It’s Your Duty: Get Out And Vote!

Election Day November 6, 2012

Every eligible American citizen is being called on to perform one of the most important acts of citizenship. They will be called on to VOTE.

Far too many do not recognize the importance of voting. Many people find the weakest of excuses not to vote. And despicably, some people try to discourage or block others who might disagree with them from voting.

Think for a moment what our great country would be if decisions were left to a few people who could not be held accountable by those whom the decision affected. Voting is the most productive way to hold people accountable for the decisions they make. Voting is also the most responsible way for each of us to take responsibility for determining the direction of our country.

When you are one of the many millions of eligible voters, it is easy to think your vote doesn’t make a difference. We may feel this way because we can’t see the connection between our vote and the decisions made by those we elect. We may hold this view because we think that, since so many have a different point of view, ours won’t count. We may feel our candidates will win anyway so they don’t need our single vote.

Democracy only works when we all vote. We may not know you or your opinion. We may agree or disagree with your views. But your vote gives our votes meaning.

So, vote! Encourage your family and friends to vote! America needs Americans to Vote!

Note: To vote, Kansas law requires all voters to show approved photo identification. Photo identification must include the name and photo of the registered voter. Any of the following documents may be used as photo identification for voting in Kansas:

- Driver’s License or ID Card issued by any state or district of the United States
- U.S. Passport
- Student ID Card issued by an accredited Kansas college or university
- Government employee badge or ID
- Concealed carry license issued by any state or district of the United States
- Public assistance ID issued by a municipal, county, state or federal government office

Persons age 65 or older may use an expired photo ID. Persons with established religious beliefs which prohibit photo ID may be exempt.

Questions/concerns may be directed to the Wyandotte County Election office, 850 State Ave., Kansas City, Kansas 66101 or by dialing 913-573-8500.
ARE YOU CARING FOR YOUR AGING PARENTS?

Baby boomers are facing many issues as their parents age and need assistance to maximize their independent lifestyles.

Top on the list is “how to keep mom or dad at home” in a happy, safe environment, while trying to maintain your many responsibilities and lifestyles necessary to your own well being. With full-time jobs, family caretakers are unable to get everything done on a daily basis.

As parents age, the comfort of their home becomes even more important. The challenges of everyday living can be too much for them. To live independently in the safety and privacy of their own home takes a lot of energy and senior care services can help.

Service providers can bring of peace of mind through the front door and into the lives of aging parents. Some of the services provided are: meal preparation, assistance with eating, help with bathing and keeping them in fresh clean clothes. There are care helpers that also do light housekeeping, bed linen changing, laundry and vacuuming.

There are so many things we take for granted in our busy lives, but the elder parent or friend can’t take them for granted anymore, yet those things don’t just disappear. They can still have fun, they love to play board games, play cards, watch movies and eat popcorn, have a glass of wine with lunch, laugh and be happy. These services can be theirs without your constant attendance. You are free to live your life with peace of mind.

In all reality, there is no place like home and they will love you all the more for providing for their basic needs without you having to always be there. They will look forward to your weekly visits and you will look forward to them, too. You can visit as the daughter, or the son, not the parent’s parent...What a relief. What a blessing!

TAX TIME IS COMING!

The Homestead or Safe Senior Refund is a rebate or portion of the property taxes paid on a Kansas resident’s homestead.

Persons filing for this refund must have been a resident of the State of Kansas for all of the tax year 2012.

Homestead Property Tax Refund Qualifying criteria must have existed for entire year of 2012:
- Born before January 1, 1957 OR
- Totally or permanently disabled or blind
- Total household income

Safe Senior Property Tax Refund Qualifying criteria must have existed for the entire year of 2012:
- Homeowner 65 years or older all of 2012
- Income of $18,200 or less
- Did not have any delinquent property taxes in 2011

Persons seeking assistance from the Clerk’s Office in filing a claim will be required to come into the office. Information will not be taken over the phone. Residency and income guidelines must be met for all programs. Proof-of-income statements for all household members are required for the filing year.

The County Clerk’s Office is located at the Municipal Office Bldg., 701 N. 7th St. Ste. 323. Assistance for these programs will be available starting Wednesday, January 2, 2012 through Monday, April 15, 2013, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm with the exception of holidays.
¿Necesita ayuda escogiendo o cambiando su receta médica o plan de salud?

¡Consejeros del Senior Health Insurance de Kansas le pueden ayudar!

Esta ayuda aplica a beneficiarios o aquellas personas que ofrecen cuidado a beneficiarios de Medicare o a usuarios de Medicare que viven en el área del condado de Wyandotte o Leavenworth.

Disponible los martes y jueves
15 de octubre al 7 de diciembre del 2012 con cita SOLAMENTE

Para hacer una cita con un consejero puede llamar al (913) 573-8531.

Do you need assistance with choosing or changing your current prescription or drug/health plan?

Senior Health Insurance Counselors for Kansas (SHICK Counselors) are here to help!

This assistance applies to new and current Medicare beneficiaries or caregivers assisting beneficiaries who reside in Wyandotte or Leavenworth Counties.

Tuesdays and Thursdays
October 15 - December 7, 2012
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

To schedule an appointment with a trained counselor, call the Area Agency on Aging at 913-573-8531.

SHICK COUNSELING EXTENDED HOURS:
October 15 - December 7, 2012, Monday - Thursday, 5pm - 6pm

HORARIO EXTENDIDO PARA LOS CONSEJEROS DEL SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE DE KANSAS
15 de octubre al 7 de diciembre, 2012 - Lunes a viernes, 5 - 6 pm

THE SENIOR CARE ACT PROGRAM CAN HELP!

You must meet the following criteria:
• 60 years or older
• Pay a co-pay
And need assistance with:
• Shopping
• Laundry
• Bathing
• Other activities of daily living

Senior Care Act services include:
• Lift/Wheel Chairs
• Eyeglasses
• Utility Assistance
• Dentures
• Medication Assistance
• Transportation

*Clients must be 60 years of age and older, meet an activity of daily living score and may be responsible for a co-pay before services can be provided under this program.
NEW MIDTOWN TRANSIT CENTER TO HOUSE AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/KCK and the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA) held a groundbreaking ceremony on September 19, 2012 to launch construction of a $4.5 million Midtown Transit Center at 47th & State Avenue near the old Indian Springs Mall.

The 11,000 square foot Transit Center will open in late 2013 and will be the new home for the KCK Police Department Midtown Patrol, the Area Agency on Aging and have space for community meetings and activities.

The Midtown Metro Center and a new Downtown Transit Center at 7th and Minnesota are part of the State Avenue/KCK Connex Line which will travel along a 14-mile transit route that begins at 10th and Main in downtown KCMO, travels through downtown KCK and Village West at 109th & Parallel Parkway. Both transit centers will be custom-built with improved passenger waiting areas and amenities such as real-time passenger information.

It is also spurring long-awaited plans to demolish the mostly abandoned shopping center and redevelop the area. Unified Government officials solicited redevelopment proposals for the site earlier this year and are reviewing those ideas from developers now. It’s too soon to tell when a developer will be selected and work to rebuild the area will begin. Bulldozers and wrecking balls are set to demolish the Indian Springs Mall building beginning in February 2013.

Meanwhile, the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) who currently work out of the old Indian Springs Mall and its employees will move to a new location at 4953 State Avenue, the site of a closed U.S. Post Office. The new NRC offices will house a half dozen Unified Government Operations including: Liveable Neighborhoods, Code Enforcement, Rental Licensing, Building Inspection, Demolition, Business Licensing and Community Policing.

SENIOR CITIZENS UTILITY TAX REBATES

The Senior Citizen Utility Tax Rebate Program refunds up to $150 for the franchise fee paid to BPU, Atmos Gas or Kansas Gas, and Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. in addition to a refund on the city sales tax which is based on income.

To qualify, all three must apply:
- Be a Kansas City, Kansas resident. (Residents of Bonner Springs and Edwardsville are not eligible).
- Be 65 years of age or older during the entire calendar year of 2012.
- Gross income from all sources, including that of spouse, shall not exceed $25,000.

Applications are filled out on a walk-in basis January 2 through March 29, 2013, M-F, 8:30am-4:30pm, at 701 N. 7th Street - Rm. 323

All applicants are required to provide the following:
- Proof of 2012 income for self, spouse and anyone else residing in the home from all sources, i.e. social security, pension, W-2s, interest earned, rental properties, etc.
- Supporting 2012 utility bills from BPU, Gas and/or Telephone Company.

The Senior Citizen Utility Tax applications may also be filled out at the Area Agency on Aging, Security Bank Bldg., 1300 N. 78th St. Ste 100, on Tuesday and Thursday by appointment only. To set up an appointment, you can call 913-573-8531.
The Kansas Optimizing Health Program (KOHP) is a highly interactive program where people of various chronic conditions come together to learn and practice new skills over a six week period to manage their chronic condition. The participants meet once a week for 2 1/2 hours to discuss and problem solve a variety topics relevant to coping with chronic conditions. The topics discussed include but are not limited to:

- Learning how to become more physically active safely
- Learning how to make healthy food choices
- Learning how to communicate with family, friends and the health care team
- Learning how to become an active member of the health care team
- Learning how to deal with difficult emotions, frustration and anger
- Learning how to set and achieve weekly action plans
- Learning how to identify and solve problems caused by having a chronic condition.

The discussion is facilitated by two trained leaders who guide the participants through four to six topics each week. Participants are encouraged to share their success in dealing with a variety of topics so participants can learn from each other and build their confidence in dealing with their chronic condition. Participants do not learn the medical aspect of a disease but rather how to manage the emotional, physical and social challenges of having a chronic condition. Family members and/or friends of participants are encouraged to attend the workshop in order to increase their understanding of the challenges associated with living with a chronic condition on a daily basis.

The workshops are appropriate and beneficial for anyone dealing with an ongoing chronic health condition, family members or caregivers. Workshop participants receive the “Living a Healthy Life with a Chronic Conditions” book that is a resource for additional information beyond the workshop topics. The primary conditions covered in the book include but are not limited to Arthritis, Diabetes, Heart and Lung Diseases.

If you are interested in attending a six-week course to learn how to manage your chronic condition, please contact the Area Agency on Aging at 913-573-8531 as classes will be forming soon.
BE ALERT FOR FRAUD DURING MEDICARE PART D, MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OPEN-ENROLLMENT

Kansas Medicare beneficiaries should be alert to any potential scams surrounding sign-up activity for Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans. “Unfortunately, not everyone who contacts Medicare-age Kansans about Medicare drug plans or Medicare Advantage plans has the best intention,” said Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger. “Being smart and alert is very important in fighting potential fraud and illegal sales.”

To protect your family members or yourself from scam artists intent on taking advantage of the situation, Commissioner Praeger offers the following tips:

- Beware of door-to-door sales people. Agents cannot solicit business for either Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage Plans at your home without an appointment. Do not let uninvited agents into your home. Also, Medicare has no official sales representatives. Beware of any salesperson who says that he/she is a Medicare representative.

- Check with the Kansas Insurance Department (KID) to make sure the salesperson is a licensed agent by calling 800-432-2484.

- No marketing in educational or care settings is allowed. Federal regulations prohibit the marketing of Medicare products at an educational event or in places where health care is delivered.

- No free meals either, Federal regulations prohibit offers of free meals for listening to a sales presentation for Medicare product or signing up for a particular plan.

- Medicare beneficiaries are urged not to give out personal information, such as Social Security numbers or credit card numbers to anyone not verified as a licensed agent. Sales people are not allowed to request such personal information in their marketing activities and cannot ask for payment over the internet. They must send the beneficiary a bill. Once he or she has decided to purchase a plan and has verified that the agency is licensed, the customer may give the agent personal information to assist in enrollment and billing.

- Verify that the plan chosen is an approved Medicare Plan. All of the approved plans are available online at www.medicare.gov under the “Finding Health and Drug Plans” section, or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE.

- Read and understand the plan. Be sure that the chosen plan matches the beneficiary’s needs and that the beneficiary can continue to see his or her current health care providers if that is desired.

- Be certain that needed prescription drugs are available through the Part D plan. Companies change these lists annually.

Consumers should arm themselves with all the information they can. A savvy Medicare beneficiary or family member of the beneficiary helps all of us fight fraudulent activities. Kansas Medicare beneficiaries can contact the KID Consumer Assistance Division for more information about Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage plans. Call 800-432-2484.

Information provided by the Kansas Insurance Department
Most of the United States begins Daylight Saving Time at 2am on the second Sunday in March and reverts to standard time on the first Sunday in November.

In the U.S., each time zone switches at a different time.

Twice a year, when Daylight Saving Time begins or ends, make it a habit to not only change your clocks, but do a few other semi-annual tasks that will improve safety in your home:
- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors
- Prepare a disaster supply kit for your house (water, food, flashlights, batteries and blankets)
- Check and discard expired medications. Those dates really DO have meaning. Some very common over-the-counter medications can cause serious problems due to change through aging.

Congratulations to Coorerena Johnson!*
Ms. Johnson is the winner of the $25 gift card to Hen House.
*Ms. Johnson has until October 31, 2012 to claim her prize or another winner will be chosen.
Wyandotte/Leavenworth Area Agency on Aging

1300 North 78th Street, Suite 100
Kansas City, Kansas 66112

Phone: 913-573-8531
Fax: 913-573-8577
E-mail: 60Plus@wycokck.org
Website: www.wycokck.org/aging

60Plus?...Call On Us!

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If you need assistance call the Wyandotte/Leavenworth Area Agency on Aging at 913-573-8531.

The Wyandotte/Leavenworth Area Agency on Aging does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, or handicap.

If you feel you have been discriminated against, you may file a complaint with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services at 1-800-432-3535.

MILL LEVY FUNDED PROGRAMS

Transportation
Demand Response
913-573-8308
(traveling within the Wyandotte County limits only)

Hearing Aid Program
Providence Medical Center
913-596-5143

Legal Services
Kansas Legal Services
913-621-0200

CALENDAR

Election Day
Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Veterans Day
Monday, November 12, 2012
Unified Government offices closed

Thanksgiving
Thursday, November 22, 2012
Friday, November 23, 2012
Unified Government offices closed

Christmas
Monday, December 24, 2012
Tuesday, December 25, 2012
Unified Government offices closed

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