The short month of February is gone and there is spring in the air with the spring daffodils coming up. That is great to hear. But, now let’s get down to the real reason we are here. In the month of February the volunteer drivers transported seven veterans to Indianapolis and six veterans to Danville, IL. We have six drivers that are active in driving for our County veterans.

 My office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon. On Wednesday I will be in from 9:00 am to 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. till 4:30 pm. Please call me if these times don’t fit your schedule.

 I have new information for you it is the money the veterans and their spouses receive from the VA. The amount for this month in February was $76,258.50. These are funds that Veterans in Montgomery County received from service related issues. This includes American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans. If you feel you have a service related problem please give the office a call. I do almost all the paperwork on-line now.

I attended the Honor Flight meeting on March 6, 2018 and would like to update you about the Lafayette Honor Flight activities this year. We will have four flights this year they are April 17th, May 8th, September 11th and October 16th which will be the last flight we will serve. Yes that is correct October 16,2018 will be the last flight that the Lafayette Honor Flight will sponsor. These four flights will all fly on Tuesday this year. When Pam and Dana first decided to form the Lafayette Honor Flight it was for one flight only. Now at end of year they will have been involved with twenty two flights. The other reason is that twenty two flights is a lot and the ladies feel it is time to close the doors to the Lafayette Honor Flight program. The reason for October 16th being our last flight is because we will have flown twenty two flights and the twenty second flight was the twenty second birthday of both of Pam and Dana’s sons when they were killed. If you know of any WWII or Korean War Veterans that would like to go please let us know. We are still accepting donations for the flights. Each flight cost $100,000. After the October 16, 2018 you can submit you flight info to the Honor Flight.Org, 175 South Tuttle Rd., Springfield, Ohio 45505.

For all people on Medicare: Every Medicare beneficiary will receive a new identification number and card soon. The measure is part of an effort to help protect beneficiaries from identity fraud, according to Medicare, a federal health insurance program primarily for folks ages 65 and older.                                                           “What seniors need to know about their new Medicare cards.”

Now there are some basic facts every Medicare beneficiary should know about their new cards. These ID’s are free so, there is no cost to beneficiaries.

They will start being mailed out beginning in April and

will be mailed automatically. So, beneficiaries don’t need to do anything to ensure they are issued a new card.

They will be mailed to the beneficiary addresses on file with the Social Security Administration. Beneficiaries who need to update their addresses should log into their SSA.gov accounts.

These new cards have no bearing on beneficiaries’ coverage or benefits. So, coverage and benefits will not change in connection with the new IDs.

Once you receive your new card, the Medicare program advises that you take three important steps:

1. Destroy you old Medicare card right away.
2. Use your new card. Doctors, other health care providers and plans approved by Medicare know that Medicare is replacing the old cards. They are ready to accept your new card when you need care.
3. BEWARE of people contacting you about your new Medicare card and asking you for your Medicare number, personal information or to pay a fee for your new card. Treat you Medicare number like you treat your Social Security or credit card numbers. Remember, Medicare will never contact you uninvited to ask for your personal information.

Tip No. 3 touches an important point: You still must safeguard your new Medicare number and card!

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