

Area Bloggers



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Malden Mayor's Message by Denton Kooyman

MARCH 23RD 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Today I want to make a few very important points to the community as we head into a new week.

The first is that we all need to do our part to smooth the curve of this pandemic. Take social distancing seriously. There are still reports of kids gathering in groups. The school is closed and closed for a reason. Do the right thing. It is in the best interest of our community and all of our residents.

We understand that there is much concern in the City of Malden – and throughout our nation – regarding the coronavirus. In times like this, it's critical that we remain patient and calm, and use common sense. This situation is continually evolving, and one of our challenges is the continuation of necessary public services in the face of circumstances that are constantly changing. Please know that the City of Malden is working to ensure local services, while at the same time ensuring the health and safety of our workforce and the public.

We will continue to follow directives from the state and take guidance from the County Health Department. Again, the situation continues to change, and therefore our actions in response to the situation may also change. If you do not have Facebook this is the time to get it. If you know someone that doesn't have it tell them to get it. The City, State, and County Health Department are all passing most information on this platform and believe this is the fastest way for us to get you constantly changing information.

We understand there may be different procedures in place within different city's; however, we are working to communicate and coordinate with other agencies in order to ensure we have the most up to date information and implement best practices.

We have a lot of great Churches in our area, take advantage of their online messages and support. Say a prayer for everyone, God is constantly watching over us all. This is not the time for us to not worry about politics this is the time to take care of one another. Together as a whole, we are stronger. We wish you a wonderful week. We are here working for you. Stay positive. Be kind to one another. Keep your social distance. Stay safe. We will get through this! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mayor Denton Kooyman

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Letter from Mayor of Bloomfield Bill Aslin

Letter from Mayor of Bloomfield Bill Aslin

TO: Bloomfield Businesses, School, Churches, Organizations and Citizens

FROM: Bill Aslin, Mayor of Bloomfield

SUBJECT: Covid-19 Virus Update

DATE: March 20, 2020

As stated in my previous release dated March 19 as developments change, they are rapidly, I want to give updates on decisions being made as it relates to our city facilities and services amid the Covid-19 crisis.

Effective Monday, March 23rd, all city offices will have doors locked. This includes City Hall, Department of Public Safety, City Tax Collector and Library. Our staff will remain at their duty stations and will continue to serve our citizens. As previously stated we have a drop box at city hall for payments. If you need to contact us with questions or concerns please call Kari Standley, City Clerk, at: 573-568-3464. Our Public Safety Department phone numbers are still the same.

As of now our Transit Service will continue, however, this could change quickly but we want to try and continue to provide this needed service to our citizens that have no other way to get to the store, pharmacy etc.

The city council meeting scheduled for Monday night, March 23rd has been canceled.

These very tough decisions are made in order to protect our city staff and our citizens.

I ask all to monitor our various Social Media Sites for future updates as your city council and I make them.

STAY SAFE!!!!

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Age Spots: The Annual Medicare Edition by Jackie Dover

OCTOBER 08TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Age Spots: The Annual Medicare Edition by Jackie Dover

The Annual Medicare Edition

Medicare Open Enrollment is October 15 through December 7 of every year. Open Enrollment allows Medicare Beneficiaries to join a Medicare Prescription Drug plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan if they have never enrolled previously. Beneficiaries may also switch their drug plan, or switch between a drug plan and an Advantage plan. Any changes made during this time will take effect on January 1, 2020.

Medicare Advantage Plans are Medicare approved plans that cover Medicare Part A, Medicare Part B and usually the Part D also. Medicare Advantage Plans sometimes offer services not covered under Original Medical, things like vision, dental and fitness benefits. For 2020, Medicare Advantage Plans can offer even more benefits including transportation to doctors, stipends for over-the-counter drugs and other services that promote health and wellness. These services will vary from plan to plan. Medicare Advantage Plans charge different copayment amounts for their covered services. Most Medicare Advantage Plans have a network of doctors you must use to get the most benefit

from the plan. You can check the difference in different Advantage and Part D plans by using the Medicare Plan Finder.

The Medicare Plan Finder is the tool used to look at Medicare Prescription Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans. The Plan Finder has been completely revamped for this Open Enrollment; everything is new so if you do not want to be surprised on October 15, I urge you to look at it now. Prescription medicines are entered and the available plans are sorted so the costs for each medicine, the premium amount and the deductible are easy to see. You can also compare the Advantage Plans and see the different benefits they offer. This will allow you to make an educated choice about what coverage you want for next year.

When you are reviewing your plan, coverage for 2020 it is also a great time to check to see if you are eligible for any of the Extra Help programs. For those who meet the income and asset guidelines there is help to pay the Medicare Part D premiums and assist with co-pays for medicine, there are also programs that can help pay the Medicare Part B premium.

I just want to also mention that there will be some changes for Medicare Supplements in 2020. Medicare Supplement plans C and F will no longer be available for those who become eligible for Medicare after January 1, 2020. For anyone eligible for Medicare before that you can still purchase a C or F plan. If you have a C or F plan, you can stay on it.

Aging Matters will have Open Enrollment events at senior centers, libraries and other locations throughout our service area to assist Medicare Beneficiaries, let us know if you need assistance.

To make an appointment for Medicare Part D or for more information call Aging Matters at 1-800-392-8771.

LAST UPDATED ON OCTOBER 08TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe Signs Bill Establishing Senior Growth and Development Program

JULY 31ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe Signs Bill Establishing Senior Growth and Development Program

Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe Signs Bill Establishing Senior Growth and Development Program

Springfield, Missouri - Missouri Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe today signed legislation that establishes the Senior Growth and Development Program, a program designed to fund important services for Missouri's senior population. The official bill signing ceremony took place at the South Side Senior Center in Springfield, Missouri and was attended by more than one-hundred area senior citizens, legislators and representatives of senior advocacy groups.

The new legislation, part of SB 275 dealing with provisions of state law relating to health care, establishes the "Senior Services Growth and Development Program" in the Department of Health and Senior Services and creates a dedicated fund within the State Treasurer's Office that will be used to fund senior programs and services throughout the state. Programs eligible for such funding will be coordinated and implemented by Missouri's Area Agencies on Aging. SB 275 was sponsored by Senator David Sater of Cassville and was amended during the legislative session with provisions relating to the Senior Growth and Development Fund by Senator Wayne Wallingford and Representative Kathryn Swan, both of Cape Girardeau.

Lt. Governor Kehoe signed the legislation in his capacity as Acting Governor due to the fact that Governor Mike Parson is currently out of the country, but noted the fact he had discussed this specific legislation with the Governor prior to his departure. During those discussions Kehoe indicated that this was one of the pieces of legislation approved by the legislature this year that he was most passionate about, and both agreed that it would be appropriate for signing by the Lieutenant Governor.

Kehoe also noted that the passage of this law reflected a strong team effort, not only by key legislators such as Senator Sater, Senator Wallingford and Representative Swan, but also by the professional staff in his office and the Missouri Legislature, as well as the countless advocates for seniors at the grassroots level who have worked on this legislation for more than four years.

Kehoe also said that it was appropriate that the official bill signing occurred in Springfield, MO rather than in Jefferson City, noting that sometimes it is “good to get out of the capitol. This is where the real work gets done.”

“Southwest Missouri is pleased to host this important bill signing. It represents years of dedicated work on behalf of seniors throughout this state,” said Starr Kohler, CEO of the SeniorAge Area Agency on Aging in Springfield. “This bill is dedicated to recognizing the value of seniors in the State of Missouri. This legislation shows that the Missouri Legislature does value Missouri seniors,” Kohler added.

Kohler noted that it was just one year ago that Mike Kehoe had been appointed as Missouri’s Lieutenant Governor, and that within that year he had upheld his pledge to advocate for senior Missourians by helping to pass this important program.

Missouri’s Area Agencies on Aging, who will be responsible for providing services through the Senior Growth and Development Program, were represented at the ceremony by Starr Kohler, CEO – SeniorAge Area Agency on Aging; Diana Hoemann, Executive Director of Care Connection for Aging Services; Rebecca Nowlin, CEO – Central Missouri Area Agency on Aging; and Catherine Edwards, Executive Director of the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

The Missouri Silver Haired Legislature, which had made this legislation a priority during the past legislative session, was also represented by Barb Ittner, Ron Clark and Mary Chronister and Dorothy Knowles.

For additional information relating to this event and to the programs and services administered by Missouri’s Area Agencies on Aging, contact Catherine Edwards, Executive Director of the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging at:

cedwards@ma4web.org, or by phone at: 573-619-6185.

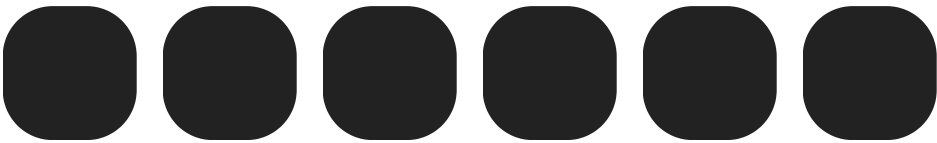
Photo Attached: (Photo Credit – Juli Jordan, Senior Age Area Agency on Aging)

Pictured in photo: (Seated – Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe; Standing (left to right) – Dorothy Knowles, Kit Brewer, Ron Clark, Senator David Sater, Catherine Edwards, Diana Hoemann, Rebecca Nowlin)

LAST UPDATED ON JULY 31ST 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Age Spots: A Big Win for Seniors by Jackie Dover

JULY 29TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Age Spots: A Big Win for Seniors by Jackie Dover

A Big Win for Seniors

Most everything we do at Aging Matters is a team effort. We all work together to give seniors in Southeast Missouri the best possible meals, programs and services. We also work with all the other Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) in the state of Missouri to effect change for all of the seniors in Missouri. One of our biggest wins is the passage of the Senior Growth and Development Fund.

The Senior Growth and Development Fund is a sustainable dedicated funding stream that will be used by the Area Agencies on Aging to fund senior programs and services throughout the state. This will allow us to expand or begin services and 50% of the funds go directly to our local senior centers to help them with some of their needs. More funding means more services to a population that is rapidly expanding.

As many are aware 10,000, Americans turn 65 every day. This growth in the senior population has not been met with a similar growth in funding for programs to help these seniors, the Senior Growth and Development Fund will allow AAA's to provide services to more seniors.

The Senior Growth and Development Fund was part of SB 275 sponsored by Senator David Sater of Cassville and was amended during the legislative session with provisions relating to the Senior Growth and Development Fund by Senator Wayne Wallingford and Representative Kathryn Swan, both of Cape Girardeau.

Lt. Governor Kehoe signed the legislation in his capacity as Acting Governor due to the fact that Governor Mike Parson was out of the country, but noted the fact he had discussed this specific legislation with the Governor prior to his departure. During those discussions, Kehoe indicated that this was one of the pieces of legislation approved by the legislature this year that he was most passionate about, and both agreed that it would be appropriate for signing by the Lieutenant Governor.

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Kehoe also said that it was appropriate that the official bill signing occurred in Springfield, MO rather than in Jefferson City, noting that sometimes it is "good to get out of the capitol. This is where the real work gets done."

Getting this funding has been a long journey and we are so thankful at Aging Matters for the amazing team of advocates and supporters we have had. Every Area Agency on Aging

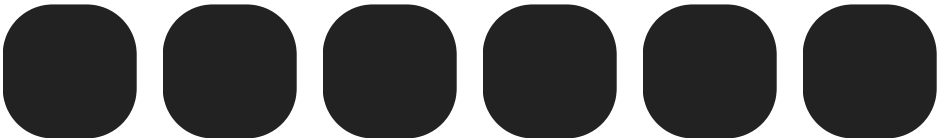
in Missouri, the Silver Haired Legislature, Senior Centers and local volunteers have worked tirelessly to make this a reality. Senator Wayne Wallingford and Representative Kathy Swan, both proudly from Southeast Missouri, worked extremely hard to make this a priority in both the Missouri House and Senate and get the approval needed. This team effort has paid off for all of Missouri seniors and we look forward to making a difference in the lives of Missouri seniors for many years to come. This really is a win for seniors in Missouri!

For additional information relating to this event and to the programs and services administered by Missouri’s Area Agencies on Aging, contact Catherine Edwards, Executive Director of the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging at: cedwards@ma4web.org, or by phone at: 573-619-6185. Catherine Edwards contributed to this article.

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