



STROM CENTER NEWS

JANUARY , 2016 edition 310

“SANTA FOR SENIORS” ... A GREAT SUCCESS!!



This year's Santa for Seniors program was wonderful! Caring individuals, clubs, and businesses really step up and make sharing a priority. Staff worker Bob Anderson did a tremendous job of organizing the program...from accepting applications, (thanks to Bob's wife Kim again for making the tags!), and delivering them to Security Savings Bank. Volunteers, staff (and some staff spouses!) delivered them to recipients. Security Savings Bank has been a most gracious partner in this venture; their staff went beyond in ensuring that many of our area seniors would enjoy the special day. A special thanks to Security Savings for keeping Bob apprised of the status of the tags and overseeing the incoming gifts.

Again, we want to give a tremendous Thank You... to all area persons, clubs, and organizations who took tags from the tree at Security Savings, purchased gifts, wrapped them, and returned them in time for Christmas.

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Just an advance notice....next year only persons who either call in or fill out a Santa For Seniors application for themselves or for others will receive presents... Unfortunately, we will no longer be able to assume who wants to be given a gift. Also, applications next year will be offered the middle of October...but more about this next year!

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### **Thank You to Heritage U. P. Church Quilters**

Again, a **BIG THANK YOU** goes out to the Heritage U.P. Church Quilters. They again came through for our Santa for Seniors Christmas



Program. They provided lap robes and small and large throws to be delivered along with our other presents this year. All the creations were beautifully made, very cozy looking and perfect sizes. Those persons who were blessed with the covers were delighted and very grateful. Thank you ladies!!

Thank you to all persons and groups who donated scarves, purses, billfolds, and other articles to give out for our Santa for Senior program. We had a wonderful variety of items. Thank you again on behalf of all who received the presents.....

### **WEATHER CLOSING REMINDER !**



If there are dangerous weather conditions, listen to WRAM (1330) and/or WMOI (97.7) radio stations to see if we will be open ! We attempt to let the radio station know as early as possible the morning in question.

Generally speaking, if there are events, programs, or special happenings scheduled on that day at Strom, they also will be cancelled but listen for those specifics as well as Thrift Shop closing also on the radio. (By the way, we will have closings highlighted on our window sign...so before parking your car, or letting your ride leave without you...check the sign!)

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### **MEDICARE D....**

#### **QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE...**

Even though January and the beginning of new Medicare D plans will soon hit us ..there are sure to be questions regarding the plans in which persons have enrolled. In fact, the first issue has already presented itself. Persons receiving Social Security AND have elected to have their Medicare D premiums deducted from their Social Security checks have noticed that the amount shown on that letter is **NOT** correct. The amount shown is only correct IF you are staying in the same plan in 2016

as you currently are in in 2015. If, however, you have switched plans, the new premium amount was not yet in the Social Security system when the letter was generated.

Another issue... You may be faced with higher drug co-payments beginning in January. This will be the case if you are enrolled in a plan with a deductible. Most plans which have deductibles have the amount set at \$350 for 2016. Therefore, you will pay the first \$350 in covered drug costs and then realize a lesser amount once the deductible is met.

Yet another issue is one in which some persons who are currently on Low Income Subsidy (also called Extra Help) may experience. Letters from Social Security were mailed to many (but not all) persons who are on this program stating a response was needed to verify income and assets. If a response was not received, that help with Medicare D will be suspended until the information is received. Remember, it takes a while for that information to be processed which means there may be a lapse in coverage until the information is accepted.

If you experience problems with your Medicare D plan coverage, please feel free to call us here at Strom; it may just mean a call to the Medicare D Plan to straighten the matter out. However, it may be an issue that will demand more work to iron it out. We experience many calls in January, so please be patient...we will get to you as soon as possible.

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### **ABOUT THOSE HOME EXEMPTION FREEZE FORMS & BENEFIT ACCESS APPLICATIONS.....**

As always, Strom will continue to file Homestead Exemption Freeze forms, as well as Benefit Access (formerly Circuit Breaker) forms BOTH in Warren and Henderson Counties. (Reminder: Benefit Access applications are only for the purpose of reducing the cost of license plates...one reduction per application).

Just a note: because we completed persons income taxes in prior years, we could keep that information on file for other applications. If we do provide other services, it would be wise to bring in a copy of completed tax returns along with the supporting information to put in our client files. Our client files are locked, safe, and secure with access only by Strom staff.

*Note from Darlene Cox, Special Events  
Coordinator.....*

### **CONGRATULATIONS RAFFLE WINNER!**

**JERRY LEFLER** the very lucky winner of the *beautiful* Swedish Woven Throw created and donated by **Patti Schwass** (thank you Patti!!) (Even though there were some sad faces of persons who had been eyeing the throw...we are happy for Jerry's win!)

*Note from Darlene Cox, Special Events Coordinator..*

The Christmas Sale and Bake Sales went good. I want to thank everyone who helped decorated for Christmas. Also, to the ones who brought craft and bakes goods, they were very much appreciated. I want to thank the ones who helped set up for the Sale. Also, thanks to Shirley Caldwell who styed and helped four days. All was very much appreciated. (If I missed anything or anyone, I apologize.)

Thanks to you wonderful people. God Bless!

### **POWER FOR SENIORS: ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS!**

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, over 180 seniors and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Jamieson Center, and provided for by the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 265. Both members of the Warren County Sheriff's office as well as the Monmouth Police Department and Strom staff and volunteers served the lunch to those in attendance. Twenty-five fortunate seniors had their names drawn to receive \$100 Ameren Power gift checks.

Thank you to the Monmouth Police and Sheriff's Department for a very enjoyable special day! You're the Greatest!!

The following article is one in our continuing "Cameo Shots" series. Thank you to staff member **BOB ANDERSON** for this interview and writing.....

## **PERRINS LOOK BACK ON 100 YEARS....**

As a child, Wilbur Perrin received few Christmas presents. However, he enjoyed many Christmas and New Year's Day family dinners.



**John W. Perrin** - known to his family and friends as "Wilbur" - holds a piece of cake in this photo taken in 1919. As a boy, Perrin recited the following verse at many school and church programs:  
**"My mother calls me William. My father calls me Will. My sister calls me Willie. But the fellers call me Bill."**

John Wilbur Perrin, known to his nieces and nephews as "Uncle Bill," and to many of his friends nowadays as "Wilbur," was born Aug. 7, 1915, to Alva and Lula Perrin, in a farm home on top of a bluff near Keithsburg. Lula had two sisters, May and Stella, who took turns hosting the Perrins for Christmas dinners. Then, on New Year's Day, the family gathered with Alva's side of the family for larger dinners with 30 to 40 people in attendance. Most of these relatives lived in rural Warren County, and Wilbur remembers some icy, treacherous trips home.

As a boy, Wilbur heard his parents discuss smoke signals sent by Indians along the Mississippi River. He remembers going by horse and wagon to Keithsburg with his parents and older brother, Kenneth shortly after the Armistice was signed, ending World War I. There he was startled to see a street full of people dancing and shooting guns in celebration.

Wilbur went to grade school in Abingdon Center, a country school in Mercer County. He also attended Aledo High School for two years, before quitting to help his father on the farm. Wilbur first plowed corn with his own team of horses when he was eight years old, and found a lot of arrowheads in the process.

In 1933, the family moved 10 miles to another farm in Henderson County - this one owned by Bud Barrows. Wilbur and Kenneth loaded their farm implements - including the tractor/plow/disc Alva had bought at a farm auction - into wagons at night, and left the following morning with horses pulling two wagons. They got stuck several times in snow and their packed lunches froze. They borrowed a relative's truck to move their furniture. Wilbur started farming on his own when he was 20, after his father died of a stroke.

Lula and Wilbur continued living and farming together until 1946, when she died of a heart attack. Kenneth's wife became ill and he and his six children moved in with Wilbur - eight people in a five-room house. They had outside plumbing, carried water and heated the home with a small stove. The two brothers farmed together until 1960, when they moved to Monmouth.

Wilbur then managed a grain elevator in Little York for many years. He was seriously burned by electricity while working on top of a grain bin. He spent seven weeks in hospital, undergoing skin grafting. Wilbur later worked at the Ralston Purina warehouse in Cameron for six years, then retired. He and Kenneth's daughter, Marilyn mowed several yards each week in the summer, and shoveled snow for these same families and some others. While still on the farm, Wilbur, his nephew, Don Perrin, Marilyn and another of Wilbur's nieces, Barbara Perrin (now Barbara Owens) began enjoying 10-day to two-week vacations each summer, and saw much of the United States.

"We did this a lot of years - before and after we moved to town," Marilyn said. "Wilbur also was very handy making repairs. He and Kenneth replaced the siding on our house. Wilbur made several yard ornaments that he sold, including a Dutch windmill for his yard. He and my late brother, Raymond and I made a fountain in the yard, which is no longer working due to a leak. Wilbur did chores for a neighbor who brought him a silver dollar from Las Vegas. He carries it in a pocket. It's worn very thin."

Wilbur's niece, Marilyn Louise Perrin, was born in January 1935, in a farm home near Duck Creek, west of Alexis and north of Little York in Warren County.



This photo of Marilyn Perrin and her uncle, Wilbur Perrin was taken recently at the First United Methodist Church in Monmouth. Marilyn has been a member of the church for 55 years.

"Duck Creek was just a wide place in the road," Marilyn said. "There was just a filling station and a school called Duck Creek. That's where my brother, Don went to school. It was about a half mile from the farm where we lived. Dad worked as a hired hand for Elmer Pattison, who owned the farmland."

When she was about four years old, Marilyn's family moved onto nearby land owned by Warren Brownlee.

"When I was in first grade or so, Dad went to work for George Smith, and I attended Old Number One School." Marilyn said. "When I was in sixth grade, we moved in with my Uncle Bill over by Bald Bluff in Henderson County, and I went to school at Bald Bluff. Then we moved east of there, back into Warren County, and I attended high school in Little York."

Prior to graduating high school in 1953, in a class of 12 students, Marilyn participated in a two-week senior bus trip to Virginia, Washington D.C., and New York. In the summer of 1953, she was hired by Monmouth Hospital, where she worked for 23 years - first on East Euclid Avenue and then in the new hospital after it was built in 1967.

"I worked in the credit department and bookkeeping at the hospital, and retired in 1976," Marilyn said. "I then had a mail route. I picked up mail at the post office five days a week for Gambles, Illinois Power, Wells, and the local slaughterhouse. I would then pick up their mail at night and take it back to the post office."

Marilyn has lived on North Sunny Lane since 1960, when her family left farming and moved to Monmouth. "Neither Wilbur nor I ever married and we are both happy in our lives as they are," she said. "I was the first granddaughter born on my parents' side of the family. I helped care for my parents. Mom died in 1996 and dad in 1999. Now I take care of Wilbur, who turned 100 in August."

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## STROM THRIFT SHOP NEWS... *FIRST ANNUAL "YARDSALE"!!!*

Strom Thrift Shop Co-Managers Chris Cook and Crystal Vanskike the Thrift Shop is hosting the First Annual YardSale of 2016 !!! It will be held all of January and February in the Back Sales Room (located just behind the Main Sales Area. Glassware, Plasticware, Pans, Picture Frames, Light Items (lamps, ceiling lights, etc.)...way too many items to mention. In the Front Main Sales Area we will be running a sale on purses and bags...and there are lots of them. Not only are these items on sale...you get an additional 50% off !! Chris and Crystal say to .."STOP IN OFTEN AS ITEMS WON'T LAST LONG...AND WE WILL CONSTANTLY BE DISPLAYING NEW ITEMS!!"



### RECOGNITIONS....



NEWSLETTER HELP DRAWING WINNER:

**SHIRLEY CALDWELL**



ALL CARD PLAYER DRAWING

WINNER:

**MARIDEE GOBEN**



MONDAY BRIDGE:

12/7: High **MARIDEE GOBEN**

2<sup>nd</sup> High: **MARJORIE LONG**

12/21: High: **MARJORIE LONG**

2<sup>nd</sup> High: **DONNA MARTIN**



CONUNDRUM, MIND EXPLORER, AND CROSS-  
A-RAMA DRAWING WINNER:

**GLADYS OLSON**



### JANUARY BINGO DATES:

Tuesday, January 12, 1 PM and Tuesday, January 26, 1 PM

Thank you to JUDY MINOR (Volunteer Coordinator) from Hospice Compassus for hosting our December Bingo Program! We appreciated it!

## RSVP NEWS

**THANK YOU!!!** Our **Holiday Mail for Heroes event on December 1** was a great success. Last year Knox & Warren counties combined wrote over 300 holiday cards for our military hospitals and veterans. This year, our total was over 1400 cards and letters! We had small but mighty groups of volunteers who gathered at VNA Community Services in Galesburg and at Strom Center. We wrote cards, ate homemade cookies and had a very enjoyable experience. Also thanks to other groups who wrote cards and contributed them to our total, helping us to exceed our goal. And thanks to those who donated cards for us to write on! I'm sure we will make many veterans and military personnel feel more appreciated through these cards. I have already started collecting Christmas cards for next year so if you have leftover cards you would like to donate, you can bring them to Strom Center or the RSVP office in the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Armoury.



**JANUARY ACTIVITIES:** Once again we will be participating in the **SOUPER Bowl of Caring** food drive. Watch for more details but we will be collecting canned soup, canned chili, soup mixes, crackers, corn bread mix, etc for Jamieson Center food pantry during the month of January. Or we will have an envelope for cash donations if you prefer. Look for the big bright green tub with the SOUPER Bowl sign on it!



I have updated the folder for your RSVP time sheets at Strom Center and added some extra time sheets. Please let me know if you have questions or need additional forms.

Amy Griswold, Program Coordinator 309-428-5841 [agriswold@wiaaa.org](mailto:agriswold@wiaaa.org)

**JANUARY TRIAD** The next meeting of the Warren County Triad will be held on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Plans are to spend the afternoon discussing the direction of our chapter as well how best to meet the needs of our seniors...so bring any ideas and or suggestions you may have! We are very fortunate to have our local police and sheriff's departments involved in our Triad...they have been great at keeping us posted on issues of concern here in our area. As always, we will discuss current scams and look up various charities as well as the breakdown of the amount of money received actually goes toward the mission. Please plan to join us on the 14<sup>th</sup>. No need to register, and there are no dues...just come! Refreshments will be served.....



## What a T-e-a-m!

I want to take this opportunity to thank my staff and the Strom Center Board for their support and team work during this year. And to be sure it takes team work to make our agency a successful and vital part of the community. With no exception, **everyone** has brought gifts and talents together and in doing so have met the needs of many. It is very rewarding to be a part of Strom Center, and realize the amount of faith and confidence with which we are entrusted. A huge thanks goes out to our community who also has supported Strom in every way....which only affirms our claim that there is no better place to be than right here in Warren County, Illinois..... Thanks to all! *We wish all a Blessed 2016!* .....Director Carol McCrery



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Correction...On the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of this *Strom Center News*, it was mentioned that the average Medicare D deductible is \$350 per year....it is actually \$360 per year as many of you are aware!!

# HENDERSON COUNTY NEWS.....

A LOOKING BACK



....

&



LOOKING FORWARD....

It has only been a short time since Strom Center formed a 'partnership' with the seniors of Henderson County, creating what is now known as the **(New) Henderson County Senior Center**. The Henderson County Health Department located in Gladstone, Illinois provides space in their facility for services. And what a great beginning we have experienced....The Health Department provides transportation to the senior population of Henderson County, they have a super great place for the seniors to meet...a gym equipped with tables and chairs for dining and exercise equipment galore....and of course the 'coffee bar' is quite a draw too!

Henderson County Health Department Administrator Angela Myers and her staff went to work setting up a very nice office which accommodates two workers and clients. Kathy Ferrenburg, I & A, Outreach and Ship Counselor is in the office Monday – Wednesday of each week. I (Carol McCrery) Director, I & A and Ship Coordinator will be in the office 1 – 2 days per week. *Annnnd* we are *very* fortunate to have Connie Shinberger as a staff member. She has already proven many times over to being a real asset...! She is fantastic to work with... She will be going through quite abit of training in the next few months to learn some of the ins and outs of the programs. But until then, when either Kathy or I can not be in the office, Connie has access to us by phone.

Unfortunately, as soon as the New Henderson County Senior Center began, we were entering into Medicare D Season, which is an extremely hectic time, running from the beginning of October to even past the December 7<sup>th</sup> enrollment deadline because we are also assisting persons with Medicaid whose deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup> to switch Medicare D plans.

Our appointments can run from 8 AM – 8 PM, which has not allowed time for staff to get acquainted and just visit with many of the seniors in the county. We have met with seniors in Oquawka at the Faith Bible Church, which is the congregate meal site for Jamieson Center's Nutrition program, as well as at the Stronghurst Senior Center where Judy Roessler oversees the center...(and she is another super nice person to work with; we appreciate her welcoming us to the the area!)

As I mentioned....Connie is quite an asset! She has so many plans to promote the social dimension of the senior center. There are already programs such as Bingo (held one time per month but may in the future be scheduled more often) that are in place....We will be able to help out with that as well as provide some prizes .

Already in place are craft programs which meet twice a week....

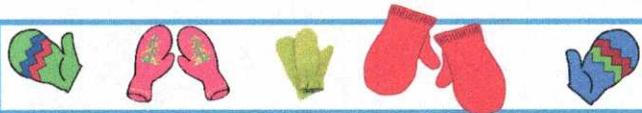
Line Dancing two mornings a week are open to anyone who would like to participate...

All kinds of games...Pinochle, Pitch, Checkers are all possibilities if there is enough interest...and we hope there will be!

Very important are the services we hope to provide to the area seniors...help with **ALL** aspects of Medicare....assisting with retirement questions, disability applications, Homestead Exemptions and Benefit Access applications, Medicaid and Food Stamp applications...IF it is senior-related we can help!

If you are interested in any of the above, or would like to schedule an appointment at the center, or have someone come to your home, call 309 627 2812 Extension 4 or email Carol at [HCSC.STROM@gmail.com](mailto:HCSC.STROM@gmail.com)

**Coming next month....**picture highlights of the December 15<sup>th</sup> Senior Holiday Meal and Bingo ....If you have items you would like to submit to this newsletter contact me (Carol) by the above phone number and / or email.



## JANUARY 2016 Events



| Sunday | Monday                               | Tuesday                                                                       | Wednesday                                                                                                                     | Thursday                                       | Friday                               | Saturday           |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
|        |                                      |                                                                               |                                                                                                                               |                                                |                                      | <br>(Strom closed) |
| 3      | 4                                    | 5                                                                             | 6                                                                                                                             | 7                                              | 8                                    | 9                  |
|        | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>11:30 AM: Lunch | 9:00 AM: Wood Carvers<br>9:00AM:Crafters<br>11:30 AM: Lunch                   | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>11:30 AM: VOPA<br>11:30 AM: Lunch                                                                        | 11:30 AM Lunch                                 | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>11:30 AM: Lunch |                    |
| 10     | 11                                   | 12                                                                            | 13                                                                                                                            | 14                                             | 15                                   | 16                 |
|        | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>11:30 AM: Lunch | 9:00 AM: Wood Carvers<br>9:00AM:Crafters<br>11:30 AM: Lunch<br>1:00 PM: Bingo | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>10:30 AM: Free Bld Pressure ck by Courtyard<br>11:30 AM: VOPA<br>11:30 AM: Lunch<br>(Birthday Dinner)    | 11:30 AM Lunch<br>1:00 pm Triad Meeting        | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>11:30 AM: Lunch |                    |
| 17     | 18                                   | 19                                                                            | 20                                                                                                                            | 21                                             | 22                                   | 23                 |
|        | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>11:30 AM: Lunch | 9:00 AM: Wood Carvers<br>9:00AM:Crafters<br>11:30 AM: Lunch<br>12:30 PM:O.D.O | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>10:30 AM: Free Bld Pressure ck by WIHH<br>11:30 AM: VOPA<br>11:30 AM: Lunch<br><b>Mind Explorer Due!</b> | 11:30 AM Lunch<br>1:30 PM: Strom Board Meeting | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>11:30AM: Lunch  |                    |
| 24     | 25                                   | 26                                                                            | 27                                                                                                                            | 28                                             | 29                                   | 30                 |
| 31     | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>11:30 AM: Lunch | 9:00 AM: Wood Carvers<br>9:00AM:Crafters<br>11:30 AM: Lunch<br>1:00 PM: Bingo | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>11:30 AM: VOPA<br>11:30 AM: Lunch                                                                        | 11:30 AM Lunch                                 | 9:30 AM: Exercise<br>11:30AM: Lunch  |                    |

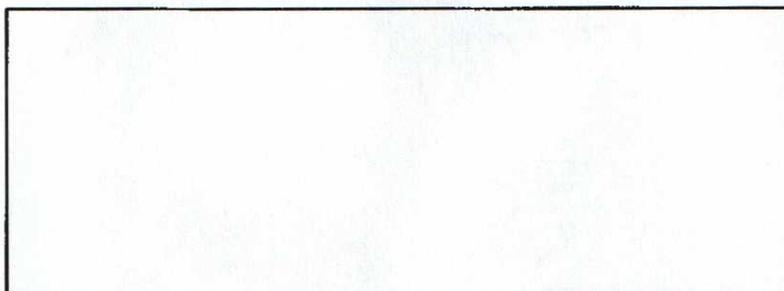
**Note: The Jamieson Community Center Menu shown on the reverse side of this page, is provided for each month by Jamieson Community Center.**



STROM CENTER, INC.  
211 South A Street  
Monmouth, IL 61462

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 24  
MONMOUTH, IL 61462

***RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED***



**STROM CENTER, INC.**

211 South A Street, Monmouth, IL 61462

Fax: 309-734-8074

Toll-free: 866-787-6628

Director: Carol Neal McCrery 309-734-4560

Information and Assistance & Outreach/ SHIP Counselor: Pam Allen 309-734-8074

Information and Assistance Worker/ SHIP Counselor: Kathy Ferrenburg 309-734-5677

Strom General Inquiries: Jon Reynolds & Bob Anderson: 309-734-5677

Nutrition Coordinator Dolores Sollenberger: 309-734-5677

Strom Thrift Shop Managers: Chris Cook & Crystal Vanskike: 309 224 8657

**Non-Discrimination Policy**

Strom Center does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the U.S. Civil Rights Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Employment Act; and the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have a right to file a complaint with the Illinois Department on Aging. For information call 800-252-8966 (Voice and TDD) or contact Programs and Services Manager at Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging at 800-322-1051.

Strom Center is partially funded by:  
**The Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging**  
*and*  
**The Warren County United Way**