

## AARP needs volunteers to help with taxes

If you have a few hours to spare each week between Feb. 1 and April 15, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) needs you. The organization is gearing up for the upcoming tax season and they need volunteers to assist in the preparation of federal and state tax returns. The AARP Tax-Aide Program is free for seniors and others of low and moderate income.

Volunteers are trained during December and January in basic federal and state income tax preparation with emphasis on tax provisions affecting the elderly and others of low and moderate income. Volunteers are then asked to commit a minimum of four hours a week until the April 15 filing deadline. There is also a need for volunteers to organize the tax preparation sites, review returns and establish appointments.

For more than 40 years, the AARP Foundation has worked in cooperation with the IRS to carry out this successful program. Last year, Bergen County's United Way joined the partnership – providing laptop computers for use by the volunteers who work in various sites including libraries, senior centers and borough halls throughout the county. In these challenging times, the ability to file online has made it possible to get refunds to seniors quicker and easier.

In 2009, 57,000 returns were prepared by more than 900 Tax-Aide volunteers throughout New Jersey. AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest, free, volunteer-run counseling and preparation services. For more information about becoming a local AARP Tax-Aide volunteer contact Robert Mulligan at 201-447-8837.

