

Happy New Long Term Care Year!

2025, wow. A quarter of a century down the tubes already, time sure flies when you're having fun, eh? I threw in the "eh" just in case Canada wants to do, oh, you know ... probably not, all my Canadian friends love hockey like we love football, they don't even follow "American football" so getting involved with a country where the #1 attraction on television is sports, especially football, would be about as appealing as having money that's just one color.

Carrier News

- **Genworth** has updated their Care Scout Quality Network to include all 49 states. NY is naturally the outlier, probably unlikely to ever participate but you never know. Maybe Genworth will be able to figure out how NY state government coffers can be enriched, but until that happens, a program that only provides financial breaks to policyholders of long term care insurance? Not in the cards.

Upstate New York Good News

- Lifespan's Gerontology Certificate Program online classes start on January 15, and run through December 2025 with a summer break from June to September. This certificate course is provided in partnership with the Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center at the University of Rochester, with Zoom classes every Wednesday from 4-6:30 pm EST. Go to www.lifespanrochester.org for additional information.
- ROCHESTER! YES! According to a report released by This Old House last month, Rochester took the top spot for aging in place.
 - 89% of seniors plan to age in place
 - 45% would refuse to move into a nursing home
 - 47% of seniors say their homes aren't accessible for aging (or as we say, "don't let your house prevent you from staying home!")
 - 36% say they can't afford to make the necessary upgrades

Something to think about and discuss with elderly clients?

- ROCHESTER! YES! Four local nursing homes named to the "Best in the U.S." list – the Jewish Home in Brighton, The Maplewood in Webster, Penfield Place in Penfield and St. Ann's Community in Rochester. U.S. News based the rankings, in part, to a facility's ability to return short-term rehabilitation residents to home after being discharged, the amount of nurse staffing per resident per day, and the percentage of the facility's residents with the ability to move, eat, use the bathroom and perform other common activities without help. All of these nursing homes were above state and national averages in regard to the criteria.

Associations, CE, Networking

- FPA of Greater Rochester will offer "Financial Exploitation and Behavioral Finance," presented by Matthew Sommer of Janus Henderson Investors. January 8 at Locust Hill Country Club, with registration and breakfast starting at 7:45 am. 2-hours of CE credit, contact rocfpaoffice@gmail.com for additional information or to sign up for the program.

Media of Interest (ask and receive by email)

- Medicare's new drug price cap kicked in yesterday – yes, this has a little to do with the revisions in both benefits and premiums offered by insurance carriers for popular Medicare Advantage plans. It's the Inflation Reduction Act again, winner of the annual "name the legislation" award.
- Planning for Long-Term Care: A survey of Midlife and older women conducted for AARP
- Dementia diagnosis empowers older adults to prepare for future, but few get early assessments
- Long-Term Care Insurance still matters
- How Long-Term Care Insurance has become more flexible

There's other good news – days are getting longer! Only two more months of winter, followed by two months of cold, snowy, wet weather a normal person would call winter, but which we refer to as spring. If anyone wants a laugh, hit the "Congress Live Net Worth Tracker" website – if you can't beat them, join them. And speaking of beating, Go Bills and starting thinking about your March Madness brackets!

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year!



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