

# Senior News & Views

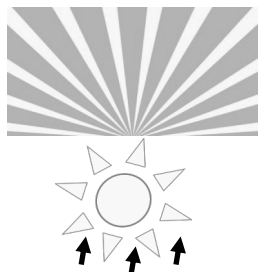
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## 2016 Prescription Drug Changes

### Spring Thought



*"Springtime flowers bloom like colorful arrows piercing their way to the sun."*

*Ferri Guillemets*



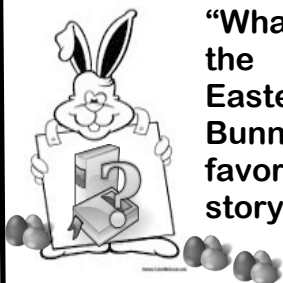
Prescription Drug Plans can amend their formulary around February or March. If they drop a medication you're taking they must provide a one-time temporary supply. This allows you, your doctor and the plan to work out an appropriate alternative. You can request an exception by contacting the plan. You should give the plan information about problems you are experiencing and how denial will be harmful to you. The plan may

request information from your doctor. Your doctor needs to provide why the medication is needed, a less costly alternative has not worked and how it is unsafe or inappropriate for you. If an exception is granted, it remains effective until the end of the year as long as it is prescribed and the drug is effective. If the exception is denied you may request an appeal. You appeal by writing a letter to the plan asking for a redetermination of

decision not to cover a drug (or charge a higher level of cost-sharing). This letter should clearly state which drug has been denied, denial reason and why you believe the drug should be covered. Plans are permitted, to accept oral appeals but it is in your best interest to communicate through written requests and keep all copies of your correspon-



### LAFF FOR THE DAY:



**"What's the Easter Bunny's favorite story?"**

**"A Cotton Tale!"**

## National Volunteer Week April 10-16, 2016

The 2016 theme is **"Volunteers Giving Time, Touching Hearts"**. Thank You Volunteers county-wide for volunteering with such a **GENEROUS** heart! Volunteers are essential to the well-

being of each community that they serve. Hats off to all the volunteers who so faithfully serve the Marion County Dept. on Aging, Marion County senior centers, the SCMC

County Board, the NC-FH AAA Board and the SHL. Many aging services would not be available without the volunteers giving their time!



## Home Repairs

The Marion County Dept. on Aging receives calls from individuals looking for assistance in repairing their home, make it handicapped accessible or removing health and safety hazards. The County does not have a low cost home repair program like some larger counties. One option for an individual is the Single Family Housing Repair Loan and Grants from the United States Department of Agriculture. This program provides a loan with an interest rate of 1% or a

grant for individuals needing to make home repairs. The qualifications are the homeowner must occupy the house, be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere and the family income below 50% of the area median income. The income guidelines are as follows: 1 person household yearly income- \$19,800, household of 2 \$22,250, household of 3 \$24,675 and household of 4 \$27,100. The home loans are available year round as long as funding is avail-

able. The applications are processed in the order they are received. The approval time for your loan depends on funding availability in your area. You must contact the state office to begin the application process by calling 785-271-2700.



## May Older Americans Month

May is a month of fresh beginnings. Perennials bloom once again, blazing a trail of bright color. May is also when we celebrate Older American's Month (OAM) acknowledging the perennial contributions of older adults to our nation. The 2016 OAM theme is "Blaze A Trail". We applaud

all older Americans, who are advocating for themselves, their peers and their communities. Be a trailblazer!



BLAZE A TRAIL: MAY 2016

## March for Meals 2016



Enjoy a meal daily, weekly or monthly at one of the Nutrition-Sites in Marion County; Hillsboro, Marion or Peabody Sr. Centers'. Bring a friend!

## KanCare Application Process

Effective January 1, 2016 the Department for Children and Families will no longer process Medicaid (Kancare) for the Elderly and Disabled after 40 years of providing this service. The

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will take over this responsibility. Everyone will still be able to fill out an application for KanCare online at www.ApplyForKancare.ks.gov. For assistance or paper application,

people with disabilities and elderly can call Marion County Dept. on Aging office (620-382-3580) to help fill out the application.



## Tax Fraud

It wouldn't be tax season without some form of scam going on. The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by phone, email, text message or social media channels to request personal/financial information. If you receive an email requesting personal information from the IRS don't open any attachments or click on any links. They can contain malicious code that may infect your computer or mobile phone. Forward the email as is to the IRS

at [www.phishing@irs.gov](mailto:www.phishing@irs.gov) and delete the email. If you receive a phone call from someone claiming to be the IRS, record their name, badge number and a call back number. You can call [1-800-366-4484](tel:1-800-366-4484) to determine if the caller is an IRS employee. If you receive a letter in the mail you can go to the IRS homepage and search on the letter, notice or form number if it is legitimate. If it is legitimate letter, you'll find instructions on how to respond or complete the

form. If the instructions are different on the website than what you were told in the email you can call [1-800-829-1040](tel:1-800-829-1040). The Marion County Dept. on Aging will be glad to check for you online if you don't have access to a computer to see if the letter is legitimate.

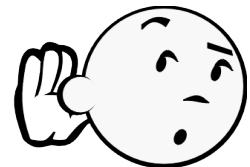


## Hearing Loss

Loss of hearing can have a negative impact on your life. It can lead to social isolation and even contribute to dementia. About one-third of Americans 65 and older have some level of hearing impairment and typically wait years to get tested. Now from the privacy of our home you can

take a hearing test by logging in on the AARP website, for a limited time and pay a \$5.00 fee to have your hearing tested. You're then given a phone number to call and a 10-digit access code. When you call, you'll hear numbers embedded in a lot of static. You press the tele-

phone keypad to show which numbers you heard. At the end you're told if your hearing is in normal range or if you have a slight or substantial impairment. You get a separate score for each ear.



## Mark your calendar for the upcoming events: ✓

**MARCH:** March 27-Easter Sunday . March 31-LIEAP deadline.

**APRIL:** April 10-16, 2016-National Volunteer Week, "Volunteers Giving Time, Touching Hearts!" Be sure to thank volunteers this week at your site! , April 15 -Tampa Seniors host County Bd. Meeting,

**MAY:** May 8- Mother's Day, May 10-Second half of Marion County Property Taxes due, May 20- Marion Seniors host County Bd. Meeting and May 30-Memorial Day, all County Offices and Nutrition-Sites closed.

**Senior Citizens of Marion County, Inc.**

**309 South Third**

**Marion, KS. 66861**

**620-382-3580**

**aging@marioncoks.net**

**Non-Profit**

**U.S. Postage Paid**

**Permit 20**

**Marion, Kansas. 66861**

**Address Service Requested**

**Drivers License Renewal: Vehicle Dept. Courthouse Tuesday through Friday:**

**8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ph. 620-382-3106**

**Keep the following agencies & phone numbers handy:**

**Marion County Health Department all day clinics on Wednesdays - Ph. 620-382-2550**

**Marion County Home Care - Marion - 620-382-3690**

**Mental Health Service - Hillsboro - 620-947-3200**

**Veteran Service Rep.-2nd Tues. even number months-11:00 a.m. at Marion Sr. Center.**

**Social Security: Toll Free-1-800-772-1213 or call Salina Office-1-877-405-3494**

**Dept. of Children & Families - Newton Office - 1-888-369-4777 or 316-283-3015**

**Central Home Care - Newton - 316-283-8220 or 1-800-301-9499**

**Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice - Wichita-1-800-767-4965**

**Gentiva Hospice - McPherson - 1-800-854-4802**

**Kansas Alzheimer's Help Line - 1-800-432-3535**

**DO NOT CALL LIST - 1-888-382-1222 - To have your phone number removed from the telemarketers call list you must dial this number from your home or cellular phone.**

**EMERGENCIES DIAL 911**