

Bethany Seniority
March 2018

'Tis the season of the Irish
and the wearin' o' the green
We are looking for a reason to celebrate
I think you know what I mean!
A light heart lives longest
So the Irish say
and so we're having a party
to celebrate St. Patrick's Day
St. Patrick's Luncheon March 14th at 12Noon Bethany Town Hall
Cost is \$5.00. Menu: Corned Beef, Cabbage wedges, vegetables, tossed salad, rye bread & Cake. Hot beverages include: Decaffeinated coffee, decaffeinated tea, hot chocolate. Please call 203 393-2100 Ext. 1124 to reserve. Please reserve no later than March 9th.

AARP Tax Aide
FREE TAX Service

To be starting in February on February 6th and every Tuesday in the Janice von Beren Senior Center. This free service will continue until Tuesday April 17th. Appointments are from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. Call to schedule your appointment! 203 393-2100 Ext. 1351. Leave your name, telephone number(s) and the best time to reach you and a AARP Tax Aide consultant will call you back to schedule an appointment or answer questions or concerns you may have. You do not have to be an AARP member nor a Bethany Resident to take advantage of this free Tax Service.

It's All About The Weather

WEATHER CONDITIONS: For The Janice von Beren Senior Center Activities and Senior Bus transportation and also the discretion of the driver ...follows the Amity School District and the Bethany Community School PROCEDURES...IF SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE SENIOR CENTER IS CLOSED and senior bus transportation is cancelled. My suggestion, if you have a medical appointment, and they are predicting snow, call your medical provider and reschedule or find alternative means of transportation.

Worth Repeating

Be A Dear and Make It Clear

Driveways, sidewalks and steps should be kept clear of brush, trees, and snow/ice for easy accessibility for the bus and the driver and YOU the passenger. If these conditions are not met, the driver will not be able to pick you up.

Something You Need To Know

This information was disseminated by Shayla Del Giudice sdelgiudice@accessinct.org
H.B. No. 7601

Session Year 2017

§§ 5 & 6 — MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM (MSP)

The bill delays the MSP eligibility decrease required under PA 17-2, June Special Session (JSS). Under current law, the decrease in eligibility takes effect January 1, 2018. (In practice, the Department of Social Services is delaying implementation of the decrease until July 1, 2018.) Under the bill, the decrease in eligibility takes effect July 1, 2018.

MSP		Prior Law		Decreased Eligibility	
Program Tier	Cost-Sharing Payments Covered	Income Limit (% FPL)	Annual Income Limit* (Individual)	Income Limit (% FPL)	Annual Income Limit* (Individual)

Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Part B Premium • All Medicare deductibles • Co-insurance 	Less than 211%	\$25,447 or \$2120.55	Less than 100%	\$12,060 or \$1005.00
Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Program (SLMB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Part B Premium 	211%-231%	\$27,859 or \$2321.55	100% to 120%	\$14,472 or \$1206.00
Qualified Individual (QI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Part B Premium 	231%-246%	\$29,668 or \$2472.30	120% to 135%	\$16,281 or \$1356.75

*Income limits calculations are based on 2017 FPL values. FPL values change annually. Under federal law, MSP generally consists of three separate program tiers: the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) and the Qualified Individual (QI). To qualify, individuals must be enrolled in Medicare Part A. Program participants get help from the state's Medicaid program with their Medicare cost sharing, including premiums and deductibles. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except for the MSP eligibility decrease, which is effective July 1, 2018.

To contact your Legislator:

Text your zip code to [520-200-2223](tel:520-200-2223).

You'll get a text back with everyone's contact info.

It gives you Federal and State.

Contact STATE Senator and Representative, and tell them how the loss of this program will affect you.

New Medicare Card Mailing Strategy

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is required to remove Social Security Numbers (SSNs) from all Medicare cards by April 2019. A new, unique Medicare Number will replace the SSN-based Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) on each new Medicare card. Starting April 2018, CMS will begin mailing new Medicare cards to all people with Medicare on a flow basis by geographic location and other factors.

These mailings will follow the sequence outlined below. Additional details on timing will be available as the mailings progress. Starting in April 2018, people with Medicare will be able to check the status of card mailings in their area on Medicare.gov.

New Medicare Card Mailing Waves Wave	States Included	Cards Mailing
1	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia	April – June 2018
2	Alaska, American Samoa, California, Guam, Hawaii, Northern Mariana Islands,	April – June 2018

	Oregon	
3	Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin	After June 2018
4	Connecticut , Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont	After June 2018
5	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina	After June 2018
6	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming	After June 2018
7	Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Virgin Islands	After June 2018

Tennis Anyone

If you are 55+ a tennis workshop will be established for you and right here in Bethany by Mr. Glen Englander. It will be a one hour class and the cost is \$50.00. for 5 weeks. All participants that registers with Mr. Englander will receive a complimentary racquet. Tennis balls will be provided. You may call Mr. Englander at 203 736-7272 to register and ask more questions. The start date will be announced and hopefully in early May 2018.

ELDERLY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
 NEW HAVEN
 Toni N. Harp, Director

Toni N. Harp New Haven, CT 06510
 Mayor



To Whom It May Concern:

Recently, the New Haven Department of Elderly Services was notified of an ongoing scam that targets senior citizens in New Haven. The scam works as follows: a senior citizen will receive a phone call from an individual who claims to be from the Social Security Administration. The caller says the senior is entitled to a huge increase in his or her Social Security benefit payment. All he or she has to do is supply the caller with a Social Security Number and birthdate. It's a simple scam, and yet it has been reported that many seniors have fallen prey to it.

If a senior does receive such a call there are a few steps he or she should take to prevent identity theft. First and foremost, no personal information should ever be given over the telephone. It is rare that the Social Security Administration would call an individual. Call the Social Security Administration to verify the validity of the phone request. If a scam is suspected call the Federal Trade Commission to report the incident.

Identity theft has become a national crisis. Preventing identity theft can be accomplished by following a few simple rules.

For more information contact Douglas Toth or Patrick Decker at the New Haven Department of Elderly Services.

Douglas Toth: Phone (203) 946-8585 Cell Phone: (203) 589-8427

Patrick Decker: Phone (203) 946-8597 Cell Phone (203) 464-0021

Thank you always,

Migdalia

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