

# Senior GAZETTE

Winter 2017

by Lynda Ashley, Director, Amherst Township Senior Service Office (ATSSO)

## NEW MEDICARE NUMBERS BEGIN IN 2018

The “Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act” (MACRA) is a law passed by Congress requiring the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to implement a plan to assign every Medicare beneficiary a new identifier that is NOT tied to a Social Security Number. These new numbers are random and are 11-characters long, being a mix of letters and numbers. The change in the number will NOT affect your benefits. Beginning April 2018, CMS will start mailing the new cards.

**Watch out for scams!** CMS will **NOT** call and ask for information. ***Everything coming from Medicare will come by mail.*** If you receive a phone call requesting information, please hang up. Unfortunately, scammers are trying to take advantage of the confusion over these new cards.

## 2018 MEDICARE CHANGES

Medicare Part A and B deductibles will increase beginning January 2018.

Part:		For 2018	
<b>A</b>	Inpatient deductible	\$1340.00 per benefit period	
	Hospital Co Pay:	61-90 days	\$335.00/day
		90-150 days	\$670.00/day
<b>B</b>	*Premium:	\$134.00*	
	Deductible:	\$183.00	
	Co pays:	20%	
Skilled Nursing Co pay:	Days 21-100	\$167.50/day	

\*Part B premium is based on income, some may pay more.

**ATSSO OFFICE HOURS:  
8:00 A.M. – NOON (M-F)**

**Phone: 988-5894 – Ext. 101**

Email: [amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com](mailto:amhersttwpseniors@oh.rr.com)



**Home-Delivered**



## Meal Program

ATSSO provides home-delivered meals for those over 60 and disabled adults over 18, with a cost that is adjusted according your income. This nutritious, hot lunch program includes your choice of an entrée, soup & sandwich, soup & salad, or soup. If you would like to receive a home-delivered meal or need more information, please contact the Senior Service Office at 988-5894, ext101.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Can you spare 1 hour a week or a month to help your senior neighbors? Our meal program is in need of volunteers to deliver meals to township senior residents. We have an immediate need for **Thursday** drivers. Routes are approximately 16 miles long and take about an hour to complete, anytime between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and Noon. Mileage is reimbursed at \$0.45 per mile. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the office.

# Home Weatherization Assistance Program

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) provides eligible Ohioans with assistance to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce their energy costs. Ohioans participating in the HWAP will receive a home inspection to identify the services necessary to improve their home's energy efficiency. Services are provided through local agencies in each county.

Ohioans with a household income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for the program.

Priority is given to Ohioans who are older than age of 60, those with disabilities, those with children in the home, and

households with a high energy usage and/or burden. All families who have received assistance any time during the last 12 months under:

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI);
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or
- Home Energy Assistance (HEAP) *(does not include Emergency HEAP)*

are automatically income eligible for weatherization services. Please remember an application must be submitted in order to apply for services.\*

*\*Article copied from the Ohio Development Services website at:*

[https://development.ohio.gov/is/is\\_hwap.htm](https://development.ohio.gov/is/is_hwap.htm)



## WINTER SAFETY TIPS



It's that time of year again – ice, snow, and cold temperatures. The following are useful tips to avoid accidents this winter:

- Do not attempt to go outside if there is ice on your porch or walkway.
- Have a family member or neighbor keep your walks and drive clear.
- Ask the post office to deliver your mail to your door.
- Ask the newspaper carrier to deliver to your door.
- Stock up your pantry with canned goods and easily prepared food in case you can't get out for a few day due to weather.
- Wear shoes/boots with good traction.
- Always cover exposed skin, do not venture out if temperatures are approaching zero.
- Stay current with Flu and Pneumonia vaccines\*.

- Keep a cell phone with you in case you need help.
- If you drive, carry extra blankets, flashlight, phone, gloves, snacks, and water in case you become stranded.

### \*VACCINATIONS

Are you aware that Medicare Part B covers Pneumococcal Vaccines and Influenza Vaccines? As a Medicare Part B covered senior, you are entitled to one vaccine of each per year from a health care provider. You pay nothing for a flu or pneumonia shot if the doctor or other qualified health care provider accepts assignment for giving the shot.

The Lorain County General Health District, located at 9880 South Murray Ridge Road in Elyria, has the following vaccine clinics available in December:

- **Mondays, Tuesdays, & Fridays**  
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **Wednesday, December 27**  
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## **ELDER FRAUD – Look Out for Scams! (Part III)**

Con artists and scammers often target older citizens. Learn to recognize the signs of a scam and how to protect yourself. Following are a few current scams to watch for.

### **Phony Charities**

Someone pretending to represent a charity calls or sends you a letter asking you to make a charitable donation. Always ask how much of your donation would actually go to the charity. Charitable organizations must register with the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Before you donate, verify that the charity is legitimate by calling the Attorney General's Help Center at 800-282-0515.

### **Veterans' Benefits Misinformation**

Some companies will offer information about veterans' benefits to gain your trust. They may falsely imply that they work for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), make exaggerated claims about your benefits, or

encourage you to buy financial products you don't need. For reliable information about VA benefits, contact your County Veterans Service Office.

The Lorain County Veterans Service Office is located at 1230 N. Abbe Rd. in Elyria. They can be contacted by phone at 440-284-4625 or visit their website at:

[www.loraincountyveterans.com](http://www.loraincountyveterans.com)

*This information was taken from the Ohio Attorney General's website at:*

[www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov)

To read more information about scams, view the entire brochure online by selecting "Individuals and Families"; then "Seniors"; then "Publications"; and finally click on "Elder Fraud Brochure (PDF)". We will share more information from this educational brochure in future editions of the Senior Gazette.

### **"Scam Alert" from the Lorain County Sheriff's Office**

Lorain County Sheriff, Phil Stammitti would like to make the citizens of Lorain County aware of a recent phone scam involving a male, identifying himself as Deputy Sheriff, Sgt. **Larry Clark**, employed with the Lorain County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Stammitti advised there is no Larry Clark presently employed with the Sheriff's Office.

This subject identifies himself as Deputy Sheriff and calls residences of Lorain County advising them they have failed to appear for Jury Duty, and is issuing a warrant for their arrest. In lieu of arrest, the subject advised them they can pay a fine by purchasing money/gift cards. This subject gives detailed instructions of what types of gift/money cards to purchase and request the individual to call him back after the purchase is made.

The phone number being used is 440-290-4368. This number is to an unidentified voicemail box. This is not a phone number used by the Lorain County Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Stammitti would like the residences of Lorain County to know that the Sheriff's Office does not contact the public regarding warrants over the telephone and suggests that if you need to verify any of the Lorain County Deputy Sheriffs employment status, please contact their Communications Office at 440-329-3710.

Lorain County Sheriff's Office encourages citizens to notify their local law enforcement agency if they receive any kind of scam call, and make them aware of the situation.

Press Release posted by Lt. Daniel Ashdown on 11/29/17.