

COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR RETIREMENT NEWS

September 2023
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**St. Clair County
Retiree News & Links**
www.stclaircounty.org
Click on Offices,
Retirement System

BCBS of Michigan
1 877 790-2583
www.bcbsm.com

Medicare Advantage
1 866 684-8216

Brown & Brown
for SCC BCBS questions
call Judy or Olga
1 866 421-0478

Delta Dental
1 800 524-0149

Prescription Mail Order
OptumRx
1 855-811-2223

MedTipster
Free Generic Drug
Program
1 877 226-2378
www.medtipsterfree.com

Flu Shot Reimbursement

Retirees and spouses who have Medicare Advantage, the plan covers a shot once per flu season in the fall or winter and the deductible does not apply.

The County has offered to reimburse the cost of the flu vaccination for retirees and spouses who are less than 65 and not covered under the Medicare Advantage plan. Simply send your original receipt to St. Clair County Human Resources —Retirement, 200 Grand River Ave. Ste. 206, Port Huron, MI 48060 for reimbursement through your monthly pension check. Please be advised receipts for flu reimbursement must be received within 90 days. Flu vaccines can also be obtained at local pharmacies and at health care provider offices.

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Reminder

Open enrollment for Medicare Advantage is upon us, starting in October. You will be receiving a lot of marketing calls from companies trying to get you to switch to their plan. It is your right to decide on a plan that suits you, but please keep in mind that an individual can only be enrolled in one Medicare Advantage plan at a time. Enrolling in another Medicare Advantage plan may automatically disenroll you from the St. Clair County Retiree Medicare Advantage plan. **If you wish to remain on the County Policy, there is no action you need to take.** If a covered dependent newly becomes Medicare eligible through age or disability, you should notify our office immediately.

Please be aware that scammers will be at an all-time high during this enrollment period and will impersonate Medicare or another organization you may know. **No one should be asking for your Medicare, Social Security, bank or credit card information-DO NOT share this information. They do not need any personal information to provide a quote.**

To learn more about your Medicare Rights, visit medicare.gov/basics to see a list of rules. If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Frizzle in the Human Resources office at (810)989-6910 or you may email questions to: sfrizzle@stclaircounty.org.

New Retirements

September:

Mei-Chun Chan, Valerie Kelly,
Linda Palazzolo

Deaths Reported

Our sincerest condolences to
the families of:

Lois Coats
Annette Crerar
Barbara Lloyd
Larry Stockemer



Important Dates

**Retirees' Association—General
Member Meetings:**

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Council on Aging Senior Center
600 Grand River Ave. PH.

Cost: \$5.00

Doors open: 11:30am, Lunch
served promptly at Noon.

Speaker: Jason Crawford Foster
grandparent program.

Next meeting: October 4, 2023

Info email:

sccra917@gmail.com.

Tuesday, September 19th, 2023

**8:00 am—Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting.** Administration
Building 200 Grand River Ave,
PH; Donald Dodge Auditorium.



Superior Ambulance is Balance Billing Some Members

At Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, we're committed to making sure that you have access to affordable, quality care. We want to make you aware of an issue that recently came to our attention.

Superior Ambulance operates in five Midwest states, including Michigan. Superior left the Blue Cross network in 2021 and because they do not have a contract with us, they are currently able bill our members for the difference between our payment rates and their charge amount. This is called "balance billing." Superior began surprising members with balance billing invoices in 2022. Ground ambulance services, including those for emergencies, are not covered by state or federal "no surprises" legislation.

Here's what we're doing about this issue

- Reached out multiple times to Superior Ambulance to stop these practices.
- Asked doctors and hospitals to use participating ambulance services for ground transport in non-emergency situations.
- Started exploring multiple remedies on behalf of our members and customers, including encouraging legislation that would prevent surprise billing for ground ambulance services.

What can you do if you receive a surprise ambulance bill from Superior Ambulance?

Blue Cross pays your claim based on the negotiated rate we pay our in-network providers for these services. Unfortunately, Superior Ambulance is out of our network, so they can bill you the balance not paid by Blue Cross. While you are responsible for the bill, you have the right to appeal – please call our customer service team if you have questions about this process at 313-225-9000.

What can you do to avoid receiving a bill from Superior Ambulance?

In any emergency situation, call 911 and use any available ambulance service sent to you.

For non-emergency situations, consult the attached list of alternate ambulance companies. Blue Cross will continue work on this matter until a permanent solution can be reached. In the meantime, reach out to us with any concerns. We are here to help answer any questions you may have.

Address Changes

As you head down to Florida over the next few months to escape the cooler MI. weather, please remember to contact the Human Resources office to notify us of your move. We update BCBS, Medicare, MedTipster, Delta Dental, Payroll, HR system, etc. We need to be made aware of when you move. Confidential information is often mailed to the current address in our system (1099R, paycheck stub, pension related information, etc.) The post office will only forward mail for a short period of time and does not contact the County of your address changes. You need to contact us directly. Please keep in mind that many tax related documents will not forward to a FL address and will get sent back to us.