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March 2014

SENIOR DAY AT THE CAPITOL APRIL 2 2014

The Colorado Senior Lobby has been sponsoring Senior Day at the Capitol since 1980. It has always been a popular, well-attended event. This year will continue this tradition, with a program that will effectively promote important issues affecting seniors.

There are many important considerations: some are related to legislation already proposed; others have not been proposed at the time of this writing but may be introduced by Senior Day at the Capitol.

RECALL ELECTIONS:

SB 158 was just introduced to modify the rules and requirements affecting recall elections. This should be relatively non-partisan bill. There is a general consensus that change is needed. The concern relates to the timing of the steps leading to a vote. Under current requirements, it is virtually impossible to have mail-in ballots. Because of the procedural restrictions the voter turnout was low.

REGULATION OF TELEPHONE LAND LINES:

There could be legislation proposed to reduce/eliminate regulation.

The central regulatory debate is not about landlines versus alternate technologies; it is about making sure that consumers have access to communications service to meet their critical needs and to serve as a lifeline to preserve health and safety, especially when the power goes out.

Reproduction of newsletter provided by Ed Shackelford,
REALTOR® Real Living CO Properties 720-353-3775
*National award winner, Premier Service
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OLDER COLORADAN'S ACT

Much of the February newsletter was devoted to this issue and to the federal Older American's Act. This is important, cost-effective legislation that is effective in keeping people in their homes. There was no bill in the current Colorado legislative session. There was over \$4,000,000 funding included in the "long bill." It is the Senior Lobby's position that the funding needs to be increased to keep pace with the growing senior population. The funding should all be statutory, with the funds going directly into the Older Coloradan's fund and not be part of the "long bill."

The Senior Lobby will work to make improvements to the method of funding in the next legislative session.

HOMESTEAD ACT REVISIONS

There may be a referred resolution to enhance the constitutional provision that provides for property tax relief for seniors age 65 or older who have lived in their homes for 10 years. A disadvantage is that this discourages down-sizing to a smaller home. This resolution would make the benefit available for those who would downsize. Details have not been finalized but it would probably be available for those over an age to be determined.

There would be no change in current benefits. This would give additional flexibility to seniors who downsize.

LICENSURE OF IN-HOME CARE PROVIDERS

There are two basic business models for providing in-home care and services. The persons providing services are either employees of the company or independent contractors referred by companies providing placement services.

These providers are regulated by legislation that sunsets in 2014. There are still issues to be resolved before a bill is introduced. Those providing health care services are already regulated by other legislation and they consider this a double burden, and they want to eliminate this requirement.

The other issues is with placement companies. They have certain requirements under current legislation but are requesting that these be enhanced and they be licensed and not just be required to register with the Department of Regulatory Agencies.

If the issues are not resolved then the legislation currently in place will probably be extended for another year.

The ultimate folly is to think that something crucial to your welfare is being taken care of for you.

—Robert Brault, American operatic tenor

A special thank you to the Volunteers of America for providing the Senior Lobby with access to their meeting rooms for the weekly Legislative Committee meetings and for the monthly Board of Directors meeting.

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These individuals provide important pro bono support for the Colorado Senior Lobby

HB 1017 EXPANDS AVAILABILITY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Senior Lobby strongly supports HB14-1017, concerning measures to expand the availability of affordable housing in the state, and, in connection therewith, making modification to statutory provisions establishing the housing investment trust fund, the housing development grant fund, and the low-income housing tax credit and making an appropriation. HB14-1017, as amended by the House Local Government Committee, makes several changes to both the Home Investment Trust Fund and Housing Development Grant Fund under the Division of Housing (DOH).

For the trust fund, the bill:

- ◆ removes the provisions that the fund be governed by federal regulations related to the home investment partnerships program under the Housing and Urban Development Code of Federal Regulation (CFR);
- ◆ expands the eligible grantees from the fund by removing the restriction that loans be made to only local housing authorities, public nonprofit corporations, or private nonprofit corporations;
- ◆ eliminates the requirement that loans from the fund be used for development or redevelopment incurred prior to the occupancy of low- or moderate income housing
- ◆ allows for a continuous appropriation to the fund for DOH, of which no more than 3 percent can be used for costs in administering the fund; and

- ◆ allows the DOH to charge a fee for loans made from the fund for administration costs.

*I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people.
~Mahatma Gandhi*

For the Grant Fund

- ◆ allows the fund to receive monies from federal grants, as well as gifts, grants, and donations from any other organization, entity, individual, either public or private. The fund may also receive any fees or interest generated from the fund;
- ◆ allows the DOH to transfer 20 percent of the balance, as of July 1, to the newly named Housing Investment Trust Fund; and
- ◆ allows no more than three percent of the monies from the fund be used for administrative costs of the fund.

*After a good dinner one can forgive anybody, even one's own relations.
~Oscar Wilde*

There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you. ~Maya Angelou

In addition, HB14-1017 restores an income tax credit to owners of qualified low-income housing developments. The Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) would be authorized to issue the \$20 million of income tax credits in 2015 and 2016. The total amount of income tax credits authorized by the bill is \$40 million. Any portion of the credit that exceeds the tax due for the taxable year may be carried forward eleven years from when the allocation from CHFA was made. Any unused credit is not refundable.

This is important legislation to make sure that there is an adequate amount of affordable housing throughout the state. The fund was originally established with money from the National Mortgage Settlement to help increase rental housing affordability. This expands the scope of which the money can be used, including development or redevelopment of already-occupied property.

(This summary prepared by Colorado Association of REALTORS®)

Senate Bill 98: CRIMES AGAINST AT-RISK ELDERS

This adds language that allows for “other things of value” to the current definition of exploitation of at-risk elders, which currently includes money, assets, or property. Language is added to the definition of “abuse” to include exploitation. Expands the definition of undue influence. Establishes a new crime of exploitation of an at-risk elder. Reporting requirements related to mistreatment, neglect, or exploitation of at-risk elders is modified so reports no longer have to be made to the district attorney but rather to a local law enforcement agency or county department of social services.

Senior Lobby strongly supports this bill

Colorado Senior Lobby is sharing information about ...



April 16, 2014

**Join National Healthcare Decisions Day ...
Because Your Decisions Matter**

***On April 16th join Americans across the country to talk to others
about your future healthcare decisions and complete your advance directive!***

April 16, 2014 will be National Healthcare Decisions Day. The inaugural event held in 2008, which was formally recognized by Congress and numerous state and local governments, included participation by 76 of the most prominent national healthcare, religious, and legal associations and organizations. By the second year, we had over 700 local and state organizations throughout the country that participated.

At every level, the goal of this nationwide initiative is to ensure that all adults with decision-making capacity in America have both the information and the opportunity to communicate and document their future healthcare decisions. The first years' results were impressive—over 750,000 people obtained resources to make their healthcare decisions known—but there remain millions of Americans to go.

While making healthcare decisions is often difficult in the best of circumstances, making decisions for others is even more complicated. Each of us has the ability to guide our healthcare providers and our loved ones about what we want. Advance directives give you the ability to document the types of healthcare you do and do not want, and to name an “agent” to speak for you if you cannot speak for yourself. As Terri Schiavo’s situation vividly revealed, having an advance directive can be valuable for all adults, regardless of current age or health status.

With the Patient Self-Determination Act of 1990, Congress affirmed the right of every citizen to set forth his or her future healthcare wishes in writing with an “advance directive.” Yet, various estimates suggest that only about 25% of all Americans have done so. Because advance directives can be created without a lawyer, for free, and relatively easily, this figure is astonishingly low. In recognition of this, National Healthcare Decisions Day strives to provide much-needed information to the public, reduce the number of tragedies that occur when a person’s wishes are unknown, and improve the ability of healthcare facilities and providers to offer informed and thoughtful guidance about advance healthcare planning to their patients.

Please visit the website for National Healthcare Decisions Day – www.nhdd.org for a variety of FREE information (including free advance directives forms for every state) and tools to assist with thoughtful reflection on healthcare choices and ideas on how to get involved. Additionally, watch for events in your community honoring National Healthcare Decisions Day. Finally, please share this information with your loved ones and colleagues.

With healthcare, “your decisions matter,” however, others need to know your wishes to honor them. There are no wrong answers when thinking about healthcare choices and completing an advance directive. Please use April 16, 2014, to decide, discuss, and document your wishes, whatever they may be.

Website: www.nhdd.org

Colorado Senior Lobby – www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org

Send in your reservation today!

Senior Day at The Capitol



When: Wednesday, April 2, 2014
Hosted by Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL)
 This event is held in Downtown Denver at The Colorado State Capitol



Senior Day at The Capitol Agenda

This is a free event with no reserved seating however priority is given to seniors for seating.

What to expect on Wednesday, April 2, 2014

- 8:00 – 9:00AM: Continental Breakfast** (North 2nd floor mezzanine in The Capitol)
- 9:00AM – Noon: Main Program** - As available, the Governor of Colorado and other State Legislators will be joining us in the Old Supreme Court Chambers located on the 2nd floor in The Capitol to talk about senior issues and programs.
- Noon – 2:00PM: Lunch Break & Afternoon Program** – The afternoon program is at Central Presbyterian Church located 2 blocks North of The Capitol on Sherman St. This year's keynote presenter is **Jennifer Ballentine, MA, Executive Director of Life Quality Institute**. Her presentation is entitled, "The Message of the Iris ... Essential Conversations for Quality of Life." For lunch you can bring your own lunch or purchase one from CSL. *Our lunches must be reserved and paid for by 3-19-14.*

Why attend? We can sum that up in 2 words – *Senior Power!*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve Senior Funding • Keep Seniors Safe & Healthy • Meet your Legislators, Elected Officials and Senior Day at The Capitol Sponsors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about Legislation affecting seniors and improve your skills on advocating on behalf of seniors. • The Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President and your Legislators are all invited (schedules pending). • A box lunch will be available for \$10.00 at the Central Presbyterian Church located at 1660 Sherman St. (2 blocks North of The Capitol). You must pre-pay for the lunch.
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QUESTIONS? Call or email Ed Shackelford, President of Colorado Senior Lobby at 303-832-4535 or email: president@ColoradoSeniorLobby.org

Visit our website for more information: www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org

Lunch Reservations will be taken until March 19, 2014 or maximum capacity is reached.

Please RSVP that you are attending our event. Note that lunches must be pre-purchased with this form.

I (we) plan on attending Senior Day at The Capitol to be held on April 2, 2014!

My Name: _____ My Phone: _____

Other people attending with me: _____

My Address, City, State, Zip: _____

Optional Lunch for # of people: _____ at \$10.00 each = \$ _____ Check(s) Enclosed: _____

Number of Vegetarian Lunch(s): _____ Number of Gluten Free Lunch(s): _____

Mail RSVP and/or checks for lunches payable to CSL: Colorado Senior Lobby, PO Box 102662, Denver, CO 80250

- **You can also register and pay via credit card online at: www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org**
- **Lunch Tickets will be mailed to you the week of March 19, 2014.**
- **Limited seating is available in the Old Supreme Court Chambers in The Capitol. Seating is first come, first served basis with priority seating given to seniors.**
- **Please advise us by 3-19-14 of any special services or accessibility needs.**
- **RSVP is requested but not required; however, with an RSVP we can better plan for this event.**

More event details about ... Senior Day at The Capitol

Hosted by **Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL)**

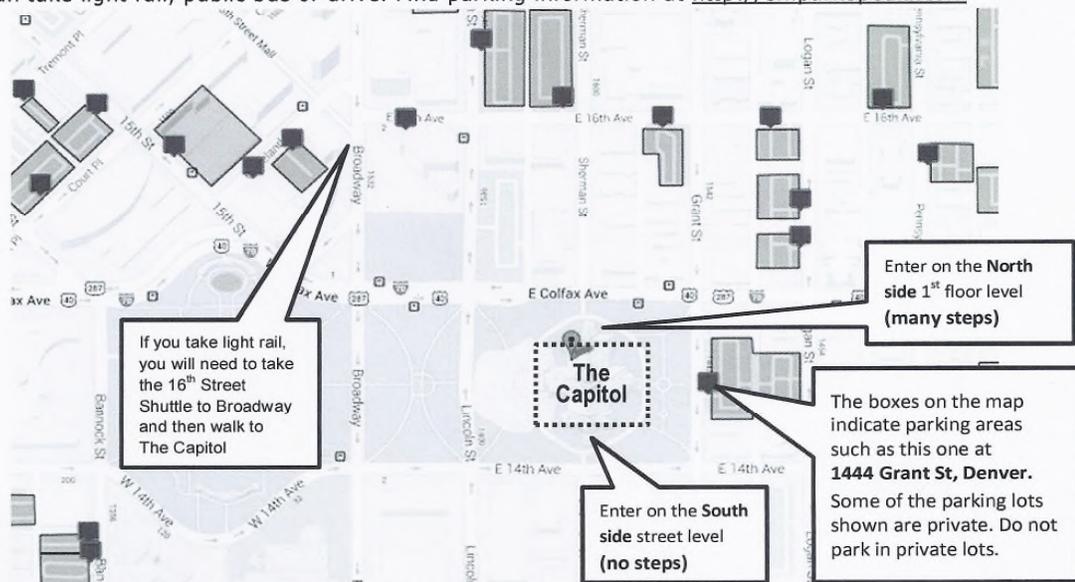
When: Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Time: 8:00AM – 2:00PM

Where: The Colorado State Capitol, 200 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80203

1. How to get to The Colorado State Capitol & Parking Information

You can take light rail, public bus or drive. Find parking information at <http://en.parkopedia.com>



For Light Rail it is preferable to take the Line that goes to California verses Union Station. From California you can take the 16th Street FREE Mall Shuttle to Broadway and then walk to The Capitol. The RTD "O" Bus Line runs South Broadway and North on Lincoln and the "15" runs East & West on Colfax. Please verify all travel info on the RTD website - www.rtd-denver.com.

- Please consider joining Colorado Senior Lobby.** Colorado Senior Lobby is a non-profit, non-partisan, all volunteer organization, that speaks with a unified voice for all Coloradans, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older. The Lobby focuses on issues and promotes beneficial legislation, while remaining strictly non-partisan and not supporting any specific political party or candidate - www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org.
- In case of bad weather on the day of our event check the website for updates:** www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org or call 303-832-4535 for a recorded message.
- Limited seating is available in the Old Supreme Court Chambers in The Capitol.** Seating is first come, first served basis with priority seating given to seniors. Some attendees may be required to stand in the morning session. Please advise us by 3-19-14 of any special services or accessibility needs.
- QUESTIONS?** Call or email Ed Shackelford, President of Colorado Senior Lobby at 303-832-4535 or email: president@ColoradoSeniorLobby.org

This map is posted on the Website – www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.com

Map Credit to <http://en.parkopedia.com>

Revised 2-6-2014 – File: senior_day_at_the_capitol_4-2-14_signup_flyer_B&W.docx/pdf

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The ultimate folly is to think that something crucial to your welfare is being taken care of for you.
—Robert Brault, American operatic tenor

“Healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have.”
— Winston Churchill

Go Green:
Recycle This Newsletter!
After you've enjoyed our newsletter, please recycle it by passing it along

Colorado Senior Lobby — Nonprofit, non-partisan, volunteer organization

MEMBERSHIP: Single \$30 Family \$40 Organization \$75 \$ _____

Organizations: Attach three names and contact information

Additional contribution to support our vision for seniors' quality of life \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Name/Business/Organization: _____

Address: Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: Home _____ Business _____

Cell: _____ Email Address: _____

Circle one: **BILL ME** or **CHECK ENCLOSED** — payable Colorado Senior Lobby

P. O. Box 102662, Denver, CO 80250-2662 DATE: _____

Newsletter by **EMAIL** or **SNAIL MAIL**

Join or renew your membership online at coloradoseniorlobby.org