

STROM CENTER NEWS

MARCH, 2021 Edition 372

MARCH ZOOM BINGO

Thanks to Staff Member Stephanie Reading our ZOOM Bingo is going great! We have scheduled our two March events for:

Tuesday, March 9th at 1 PM & Tuesday, March 23rd at 1 PM

Registering is required...call 309 734 5677 no later than the Monday prior to each session so Stephanie can send you an invitation to join.

If you are a 1st timer...call at least 5 days prior to the game so we can get your ZOOM Bingo packet to you. The packet includes * Laminated bingo cards *Marker * Wipes to erase * A Bingo sign to hold up (for those who are playing virtually), *and instructions. Once you register for the 1st time, and receive your packet, Stephanie will call you and go over the details.

Just a note: If you would like to change the cards you have been using, let us know and we can get exchange them for new ones.

Did you know that you can play ZOOM by land line, cell phone, computer, and / or tablets??? Stephanie can give you the details...

We would LOVE to have our regular Bingo afternoons, and we hope to do so in April. Participants love ZOOM so much, we may continue with both!

HENDERSON COUNTY SENIORS... ZOOM Bingo is for YOU too! Just call 309 734 5677 and let us know you want to participate...The more the merrier!



MEDICARE UPDATES.....

From time to time Strom Center staff gets a wide range of questions about Medicare. The following may answer some of the questions about which you

have wondered. Especially so since this is still early in the year and some people may receive information from Social Security regarding changes in premiums, etc.

1. Contrary to what some believe There are **NO** income limits to **RECEIVE** Medicare benefits. Whether you pay the standard premiums, or even if you pay higher premiums or no premium due to your income, the benefits FOR **ORIGINAL MEDICARE** remain the same for all.

Well.... What is “**Original Medicare**”??

Medicare coverage is divided into parts:

- **Medicare Part A.** This is considered hospital insurance and covers inpatient stays in hospitals and nursing facilities.
- **Medicare Part B.** This is medical insurance and covers visits to doctors and specialists, as well as ambulance rides, vaccines, medical supplies, and other necessities.

Together, parts A and B are often referred to as “Original Medicare”

2. You may pay more for your Medicare B (and Medicare D) premiums based on your level of income.

For most people, Medicare Part A costs nothing. However, Medicare Part B for most persons will cost \$148.50 in 2021. Medicare D premiums are dictated by the plan in which you are enrolled.

However, if you make more than the established income limits, you’ll pay more for your premiums.

The added premium amount is known as an Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA). The Social Security Administration (SSA) determines your IRMAA based on the gross income on your tax return. **Medicare uses your tax return from 2 years ago.** For example, to determine your cost for Medicare premiums for 2021, the IRS will provide Medicare with your income from your **2019 tax return**. You may pay more depending on your income.

in 2021, higher premium amounts start when individuals make more than \$88,000 per year (married, filing jointly \$176,000) , and it goes up from there. You’ll receive an IRMAA letter in the mail from SSA if it is determined your premium levels have changed. The higher income will also result in higher Medicare D premiums.

3. **If you have limited income, you might qualify for assistance in paying Medicare premiums.**

Not only will a higher income result in higher Medicare B and Medicare D premiums, lower income can impact how much and if you even have to pay for those coverages if you qualify for the Medicare Savings Program. There are varying levels of the Medicare Savings Programs, depending on income and assets. Qualifying for a Medicare Savings Program may also qualify you for Low Income Subsidy which may lower Medicare D premiums and co-pays.

4. Deductibles for 2021 have increased slightly. Medicare A (Hospital insurance) deductible has increased from \$1408 in 2020 to \$1484 this year. Medicare Part B deductible has increased from \$198 in 2020 to \$203 this year.

Medicare costs and coverage can be confusing.....One thing is certain...there isn't a one-size fits all when we talk Medicare. Many circumstances may impact coverage not only income but conditions such as if you are currently working, retired, covered by insurance by a spouse, etc. And even though neighbors and family members may be very well-meaning, remember that your situation may not be the same as theirs. If you have questions regarding Medicare, State and / or government insurance, retirement insurance, etc. please feel free to call us at Strom309 734 5677.

Strom Thrift Shop News Corner...March 2021

.....Thrift Shop Manager, Crystal Vanskike

March of 2020 was when we had to close due to the pandemic. One year of closing and navigating rules and regulations as well as dealing with the uncertainty of the future...



We are happy to announce that the Strom Thrift Shop is going back to regular operating hours !!!

Starting on March 1st our hours will be:

MONDAY thru FRIDAY 8am to 4pm

SATURDAY 8am to 2:30pm

We will have the front door **unlocked**, we are **lifting the restriction on being 18 or older to enter** and dressing rooms will be **open**... Guidelines that are remaining the same...

Masks required

Social distancing

All Persons must be processed in: to enter temperatures will be taken and hand sanitizer /gloves will be in use. This will take place on the 2nd floor landing before entering.

We are not able to take donations at this time (*Please!!*) but hope to soon!!

Sales for March are...

- ✓ Woman's Jeans \$2.00 each
- ✓ Woman's Cardigans \$2.00 each
- ✓ One more month of the kids **BOGO Sale** (buy one at regular price get the second item of equal or lesser value FREE) this includes pants, shirts, socks and underwear...



CUSTOMER APPRECTION SALE DAYS: are March 5th. and 6th.
25% OFF Everything in the store including the monthly sale items.. ...



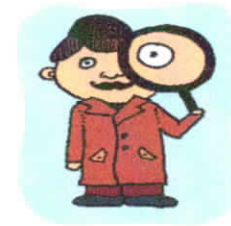
EVERYTHING in our Shop is washed, tested and checked to the best of our ability...Items are added daily!!!

RECOGNITIONS



JANUARY VOPA WINNERS

- January 8: Answer: LEVEL Winner: Bev VANRIPER
- January 15: Answer: CLASS Winner: DONNA SMOCK
- January 22: Answer: BUBBLE Winner: ANNE LIBY
- January 29: Answer: YARN Winner ANNE LIBY



GRAND FINALE WINNER: BEV VANRIPER

FEBRUARY MIND EXPLORER WINNERS

Warren County Winner: ANNA LOVDAHL

Henderson County Winner: JUDY RINK



REMEMBER: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME IN ILLINOIS WILL BEGIN AT 2 AM ON SUNDAY MARCH 14TH ...SPRING THOSE CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HOUR!!



TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN SO PATIENT ABOUT OUR RE-OPENING ...WE ARE TRYING FOR LIMITED OPENING BEGINNING IN APRIL. BE WATCHING FOR OUR APRIL EDITION OF STROM CENTER NEWS FOR THE LATEST!!

Just a Note....We included information on the Benefit Access Program in our February edition of the Strom Center News...However, this page provides additional information that may be helpful....If you have questions, please call us at Strom Center 309 734 5677.

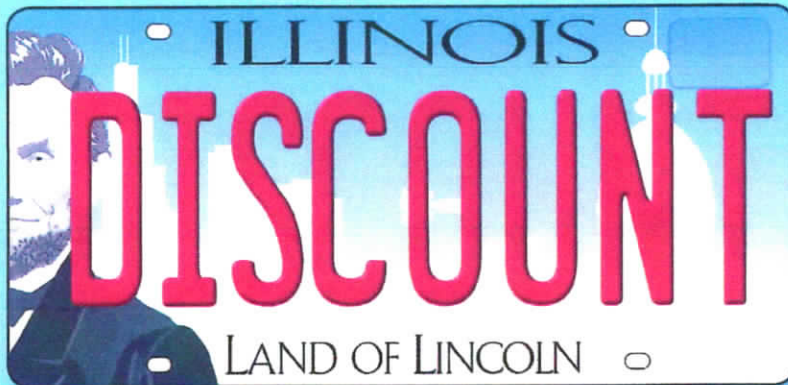


State of Illinois
Illinois Department on Aging



BENEFIT ACCESS PROGRAM

APPLY at www.illinois.gov/aging



The Benefit Access Program offers two benefits for seniors and persons with disabilities:

- A LICENSE PLATE FEE DISCOUNT
- FREE RIDES ON FIXED-ROUTE TRANSIT SYSTEMS

Eligibility is determined by income, residency, age and/or disability utilizing an online application.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Age Requirements:

- 65 years of age or older before January 1 of the current year; or
- You must become 65 years of age this year; or
- You must be 16 years of age or older before January 1 of the current year and qualify as disabled.

Residency Requirements:

- You must live in Illinois at the time you file your application.

Income Requirements:

Income limits are new for January 1, 2020 for License Plate discount and Ride Free Transit Card.

*Total income last year must be:

	For Applications Submitted:	
	Before Jan. 1, 2020	On or After Jan. 1, 2020
Household containing one person	less than \$27,610	less than \$33,562
Household containing 2 persons	less than \$36,635	less than \$44,533
Household containing 3 or more persons	less than \$45,657	less than \$55,500

NOTE: *You must include your spouse's income if married and living together on December 31 of last year. If your spouse died last year, you would file as single and claim only your income.

Disability Requirements:

To qualify as disabled, you must be at least 16 years of age prior to January 1 of the current year and be determined **totally and permanently disabled** (as defined by program requirements) prior to January 1 of the current year.

APPLY at www.illinois.gov/aging

SENIOR HELPLINE: Email: aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov
1-800-252-8966, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)
(8:30am to 5:00pm Monday through Friday)



Follow us @IllinoisDoA

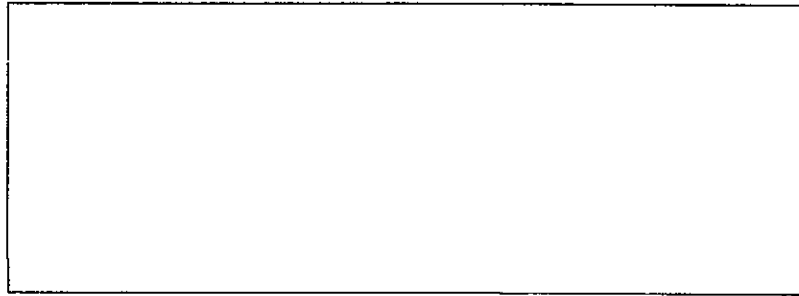
MARCH 2021 Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Lynda in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Kathy in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Stephanie in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only Erica in Oquawka	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Lynda in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Kathy in Oquawka) 1:00 PM Zoom Bingo	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Stephanie in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Erica in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Daylight Savings</i>	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Lynda in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Kathy in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Stephanie in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Erica in Oquawka) 1:30 PM Strom Board Meeting	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only	 1st Day of Spring
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Lynda in Oquawka) Mind Explorer Due!	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Kathy in Oquawka) 1:00 PM: Zoom bingo	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Stephanie in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Erica in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only	
28	29	30	31	 <p style="text-align: center;">Thrift Shop Open: Mon – Fri: 8 AM – 4 PM Sat: 8 AM – 2:30 PM Thrift Shop Phone #: 309-224- 8657</p> 		
	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Lynda in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Kathy in Oquawka)	9 AM – 4 PM Strom open by appointment only (Stephanie in Oquawka)			

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.

Warren County Site: Monmouth

211 South A Street, Monmouth, IL 61462

Henderson County Site: 410 Schuyler Street, Oquawka, IL 61469

Fax: 309-539-4256 Toll-free: 833 856 9624

Strom Center Monmouth Site: 309 734 5677

Strom Center Oquawka Site: 309 536 2558 (Please call Strom Monmouth site for appointments 309 734 5677)

Carol Neal McCrery, Director

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