

Important Numbers:

First Selectman
860-927-4627
Town Clerk
860-927-3433
Tax Collector
860-927-3269
Park & Recreation
860-927-1003
Kent Affordable Housing
860-927-5022
Kent Memorial Library
860-927-3761
Kent Senior Center
860-927-2055
Social Services & Municipal Agent
860-927-1586
Probate Court
860-927-3729
Registrar of Voters
860-927-1953
FISH
860-927-4627
Meals on Wheels
800-994-9422
NW Transit
866-906-RIDE
CHORE Services
860-435-9177
State Representative 64th District
800-842-8267
State Senator 30th District
800-240-1421
Templeton Farm Senior Apartments
860-927-4000

Medicare Savings Program & the Connecticut State Budget

Provided by State Representative Brian Ohler.

HARTFORD—State Representative Brian Ohler (R-64) on Tuesday, January 9th voted for a bipartisan plan that would provide funding for services and benefits to enrollees of the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) through the end of the fiscal year.

MSP is a Medicaid program that helps seniors and the disabled pay for Medicare co-insurance, deductibles and premiums. Connecticut was one of five states whose income eligibly limits exceeded the federally established level for program qualification. The budget that was adopted in October reduced the eligibility to the federal standard, consequently reducing or eliminating coverage for many of the program’s participants. This oversight was the reason for the General Assembly convened in order to ensure those who had qualified through the old standards do not see a lapse in benefits or services.

It should also be noted that the state’s Department of Social Services (DSS) in December announced it would delay implementation of the eligibility reduction by two months, giving participants of the program a reprieve from an unexpected jump in their healthcare costs as the state legislature worked to find \$53 million to fund the program through June.

Rep. Ohler conclude that, “This vote to correct the MSP is long overdue but I am pleased to see that it passed the House with a veto proof majority. These reductions targeted our most vulnerable residents. The budget that was passed in the fall was far from perfect. When issues arise, it’s critical that we exploit any underlying issues and find the necessary solutions that best correct the problem. The 2018 session will undoubtedly be driven and steered by efforts addressing deficit mitigation.”

The MSP plan was approved in the House through a 130 to 3 vote. Some of the methods used to restore program funding include a requirement that the governor reduce the number of managers and consultants. This was actually a provision previously included in the adopted budget, but to date has been ignored by the governor.

Additional components include streamlining agency responsibility by moving human resources-related functions of some state agencies into the state’s Department of Administrative Services, and requiring the governor to find savings in Executive Branch functions while limiting his ability to cut more than 10 percent from any one program. State senators approved the plan 32-1 in a vote later in the day.

Note: Expected to be vetoed by the Governor then the House and Senate will vote to override that veto. Leah Pullaro, Editor



ADDITIONAL TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES FOR KENT RESIDENTS...

The Warren Parks and Recreation Department 2018 Trip Schedule is here! Based on availability, trips are open to all Kent residents.

- March 29th ‘Chorus Line’.
- April 21st New York City Food Tour.
- May 18th-20th Montreal.
- May 30th Yankees vs. Astros.
- June 24th Mets vs. Dodgers.
- June 30th Yankees vs. Red Sox.
- July 21st Ellis Island & Statue of Liberty.
- August 11th Whale Watch, Massachusetts.
- September 8th Red Sox vs. Astros.
- September 16th Stockbridge Experience.
- October 13th - 14th Vermont Leaf Peeping.
- November 11th Broadway your Way.
- November 21st Thanksgiving Eve Balloons, NYC.
- December 1 – 2 Vintage Christmas, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.
- December 12th ‘Christmas Spectacular’, Radio City Music Hall.

Additional information and cost, as available, will be posted on the Warren Parks and Recreation page on the Warren town website www.warrenct.org . To get further information and to register for any of these trips contact the Warren Parks and Recreation office 860-868-7881 ext.113.

HELP US BE GREEN. If you no longer wish to be on our mailing list, please contact Kent Social Services. If you would like to receive the **SENIORTIMES** via e-mail, please send an email to socialservices@townofkentct.org.

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*Editor reserve the right to edit submissions
for content and space*

The editor wishes to acknowledge the printing of this newsletter by Kent School. Thank you, Kent School, for your donation.



Be Creative: The Kent Quilters



Kent Quilters began as an idea to create a quilt for the Kent Memorial Library to fundraise, in the fall of 2014. A notice was posted to invite interested people to participate, and 25 people came to the Saturday morning meeting. Jane Zatlin, the woman, who had this "idea" was in fact, not a quilter, but it turns out that within the group which formed, there are many world-renown or prize-winning quilters. There were also several women who had never operated a sewing machine. The first project was indeed to raise money for the Library, and that same year, we began making baby quilts for Leah Pullaro at Town Hall Social Services. We usually meet at Town Hall once a month on a Saturday; we have made baby quilts for three years now. We have also created a Signature Quilt of Kent residents, a quilt for the Kent Veterans, and baby and lap quilts for Women's Services of Sharon (which serves the Kent community). Whatever group we represent for the year is also the beneficiary of funds we raise during Kent Sale Days, and (this past fall), Gilmore Girls Fest. We are beginning work on our next project for 2018. We welcome new members. For further information contact Jane Zatlin 860-927-7994 zenfashion1@gmail.com



Town Business & Reminders

Energy Assistance Program: Kent Social Services is now scheduling appointments for the CT Energy Assistance Program (EA). Kent Social Services serves as a voluntary intake site for all Kent residents that qualify for EA. Application review and final approval is completed by Community Action Agency of Western CT. During the winter months, this program assists with the purchase of heating fuel including oil, propane, kerosene, electric, wood, and wood pellets. EA has specific gross income and asset limit requirements. Since the entire household benefits from this program, income and asset verification will be required for all adult household members. This year's gross income guideline is: Household size 1/ Max income \$34,366.28; Household size 2/Max income \$44,940.52; Household size 3/\$55,514.76. To determine if your household qualifies for this program or to schedule an appointment, contact Leah Pullaro, Kent Social Services 860-927-1586.

Transfer Station Permits: Town of Kent transfer station permit renewals will be mailed at the end of May. Permits are valid July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018. The cost of each permit is \$150.00 or \$130.00 for residents age 65 and older. The permit may be purchased at the First Selectman's Office Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Residents also can mail completed forms (also available on the Town website: townofkentct.org) to The Town of Kent, P.O. Box 678, Kent, CT 06757. Please make checks payable to the Town of Kent and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Tang Soo Do: A new session of Tang Soo Do classes begins January 22 and meets Monday at the Kent Community House. Class for ages 7 to adult meets at 6:15 p.m. The cost is \$70 for the first family member and \$50 for each additional family member. Registration accepted at class.

Winter Ice Skating: Kent Park and Recreation in cooperation with South Kent School will host winter ice skating at the SKS ice rink, 40 Bull's Bridge Road as follows: open skate: January 7, 2:45-4:45 p.m.; January 14, 2-4 p.m.; January 27, 2-4 p.m.; February 4, 1-3 p.m.; February 11 and 18, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; February 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25: 2-4 p.m. A park pass is required and can be purchased at the rink during skating hours. Skaters must wear hat and skates on the ice. For more information, call 860-927-100.

Adult Men's League Basketball: Kent Park and Recreation sponsors the program Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. at Kent Center School gymnasium, 9 Judd Avenue. Free. The program will not meet January 24 and February 7, early dismissal days at the school. Call 860-927-1003 for more information.

Kent Senior Center

1 Swifts Lane



Caregiver Support Group: Catherine Vlasto, LCSW, a clinical social worker from New Milford VNA and Hospice, will facilitate Caregiver Support Group on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00a.m. All caregivers are welcome. If you are unable to attend the support group due to the needs of the person you are caring for and are interested in learning more, please contact Leah Pullaro, Kent Social Services, 860-927-1586.

Senior Lunch Program: lunch is served *year around* on Monday and Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at the Center (see monthly menu pages elsewhere in this newsletter). The suggested donation is \$4/person. Advanced reservations required. Please call 860-927-2055 to make a reservation.

Adult Coloring Program: Adult coloring for senior citizens meets monthly on the second Monday, 2-4 p.m., at the Kent Senior Center, 16 Swifts Lane. Coloring materials are provided. The program is hosted by the Kent Memorial Library, Templeton Farms and the Town of Kent.

Bridge Group: Kent seniors are invited to join the Bridge Group Thursday afternoons, 1:15-4, at the Kent Senior Center, 16 Swifts Lane. All level players, including beginners, are welcome.

Senior Art Group: Kent Park and Recreation will host the senior art group Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Kent Senior Center, Swifts Lane. Participants bring their own supplies. For further information call Park and Recreation at 860-927-1003.

Senior Mat Yoga: Kent Park and Recreation is gauging interest in a senior Yoga class with Kristin Wilkins Tuesday mornings, 9-10, at the Kent Senior Center that would start February 6 and run eight weeks at a cost of \$60 for the session. Mat yoga class is designed for those looking to increase joint mobility, reduce stress and anxiety and maintain muscle flexibility. The class also would encourage the connection of mind, body and spirit to remain healthy and strong while reducing the effects of aging. Yoga mat required. Dress is comfortable and relaxed. Pre-registration is required by calling Kent Park and Recreation at 860-927-1003. The program would be offered if there is sufficient interest.

Join us for Lunch



Looking for something new to add to your weekly routine at the start of the New Year? Join your friends and neighbors or make new friends at lunch at the Kent Senior Center on Monday or Wednesday. The center, 16 Swifts Lane, opens by 11:30 a.m. where seniors can play cards or games or work on the current jigsaw puzzle before lunch is served at 12:30 p.m. The monthly menu is printed in the newsletter. The suggested donation is \$4/person, and advanced reservations are required by calling 860-927-2055.

Transportation from your home to and from the Senior Center is available through the Northwest Connecticut Transit District by calling 866-906-7433.