

Blacksburg



A. A. R. P.

# NEWSLETTER

March 15, 1994

Volume 11, Number 2

John G. Palmer, Editor

Chapter 2613

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## IN OUR FUTURE

This past late winter and early meteorological spring made me think of poems by one of my favorite American poets, Robert Frost. I remember his "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" but decided that his "Fire and Ice" more accurately described the past two months in our town!

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March 15

This day can be really significant for all we seniors (notice that I didn't say elderly). In fact, all persons in this county are probably aware of changes in moral and medical standards that affect lives and living. Today, two programs will introduce seniors to some changes and then better understand their effects upon seniors. Both will take place at the Blacksburg Recreation Center.

*At 10:00 AM, BETTY BLAKEMORE, State Director of Consumer Services in Richmond, TALKS about the problem of FRAUD AGAINST SENIORS, which seems to constantly increase in occurrence. The program is sponsored by our chapter of AARP; New Dimensions, the Virginia Tech's retiree organization; and the local chapter of NARFE, National Association of Retired Federal Employees. All are retiree organizations: you may belong to more than one of these organizations.*

At 12 Noon, HOME HEALTH CARE will be DISCUSSED by NANCY ROOT of Home Health Care, Inc. This is another topic of great importance for two reasons: national health legislation is before the congress, which will affect citizens, while state agencies and legislators continue to change policies that do affect us.

JIM (the Shorter) MOORE and the AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR SENIOR RECREATION PROGRAMS request that you fill out the unfolded, black & white enclosure if you have not already done so. Information about needs, interests, etc., of seniors in the Blacksburg area will help determine what activities should be planned. Leave your completed inquiry here, and I'm sure that it will be delivered to the appropriate office.

(Continued on Page 2)

IN OUR FUTURE (Continued)

March 17 *St. Patrick's Day presents the golden opportunity for everyone of us to be Irish for the day. However, we ought to seek pardon from the real Irish among us.*

March 20 *Would you believe that winter ends and spring begins on this date. In other words (to use a good New York & New Orleans word), it's also the vernal equinox (in other words, daylight and lack of daylight (night) are equal). Have you ever wondered why spring, summer, fall and winter begin on either an equinox or a solstice? It seems that the days are always cold before winter begins.*

March 22 **WOMAN'S WEEK** at Virginia Tech will begin at 7:00 PM with a presentation entitled "TAKE BACK THE NIGHT" followed by a march at 8:00 PM.

March 24 At the conference entitled "QUALITY OF LIFE AT THE END OF LIFE" at the Donaldson-Brown Center on the Virginia Tech campus, specialists in gerontology, law, medicine, religion, etc., will discuss problems that may confront seniors and their families and possible solutions. Registration instructions, the programs, and other details are listed in the folded enclosure. This conference is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

March 27 **Palm Sunday and Passover.**

April 1 **Good Friday.**

April 2 *Blacksburg town auto decals go on sale at the town building on south Main Street.*

April 3 **Daylight Savings Time begins on this Easter Sunday.**

April 5 *Chapter board meeting.*

April 16 This is the Montgomery County Improvement Council's "BLOOMIN' AND GROOMIN'" Committee's Saturday for spring cleanup followed by a reception at Picnic Shelter #1 in the Blacksburg Community Park on Turner Street. Volunteer with Mary ELLEN MOORE (552-4688) if you have no present commitment.

April 19 *Learning about exercise at a regular chapter meeting!*

May 17 **Hopefully a local elected official will discuss legislation of importance to us.**

Mid-June **Don't forget our annual picnic: plan to attend!**

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Ken Martin and Torchy Walrath, Chairpersons of our Health Care and Legislative Committees, as well as the national AARP officers are keeping their "older eagles' eyes" on the momentous changes possible in national and state health-care legislation(s) during the next couple of years. By the way, some of my friends, who publish scientific articles, would consider this latter statement a fine example of a German sentence. Anyway, in our own town as well as in the interest of all citizens, please do follow developing proposals. As time passes, read current newspaper and magazine articles and tune in to TV and radio shows. Advertisements in any of these media often advertise "vested interest groups," but the sponsoring organization can be cleverly camouflaged. The AARP positions on national and state proposals are important for two reasons: (1) they purport to represent the opinions of you and me and (2) they are presented fequently to legislators and citizens by a well-known group.

*Each of us is free to agree or disagree with all or part of any proposal, but a knowledge of the facts should be the prime objective of every citizen. The ultimate legislations will affect prospects for the future health, personal finances, taxes, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera, of you and your children, grandchildren, other relatives, and friends.*

"Torchy" notes that congressmen - er persons - report that they haven't received much about long-term care. So, we repeat the request to express your opinion(s) on health care, preferably in writing, to legislators. Our national representatives are Representative Frederick C. Boucher 428 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515, (202) 225-3861 or to his local office at 188 East Main Street, Abingdon, VA 24210 (703) 628-1145, and Senators John W. Warner, 421 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510, (202) 224-2023 and Charles Robb, 493 Russell Senate Office Bld., Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-4024. You can contact Blacksburg's state legislators in this area: the 1994 state legislature will be adjourned by the time you receive this.

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**\* CHAPTER #2613 DUES NOTICE AND REMITTANCE \***  
 \*\* January through December, 1994 \*\*

Please make any appropriate change in address and telephone number: only first-class mail can be forwarded. Noting changes for all of our members is impossible without your help. When there is a changes DO write or telephone and LET SOMEONE KNOW. By-the-way, do include the current address label: it helps to make entry of correct dues payments quickly! Don't forget to pay your chapter dues so that a roster can be prepared.

1994 chapter dues are \$4.00 per person. Make check payable to "AARP."

Your NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

One of the activities of our chapter is the effort to establish a Senior Center in Blacksburg (see the enclosure, "HERE WE GO! COME ON ALONG!" Many of our members have devoted time to visiting such established centers and meeting with officials in the town. A meeting with the Blacksburg town manager and with members of the town council have been rewarded with support. A volunteer committee of thirty seniors and officials has met for organization, a compilation of activities desired by seniors (we're among them, so don't forget to fill in the attached form, which will be collected at the meeting), and hopefully by July 1 will have prepared a budget to enable selection of a one-half time coordinator by the town.

Thanks go especially to Jim (the Shorter) Moore for his efforts.

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Mary Ellen Moore, Chairperson of our Community Services Committee, reports that a chapter donation of \$75.00 has been sent to support the Science Fairs in the area. She also notes that the Voluntary Action Center is recruiting volunteers to help with typing, stage set preparation, and other activities essential for their summer musical.

It's almost spring, I think, and many persons in our town and county need food. It's been a hard winter and travel to donate has been difficult. So, **DON'T FORGET TO BRING FOOD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY LOCATED AT THE BLACKSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH!!** Severe SHORTAGES of canned goods, dried milk, other non-perishable foods, and cash donations still exist AT the FOOD PANTRY. Please try to help the less-fortunate at (1) our chapter meetings; (2) the "Food Pantry" itself, which is located on Progress St. at Faculty St. (behind the Blacksburg Baptist Church); (3) your local place of worship; or (4) at other community deposits.

After the past three months, perhaps we Blacksburg veterans of the winter of 1994 can better understand the suffering of the soldiers in General Washington's Continental Army at Valley Forge in the winter of 1777. Those soldiers also had no access to food, plowed roads, and other needs. However, we had some indignities which they didn't. For example, the soldiers didn't have to acclimatize to lack of electricity, thermostated furnaces, and indoor running water. In addition they didn't have to clean lawns and disposal of tons of wood.

Lenna Moore  
AARP Chapter #2613  
1607 Greenwood Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
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Blacksburg, Virginia  
Permit No. 32

Blacksburg  
AARP CHAPTER MEETING  
Tuesday, March 15, 1994  
Blacksburg Community Center  
10:00 AM = Program # 1  
11:30 AM = Lunch & Conversation  
12:00 Noon = Program # 2

