

Posted March 13, 2007

## **Out There: Volunteers lend hand to help with taxes**

ROME -- Some people dread doing their taxes. Others enjoy them.

The two views come together Mondays at the Lester Public Library of Rome.

The AARP Tax Aide Program started five years ago by the Romemakers HCE club. It's available to seniors and low-income residents.

"The first year, we have five people that had signed up to do it and none of us really knew what we were doing," said Jeanne Osgood, Adams County coordinator.

"When we only had six or seven people show up, we were really glad," she said with a laugh.

Now, nine people, including Verity Turner, help people in Rome and Adams and Juneau counties.

Verity moved to the United States from England in 1980, eventually settling in Rome.

She's been crunching numbers for AARP for three years.

"Love, love working with numbers," Verity said. "I look forward to tax season, to tell you to the truth."

"You don't have to do it day in, day in, all the year round," she said. "It's short, it's sweet, and it's over and done with."

The first hour is available for questions and answers; appointments are made starting at 5 p.m.

The customers aren't the only ones who benefit from the free service.

Verity said it keeps her mind sharp. That's not all.

"She's finding her niche in the financial world by helping people," Jeanne said.

It's helping others that makes it all add up for Jeanne also.