Beaver County Office on Aging

News You Can Use

- •Be sure to redeem your Senior Farmers Market vouchers for Pennsylvania grown fruits and vegetables at the area Farmers Markets.
- •If you have any extra yarn you do not need, consider donating it to the Beaver County Office on Aging. We have several ladies who will crochet or knit lap robes for our Surprises for Shut-ins holiday program.
- The Ambridge Social Security office relocated to 350 Logan Lane, Harmony Township as of June 3. It is across from Sheetz and Aldi in Baden. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesday. For Social Security services, call toll-free at 1-800-772-1213.

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Herb Lemon Orzo Salad

12 oz. Orzo or any shaped pasta

2 large handfuls of baby spinach, chopped

15 oz. can garbanzo beans, drained

1 cucumber, diced

1 C chopped fresh basil leaves

1 C chopped fresh mint leaver

2 lemons, zested and juiced

1/4 C olive oil

Sea salt and freshly-cracked black pepper, to taste

½ C crumbled feta or goat cheese

Cook pasta and then drain. Rinse in a strainer with cold water until the pasta is chilled. Transfer pasta to a large mixing bowl. Add remaining ingredients to the bowl and toss until evenly combined. Serve immediately or cover and refrigerate for up to three days.

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Watch BCOA on YouTube!

The Beaver County Office on Aging has launched its YouTube Channel to discuss services and programs available to Beaver County older adults.

In our first video, Program Monitor Angela Gentile interviewed Office on Aging APPRISE volunteer Kathy Miller about Medicare, Medical Assistance and insurance counseling. It helps you understand your benefits and in addition to assist you in making good insurance coverage decisions. In our second video, Angela interviewed Mike Durham, a volunteer with Brighton First, who helps oversee the Beaver County Senior Gardens. There was a discussion about the garden plots and amenities available plus the new raised bed gardens being installed. Our third video featured Colleen Dittman, Aging Care Manager for the Caregiver Support Program. She described how this program can provide financial reimbursement to the caregiver for supplies, services, assistive devices and home modifications they purchase to keep a loved one at home.

You can find the videos from the Beaver County website at www.beavercountypa.gov. Then you can click on the Facebook and Twitter sites to reach the videos. You can visit www.youtube.com and then search for Beaver County Office on Aging.

Not only is the Office on Aging trying to reach older adults, but also their younger relatives in order to educate them about aging services in a media which they are using.

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Be Vigilant about Identity Theft, Scams and Fraud

By Angela Gentile, Planning Unit Program Monitor Beaver County Office on Aging

Identity theft, scams and fraud—it is all around us. Before you know it, there is new way for someone to gain your personal information for their financial gain. It can be non-technological to technological schemes.

These things can happen when someone takes your personally identifiable information including, but not limited to Social Security number, date of birth, mother's maiden name and your address and uses it with or without your permission.

It can happen to anyone. You have to remain alert to prevent unethical people from obtaining and using your information.

Listed below is information from the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Inspector General about a fraud alert involving genetic testing.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a fraud alert involving genetic testing. Follow this link for more information and to report fraud on this issue:

https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/consumer-alerts/alerts/geneticscam.asp?utm_source=.

Recently, the National Association of Insurance issued the notification below to state insurance departments about a new scam targeting various senior facilities regarding DNA swabbing tests.

In addition, in an effort to make seniors aware of potential identity theft scams, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) released the "Identity Theft Protection Guide" and an educational placemat with information regarding identity theft. Senior centers are able to download this placemat or order a supply for free. See the links for more information.

We are sharing these resources in an effort to identify and prevent potential scams targeting seniors from occurring in your community.

From the National Association of Insurance:

"DNA Swabbing: Several states are hearing from consumers about groups going to senior living communities, assisted living facilities and senior centers offering to swab the cheeks of seniors for genetic material purportedly for DNA checks for cancer. The alleged scam offers to perform free DNA tests for cancer or other life-threating diseases; and collecting information from people enrolled in government health programs. In addition, these scammers claim Medicare will cover 100% of the cost of the test but Medicare only covers such tests for genetic propensity for cancer under specific requirements.

The alleged DNA-testing scams appear to be a new twist on an old tactic, in which people are tricked into giving away personal information or participating in medical services they don't need. Perpetrators of such schemes can bill Medicare for unneeded medical tests and procedures or use the information they collect to commit identity theft and fraud. A recent example brought to the NAIC's attention involved a company present in a community for 2 days swabbing residents -- a community of approximately 2,300 people. The residents had to choose between cancer or Alzheimer's but could not choose both. Six weeks later, no one has received any results. Residents are very concerned about what has happened to their genetic information."

How to reach the Beaver County Office on Aging:

Address: 1020 8th Ave., Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Phone: 724-847-2262 (local calls); 888-548-2262 (long distance)

Fax: 724-847-3490 TDD: 724-728-5700

Email: aging @bcoa.us

Website: www.beavercountypa.gov/Depts/OOA