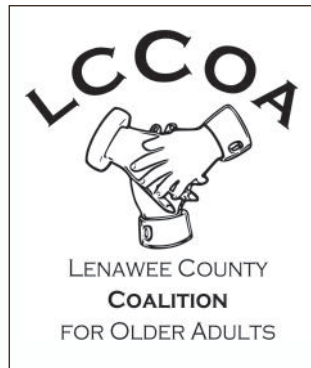
Dept. on Aging teams with CAA to offer income tax help

By Beth Wood

With so many changes happening with federal and state tax law, people are looking for some affordable help to file taxes.

The Lenawee County Department on Aging has teamed up with Community Action Agency to provide VITA- (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) trained volunteers who are ready to assist taxpayers with Michigan Homestead Property and Home Heating tax credits, as well as state and federal returns. The volunteers can assist individuals with an annual household income of \$54,000 or less who are 60 years of age and over. There is no charge for the service.

The Department on Aging and Community Action Agency collaboration is a great addition to



the volunteer tax program, as all returns are able to be filed electronically. With the support of the Community Action Agency and some grant funding, appointments are available for older adults at a variety of locations across Lenawee County.

Volunteers will be available at multiple senior apartment buildings, as well as at locations in Brooklyn, Tecumseh and Hudson, for residents in those areas. The deadline to file state and

federal taxes is April 15. Tax credits can be filed through Sept. 30. Community Action Agency provides free tax help year round by appointment.

Another benefit of these two agencies teaming up is the year-round service and support for the tax program. If, following tax season, a client has a question or concern regarding their tax return, there continues to be VITA-trained volunteers available for assistance on an appointment basis.

The VITA program provides IRS-trained volunteers who are able to bring much needed dollars back into the Lenawee County community. These funds assist individuals with the cost of daily living such as groceries, rent, home and auto repairs, property taxes and heat costs.

Seniors 60 or older needing assistance completing state and federal returns may call the Lenawee County Department on Aging at 264-5280, Community Action Agency at 263-7861 or 211 to schedule an appointment with a VITA volunteer at any site. The scheduler will provide information on documents needed for the appointment.

Anyone under 60 with an annual household income of \$54,000 or less may also schedule an appointment by calling Community Action Agency or 211.

Beth Wood is a case coordinator and support person for the Lenawee Department on Aging. The Silver Threads column is a project of the Lenawee County Coalition for Older Adults.