

# NAPERVILLE SENIORS IN ACTION

*Keeping Naperville seniors connected by providing affordable and dependable transportation to area medical appointments.*

## 2023 RAN STATISTICS

**Total Round -Trip Rides Given: 2,318**

**Number of Active Riders: 556**

**Volunteer Drivers: 74**

**Total Volunteer Hours: 1,773.25**

## WE LOVE TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK!

Be on the lookout for our annual Rider Feedback Survey. Your input and feedback is very important to how we plan our future and what our riders need most. We are looking forward to everything 2024 will bring!

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy 2024 to our Ride Assist Naperville family! As I look back on 2023, I'm really proud of everyone in our organization that makes our service a success. Last year was busy and fast-growing. We gave 2,318 one-way rides, which is the most we've ever given in a calendar year. We will continue to do our best to keep up with the need for service. I'm excited about the possibilities in the new year!



As always, it seems that our #1 priority in 2024 will be bringing on new volunteer drivers to meet the demand for our service. We understand that it is frustrating when you call for a ride with us and we are already booked for a certain date. Our main goal is to meet the needs of our riders and hopefully be able to fulfill all possible ride requests. If you know of a neighbor, friend, or family member who might like a flexible volunteer opportunity, please let them know about RAN!

With all my gratitude and appreciation, I want to thank our volunteers for ensuring we stay safe, reliable, and affordable for our older neighbors of Naperville.

*Ashley Abraham, Executive Director*

## WAYS TO SUPPORT RAN

### DONATE

Supporting RAN means you become a change-maker in the quality of life and social connectivity for older adults. No amount is too small!



Make a donation by sending a check, visiting our website, or contacting us to make a payment by credit card.

### BECOME A VOLUNTEER DRIVER

Did you know one of the main issues facing senior citizens today is lack of transportation? RAN volunteers help fill the gap by driving Naperville seniors to medical appointments like their annual check-ups, lab work, physical therapy, eye appointments, dental, and more!

RAN couldn't do what we do without our volunteer drivers. This year, nineteen new volunteers have joined the RAN team.

### THIS QUARTER, RAN WELCOMED THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS

**Catherine D., Kara O., Kevin P., Marilyn S., Mary M., and Vijay K.**

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity and love to work with seniors, becoming a driver for seniors is your answer. Visit our website to read about our policies and to print an application.

## NAPERVILLE-LISLE TRIAD'S PROGRAM



*Naperville Lisle Triad's* mission is to enhance the quality of life of all senior citizens in Naperville Township and Lisle Township. Triad empowers senior citizens to become more involved in community programs.

For upcoming events, visit <https://naperville-lisle-triad.org/triad-upcoming-events/> or contact 630-968-2087.

## DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE "CARING HANDS" PROGRAM?



The City of Naperville's website says that *Caring Hands* "allows residents to voluntarily provide Naperville's first responders

with critical information about themselves or loved ones with developmental, cognitive, mental, medical, and/or physical disabilities who may require special assistance during an emergency or non-emergency situation". For more information contact Jim Pacetti, Crime Prevention Specialist at the Naperville Police Department at 630-548-2967.

## ADDITIONAL NAPERVILLE SENIOR RESOURCES

The City of Naperville embraces its seniors and provides many programs supported by the Naperville Police Department, Naperville Senior Task Force, and the DuPage Senior Citizens Council.

- **AARP Smart Driving Program** - February 27 & 28 | 8:30 am - 12:30 pm | Naperville Police Department (NPD). The NPD is partnering with AARP to offer a classroom driver refresher course, for drivers 50+ to help them drive safer, therefore keeping their licenses longer. To register or for more information, contact Julie Smith, Crime Prevention Specialist (630) 420-8479
- **Fasttrack Program** - The NPD has combined radio technology with a specially trained response team to build an effective, life-saving program to locate individuals who have a history of wandering. For more information, contact Jim Pacetti, Crime Prevention Specialist at 630-548-2967
- **Friendly Phone Call** - This was started by the DuPage Senior Citizens Council and connects volunteers with older adults who are dealing with social isolation. A weekly phone call is provided to the seniors to break up their long day. For more information, contact 630-620-0804

- **Dementia Friendly Naperville** - In late 2020, Naperville was named a Dementia Friendly City through the efforts of the Senior Task Force and a committee of Naperville individuals. This designation from Dementia Friendly America shows Naperville as a community that "fosters the ability of people living with dementia to remain in the community and engage and thrive in day-to-day living."
- **Memory Cafe** - This program is sponsored by the Senior Task Force and Dementia Friendly Naperville. This is a social gathering of individuals living with dementia and their care partners where they can connect with others in similar situations. For more information or to register, call Lisa Kirchner at (630) 710-7502.

## SENIOR RESOURCES

The City of Naperville and surrounding townships support their seniors and want to help connect them to available resources to fill their needs. For emergency financial assistance, food, health, and more, reference the following list:

- **City of Naperville** 630-420-6111
- **DuPage Township** 630-759-3411
- **Loaves & Fishes Community Services CARES Programs** 630-355-3663
- **Naperville Township:** 630-355-2786 x 4406
- **Wheatland Township** 331-229-3917

**RXBOX - DISPOSING MEDS SAFELY**

This information is shared from the DuPage County Rx Box Program website: [www.dupagecounty.gov](http://www.dupagecounty.gov).  
 Questions? Contact 630-407-6700

Launched by the DuPage County Health Department in 2009, the RxBOX program offers residents a safe, easy way to drop off unwanted medications. Proper disposal of unused medication protects the environment and saves lives.

**IMPORTANT: DO NOT** flush unused meds down the toilet/sink as it takes your drugs into the local sewage system, where they might not be fully removed by water treatment plants.

Disposing Instructions:

- Acceptable items include, expired/no longer wanted over the counter, prescription medications, ointments liquid medications, and asthma inhalers.
- To protect your personal information, remove labels or cross off any information (name, medication name, etc), or empty pills into a zipper-top plastic bag. Then, dispose of/recycle the empty pill bottle.
- Locate a RxBOX location and deposit your medications in the collection container marked "RxBOX" in a participating law enforcement facility.

The medications will then be incinerated in collaboration with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency using state-of-the-art technology.

**VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE**

Loaves & Fishes Community Services is an IRS-approved VITA site that offers FREE assistance on state & federal tax returns for low-income households of \$60,000 or less/annual income. For more information, contact:

**DuPage County:** 630-355-3663

**Will County:** 815-723-9713

**LOCAL EVENTS**

**Chicago Sinfonietta Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** - Sunday, January 14, 3:00 pm | Wentz Concert Hall • 171 E. Chicago Ave.

**The Beat Goes On starring Lisa McClowery as Cher** - Saturday, January 27, 8:00 pm | Pfeiffer Hall, 310 E. Benton Ave.

**DuPage Symphony Orchestra presents "Reflections of Rus"** - Sunday, February 11, 3:00 pm | Wentz Concert Hall • 171 E. Chicago Ave.

**The Drifters** - Saturday, February 17, 8:00 pm | Pfeiffer Hall, 310 E. Benton Ave.

**Jonathan Lynch's "The Baroque Cycle"** - Sunday, March 3, 6:00 pm | Madden Theatre, 171 E. Chicago Ave.

**Chicago Sinfonietta Echo - Celebrating Women's History Month** - Friday, March 15, 7:30 pm | Wentz Concert Hall • 171 E. Chicago Ave.

**DuPage Symphony Orchestra - Springtime Celebration** - Sunday, Mary 17, 3:00 pm | Wentz Concert Hall • 171 E. Chicago Ave.

**Chicago Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival** - Saturday, March 23, 7:30 pm | Wentz Concert Hall • 171 E. Chicago Ave.

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**BECOME A BUSINESS SPONSORS**

Would you like to become a RAN business sponsor and gain brand awareness within our key demographics? For more information, send us an email at [info@rideassistnaperville.org](mailto:info@rideassistnaperville.org) or call 331-330-2257.

- Growing email list of 600+ with a 50% open rate
- Email list demographics are Naperville locals, including seniors age 60+, family members of seniors, nonprofits, and businesses
- We mail our newsletter to our senior riders who do not have email (450)
- Our Facebook and Instagram pages have over 460 followers and growing!



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