

PACE program

Staff report

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CHAMBERSBURG >> Franklin County officials are warning of a scam referencing the state's PACE program.

Several senior residents in the county have received a letter offering to help them pay for groceries and heat, to lower the cost of prescription drugs and to get a rebate of up to \$650 on property taxes or rent.

Although this letter appears to be an official document from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it has been verified by the state to be a scam, according to county commissioner David Keller.

The letter shows the Pennsylvania state symbol at the top with a Pace/PACENET address in Philadelphia and a PACE beneficiary ID number on the right. It encourages the recipient to call a toll free number where a staff member would help them locate free benefits. The person answering the number requests personal information and states that they work in cooperation with the Department of Aging and PACE.

If you receive one of these letters, do not respond, Keller said. If you believe that you have been a victim of this scam, contact the U.S. Postal Services Inspector at 1-800-ASK-USPS ([1-800-275-8777](tel:1-800-275-8777)).

For more information contact the Franklin County Area Agency on Aging at 263-2153. Any concerns relating to abuse, neglect, abandonment or financial exploitation of adults 18 and older may be reported directly to the county Agency on Aging.

The state operates several programs that benefit the elderly — including the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE) program providing prescription drug coverage to low income seniors and is funded by state lottery proceeds.

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