

STROM CENTER NEWS

OCTOBER, 2022 EDITION 390



YELLOW MEDICATION FORMS ARE ROLLIN' IN !!

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted the Yellow Medication Forms...when we have confirmation of the 2023 plans we will begin to schedule appointments. Appointments will be made in the order in which the forms came in so if you have not yet turned yours in....please do so. Just a reminder, the Yellow forms are the only way that we will do reviews...no pharmacy lists, typed or written lists, or nursing home lists will be accepted...Please complete the forms with details on the medications... there is a new column this year on the form which asks if the medication is prescribed in tablet or capsule form. There can be a huge difference in costs between the two...Even though we require the Yellow Medication Forms, and even after turning them in, you wish to bring your medication containers with you at the time of your appointment, that is perfectly ok.

By the way, there is a stack of the Yellow Medication Forms in our front entry-way at Strom Center in Monmouth, and the forms are also available in our Oquawka Center.

For persons in Henderson County, as always we will be providing enrollments in our Oquawka center but also staff member Lynda Melvin will provide enrollment reviews in the Stronghurst Senior Center in November. Those dates will be in the November Strom Center News...however, regardless of where you request a Medicare D review, Yellow Medication forms need to be submitted to Strom Center in either Monmouth or Oquawka.

Medicare D enrollment season is always a busy one...but all the staff are excited to get started with the reviews. We look forward to seeing you soon!!



Warren County Triad

The September presenter for our monthly Triad meeting was Harvey Ponder from Lucky Monuments, Galesburg, Illinois.

Lucky Monuments is a family owned business which started in 1892 in Lewistown, Illinois. The company moved to Monmouth in 1920 and was located where Fullerton Lumber Company used to be...adjacent to the railroad tracks as that was the means by which the stones were delivered.

In 1923 the company moved to Galesburg, Illinois, and in 1981 Harvey and Sue Ponder purchased the company from the Lackys. At present the Ponders are a three-generation run business with officers in Macomb and Kewanee. In 1980 all the stones letters were hand cut using stencils and sandblasting. In the 1990s automatic programming available on the computer checked before sandblasting. The stones are made of granite which is the hardest stone next to diamonds.

Mr. Ponder shared other interesting facts about the business. Questions and Answers followed. A door prize provided by Lucky Monuments was won by Janet Sipes. Strom Centers door prize of a Save A Lot gift card was won by Julie Blackman.

The October 13th Triad speaker will be Strom Center Director Carol McCrery who will speak on Medicare and Medicare D. Due to November and December holidays and the business of the Medicare D season, there will be no Triad meeting in November and December but they will resume in January.

**Strom Senior Center 3rd Annual Pumpkin
Decorating CONTEST**
For ALL Seniors, Strom Staff, and Disabled Persons
Your pumpkin may be painted or carved
USE YOUR IMAGINATION!



All entries are due into Strom by Noon on October 24th, and will be on display for everyone to view. You may vote for your favorite entry. Voting will end at 3 PM on October 26th. Judging will take place at noon October 31st.

Awards will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place favorites.

The winner will be notified and announced in the November *Strom Center News* Newsletter...



Any questions call Strom Senior Center at 309-734-5677
Best of luck to all entries!!!

HERITAGE CHURCH QUILTERS...

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They are a Gift to So Many ~~~~~



At the Strom Thrift Shop we work hand in hand with awesome groups that give back a tremendous amount to our communities..

In particular, the Heritage Church Quilters here in Monmouth are silent giants for the contributions they make to more than 13 outlets.

They are well known for the hand sewn quilts that they create to raise

funds which greatly benefit our area. Worthwhile programs like Shop with a Cop and Vocational Education Scholarships Fund are recipients of their labor of Love.

In addition, the group produce quilts and lap throws that are donated to area nursing homes, The Strom Centers Santa for Seniors, St. Jude's, and several others.

I talked with the ladies and discovered that they have 12 members and of the 9 ladies present they have a total of over 750 years of experience. Their oldest member is Lois Paulson who has been with this group since 1983 (and just recently celebrated her 108th birthday). They have several new members that have been in the group for a year.

This groups knowledge and fun-loving nature as well as their generous volunteering of time makes them an asset to The Strom Thrift Shop. These ladies are always more than ready to help us with our material and craft items and our special volunteer projects like making "Ugly Christmas Sweaters". The members help with fund raisers from bake sales, jewelry sales and they will be present at our upcoming 'Keep the Community Warm' Event in Remembrance of Hattie Garrett to be held at Strom Center in November.

Thank you, ladies we love each and every one of you!!

.....Thrift Shop Manager, Crystal Vanskike

## Strom Thrift Shop



We have been busy filling racks and getting ahead of the cooler weather. Hoodies, sweaters, coats, hat, scarves, and gloves are overflowing!!! Infant and Kids 2T thru !8 youth are loaded.

We have a huge number of costumes that will be our focus for the next few weeks!!!

### CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALE WEEKENDS ARE:

Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> 8 AM- 4 PM and Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> 8AM-2:30 PM  
Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 8 AM-4 PM and Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 8 AM-2:30 PM  
25% OFF EVERYTHING INCLUDING SEASONAL AND SALE ITEMS



### Sales for this month:

Infant and kids 2T thru 18 Youth Pants and shirts \$1.00 each.  
Roll Over SALE: Woman's dress/casual pants \$1.50 each

We check, test, clean and wash everything to the best of our ability

### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

#### **The Keep the Community Warm Event**

Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM -3 PM  
and Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM -12 Noon

Location: Strom Senior Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor , 211 South A Monmouth IL



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## BEAUTIFUL CREATION BY PATTY SCHWASS TO BE RAFFLED



For several years PATTY SCHWASS (pictured) has donated beautiful handmade Swedish throws to be raffled here at Strom Center. We are so happy that she is keeping with the tradition and has created yet another **gorgeous throw**. The type of weaving in this throw was developed from a design our ancestors used to create on Huck Towels. The unique design is light blue on a beautiful cream background. While it looks beautiful in this picture, it is awesome in person. It is currently on display here at Strom Center in the Main Area.

Chances are \$1 each or 6 chances for \$5. (Proceeds will go toward Client Assistance) The drawing will be held during our Christmas Party in December. You need not be present to win. **Thank you, Again, Patty!!!!**

# MEDICARE INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED...



Strom Center will be hosting three Informational Meetings in October to introduce the 2023 Medicare D plans as well as share Medicare updates. We are getting ready for a **VERY** busy enrollment season educating and enrolling individuals in the most cost effective plans for their particular situations. **Strom staff are estimating that in excess of 1100 persons will be assisted this upcoming season.** We will begin signing persons up for plans in mid October. December 7th is the deadline....The plan in which you are enrolled on December 7<sup>th</sup> at midnight is the one you will be assigned for the ENTIRE year of 2023. Plans change, and many dramatically so from one year to the next. The plan in which you are enrolled this year (2022) may be the best THIS year but it could prove disastrous for next year (2023).



During one of the latest Enrollment Seasons, by reviewing and switching plans Strom staff saved enrollees \$1,324,915 in a single year. Unfortunately, **EVERY** January a number of persons come to Strom distressed over the changes in their medication costs just to realize that they could have chosen a different plan which would have saved them hundreds (and yes, depending on the medications, even thousands) of dollars if they had reviewed their options and switched plans for the new year. Some plans change their formularies, deductible amounts, and premiums. And....you may be in a plan in 2022 that will not even be available in 2023; if that happens, you will automatically be enrolled in a different replacement plan without your choice. **(Yikes!!)** Unfortunately, there is NO way to switch plans after December 7<sup>th</sup> (unless there is a change in residence and a few other uncommon circumstances).

Persons with Low Income Subsidy A.K.A. Extra Help (maybe you qualify??) are under a different set of rules than are those with just Medicare D. Strom's Informational meetings are for ALL PERSONS with Medicare and will also touch upon:

- Medicare D 2023 Plans: deductibles, premiums, and "coverage gap/ a.k.a Donut Hole" amounts
- Medicare Supplement (MediGap) plans
- Medicare Advantage Plans
- Preventative Services covered by Medicare
- Various Enrollment & Disenrollment Dates
- What programs are available beyond Medicare
- Persons with Employer Insurances ....Comparing Options...
- Programs which Lower Prescription Costs
- Turning 65? Steps to take ...
- And Bonus items...sharing what is new benefits for year 2023.



**SIGN UP IS NOT REQUIRED BUT APPRECIATED FOR ALL MEETINGS TO ENSURE THERE ARE ENOUGH HANDOUTS....** Dates and times for meetings in Monmouth:

CALL 309 734 5677 TO SIGN UP!

**Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 6 PM – 7:30 PM**

**Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 1 PM- 2:30 PM**

The same information will be shared at our Medicare Informational Meeting in our Oquawka Center:

**Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 10 AM – 11:30 Am**

Any and All persons may attend which ever meeting is convenient...regardless of county.

Remember to complete the Yellow Medication Form and submit it either to our Monmouth Strom Center or our Oquawka Strom Center. Forms are available at both locations. After Strom receives the forms, a Staff Member will call you to set up and appointment.

**Note (!)** even though the Open Enrollment officially ends on December 7<sup>th</sup>, we will only schedule appointments until November 30<sup>th</sup>, allowing staff to confirm all enrollments have been processed. We will announce some evening appointment times and Saturdays to accommodate as many persons as we can...those times will be offered as we call to set up appointment times.

### **By the Way....**

All of our Medicare Staff are SHIP certified and have considerable experience in counseling in the Medicare D programs. We will try to pair clients with the staff they request, but in order that all persons are assisted and we are able to meet our deadline, it may be necessary to switch to a different staff member. Thanks for your understanding!

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### **Everything Great about this Picture....**

#### **A 'Double Feature'**

We are blessed at Strom Center with a VERY creative staff member...Lisa Ray decorated the pole in front of our Strom Center in Oquawka ...(with husband Scott's help). And then a little guy added his handsome face and smile to make the attraction even more attractive! What an awesome little guy he is! "Will" is the son of Strom Staff member Erica Pence...he always has a smile just like his mommy.....

Erica works at our Strom Center in Oquawka on Thursdays, providing assistance in many areas...As she has for several years, she will be doing Medicare D reviews again this year.



# WIRC to see area clients at Strom Center in Monmouth and Oquawka



**Do I qualify for energy bill help through WIRC?**

- ✓ I am a renter or homeowner
- ✓ I live in Hancock, Henderson, McDonough, or Warren counties in Illinois
- ✓ My household's total gross income is within the program limits (see chart)

| Number of People Living in Your Home | Your Household's Gross Income Cannot Exceed... |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1 person                             | \$2,265 per month                              |
| 2 people                             | \$3,052 per month                              |
| 3 people                             | \$3,838 per month                              |
| 4 people                             | \$4,625 per month                              |
| 5 people                             | \$5,412 per month                              |
| 6 people or more                     | Call or visit WIRC's website                   |



**Apply: 309-837-2997**

Learn more: [wirpc.org/liheap/](http://wirpc.org/liheap/)

Funding is provided through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity



Income guidelines effective until May 31, 2023

STROM CENTER is delighted to partner with WIRC (Western Illinois Regional Council) in providing space for their staff to meet with clients for the LiHeap Program.

Shown to the left is the eligibility criteria .If you have questions about this and/ or other programs provided for by WIRC and would like to schedule an appointment call 309 837 2997.

**CHANGE OF HOURS:** Beginning Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> Strom Center's hours both in Oquawka and Monmouth will be from 8:30 AM – 4 PM. Hours during Medicare D Enrollment (October 15 – December 7) may be extended on a case by case basis.

Strom Center will be closed on **Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Columbus Day.

# RECOGNITIONS...



## V.O.P.A. WINNERS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER



- Week #1: ANNE LIBY Answer: Toasts
- Week #2: TERESA PERIEN Answer: Broom
- Week #3: DONNA SMOCK Answer: Yarn
- Week #4: PAT SELBY Answer: Game

**Grand Finale Winner: TERESA PRIEN**

## Mind Explorer Winners for the month of September:

**Warren County: DONNA SCHOLZ**

**Henderson County: MICHELLE MCCOLLUM**



## 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Bridge Winners in September



### 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday

HI: PEGGY HARRIS 2<sup>nd</sup>: LINDA MCGUIRE LOW: GLENNA MARTIN

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday

HI: BECKY DOWELL 2<sup>nd</sup>: MAXINE STEWART LOW: JEANE ROBISON

## SHANGHI RUMMY WINNERS IN SEPTEMBER ~~

September 6:

Table #1

Low: BARB NICHOLS

2<sup>ND</sup>: PATTY ALBIN

Table #2:

Low: ANNE LIBY

2<sup>ND</sup>: BONNY MUNSON



September 20:

Table #1

Low: SHIRLEY PETERSON

2<sup>ND</sup>: MILDRED EGGAR

Table #2:

Low: BARBARA NICHOLS

2<sup>ND</sup>: ANNETTE MANTHEI

***Are you interest in participating in card games...Or meeting the challenge of our V.O.P.A. quizzes? Call 309 734 5677 for information.***



Strom Center's....

# Henderson County Seniors

Happenings in the following communities....

## BIGGSVILLE:

**1<sup>ST</sup> Annual "Fall for Biggsville"** on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3 – 7 PM

Main Street in Biggsville Clothing and Craft vendors, free childrens crafts, Trunk or Treats by local businesses, free showing of the movie Hocus Pocus along with Free Popcorn, LIVE Music and More!!

## **MOVIE DAYS at the Henderson County Library:**

**Adult movies every Thursday at 1 PM:**

Oct. 6: Elvis ( PG 13)    Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>: The Help (PG 13)    Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> American Underdog (PG 13)  
Oct. 27: A Dog's Way Home (PG)

**Family Movie 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at 10 AM**

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>: Jurassic World Dominion (PG 13)

## OQUAWKA

**EAGLE VIEW 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Hustle 5K Run/ Walk**

Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM    For more information call 309 867 2202

## **Oquawka Annual Halloween Wiener Roast**

Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 PM at End of Schuyler Street in Oquawka

## **STRONGHURST**

Stronghurst UMC Soup Supper    Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7 PM

**Other:** In Person Voter Registration for the November General Election closes Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. Online Voter registration for the November General Election closes Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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## **BINGO DAYS IN OQUAWKA...**

**Wednesdays October 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM**

Have you ever joined us for Bingo??? If not, come check us out! We have so much fun! You don't want to miss it!

Each person is allowed up to 4 cards FREE and 25cents for each additional card.

Snacks are served during the afternoon.

\*\*\*Medicare Informational Meetings at Strom Center, Monmouth: Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM and \*\*\* Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> at 1 PM  
 \*\*\*Medicare Informational Meeting at Strom Center, Oquawka: Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM  
 Sign-ups not required but preferred (to ensure we have plenty of handouts) Call 709 734 5677.

## OCTOBER 2022 Events

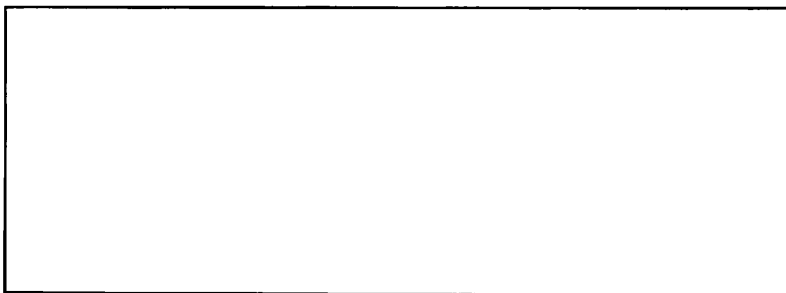
|                                              |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                       |                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |     |    |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|--|
| SUN                                                                                                                           | MON                                                                                            | TUE                                                                                                                   | WED                                                                   | THUR                                                                                | FRI                                                                                  | SAT | SUN                                                                                   | MON | TUE | WED | THUR | FRI | SAT |  |
| OQJAWKA STAFF                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                | THRIFT SHOP                                                                                                           |                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |     | 1                                                                                     |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| Monday- Lynda Melvin<br>Tuesday – Kathy Ferrenburgt<br>Wednesday – Stephanie Reading<br>Thursday – Erica Pence                |                                                                                                |                                      | <b>OPEN:</b><br>Mon – Fri<br>8AM. – 4 PM<br>Saturday:<br>8:00 2:30 pm |  |   |     |                                                                                       |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| 2                                                                                                                             | 3                                                                                              | 4                                                                                                                     | 5                                                                     | 6                                                                                   | 7                                                                                    | 8   |                                                                                       |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| 9:00 – 4 PM: Open.<br>9:30 AM: Exercise Class                                                                                 |                                                                                                | 00 – 4 PM: Open.<br>9:00 AM: Wood Carvers<br>9:00 AM: Crafters<br>9 AM: Crafters<br>12:00 O.D.O.                      | 9:00 – 4 PM: Open:<br>9:30 AM: Exercise Class                         |                                                                                     | 9:00 - 4 PM<br>Strom open                                                            |     | 9:00 – 4 PM<br>Strom open.<br>9:30: Exercise Class                                    |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| 9                                                                                                                             | 10                                                                                             | 11                                                                                                                    | 12                                                                    | 13                                                                                  | 14                                                                                   | 15  |                                                                                       |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| <b>COLUMBUS DAY</b><br> <b>STROM CLOSED</b> |                                                                                                | 9:00 – 4 PM: Open.<br>9 AM: Wood Carvers<br>9 AM: Crafters<br>1:00 PM: Bingo at Strom                                 | 9:00 – 4 PM: Open<br>9:30 AM: Exercise Class<br>1 pm Bingo Oquawka    |                                                                                     | 9:00 – 4:00 PM<br>Strom Open<br>1:00 Triad Meeting                                   |     | 9:00 – 4 PM<br>Strom open.<br>9:30: Exercise Class                                    |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| 16                                                                                                                            | 17                                                                                             | 18                                                                                                                    | 19                                                                    | 20                                                                                  | 21                                                                                   | 22  |                                                                                       |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| 9:00 – 4 PM: Open.<br>9:00 AM: Exercise Class                                                                                 |                                                                                                | 00 – 4 PM: Open.<br>9:00 AM: Wood Carvers<br>9:00 AM: Crafters<br>9 AM: Crafters<br>12:00 O.D.O.<br>6 PM Medicare Mtg | 9:00 – 4 PM: Open<br>9:30 AM: Exercise Class                          |                                                                                     | 9:00 – 4:00 PM<br>Strom Open<br>Mind Explorer Due<br>1 PM Medicare Mtg<br>in Oquawka |     | 9:00 – 4 PM<br>Strom open.<br>9:30 AM: Exercise Class<br>1 PM Medicare Mtg            |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| 23                                                                                                                            | 24 & 31                                                                                        | 25                                                                                                                    | 26                                                                    | 27                                                                                  | 28                                                                                   | 29  |                                                                                       |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |
| 30                                                                                                                            | 9:00 – 4 PM: Strom Open<br>9:30 AM: Exercise Class<br>Pumpkins Due by Noon on 24 <sup>th</sup> | 9:00 – 4 PM: Open.<br>9 AM: Wood Carvers<br>9 AM: Crafters<br>1:00 PM: Bingo at Strom                                 | 9:00 – 4 PM: Open<br>9:30 AM: Exercise Class<br>1 pm Bingo Oquawka    |                                                                                     | 9:00 – 4:00 PM<br>Strom Open                                                         |     | 9-4 AM Strom open.<br>9:30 AM: Exercise Class                                         |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |
|                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                |                                                                                                                       |                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |     |  |     |     |     |      |     |     |  |



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**