



Each quarter, LARADON'S Ticket to Work newsletter will bring you information about returning to work, navigating your benefits, and community resources. If you have an idea for a newsletter topic, we want to hear from you!

January – March 2019

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

TICKETHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

GIFT CARDS: Laradon has delivered over \$1400 in gift card bonuses since we began the incentive program in April 2017. Thank you for staying in touch with us, and congratulations on your progress! It's fun hearing how you choose to use your \$25 gift cards. If you have questions about the incentive program, give us a ring. We'd be happy to explain the details.

It's tax time again!

Thinking about and filing taxes is generally not at the top of anyone's fun-things-to-do list, but putting it off could cause greater trouble.

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program offers **free tax help** to people who generally make \$54,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. Follow this link to locate free tax help in your area: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers>



You got a raise! 2019 COLA (cost of living adjustment)

The latest **COLA is 2.8 percent** for Social Security benefits and SSI payments. Social Security benefits will increase by 2.8 percent beginning with the December 2018 benefits, which are payable in January 2019. Federal SSI payment levels will also increase by 2.8 percent effective for payments made for January 2019. Because the normal SSI payment date is the first of the month and January 1st is a holiday, the SSI payments for January are always made at the end of the previous December.

For those of you receiving SSDI, the TWP for 2019 is \$880, and SGA is \$1220.