October 2016 Billing Newsletter

ITN*MontereyCounty* (October, 2016) — your monthly statement provides the date, origin, destination, and cost of any rides you took during September. It also lists payments and the balance in your account. If your balance is less than \$50, a payment is required. Please make your check payable to ITN*MontereyCounty* and send it to the address below. We also take credit card payments by phone or through our website: *itnmontereycounty.org*

Flu Shots Available in the Community

It is flu shot season. There are many options in the community to prepare for the upcoming winter. One option is The Carmel Foundation, November 2nd from 9am to 11am, Diment Hall with the Visiting Nurses Association. They have Drive Up vaccinations too. In Salinas, Alliance on Aging has flu shots available on October 17 from 9am to noon at the 247 Main Street, Salinas office. Shots are also provided by Visiting Nurses Association.



Dental Care Options Through Aspire

Many of our customers call with dental concerns. Did you know that Aspire offers preventive dental and an amount to apply towards comprehensive coverage? To purchase this coverage, the individual must join Aspire's plan. It costs \$23-\$29 additional a month and includes 2 cleanings, 2 oral exams and 1 X-ray plus \$1000 towards more comprehensive coverage (2016 benefits).

For 2017 Benefits, it will cost \$29-\$33 additional a month and include dental (as listed above) vision and hearing aids). Open enrollment starts October 15. We will be able to enroll for our 2017 plan then. I'm happy to follow up with the person inquiring. If the patient is institutionalized, they have a special enrollment period and can enroll for our 2016 benefits. If you want to know more, call Lynn Johnson, Medicare Product Specialist, Aspire Health Plan, 831-596-0771.

Segmented Rides

We have had an inordinate amount of segmented rides where riders make up to four and five stops. Segmented rides were designed to help keep costs down to the rider when they are running errands and not tying up drivers for long periods of time. When this many stops are happening, it ties drivers up for as much as two hours. When we offer as many as 50 rides in a day, this creates a fiscal and driver management problem. From October 1 forward, segmented rides will only be for two stops plus the return ride home. If a third, fourth, or fifth stop is added, the third stop will result in the normal \$4.00 pick-up fee. When a stop results in longer than the proscribed 20-minutes, an hourly charge for driver waiting may also apply. If you have questions, please call 831-233-3447 and we will talk this through with you.

Festival of Trees

We are pleased to pleased to be invited to participate in the 2nd Annual "Festival of Trees" - A Fundraiser Event & Holiday Mixer presented by the North Fremont Business District of Monterey. This special event will be held at the Monterey County Fair & Event Center, 2004 Fairground Road in the Monterey Room (located near Gate 4) on Wednesday, November 30, 2016 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Please join us to bid on the tree!

At Festival of Trees, our community will be invited to bid on Christmas trees via silent auction, decorated by our local non-profits. The event will include an entry fee (amount to be determined soon) and attendees can also enjoy entertainment, light appetizers, a drink ticket, and a drawing ticket for door prizes. Me Too! Salon is sponsoring the tree, but donations of automobile themed decorations are appreciated including toy cars, toy traffic signs, and car or race themed ornaments. Call Aimee Cuda at 831-233-3447 to have your donation picked up.

Holiday Schedules

We continue to provide 24/7 service through the holidays, however, office hours will be closed on the following days: November 24th and 25th, December 26th, and January 2nd. This means you will want to schedule your rides by 2pm the prior business days to these events. We lose many drivers during the holiday season. Advanced planning on the part of our customers makes scheduling so much easier. We appreciate your help in pre-planning for the holidays!

ITN depends on grants and donations to keep our fares as affordable as possible. We thank all of you who have contributed to our success and sustainability. If you would like to learn how you can leave a lasting legacy to ITN Monterey County, please call Aimee at 831-233-3447

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