

Event to help seniors plan future

Star staff report

WINCHESTER — On Friday, a 3-hour event called "Planning for Your Future" will be held from 9 a.m. until noon at the Winchester Active Living Center located in the War Memorial Building in Jim Barnett Park.

The event is sponsored by the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, the Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging and Winchester Parks and Recreation Department.

The morning is designed for everyone who is concerned about the responsibility of taking care of loved ones, as well as those who want to make appropriate decisions regarding both personal medical care and the distribution of property and possessions as one wishes.

Although the material covered will be of value for all ages, it is hoped that seniors and their family members will attend together and use the information as a starting point for discussion and planning.

Rena Patrick, attorney with Blue Ridge Legal Aid, is organizing the event.

"It would be well worth taking a morning's leave from work to gather this important information especially if you have aging parents,"



Joan Fine

Patrick said in a Nov. 6 press release. "Planning ahead can often save money as well as simplify the sometimes complicated legal process of caring for loved ones who become incapacitated."

The topic of guardianship will be covered by Beth Coyne and Courtney Warner, both attorneys in Winchester. Coyne, among many other types of legal representation, represents departments of social services in guardianship proceedings and is a member of Virginia Women Attorneys Association.

Warner serves as guardian ad litem for incapacitated adults, among other things.

Deborah Martin, Medicaid long-term care worker for the Winchester Department of Social Services, will be discussing long-term care.

Wills, powers of attorney and advance medical directives will be discussed by attorney Joan Fine,

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who has handled many cases of estate administration and developing wills and powers of attorney for clients. She is a member of Virginia Women Attorneys Association.

Byron Winn will talk about pre-planning a funeral.

Winn is the director of family services at Jones Funeral Home and Cremation Services. His presentation will be called "Planning for Peace of Mind."

Refreshments and hand-outs will be available. To register for this free event in advance, call 540-635-7141 ext. 1010 or email r.lauder@shenandoahaaa.com.