

**Dr. Ben Wilson, GECAC CEO**  
**Ray Maholtz, GECAC Area Agency on Aging Division Manager**

**Lisa Reynolds, Center Director**  
**Michele Knauer, Center Assistant**

**GECAC SENIOR HELPLINE:** If you are in need of In-home Services, Meals on Wheels, Older Adult Protective Services, Support for Caregivers, or PA-MEDI, CALL (814) 459-4581 ext. 400.

**Event Highlights and Reminders**

- **Speaker**—Ty with Adagio on **Tuesday, Feb., 3rd at 10:30 a.m.**
- **Valentine's Day Party**— **Thursday, Feb., 12th. Entertainment by Angelo Phillips at 10:30 a.m.** You will **LOVE** his music!
- **NAMI** (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will hold a **craft class on Thursday, Feb., 19th at 10:00 a.m.** The craft is a water-color winter scene painting
- Our **Center birthday party**, celebrating our members who were born in the month of February will be on **Thursday, Feb. 26th.** Enjoy a sweet treat in honor of their special day! Our **Center meeting** will be held the same day at **11:15 am.**

**Tai Chi classes** are held **every Tuesday at 9:30 am (at no cost).** If you would like to improve your balance, and help ease arthritis pain, this class is for you! Tai Chi is known for its slow, intentional movements. This popular form of gentle exercise and moving meditation, benefits your mental and physical health.

**VITA FREE TAX PREPARATION SITES 2026**  
 With tax season upon us, low income taxpayers will be able to receive help filing their taxes from AARP tax preparers at:

**Salvation Army**, 1022 Liberty St., Erie. Call (814) 454-6497 then press the 0 option to make an appointment . Times for appointments are on Thursdays only.

**Harborcreek Municipal Bldg**  
 Call Rick (AARP) at (814) 824-9480 to make an appointment.

**Millcreek Municipal Bldg**  
 Call Monica at (814) 833-1111 Extension 329 to make an appointment. The office will be closed from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for lunch.

**Union City Senior Center**  
 27 Johnson St., Union City, PA  
 Wednesdays and Thursdays  
 You must call to make an appointment at (814) 438-2146



**Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program**

Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate program is now open . The program benefits income-eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. Eligible Pennsylvanians are encouraged to apply for a rebate of **up to \$1,000.** Dave from Representative Patrick Harkins office will assist us with your application. Let Lisa or Michele know if you need assistance, so they can pass the word along to Dave to schedule a day to come into the Center. To apply, you will need to bring proof of income; homeowners will need to bring a 2025 property tax receipt, or if you rent, a rent certificate.

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>MAXIMUM REBATE</u>
\$0 TO \$8,550	\$1,000
\$8,551 TO \$16,040	\$770
\$16,041 TO \$19,240	\$460
\$19,241 TO \$48,110	\$380

**How do your contributions and fundraised dollars help our Center?**

Meal Contributions help to off-set the cost of meals. On average the actual cost of a meal is over \$9.00. They help to maintain the building and maintain or replace needed equipment. Fundraising dollars and donations help to pay for parties, entertainment, snacks, and more. They also help to pay programming opportunities like exercise, craft classes, computer usage, and more. These dollars are vital to maintain our daily operations. While contributions and donations are voluntary; please continue to support our Center by whatever means you can. Our Centers and their services mean so much to so many, and your support goes a long way towards helping us offer programming and services.



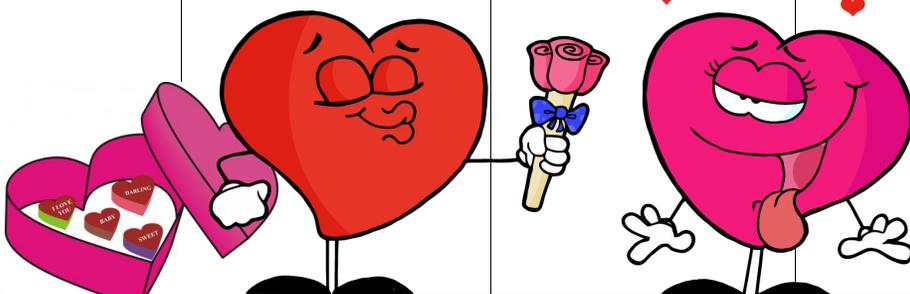
**FEBRUARY 2026**  
**GECAC ERIE WEST SENIOR CENTER**  
**1210 W. 8th St., Erie Phone: (814) 451-5634**  
**Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p><b><u>CENTER</u></b> <b><u>CLOSED</u></b></p> <p><b><u>MUST PURCHASE</u></b> <b><u>Bingo by 11:00 AM</u></b></p>				
<p>1</p> <p><b><u>CENTER</u></b> <b><u>CLOSED</u></b></p>	<p>2</p> <p>TAI CHI: 9:30 AM            SPEAKER-10:30            TY WITH ADAGIO            LUNCH: 11:30 AM            BINGO: 12:15 PM            BILLIARDS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>ARTHRITIS            EXERCISE 10:30 AM            CARDS: PINOCHLE            &amp; 500            LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            COMPUTER            PUZZLES</p>	<p>4</p> <p>LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            BINGO: 12:15 P.M.            BILLIARDS            COMPUTER            PUZZLES</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>CARDS: PINOCHLE &amp;            500            LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            BILLIARDS            COMPUTER            PUZZLES</p>
<p>9</p> <p><b><u>CENTER</u></b> <b><u>CLOSED</u></b></p>	<p>10</p> <p>TAI CHI: 9:30 AM            LUNCH: 11:30 AM            BINGO: 12:15 PM            BILLIARDS            COMPUTER            PUZZLES</p>	<p>11</p> <p>ARTHRITIS            EXERCISE 10:30 AM            CARDS: PINOCHLE            &amp; 500            LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            BILLIARDS            COMPUTER</p>	<p>12</p> <p>VALENTINES DAY            PARTY!            ENTERTAINMENT:            Angelo Phillips 10:30 AM            LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            BINGO: 12:15 P.M.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>CARDS: PINOCHLE &amp;            500            LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            BILLIARDS            COMPUTER</p> <p align="center"><i>happy Valentine's day</i></p>
<p>16</p> <p><b><u>CENTER</u></b> <b><u>CLOSED</u></b></p> 	<p>17</p> <p>TAI CHI: 9:30 AM            LUNCH: 11:30 AM            BINGO: 12:15 PM            BILLIARDS            COMPUTER            PUZZLES</p>	<p>18</p> <p>ARTHRITIS            EXERCISE 10:30 AM            CARDS: PINOCHLE &amp;            500            LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            BILLIARDS/PUZZLES            COMPUTER</p>	<p>19</p> <p>NAMI CRAFT: 10:00 am            WATERCOLOR            WINTER PICTURE            LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            BINGO: 12:15 P.M.            BILLIARDS            COMPUTER            PUZZLES</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>CARDS: PINOCHLE &amp;            500            LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            BILLIARDS            COMPUTER            PUZZLES</p>
<p>23</p> <p><b><u>CENTER</u></b> <b><u>CLOSED</u></b></p>	<p>24</p> <p>TAI CHI: 9:30 AM            LUNCH: 11:30 AM            BINGO: 12:15 PM            BILLIARDS            COMPUTER            PUZZLES</p>	<p>25</p> <p>ARTHRITIS            EXERCISE 10:30 AM            CARDS: PINOCHLE &amp;            500            LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            BILLIARDS /PUZZLES            COMPUTER</p>	<p>26</p> <p>BIRTHDAY PARTY!            CENTER MEETING            LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            BINGO: 12:15 P.M.            BILLIARDS            COMPUTER            PUZZLES</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>CARDS: PINOCHLE            &amp; 500            LUNCH: 11:30 A.M.            BILLIARDS            COMPUTER            PUZZLES</p>

*Happy Valentine's Day*

**FEBRUARY 2025**  
**GECAC ERIE WEST SENIOR CENTER**  
**1210 W. 8th St., Erie Phone: (814) 451-5634**  
**Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<p><i>Lunch served at 11:30 am</i>  <i>Suggested meal donation \$2.00</i>  <i>*Reservations required*</i></p>				
<p><b>2</b>  <b>CENTER CLOSED</b>  <i>reservations for meals are sent to the GECAC kitchen 2 weeks in advance.</i></p>	<p><b>3</b>            SAUSAGE SUB            PEPPERS/ONIONS            BAKED BEANS            FRUIT</p> 	<p><b>4</b>            OX ROAST            SANDWICH            COLE SLAW            MIXED VEGGIES            JELLO CUP</p>	<p><b>5</b>            STUFFED CABBAGE ROLL            MASHED POTATOES            MIXED VEGGIES            PEACH CUP</p>	<p><b>6</b>            TUNA SALAD SANDWICH            LETTUCE &amp; TOMATO            CARROTS            PINEAPPLE CUP</p>
<p><b>9</b>  <b>CENTER CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>10</b>            GRILLED CHICKEN            HASH BROWNS            BABY CARROTS            MANDARIN ORANGES            PEANUT BUTTER COOKIE</p>	<p><b>11</b>            GOULASH            TOSSED SALAD            ITALIAN BREAD            PUDDING CUP</p>	<p><b>12</b>            SPECIAL LUNCH!            CHICKEN PARM            TOSSED SALAD            DESSERT            MUST HAVE A TICKET!</p> 	<p><b>13</b>            HOT TURKEY SANDWICH            PEAS            SEASONED POTATOES            PUDDING CUP</p>
<p><b>16</b>  <b>CENTER CLOSED</b></p> 	<p><b>17</b>            PORK ROAST            SCALLOPED POTATOES            ITALIAN STYLE ZUCCHINI            PINEAPPLE CUP</p>	<p><b>18</b>            STUFFED CHICKEN            MIXED VEGGIES            SWEET POTATOES            FRESH CUT FRUIT</p>	<p><b>19</b>            CHEESEBURGER            COLE SLAW            POTATO WEDGES            APPLESAUCE</p> 	<p><b>20</b>            CHICKEN ALA KING            GREEN BEANS            BISCUIT            MIXED FRUIT CUP</p>
<p><b>23</b>  <b>CENTER CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>24</b>            OVEN FRIED CHICKEN            MACARONI &amp; CHEESE            BRUSSEL SPROUTS            PEAR CUP</p> 	<p><b>25</b>            COUNTRY FRIED STEAK            MASHED POTATOES            BROCCOLI            APPLESAUCE</p>	<p><b>26</b>            CHICKEN NOODLE CASSEROLE            MIXED VEGGIES            JELLO CUP</p>	<p><b>27</b>            STUFFED PEPPER            TOSSED SALAD            BROWN RICE            ICE CREAM</p>



# GECAC's Medicare Minute

## 2026 Medicare Changes And the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan

The biggest news in 2026 is that the Part B Premium cost jumped up to \$202.90 a month, and the Annual Deductible went up to \$283.

In 2025, the Part D Out of Pocket cap dropped to \$2,000. In 2026, that cap is now \$2,100.

Do you recall hearing about the doughnut hole? When the spending cap was reduced, the doughnut hole, or coverage gap, went away. Individuals who will find themselves reaching the \$2,100 cap in 2026, or have otherwise difficult to manage prescription costs, can consider the new in 2025, Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. This is for individuals with a Part D stand alone plan, or Part D coverage in their advantage plan.

The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan (PPP) is a voluntary option that allows prescriptions costs to be spread out over several payments. With this plan, payments are not made to the pharmacy, instead, your Part D plan bills monthly. The monthly installment payments may go up or down based on spending, however, they help by reducing big payments to smaller more manageable payments. Your plan will calculate your monthly payments as you fill prescriptions.

This voluntary option can be elected only by contacting your Part D plan provider. For more information in understanding PPP, call your plan, or call you local PA MEDI Office.

PA MEDI Counselors can help you learn about Medicare, Preventative Services, understand and enroll in your plan of choice, appeal Medicare decisions, and more. Help is available to low income Medicare recipients through the Medicare Savings Program and Extra Help Low Income Subsidy program to help pay for your Part B premium and prescription costs.

**For help in understanding your options, contact your local PA MEDI Office for More Information**

**GECAC Erie Area Agency on Aging \* 814-459-4581 Ext. 400**



Pennsylvania  
Medicare Education  
and Decision Insight



**PA MEDI, available through your local Area Agency on Aging, offers free, confidential, unbiased, and easy-to-understand information to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers.**

**PA MEDI empowers seniors and people with disabilities to make informed decisions about Medicare health insurance.**



Pennsylvania  
Department of Aging



State Health Insurance  
Assistance Program  
Navigating Medicare

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