

# Senior News & Views

Vol. 33, No. 4

December 19, 2011

Gayla Ratzlaff, Coordinator  
Lanell M. Hett, Sec./Trans.  
Virginia Downing, AOK Vol.



*“Christmas is the time  
to let your heart do  
the thinking.”*

*By Patricia Clafford*



“Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!”

Gayla  
Lanell  
Vir-

**LAFF FOR THE DAY:**  
Why was the computer so quiet on Christmas Eve?



Not a creature was stirring.....not even a **MOUSE!**



## Social Security Benefit Rate Change Notice

You should receive in the mail mid December your Social Security Benefit Rate Change Notice. This notice tells individuals about benefit payment changes for 2012. It will reflect the cost of living increase and variations in the premiums withheld from your Social Security check. This year individuals Social Security benefit will have a 3.6 percent cost of living adjustment for 2012. The “standard” Medicare Part B pre-

mium will be \$99.90. People, who retired in the last two years, were paying either \$115.40 or \$110.50 for their Part B premium.



This year they will pay \$99.90.

This notice will show your Prescription Drug Plan premium deduction, if you chose to have it deducted from your check. If you changed Drug Plans for 2012 this notice may have your 2011 plan’s new premium for 2012. This generally takes Social Security about three months to make this premium change in your benefit check. Social Security will then send out another letter after the first of the year with your new 2012 premium amount taken out of your benefit.

## Changes for Marion County Dept. on Aging

In November the Marion County Commissioners decided to change the Secretary/ Transportation Coordinator’s position in the Dept. from full-time to part-

time effective December 21. The Department’s commitment is to maintain the same level of service to 60+ individuals in our county. Lanell Hett, Secretary/

Transportation Coordinator will work Monday-Friday in the mornings. Gayla Ratzlaff, Coordinator of the Department will continue to work (See Changes pg. 3)

### LIEAP, FOOD SALES & HOMESTEAD REFUND SEASON

The Dept. on Aging will once again help individuals and families apply for Food Sales and Homestead Refund as well as LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program) after January 12, 2012. Homestead Refund qualifying factors: Born before January 1, 1956, totally and permanently disabled or blind all 2011, have a dependent child live with you the whole 2011 year or be a disabled veteran (50% or more disability) or surviving spouse of disabled veteran. Food Sales qualifying factors:

Born before January 1, 1957, totally and permanently disabled or blind all of 2011 or have a dependent child you claim as a personal exemption who was born before January 1, 2011 and under the age of 18 all of 2011. Food Sales Tax Refund for 2011 Income is: \$0-\$17,700 will receive \$91.00 for each exemption and \$17,700-\$35,400 will receive \$46.00 for each exemption. 2012 Food Sales Changes will require providing your exemptions name, date of birth, relationship to you

and their Social Security Number. If you qualify for Food Sales Tax Refund and don't want to collect you can donate your refund to the Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels Program here in the state of Kansas. In the past years this program has received a contribution of \$132,000.00 to supplement nutrition services for the elderly by individuals choosing to make a donation to the program. Call [620-382-3580](tel:620-382-3580) for an appointment after January 12th for your refunds to be filed on-line.

### Replacing Your Medicare Card

How do you get a new Medicare Card if it has been lost, stolen or damaged. You can make a request to get a new one from Medicare.gov website. If you don't have access to a computer you can contact the office and they will make the application on-line for you. Once the

application has been made it will take about 30 days for your card to arrive. It will be mailed to the address Social Security has on file for you.

If you need proof that you have Medicare sooner than 30 days, you also can request a letter which you will receive in about 10 days. If you have moved and have not reported your change in address, you need to Medicare before they can process a new card for you.



### 5-Star Special Enrollment Period (SEP)

Starting December 8, you can switch to a 5-Star Medicare Prescription Drug Plan at any time during 2012. This was created by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid this year to encourage plans to become 5-star status. If you

have problems with your plan in 2012 you can switch to a 5-star plan only one time during the plan year. If you have questions about this call the department at 620-382-3580.

### CONGRATULATIONS

KANSAS on your  
151st Birthday  
January 29, 2012



## Program Offering in 2012

The Marion Co. Dept on Aging will be offering the six weeks Wellness Class in 2012. This once a week class for six weeks will be offered in Hillsboro. This is for individuals, who live with arthritis, diabetes, heart or lung disease, asthma or the effects of stroke on a daily basis. The class was developed by Stanford University and is designed to help individuals cope and improve one step at a time through this interactive and motivational class. Those who

live with a chronic health condition or are close to someone who lives with a chronic health condition should attend. The cost of the class is \$6.00. This class will be taught by Barb Smith and Gayla Ratzlaff. A complimentary program to the Wellness Class is Walk With Ease which primary activity is walking. It offers health education, stretching and strengthening exercises and motivational strategies support. The walking group will meet three times a week

for six weeks. These sessions will include a 10-35 minute walking period. Individuals interested in participating in Walk With Ease need to be able to at least stand for 10 minutes. The cost of this class is \$6.00. The dates and times of both of these programs will be in the local newspapers after the first of the year. If you are interested in one or both programs you can call 620-382-3580 to get your name on the mailing list to receive more information.

## Changes from Page 1

Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We want to encourage seniors to call in the mornings to set up appointments or make transportation arrangements. The Department requires at least a 24-Hour notice for transportation requests. The afternoons

when the Coordinator is out of the office for meetings, individuals can call and leave a message on the answering machine. The Coordinator will check messages throughout the afternoon and return phone calls. We hope the public will work with us

through these changes so the same level of service may continue for older adults in our county.

**Older Kansans Day**  
in Topeka  
February 8, 2012

## Mark your calendar for the upcoming events:

**Happy New Year  
2012**

### **JANUARY:**

January 20-SCMC Bd. Mtg.-Hillsboro

### **FEBRUARY:**

February 17-SCMC Bd. Mtg.-Durham

### **Holiday Closing Dates for the County Courthouse and Marion Co. Dept. on Aging:**

December 23 & 26-Christmas, January 2-New Year's Day Holiday, January 16-Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and February 20-Presidents' Day.

**Nutrition-Sites** will be closed on January 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

**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**

**Veterans Representative - Call 620-342-3347 to schedule appointment at Marion Sr. Center.**

**Social Security - Toll Free-1-800-772-1213 or call Emporia Office-1-877-405-7830**

**SRS –Newton Regional Service Center - Newton Office - 1-888-369-4777**

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

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

**Hospice Care of Kansas - 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 tele-marketers call list you must dial this number from your home or cellular phone.**

**EMERGENCIES DIAL 911**