

Christmas in July Holiday Card Contest

By Stephnie Appel
ALLENTOWN, PA
— The Allentown Rescue Mission is excited to announce its second Christmas in July holiday card contest. Starting today, the Mission is asking the public to vote on nine winter-themed paintings created by men in crisis who are residing at the Mission.

The painting with the most votes will become the Mission's 2025 Christmas card. The winning painter will be highlighted in the card and honored in a follow-up story. All the works of art were created in the Mission's Therapeutic Art class. The art class was established during the pandemic when COVID-19 safety guidelines severely restricted activities for guests staying at the Allentown Rescue Mission.

The class provided a creative outlet for the men to positively express themselves, reduce stress and anxiety, build self-confidence, and develop a sense of belonging during the difficult days of isolation. Nearly four years after its inception, guests of the Allentown Rescue Mission continue to look forward to the bi-monthly Therapeutic Art classes with great anticipation. Otilio C. observed, "It's helpful for those who go through a lot.

It helps to open the mind." "It gave me peace. When I leave (the class), I feel lighter," Richard G. revealed. Please help the Allentown Rescue Mission celebrate a new artist and choose its holiday card. Voting is free and open today through August 4, 2025. To cast your vote for your favorite painting, please visit <https://www.allentown-rescuemission.org/what-we-do/therapeutic-art-class/#artcontest>



Beware of Fake Inheritance Scam

By Senator Lisa Boscola

The Pennsylvania State Police and Office of Attorney General, along with the Pennsylvania Departments of Insurance, Aging, and Banking and Securities are encouraging all Pennsylvanians to stay alert after a scam was reported involving someone posing as a Commonwealth employee. The reported scam uses a fake email to target older Pennsylvanians and request money through licensed financial institutions to receive a fake inheritance by using convincing language.

In the incident reported to Commonwealth officials, an older Pennsylvanian received an email from a generic account that resembled an official Commonwealth email address claiming to be a representative of an alleged credit union located outside the United States and informed the victim that a wealthy distant relative from another country had left a large inheritance in their name. The Pennsylvanian was asked to pay upfront fees in order for the inheritance to be released – the fees would total hundreds of thousands of dollars over nearly a one-year period – and was informed that the only resource that could provide assistance was the representative's agency.

The above-mentioned departments offer the following tips on how to protect yourself:

Don't respond to suspicious emails or texts;

Don't trust messages about winning money or getting an inheritance from someone you do not know;

Do not feel pressured to act quickly or in secrecy;

Check email addresses. Scammers can spoof emails, sending an email that looks like it is from a trusted source. Official emails from Pennsylvania state agencies always end in @pa.gov;

Watch out for fake websites. Official Pennsylvania Commonwealth websites end in pa.gov and will always display the Commonwealth logo with the text "Official website of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania" on the top left corner of a web page;

Know that Pennsylvania agencies will not threaten immediate legal action or license suspension without proper notice.

If you are contacted:

Do not provide any personal or financial information;

Do not send money. Hang up immediately if the call feels suspicious;

Report the incident to the PA Insurance Department of Department of Banking and Securities at 1-866-PAComplaint or through the Commonwealth's website at gov/consumer; and

File a report with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office or your local law enforcement if you believe you've been targeted or scammed.

Anyone who feels they have been scammed can file a complaint with the Office of Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection at www.attorneygeneral.gov or by calling 1-800-441-2555.

This relates to LMB's bill, SB362 which enhances penalties for convicted criminals who use "skimming" technology to steal SNAP benefits. To better explain, once someone sends out this text scam and retrieves identifying information (including PINS or account data), they can reencode access cards to then make purchases (stealing the victims SNAP benefits dollars).



WIND GAP PHARMACY NEW LOCATION!!
131 South Broadway, Wind Gap

**GRAND
OPENING**

EVENT 3:00PM - 5:00PM

**02
AUGUST**



3:30 PM
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

HOTDOGS - ICE CREAM - MUSIC

Bring school supply donations for the Annual Backpack Giveaway which will take place the following day!



Wind Gap
Community Pharmacy, Inc.