



January 2021

HOPEDALE SENIOR NEWS

Published by the Hopedale Council on Aging

*43 Hope Street • Hopedale, MA, 01747
(Located inside the Community House)*

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Outreach Message Line: 508-478-2858 • E-mail: hopedalecoa@comcast.net
Monday-Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am - 12:30 pm*

What if I missed the Medicare Open Enrollment Period? Can I still make a change to my 2021 coverage?

People who are currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage (MA) plan have until March 31, 2021 to switch to another MA plan or to Original Medicare with or without a stand-alone prescription drug plan (Part D) during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA OEP).



The MA OEP occurs each year from January 1 through March 31, and it is only available to people who have a Medicare Advantage plan. One change can be made during this period, which will take effect the first of the month following the month you enroll. For example, if you switch to a new Medicare Advantage Plan in February, your new coverage begins March 1.

Changes that can be made during this period include switching to:

- a different MA plan with drug coverage
- a different MA plan without drug coverage
- Original Medicare and a Part D plan or
- Original Medicare without a Part D plan

This is an opportunity to make a change if you find your coverage is not working for you; for example, one of your doctors no longer accepts your plan.

Other news:

- For those with Prescription Advantage or "Extra Help"; these programs help with paying for your prescription drugs. They also offer a Special Enrollment Period allowing you to change your prescription drug plan if needed outside of Open Enrollment. Those with Prescription Advantage can do this only once each year. Those with "Extra Help" can change once each quarter.
- The Massachusetts Medicare Savings Program pays your monthly Part B Premium that is deducted from your Social Security income. The 2021 monthly Part B premium will be \$148.50 in 2021. You will also be eligible for Extra Help from Social Security to help pay your prescription drug costs. You may be eligible if your income and assets are at or below these values.
- Individual Gross Income: \$1,755/month Assets: \$15,720 Couple Gross Income: \$2,371/month Assets: \$23,600

If you want to take advantage of any of these opportunities to change your plans or be screened for assistance call your local Senior Center at (508)634-2208 and ask to speak with a SHINE Counselor. They can talk you through the process and discuss any consequences of changing plans.

The SHINE Program (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone), is federally funded and state administered through the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The Program annually certifies over 700 counselors statewide, that provide, unbiased, confidential counseling on all aspects Medicare, related private insurance products and financial assistance programs

The Central Mass SHINE Program office phone number is 508-422-9931.

Visit us at our Central Mass Website www.shinema.org for useful information.

A Glorious Happy New Year to Everyone!

2021 will be a great year.

Can't wait to see all of you!!!



ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT THE SR. CENTER

OUR SERVICES ARE CONFIDENTIAL - WE CAN MAKE COVID-19 SAFE HOME VISITS

OUTREACH SERVICES

(Currently Outdoor or Doorstep)

Confidential counseling, caregiver support, information and referral services are available on aging issues for seniors and caregivers.



VETERANS' SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND SPOUSES OF VETERANS

Confidential counseling with our Veterans' Agent, Pat Morris. Individuals issues or medical conditions do not have to be "service-related".



MEDICARE, MEDICAID AND HEALTH AND DRUG INSURANCE COUNSELING SHINE PROGRAM

Information and assistance is available on all aspects of Medicare coverage and assistance plans available through Medicare & Medicaid. Supplemental health and drug insurance coverage information and assistance for Medicare eligible individuals.

HOME REPAIR (May be on hold due to COVID-19)

Any senior age sixty (60) and older, who owns and resides in their home, can apply for home repair assistance. **The repair must be deemed a safety concern** in order to qualify for this service. There is no income guideline for this program.

For more information or to apply you can call Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance Elder Home Repair Program at **(774)243-3815**. You can also check- out the website at www.cmhaonline.org and click on "Read more about our organization" to access the information on Elder Home Repair. Contact the Hopedale Senior Center for additional assistance.

FOOD STAMP APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

Information and application assistance for the Food Stamp Program is available at the Sr. Center or projectbread.org



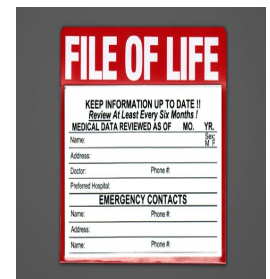
FUEL ASSISTANCE AND HOME WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS (SMOC)

New applications available for fuel season effective **Nov. 1, 2020**.

Program open to renters and home owners. All forms of heating eligible.

FILE OF LIFE PROGRAM - FREE

The Sr. Center will provide you with a magnetic card that can be placed on your refrigerator or carried in your purse. The pre-printed card has space for emergency contact numbers, your current medications as well as you attending physicians' names and phone numbers. In the event of an emergency if you are unable to communicate, the card may provide information critical to your care.



HOUSE NUMBER SIGNS PROGRAM - FREE

A wooden number sign is available to all Hopedale residents. As a public safety measure, all residences are required to display house numbers. The TRIAD program will provide you with **free** house number sign. Please contact us for more information on how to obtain a free house number sign.

COPY/FAX SERVICES - We will make copies for you or Fax documents.
10 cents per page (Call for an appointment).

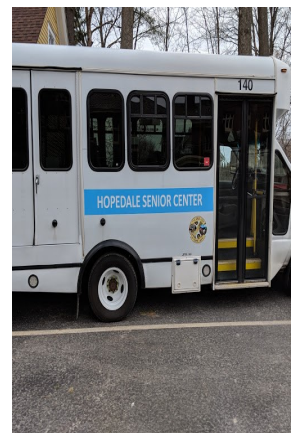


Hopedale Local Errand Van Schedule

(Shopping, Hair Salons, Barbershops, Banks and more!)

Please schedule your van ride 3 (three) business days in advance of your requested ride.
Our new schedule (hours of operation) for local errand transportation is as follows:

Monday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Tuesday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Thursday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Friday 9:30 am to 12:00 pm (per availability of driver)



Please remember that due to COVID-19 restrictions we can only have two (2) passengers in the van at the same time. All riders are temperature screened and required to cover their nose and mouth with a face mask.

Hopedale Local Medical Van Schedule



Monday - Friday
 9:00 am - 2:30 pm (appointments)
 No transit between 11:15 am - 1:00 pm
 \$3.00 Rd. Trip

Schedule appointments 3 business days in advance.

Out of Town Medical Van Schedule

Monday - Thursday (Subject to Change)

No appointments earlier than 10:30 am

Ready to return home by 1:00 pm

Framingham \$10.00 Rd. Trip / Boston \$25.00 Rd. Trip

Natick /Westboro Worcester

Franklin/Bellingham/Uxbridge \$5.00 Rd. Trip

Schedule appointments 3 business days in advance.



MONUMENT CLEANING SERVICE
\$50 TO \$100 Contact Robert Lorenzo
at (508)328-0064
Cleaned using Power Wash !!!



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Grab and Go Meal - Wednesday January 13, 2021

Hopedale Sr. Center 11:30 am

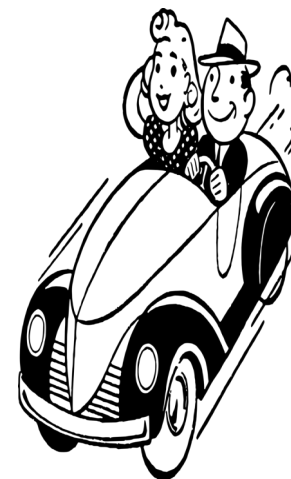
Pick from one of three options:

- Pick-up your meal at 43 Hope St. (Sr. Center)
- Pick-up your meal at Griffin-Dennett Housing (Hopedale St.)
- Request Home Delivery of your meal

Menu:

Fish with Crumb Topping, Lemon Seasoned Rice
Roasted California Blend Vegetables, Chocolate Pudding
Marble Rye Bread

***Sign-up required by 1/8/2021**



Chairperson Cheryl Moreci
Vice Chairperson Bob Casali
Secretary Dan Malloy

MEMBERS

Nancilee Fuller
Eileen Milaszewski
Karen Kuligowski
Julia Manning

Director Carole Mullen
Outreach Nancy Mosher
Staff Assistant Jennifer Bethel

The COA Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of
each month at 1:00 pm at the Sr. Center.



*The mailing of this newsletter
is funded by the Hopedale Friends
of Elders.*

HOPEDALE FRIENDS OF ELDERS, INC.

Box 318
Hopedale
Massachusetts 01747

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SUPPORT THE HOPEDALE FRIENDS OF ELDERS

Hopedale Friends of Elders
PO Box 318 - Hopedale, MA 01747

In lieu of flowers or other gifts, please consider making a tax-deductible donation in memory/honor of a loved one to the Friends of Elders, by using this form.

Your gift will go directly to services for senior citizens for today and tomorrow. Donations can be made in honor of births, birthdays, and anniversaries as well as in memory of loved ones. No minimum donation is required. We will acknowledge all donations.

Donations can also be dropped off at the Curiosity Shoppe of Hopedale on Depot Street in Hopedale

Curiosity Shoppe hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9:30am to 12:30pm

We always need volunteers to work in The Friends' Shoppe

I am enclosing \$ _____ (please make checks payable to the Hopedale Friends of Elders).

Donor's Name _____ Donor's Address _____

In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____



On behalf of Hopedale Seniors, we thank the many community members for their donations to the Council on Aging and the Hopedale Friends of Elders. We are grateful to live in such a kind and generous community. All of you have made this challenging period a little easier.

Dr. Vincent J. Arone Robert Babine Jim Carroll Arthur Hampton Jeanne Heath
Mike & Libby Loftus Wayne & Linda Lord Patrick Maloney Matthew Masnik
Nancy Mosher Cathy Valentine Katherine Wright