

Senior News & Views

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Marion Co. Dept. on Aging

Gayla Ratzlaff, Coordinator

Lanell M. Hett, Sec./Trans.


"The fall brings
golden colors and a
reminder to be
thankful for all our
blessings."

By: Byron Pulsifer

Laugh For The Day:

Why shouldn't you
tell a secret in a
cornfield?



Because the corn
has ears!



Pat K. Henderson Sensa-
tional Sunflower

"Let the Sun Shine In!"
Sunflower Fair
Your 2022 premier health and wellness event!
Tuesday, September 20

Prescription Drug Tips

Here are some tips you might want to consider when getting ready for Prescription Drug Enrollment October 15th to December 7th. You should pick a plan which is the lowest yearly cost, covers all or most of your medications and you can buy them where you want. If you want your premium to come out of your Social Security Benefit Medicare says to have that switching go smoothly try to enroll by mid-November. This enrollment has to

go through three government entities to make this happen. First your new plan lets Medicare know, Medicare lets Social Security know of your change and Social Security makes Federal Treasury aware. If you switch plans and have your premium taken out of Social Security your 2023 Social Security benefit statement could be incorrect and have your old plans 2023 new premium. Social Security will make the correction once they receive word

you have switched plans. If your 2023 Social Security benefit statement doesn't show any premium taken out for Prescription Drug Plan this means they did not receive word that you want it to be taken out. You will need to call your company and request for it to come out of your Social Security check. This can take up to 2-3 months and you will need to pay your premium until you receive a letter from Social Security that they (Prescription Drug Tips see pg. 3)

"Let the Sun Shine In!" 2022 Sunflower Fair

Pat K. Henderson of Peabody, KS. Marion County's 2022 "Sensational Sunflower" was honored on Sept. 20, 2022 at the NC-FH AAA Sunflower Fair. She was chosen by the SCMC

Board. Pat has served as Peabody Nutrition Site Manager, Peabody Sr. Center President and presently as Treasurer. She also serves as a Board Member on the Senior Citizens of Mari-

on County, Inc. Board in Area 3 for the past 5 years. Thank you, Pat you are a ray of sunshine and a Sensational Sunflower for Marion County!




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SCMC 62nd Annual Meeting

2022


The Senior Citizens of Marion County, Inc. are celebrating their 62nd Annual Meeting on October 20, 2022 at the Hillsboro Sr. Center doors open at 11:00 a.m. The Guest Speaker this year will be Derrick Doty of Manhattan, Kansas. Mr. Doty's program includes folksy music and stories about Kansas. A Free Will offering will be taken to continue the

SCMC goal of providing a scholarship for a Marion County High School 2023 Graduate interested in pursuing a degree in an age related field such as medicine, gerontology, social work and therapies. The registration cost for the event is \$5.25 and the deadline to register is Friday, October 7, 2022. Menu will be Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes

with Gravy, Green Beans and Pumpkin Crunch. You can pick up a registration form at one of the three Nutrition Sites (Hillsboro, Marion and Peabody) or the Marion County Dept. on Aging. Dinah

SCMC 62nd Annual Meeting Celebration
Hillsboro Sr. Center
October 20, 2022



Medicare Advantage Plans

Annual and open enrollment for Medicare Advantage plan runs from October 15th-December 7th (annual) and January 1-March 31 (open). During annual enrollment October 15th-December 7th you can enroll in or drop your Medicare Advantage plan. During open you can change from current Medicare advantage plan to another or go back to original Medicare. So expect to see a lot more commercials with Joe Namath, Jimmie Walker and William Shatner. Many of these plans offer extra benefits such as dental, hearing and transportation that Original Medicare does not offer without an extra premium. The thing you need

to remember is you need to use their physician, specialist, optometrist, dentist and hospitals that they have a contract with. So before choosing this route you need to contact your physician and hospital to make sure they have contract with this plan. If not you will pay out of network costs for treatment and hospitalization. You also need to understand that at any time you want care other than an emergency, the plan may require prior approval for rehabilitation services, diagnostic tests, lab services or hearing exam. Extra benefits such as meals will not be every day but if you're in the hospital and

then discharged home, your Medicare Advantage plan **may** offer delivery for 10 meals. Think very carefully before you switch out of traditional Medicare, which lets you see about any doctor or go to any hospital.



Prescription Drug Plan Tiering

What are the Medicare Prescription Drug tiers? There are different tiers based on cost and type of medication. Sometimes a Medicare beneficiary can choose from either a name brand or generic brand of a specific drug. Plans can have cost ranges for each tier, flat cost for a medication or percentage co-pay for certain tiers. This is important for you to understand when choosing a plan for 2023. The comparison you receive from our office or your pharma-

cy are only estimates for the year. A plan can have a cost range for generics from \$0-19 but your comparison says your drug cost for a certain generic is \$2.44. What this means is you prescription could cost \$2.44 for the whole year or the plan could increase the cost of that particular medication up to \$19. These costs can vary between using a preferred pharmacy to a standard pharmacy. Preferred pharmacies have signed a contract with this particular company. An

example might be a preferred pharmacy may charge you only \$1-\$3 for all your generics but a standard pharmacy cost the medication could be \$2.44 for that particular generic. Even with cost range for medications or flat co-pay or percentages a plan may be your lowest due to the low premium and where you buy your medications. Unfortunately plans can remove medications from their formulary and raise their co-pay during the year.

Enrolling in plan during Open Enrollment

You will find in the newsletter this quarter a form to fill out with your information and your prescriptions. If you would like the Dept. on Aging to do your comparison you can drop this off at the office at 309 South Third St. in Marion, your local senior center Nutrition Site (Hillsboro, Marion

or Peabody) or mail it to the Dept. on Aging. We will once again run your medications and give you a call to set up an appointment and go over your comparison for the year. The appointment days will be all day Mondays, Tuesday-Thursday 12:30-4:30 pm and Fridays 8:00 am-noon.

Tips from pg. 1

are taking it out of your check. Your premium is always taken out after the month, so in January your premium from your old plan is taken out and in February your new plan's premium is taken out.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming events:

OCTOBER: County Offices closed October 10-Columbus Day and October 20-SCMC 62nd Annual Meeting-Hillsboro Sr. Center.

NOVEMBER: November 18-SCMC Bd. Mtg.-Peabody Sr. Center, County Offices closed for these holidays-November 11-Veterans Day, November 24 & 25 Thanksgiving Holidays.

DECEMBER: December 16-SCMC Bd. Mtg.-Marion Sr. Center, County Offices closed for these holidays-December 23 & 26-Christmas Holidays and January 1, 2023-New Year's Day Holiday.

FLU SHOTS: The Marion County Health Department will be doing Flu Clinics every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by appointment call 620-382-2550 to schedule an appointment.

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 - 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-9:30 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 of Kansas - McPherson - 620-245-0891

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 tele-marketers call list you must dial this number from your home or cellular phone.

EMERGENCIES DIAL 911