

Ocean County

Office of Senior Services



*October
2009 Update*

*Joseph H. Vicari,
Freeholder Chairman*

*D. Jane Maloney,
Director*

*The One-Stop Center
1027 Hooper Ave.,
Bldg. 2, First Floor
(732) 929-2091
1-877-222-3737
or 1-800-668-4899*



A Message From Joe Vicari: Freeholder Chairman

**OCEAN COUNTY DAY IS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5TH**

**BERKELEY TOWNSHIP
BRANCH OF THE OCEAN
COUNTY LIBRARY**

The fourteenth annual Ocean County Day will be held at the Berkeley Township branch on Monday, October 5, 2009 from 12 - 4 pm. Sponsored by the Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Ocean County Library; this event features over two dozen county government agencies that will have exhibits, educational information and giveaways. The Ocean County Health Department will provide flu/pneumonia shots from 1:30-3:30pm. The Flu/Pneu shot is free, if enrolled in Medicare Part B. If not enrolled in Medicare Part B or if you have a Medicare Managed Care Plan the cost will be \$20.

GET THE "FLU" SHOT AND THE "PNEU" SHOT

Influenza (the flu) and pneumonia are serious illnesses, if you are 65 or older or have other risk factors be sure to get vaccinated against them. You need a flu shot each year because flu viruses are always changing. The shot is updated each year for the most current flu viruses. Once you get a flu shot, your body makes protective antibodies in about 2 weeks.

The pneumonia shot is recommended for persons 65 or older and those with chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular or pulmonary disease, diabetes and renal failure. The pneumonia shot lasts most people a lifetime, although some may need a second shot after five years.

With cold and flu season close behind, the Ocean County Health Department is encouraging people

with Medicare to take advantage of the immunization services available to them through Medicare's preventive benefits.

Beginning **October 5, 2009** at Ocean County Day at the Berkeley Township Library, the Ocean County Health Department will be providing seasonal flu shots and pneumonia vaccines throughout the County. Both vaccines may be administered at the same time without an increase in side effects. For information on clinic dates and sites, please call the Ocean County Health Department at **(732) 341-9700 or 1-800-342-9738, ext. 7502**, Long Beach Island Health Department for Long Beach Island residents; call **609-492-1212**, or you can call the Office of Senior Services at **732-929-2091 or 1-800-668-4899**.

For more information on Medicare's immunization services, or any other preventive benefits, contact SHIP at **1-800-668-4899** or visit **www.co.ocean.nj.us on the web**.

MEDICARE PART D OPEN ENROLLMENT FAST APPROACHING

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN ENROLLMENT RUNS NOV. 15 TO DEC. 31

Once again, it's time for Ocean County's Medicare beneficiaries to make a decision about their prescription drug coverage. Medicare Part D — the federal program's prescription drug benefit — open enrollment begins on Nov. 15 and runs through Dec. 31. During this enrollment period, people with Medicare can sign up for a prescription drug plan (PDP) or switch their current Medicare Part D plan.

SHIP, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, is available to help seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries with the enrollment process or to answer any questions about the program. Trained SHIP counselors are available to meet with you face-to-face. Our toll free SHIP hotline has trained communication specialists to answer your questions Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SHIP created the following frequently asked questions to guide you through the Part D enrollment process.

If you have additional questions, call SHIP at **1-800-668-4899** or visit **www.co.ocean.nj.us**.

What is a Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Plan (PDP)?

Medicare PDPs are insurance plans approved by Medicare and sold by private insurance companies that offer prescription drug coverage to people with Medicare. All people on Medicare are eligible to enroll into a Medicare PDP regardless of their income or assets. Medicare PDPs work like any other insurance products — they have premiums, co-payments, deductibles and formularies (list of approved drugs that the plan will cover).

What if I cannot afford a Medicare PDP?

There is federal assistance available for people with Medicare who have limited income and resources. If you qualify, you can receive assistance with premiums,

deductibles and prescription copayments.

To apply for the Low Income Subsidy (LIS) program call the Social Security Administration at **1-800-772-1213**, visit **www.socialsecurity.gov** or contact SHIP for help, **1-800-668-4899**.

Should I change my current PDP?

Many Medicare PDPs change their formularies and prices every year, so it is possible that the PDP you chose for 2009 won't work as well for you in 2010. Like any insurance product, it's important to make sure that your coverage continues to meet your needs year after year. By comparing plans, you can see if another Medicare PDP would save you money and/or cover more of your prescriptions. Start your comparisons now so that there is plenty of time to shop around before making your decision. If you do sign up for Part D or change your current plan during the open enrollment, Nov. 15 – Dec. 31, your new plan will take effect on Jan. 1, 2010.

What other options are available for Medicare prescription drug coverage?

Some Medicare Advantage plans contain prescription drug coverage. If you have questions about Medicare Advantage plans, contact SHIP for assistance.

MEDICARE PART D DAYS AT THE COUNTY CONNECTION

Senior Services will have representatives available for one-on-one assistance in comparing the Medicare Prescription Drug Plans for 2010 on the Medicare Plan Finder. You must call the County Connection at **732-288-7777 to register**.

Registration is required.

Tues.,	October 20, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fri.,	October 23, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Thurs.,	October 29, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wed.,	November 4, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Mon.,	November 9, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Mon.,	November 16, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tues.,	November 17, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fri.,	November 20, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Mon.,	November 30, 2009,	3 p.m. - 8 p.m.*
Tues.,	December 8, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Thurs.,	December 10, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Mon.,	December 14, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Fri.,	December 18, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tues.,	December 22, 2009,	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

* Evening Appointments

FIRE SAFETY DAY - OCTOBER 8TH

Ocean County will kick off a fire prevention and safety campaign, focusing on fire safety issues that concern the senior population, during the month of October – Fire Prevention Month. The “Help Retire Fire in Your Community Campaign” has been developed by the Ocean County Fire Marshal’s Office, with the help of the Ocean County Office of Senior Services. Ocean County Freeholders John P. Kelly, who serves as Director of Law and Public Safety and Joseph H. Vicari, who serves as Chairman of the Office of Senior Services will join with Chief Fire Marshal Daniel P. Mulligan and members of the Fire Marshal’s Office at an Oct. 8 campaign kickoff at the Ocean County Training Center, Waretown. Helpful tips, safety presentations, website and television public service announcements, and newsletter updates focusing on fire safety and prevention for senior citizens will be part of the campaign.



New Jersey 43rd Annual Senior Citizens Art Show
September 28 - October 29
Meadow Lakes, East Windsor
For daily schedule & directions: Please call **609-448-4100**

Printed by the Ocean County Printing & Graphic Arts Department

“Making it Easier For Seniors To Choose Services”

www.co.ocean.nj.us

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