

## **March 2019**

***Eileen Zimmerman LCSW MA For The Aging/Social Services***

***203-268-1137   ezimmerman@eastonct.gov***

***March 26<sup>th</sup> 11-12 at ESC Lisa Alhabal*** will be here to inform us about the ***Medicare Savings Plan (MSP)*** as well as how to avoid Medicare Fraud. Call to reserve your spot.

***Fuel Assistance:*** I continue to be available to help with ABCD fuel assistance applications. Call me & make an appointment. The last day to order fuel is ***March 15<sup>th</sup>*** (after that date save your receipts because depending on your agreement with ABCD you may be able to be reimbursed some of the cost).

***Easton's Food Pantry:*** If you know anyone who could benefit from the pantry let me know. I am happy to drop the groceries off at their home if need be.

***Accepting Monetary Donations & Gift Cards for Easton's Social Services Department***

***The VITA (FREE) Tax preparation program*** will be available again this year for seniors who have an income less than \$60,000. One of the locations is ***Fairfield University's Dolan School of Business (GO STAGS!)***. To schedule an appointment email Hope Crotty [hcrotty1@fairfield.edu](mailto:hcrotty1@fairfield.edu) or call 203-254-4000 ext.3059. ***SEE SENIOR TAX RELIEF ON THE OTHER SIDE***

## ***Tax Relief For Seniors 65 and Older***

***Town of Easton, State Tax Credit, and Additional Veteran's Exemption.*** This year's Town forms will be sent out to your homes in March and the State forms in February. The qualifications for Easton's Tax Relief will be the same as last year so find out if you might qualify ahead of time. Deadline for applications is in May but don't wait until the last minute. The tax office can help you figure out if you qualify for the town, state or veteran's tax assistance. ***Rachel*** and everyone in the ***tax office*** is so nice and helpful call and set up an appointment ***203-268-6291***.

***Easton's Senior Tax Relief has two different options:***

***The Tax Abatement Program:*** This program provides a credit against the applicant's real-estate taxes. The credit is a % of last year's tax bill. Abatement % is calculated on a sliding scale based on income. Maximum abatement is 46%.

***Tax Deferral Program (optional):*** This allows the applicant to defer up to 75% of their remaining tax after all other relief benefits have been taken. The deferral draws interest at the town's borrowing rate. The deferral continues until the house is sold, transferred, vacated or taxpayer dies. Deferred taxes may be repaid without penalty. The deferral is secured by a lien on the property.