

Featured Topics

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VA News Release

New Regulation
Medication Copay

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical
Center Improves
Access to Care



Serving Those Who Served

Shiawassee County

Veteran News

Welcome...

Vet Affairs Monthly Newsletter by Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs & Services.

Each month look for information and current events to keep you updated. All monthly newsletters will be available online and in our office. Sign up at vetaffairs@shiawassee.net to receive monthly newsletter via email.

February

Calendar of Events:

- February 14 Valentine's Day
- February 15 Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Meeting 1pm
- February 15 Veterans Relief Fund Meeting 3pm
- February 20 President's Day Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs and Services Office-Closed



CACCS FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPITAL AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.



Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Shiawassee Homeowners:

Are You Facing Property Tax Foreclosure?

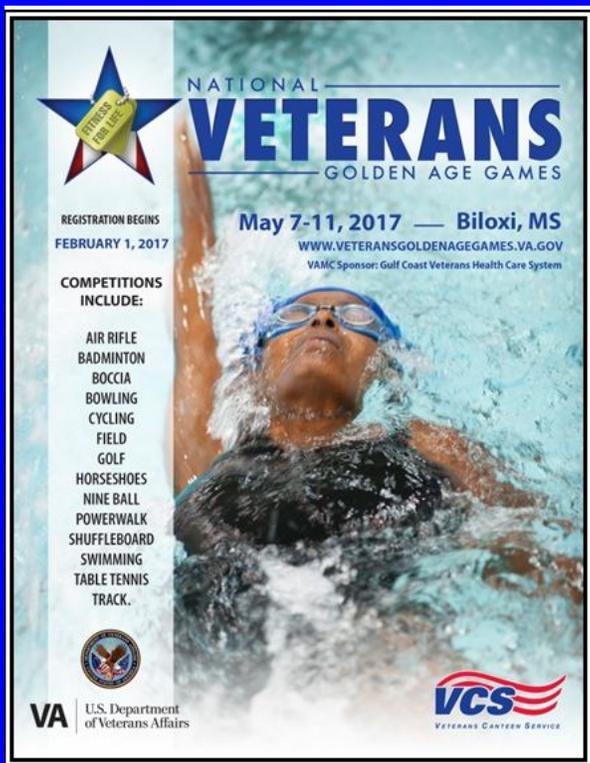
Capital Area Community Services may be able to help you navigate the process of keeping your home!

Contact your local CACCS Service ACCESS Center to make an appointment for this free service:

- Clinton County (989)224-6702
- Ingham County (517)393-1722
- Eaton County (517)543-5465 or 482-3005
- Shiawassee County (989)723-3115**

Contact Us:

201 N. Shiawassee St.
3rd floor, Surbeck Building
Corunna, MI 48817
Phone: (989)743-2231
Fax: (989)743-2393
vetaffairs@shiawassee.net



The National Veterans Golden Age Games (NVGAG) will embark on its 31st year of competition for our nation's senior Veterans, May 7-11, 2017, in Biloxi, Mississippi. The NVGAG is the only multi-event sports competition designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities.

Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System is preparing the 2017 weeklong opportunity for eligible Veterans to engage in rehabilitative sport and recreation competition. Eligible Veterans must be 55 years of age or older as of December 31, 2017, and enrolled in VA health care. There are eight age categories: 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89 and 90+. The Games offer ambulatory, visually impaired and wheelchair divisions.

We would like to encourage you to spread the word amongst your networks to Veterans who are eligible to participate in the NVGAG, as well as to identify clinicians capable of facilitating a team of novice athletes from your respective medical centers. This is a great avenue for clinical and community outreach to senior Veterans across the country. The ICARE core values include a "Commitment" to fulfilling our organizational mission of honoring America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well-being. The NVGAG embrace a "Fitness for Life" motto.

Online registration for the 2017 Games will run from February 1 through March 1, 2017. For more information or if you have questions regarding the National Veterans Golden Age Games, please visit our website at www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov, or you may contact the NVGAG Office directly at jeanene.lesure@va.gov or (813) 903-4582. We look forward to seeing our senior competitors on the gulf coast May 7-11, 2017!

SHIAWASSEE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC FOR THE UNINSURED - anyone without Medical Insurance, Medicare or Medicaid

WALK-IN CLINIC OPEN 7AM-11AM (Check-in by 10:30AM)

Suite 101, 818 W. King Street Professional Building, Owosso, MI

North side of Memorial Healthcare

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2017

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 04, 2017

NEW ADDRESS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 18, 2017

MITCHELL BUILDING, SUITE "K" 2ND FLOOR, 802 W. KING STREET, OWOSSO, MI

(Clinic Entrance on North side of Memorial Healthcare)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2017

SATURDAY, MARCH 04, 2017

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017

SATURDAY, APRIL 01, 2017

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2017

SATURDAY, MAY 06, 2017

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017

SATURDAY, JUNE 03, 2017

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017

SATURDAY, JULY 01, 2017

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2017

Donations to the Free Medical Clinic are Tax-Exempt

Shiawassee Free Medical Clinic is a Non-profit Public Charity pursuant to Section 501 (c) (3) & Michigan Statute, MCL 333.16277.

E-MAIL: shiawasseeffreemedicalclinic@aol.com

TELEPHONE: (989)720-7866

WEBSITE: www.shiawasseeffreemedicalclinic.org





Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center
1500 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48602

Contact: Carrie Seward, Public Affairs Officer
(989) 497-2500, extension 13020
carrie.seward@va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 27, 2016

We invite any media interested in interviewing our VA staff to learn more about care and services to contact our Public Affairs Officer at 989-497-2500, extension 13020 or e-mail carrie.seward@va.gov

New Regulation Decreases Cost of Outpatient Medication Copay for Most Veterans

Washington – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its regulation on copayments for Veterans' outpatient medications for non-service connected conditions. VA currently charges non-exempt Veterans either \$8 or \$9 for each 30-day or less supply of outpatient medication, and under current regulations, a calculation based on the medication of the Medical Consumer Price Index (CPI-P) would be used to determine the copayment amount in future years.

“Switching to a tiered system continues to keep outpatient medication costs low for Veterans,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. David J. Shulkin. “Reducing their out-of-pocket costs encourages greater adherence to prescribed outpatient medications and reduces the risk of fragmented care that results when multiple pharmacies are used; another way that VA is providing better service to Veterans.”

This new regulation eliminates the formula used to calculate future rate increases and establishes three classes of outpatient medications identified as Tier 1, Preferred Generics; Tier 2, Non-Preferred Generics including over-the-counter medications; and Tier 3, Brand Name. Copayment amounts for each tier would be fixed and vary depending upon the class of outpatient medication in the tier.

These copayment amounts will be effective February 27, 2017:

- \$5 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 1 outpatient medication
- \$8 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 2 outpatient medication
- \$11 for a 30-day or less supply - Tier 3 outpatient medication

These changes apply to Veterans without a service-connected condition, or Veterans with a disability rated less than 50 percent who are receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service connected condition, and whose annual income exceeds the limit set by law. Medication copayments do not apply to former Prisoners of War, catastrophically disabled Veterans, or those covered by other exceptions as set by law.

Copayments stop each calendar year for Veterans in [Priority Groups 2-8](#) once a \$700 cap is reached.

More information on the new tiered medication copayment can be found at:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-12-12/pdf/2016-29515.pdf>

The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw, Michigan operates an 81-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation Community Living Center, with an additional 8-bed acute medicine and telemetry wing. It provides care to over 35,400 Veterans in a 35-county geographic area, from mid-Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. Veterans also receive care at one of our nine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located throughout Michigan. More information about this VA can be found at www.saginaw.va.gov.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 13, 2017

VA's Rule Establishes a Presumption of Service Connection for Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune *VA to provide disability benefits for related diseases*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

“We have a responsibility to take care of those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “Establishing a presumption for service at Camp Lejeune will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned.”

Environmental health experts in VA's Technical Workgroup conducted comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence, which included analysis and research done by the Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the Environmental Protection Agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Toxicology Program, and the National Academies of Science.

Veterans with 30 or more cumulative days of active duty service, at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period are already eligible for certain medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene (PCE), a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.

The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

The rule will be effective either 60 days after publication in the Federal Register, or following conclusion of the 60-day Congressional Review, whichever is later.

Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center Announces Direct Scheduling for Optometry and Audiology

January 6, 2017

Many positive changes have occurred at the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center to improve access to care. One such effort is direct scheduling for routine optometry and audiology appointments.

Previously, Veterans were required to visit their primary care provider for a consult/referral to those clinics. However, this has now changed and Veterans who are eligible for VA health care can call directly to make those appointments for optometry and audiology care.

Veterans will be able to contact optometry and audiology clinics directly by calling 989-497-2500, Extension 11400 to schedule an appointment. This change eliminates an unnecessary visit to primary care and improves the timeliness of Veterans receiving their care for their optometry and audiology needs. However, if the Veteran is experiencing an urgent medical optometry or audiology need, they may contact their primary care team or present to urgent care as appropriate.

“Our goal is for Veterans to experience a much easier process and a more positive health care encounter with this direct scheduling change,” stated Medical Center Director, Dr. Ginny Creasman.

Carrie Seward
Public Affairs Officer
Aleda E. Lutz VAMC, Saginaw, MI
(989) 497-2500, Extension 13020

POWER FOR AMERICA MICHIGAN GAS BOOT CAMP

The Utility Military Assistance Program: Michigan Gas Boot Camp (UMAP-MI) is openly recruiting current Michigan National Guard members and Honorable Discharged post 911 military veterans for our 2017 Gas Boot Camp training program.

The program is designed to provide the requisite skills and knowledge an individual will need for a successful career within the gas utility sector. UMAP-MI Gas Boot Camp will provide a four-month program which includes three weeks of training followed by a three month paid internship with Consumers Energy.

The Michigan Gas Boot Camp will provide skills training for Gas Lines Construction Laborer and Gas Lines Construction Fuser.

[APPLY ONLINE:](#)

www.gasbootcamp.com/

Wages range from \$21.01-\$30.16
Internship wage \$21 per/hr.



MICHIGAN GAS BOOT CAMP
UTILITY MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SHIAWASSEE REGIONAL CHAPTER #1970 OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART



Meeting: February 14, 2017 at 6:00pm

Location: The American Legion Post #57
201 E. Mason St.
Owosso, MI 48867

ANY AND ALL COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
WHICH WILL INCLUDE A FREE LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP TO MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART (MOPH) #1970