



“As we continue battling this pandemic, I’m working to ensure you have the support and services you need to stay healthy and safe.”

– Assemblymember
Didi Barrett

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LOOK INSIDE
for tips from
Assemblymember
Didi Barrett
on how you can
stay healthy
and safe

Helpful Resources for Columbia County Residents *from*

Assemblymember **Didi Barrett**



Assemblymember Didi Barrett is keeping you informed

HEAP and Emergency HEAP

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps low-income residents cover costs of heating their homes, with Emergency HEAP assistance also available for heat or heat-related crises. Eligibility and benefits are based on income, household size, primary heating source and who resides in the household.

For information about HEAP and emergency heating assistance, visit otda.ny.gov/programs/heap or contact the Columbia County Department of Social Services at **518-828-9411**.

Prescription Drug Assistance

The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) Program provides copayment assistance for Medicare Part D-covered prescription drugs after any Part D deductible is met. EPIC also covers many drugs excluded from Medicare Part D.

EPIC is available to anyone who is 65 and older who is not receiving full Medicaid benefits and whose income is no higher than \$75,000 or \$100,000 if married. For more information, contact **800-332-3742**.

Consumer Scam Protection

Consumer scams have caused people to lose millions of dollars through false promises, inaccurate claims and deceptive tactics. Seniors are often targeted and less likely to file claims, which makes learning how to prevent this type of fraud before it happens so important.

New York has resources to help seniors learn about and avoid these scams, along with resources for those who have been victimized. For information and tips, visit dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection/scams/older_adults.html. You can also contact the Consumer Helpline at **800-697-1220**.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has presented our communities with unprecedented challenges, but resources and support are available to help those impacted. Following social distancing and public health recommendations is vital to protecting everyone, especially older adults and high-risk populations.

For the latest local information about the virus, visit columbiacountynyhealth.com. Additionally, you can contact the NYS Department of Health Coronavirus Hotline at **888-364-3065**.

COVID-19 vaccines have been approved, but the regulations, processes and availability of the vaccine are constantly changing and evolving. Contact local authorities and organizations about vaccine availability in your community. For local vaccine availability, visit columbiacountynyhealth.com/news/new-covid-19-vaccine-information.

New York State's COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline for eligible New Yorkers to schedule vaccination appointments is **833-697-4829**. The Hudson Valley VA also has a vaccine hotline: **845-838-7668**.

Property Tax Relief

Thanks to the STAR and Enhanced STAR programs, eligible seniors can receive exemptions on the taxable value of their homes, resulting in significant school tax savings. Income and other eligibility criteria may change from year to year.

For more information regarding eligibility and application procedures, please visit: tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/default.htm.



Important Phone Numbers courtesy of Assemblymember Didi Barrett

Columbia County

County Numbers

Columbia Memorial Hospital.....	518-828-7601
County Clerk.....	518-828-3339
Board of Elections.....	518-828-3115
Public Health Department.....	518-828-3358
Motor Vehicle Department.....	518-828-3350
NYS Office for the Aging.....	518-828-4258
Veterans Services Agency.....	518-828-3610

Emergencies

Columbia County Sheriff.....	518-828-0601
Emergency Fire, Police, EMS.....	911
National Grid Emergency Line.....	800-892-2345
New York State Police.....	845-677-7300

State Assistance

Attorney General Consumer Helpline.....	800-771-7755
NYS Office of Victim Services.....	800-247-8035
Department of Taxation & Finance.....	518-457-5181
Department of Financial Services.....	800-342-3736
Department of Health.....	888-364-3065
Mental Health Hotline.....	844-863-9314
Unemployment Insurance.....	888-209-8124

Federal Assistance

Federal Trade Commission	
Identify Theft Hotline.....	877-438-4338
Consumer Response Center.....	877-382-4357
Postal Service.....	800-275-8777
Senator Charles E. Schumer.....	914-734-1532
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.....	845-875-4585
Social Security.....	800-772-1213

Services & Hotlines

EPIC Helpline.....	800-332-3742
Equifax.....	800-525-6285
Experian.....	888-397-3742
TransUnion.....	800-680-7289
Medicare Helpline.....	800-633-4227
Office for the Aging Hotline.....	800-342-9871
Utility Bill Problems.....	800-342-3377
"Do Not Call" Telemarketing Registry.....	888-382-1222