

# Johnson County Livable Community **CONNECTIONS:**

## Your Primary Source for Seniors

c / o Johnson County Social Services

855 S. Dubuque St. Suite 202 B – Iowa City, IA 52240 - 319.356.6090

[www.livablecommunity.org](http://www.livablecommunity.org) [johnsoncounty@livablecommunity.org](mailto:johnsoncounty@livablecommunity.org)

The JCLC  
Newsletter  
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by  
Johnson County  
Livable Community  
Policy Board

*Johnson County Livable Community is an initiative of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. A 16-member Policy Board partners with organizations and businesses to address and facilitate personal independence and an active civic and social engagement for residents.*

**Mission Statement:** Help Johnson County become a livable community where everyone can age successfully.



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## **CHAIR’s Corner:**

Johnson County groups recently honored for special services to victims of Elder Abuse included North Central Junior High for a project headed by students Camille Anderson and Nisha Conney; and the Older Adults Death Review Team, led by the Johnson County Medical Examiner’s office. Read about the contributions made by these great older adult advocates on page 5. Many thanks to these dedicated citizens.



Several changes have taken place in our JCLC board (appointed by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors). A big thank you for to departing board members Mary Wiemann, Amy Correia and Dee Vanderhoef for your service and a warm welcome to Maggie Elliott and Peggy Swails. Best wishes to all.

Thanks also to businesses (including Coralville Walmart) and community members Betty Sedlecek, Kitty Buckwalter who have so generously contributed to JCLC the past several months. With your support we are working on improvements to our website and assisting the growing numbers of seniors and disabled of the area.

Iowa’s growing aging population has been featured in a number of newspaper articles recently. Although one of the “younger” counties in the state, Johnson County adults, aged 50 and up, now number 24.4 percent of the county’s population. Check out the state and local population figures from the State Data Center here on page 7.

Senior Day at the Johnson County Fair will be on Wednesday, July 27, and JCLC’s Annual Report to the Community event will be held Sept. 23.

Eve Casserly

**"PAGE TWO"**

**Happenings in Johnson County**



Editor's Note: This page is dedicated to activities in the county outside of the metro area. Public submissions are welcomed.



**Tiffin Fitness Club at Grace United Methodist Church**

Free fitness training at Grace United Methodist Church. Opportunity to become physically fit, enjoy and meet new friends. Call **545-2281** for information and to register for classes.

**Aerobics classes are offered:**

- Tuesdays (1 -1:45 p.m.)
- Thursdays (9:30 - 10:15 a.m.)
- Saturdays (8:30 - 9:15 a.m.)

**Strength training classes are offered:**

- Mondays (6:30 - 7:15 p.m.)
- Wednesdays (4 - 4:45 p.m.)
- Fridays (8:30 - 9:15 p.m.)

**Metropolitan Area Trail Maps**

A free, updated 2011 Iowa City Metropolitan Area Trail Map, furnished by the MPO of Johnson County, is available at City Hall.

The updated map details sections of the Tiffin Trail completed in 2009 -2010 and identifies the proposed sections involving Tiffin and area communities.



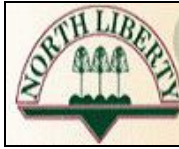
**Oxford Farmers Market**

**Mondays - 4 – 7 p.m.**  
**Creekside Park, Oxford, Iowa**  
**Contact: Kathy Tandy for information and a schedule of entertainment**  
**319-828-4959**

**Swisher – has a new library – at 72 Second St SW -**

Swisher, IA 52338  
[swishlib@southslope.net](mailto:swishlib@southslope.net) HOURS:  
Tuesday & Thursday - 4 to 8 p.m.  
and Saturday - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
The library has 300 registered patrons and a circulation of 3,500

books.



[www.NorthLibertyIowa.org](http://www.NorthLibertyIowa.org)

**North Liberty Community Center – 520 W. Cherry St.**

**Senior Dining** is served at noon by NLRC staff on alternate Fridays. Lunch is preceded by a **structured social hour** for seniors from 11 a.m. to noon. Phone 319.626-5716 the day before the meal to make a reservation.

The adjoining NL Library also offers "**Sociable Seniors**" on Mondays, from 10 to 11 a.m. Call Elaine at 319.626-5701 for information about the book of the month.

NLRC also has a great walking track and offers a variety of fee-based fitness programs.



**Great News! The City of Solon's Parks and Recreation Commission** has expanded its mission to include recreation activities for seniors. **When the Commission's annual budget allotments were reviewed it**

**was evident that seniors have not been included.** Mayor Rick Jedlicka and City Administrator Cassandra Lippincott explained this at a City Council visit to Old Gold Dining. As a result the Solon Senior Advocates met with Mayor Jedlicka to discuss ways to include seniors in programming. Then they met with the Parks and Recreation Commission to explain the Advocate's mission to provide activities and events for seniors. Seniors' most important activities are the van and bus trips they plan and organize to places of interest including musicals, museums, arboretums, train and boat rides, gardens, restaurants and many other Iowa attractions. These activities are not only entertaining and informative, they provide a means for seniors to participate that also offers companionship and mobility. The Commission now supports these recreational activities provided the Senior Advocates. Adding senior activities to the Parks and Recreation Commission's agenda greatly enhances the Commission's programming and seniors' impact on the Solon community.

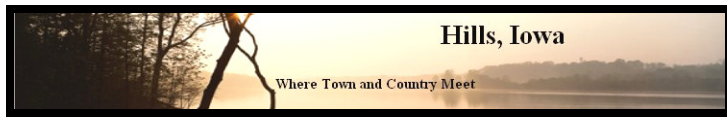
**Senior Exercise – Tuesdays 10 a.m.** Family Life Center

**SOLON OLD GOLD DINER – all meals served at 11:30 a.m. – monthly sponsored meals. Birthday cake. Bingo Tuesdays & Thursdays – cards Fridays.**

# Johnson County Parks & Recreation Opportunities

The rural area Parks of Johnson County offer a vast array of educational and recreational opportunities for persons of all ages and activities including swimming, boating, hiking, nature trails, hunting, fishing and camping. The Johnson County Conservation Board oversees nine of the parks that are part of the county system.

**FryTown Park:** 94-acre park, located 10 miles southwest of Iowa City, is a wildlife area. Frytown is a popular area for birders as well as turkey, deer and squirrel hunters. It is one of the few remaining forested areas in this quadrant of the county. Trails throughout the area provide access for hikers as well as hunters.



**Hills Access:** 40-acre river park, south of Iowa City, is located adjacent to the Iowa River, one-half mile east of the town of Hills, on 520th Street. Acquired by the county in 1973, its substantial river shoreline provides good fishing and boating access to the Iowa River. Camping and picnicking are also popular activities.

**River Junction Park:** 12-acre County Park area is located four miles west of Lone Tree. It includes picnic tables, pit toilet, potable water, camping and boat ramp access to the Iowa River. The Iowa River bounds on the west, while the English River flows into the Iowa River just a few hundred feet south of the boat ramp.



**F.W. Kent Park:** 1,082 picturesque acres west of Tiffin on Highway 6, F. W. Kent Park is the home of the Johnson County Conservation Board headquarters and the



Conservation Education Center. The park features a 27-acre lake for fishing, sandy beach for swimming, modern campground, educational programs and workshops for youth and adult groups.



**Cedar River Crossing:** 235-acre wildlife area northeast of Solon with public hunting, fishing and hiking. Shallow water wetlands make this an

attractive area to waterfowl and an array of game and non-game species. The Cedar River Crossing also contains an historic site where Native Americans forded the Cedar River.

**Clear Creek Area Park** – 37-acre park located south of Highway 6, west of Tiffin, features riparian timber along Clear Creek. Hunting, hiking, bird watching can all be enjoyed at the Clear Creek Area.

**Scott Church Park:** 5-acre roadside park, southeast of Iowa City, has the distinction of being the "first" county park. It features picnic and play areas, potable water supply and a pit toilet.



**Solon Prairie Park,** a 3-acre tract, reputed to be a virgin prairie, is located in Solon. This natural history museum contains more than 157 native plant species to gives visitors a microcosmic view of the predominant vegetation that covered 80 percent of the state in Iowa's early days.



**Sutliff Park:** Sutliff Access Park is a small half-acre area, located nine miles NE of Solon in the settlement of Sutliff. There is a picnic area and boat ramp that provides access to the Cedar River. The Sutliff Bridge, damaged in the 2008 Flood awaits rebuilding. It was/is the longest Parker Truss Bridge in the US.



**Walker Park:** Located west of Lone Tree in the ghost town of River Junction. The Old Settlers Association host spring and fall festivals at the park.

**Coralville Lake:** The 5,439 acre Coralville Dam complex is a part of the Coralville Lake project. The area features five campgrounds, lake and river fishing, camping, boating, swimming, water skiing and the unique Devonian Fossil Gorge. It also is one of Eastern Iowa's top birding locations.



**Lake Macbride State Park** – 2,180 acres west of Solon, features a man-made lake surrounded by wooded uplands and open areas. It is located northeast of the Coralville Lake. Macbride Nature Recreation Area,



Swan Lake, Hanging Rock Woods and Williams Prairie are other nearby areas that are visited by birders. Recreation opportunities include swimming, boating including boats for rent, hiking, camping and picnicking.

**Sandy Beach & Sugar Bottom Park:** Located east of North Liberty, at 2192 Mehaffey Bridge Road. Activities include whitewater paddling, camping, playing golf, fishing, swimming and hiking.

# Community Calender

**Johnson County Fair— July 25-28, 2011**



**Senior Day is Wednesday, July 27**

**August 5 & 6 – The Annual Swisher Fun Days** – Music Friday and Saturday nights, parade, food, auction, games and horseshoe tournament. Fun for all ages.



**Aug. 10** - The "It's A Mystery" group meets at 10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Coralville Public Library. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion! August book is "Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter" by Tom Franklin.

**Aug. 10 - 14 - Johnson County Country School Celebration** – August 10-14 – Barn tour on Saturday. Aug. 13 – with the Johnson County Historical Society. Call 319.351-5738 to register.



**August 12-14 – Sand in the City** – downtown Iowa City on Iowa Avenue. Sand sculptures built by teams representing some of the community's businesses and local organizations.



**Lone Tree Fall Festival – August 19 - 20, 2011**  
Fun Run, Parade, Dunk Tank, Bingo, Carnival Rides, Food vendors, Street Dance, Water Fight and Horseshoe

Tournament, Adult Crawdad Race, Saturday Night Fireworks and lots more.

**Saturday, August 20 – 8th Annual "Men Who Cook"** fundraiser for Pathways Adult Day Care Center. Held at the



Clarion Highlander Hotel and Conference Center in Iowa City. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and tasting begins. Program and live auction begin at 7 p.m. Local men will cook their signature dishes for the 8th annual Men Who Cook fundraiser benefiting Pathways and the Noon Pilot Club of Johnson County. Tickets are \$45 each and include unlimited tasting and drinks (beer, wine, pop and/or water). There will be a silent auction, live auction and raffle. For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Jeff Kellbach at 339-6162 or by e-mail at jkellbach@abbe.org



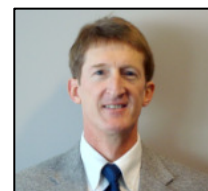
**FRY FEST – Sept. 2**

A Salute to Iowa's own **Dan Gable**, honoring 1972 Olympic gold medalist and Iowa legend.

**We're Goin' Country (Music) –**

with **Josh Turner** (named by *People* magazine as one of Country's hottest stars). **Also - the world's largest HAWKEYE Trade Show** (Marriott Exhibition Hall 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.) **All on the Third Annual FRY-day, Sept. 2, at Coralville Iowa River Landing.**

**Sept. 9** – the new **Coralville Center for the Performing Arts** features the musical comedy "Hairspray" as its grand opening event. JCLC's own **Doug Beardley** will play the role of Wilbur Turnblad in this production taking place Sept. 9 – 18.



**Sept. 23 - JCLC's Annual REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY** will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 2701 Rochester Avenue in Iowa City. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Brian Kaskie, associate professor of Health Management and Policy, College of Public Health; and associate director of the Center on Aging, Carver College of Medicine of the University of Iowa Center of Aging. Dr. Kaskie will address "Making the Livable Community viable: What have we accomplished in five years?" Registration and coffee 8a.m. Program from 8:30 to 10 a.m.



**October / September 2011 – 30th Anniversary – of the Iowa Cit/Johnson County Senior Center.** Month-long celebration. Watch for coming announcements of many special events.

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**October 1 – Walk to End Alzheimer’s** - Iowa City City Park -200 East Park Road, Iowa City, IA 52246. Check in at 9 a.m. Walk begins at 10 a.m. Length:3 miles. Contact: Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter - Brittney Robinson - Phone: 319.294.9699 - Email: [brittney.robinson@alz.org](mailto:brittney.robinson@alz.org)  
.....



**Johnson County Older Adult Death Review Team was recognized as Area X “Outstanding Initiatives in Aging” award recipient at Heritage Agency’s Annual Recognition and Service Awards event. Program Administrator Mike Hensch accepted the award.**

Developed by the **Johnson County Medical Examiner's Office, the Johnson County Older Adult Death Review Team** provides a systematic review of sudden and unexpected deaths of older adults in the county. Through the work of a multidisciplinary team, factors involved in the death of the older adult that could have been prevented or reduced through the use of additional community services are identified and action steps are developed to work within the community to hopefully eliminate or lessened these factors for other older adults. This is an exciting Johnson County initiative and already changes are being made to provide older adults optimal care.

*Submitted by Sara Sanders, team member/UI School of Social Work*

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**North Liberty Students Combat Elder Abuse**

Two students at North Liberty’s North Central Junior High received the Heritage Area Agency on Aging **“Project/Program: Service to Seniors”** award for contributions made at their school to combat elder abuse in Johnson County. Students [Camille Anderson](#) and [Nisha Conney](#) developed and activated a fund-raising program in which they hosted a benefit bake sale at school donating the proceeds to the Heritage Agency in support of HAAA’s Elder Abuse prevention



and intervention work.

In presenting the award, HAAA Director Ingrid Wensel said, “The Heritage Elder Abuse Initiative Program that’s implemented with the support of Aging Services and Elder Services provides a critical support for seniors in our community. Elder abuse continues to be a stigmatized social issue and is one of the most under-recognized and under-reported social problems in the United States. It’s estimated 84 percent of elder abuse cases go unreported. Last year, 425 people in our region received support through the program. Elder abuse is not just an issue that impact seniors, but is a serious social crisis that impacts all generations.”

*Submitted by Tracey Robertson, Regional Protective Services Coordinator*



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**Elder Services names Susan Wehr**

**Director** of Elder Services. Board Chair Brian Kaskie made the announcement. Susan Wehr began duties as Executive Director of Elder Services Inc. July 5. Ms.

Wehr has more than 20 years of non-profit management experience. She served as the Director of Refugee Services at a Community College in Kansas, Executive Director of a child care resource and referral agency in Wisconsin and Executive Director of a Red Cross Chapter in Mississippi. She also served in municipal government as the Mayoral Administrative Officer for four years. She has participated extensively in volunteer roles in the communities where she has lived including service on several boards and statewide networks. She received the Kansas Adult Educators Distinguished Service award for her work with the refugee population, and Humanitarian of the Year award from the Sheboygan Human Rights Association for her work with children and families.

.....  
**Fall Prevention Booth at Johnson County Fair**

Fall prevention is the theme for JCLC’s Senior Day booth. Senior Day is Wednesday, July 27. Each of the four steps for fall prevention – exercise, medication, vision and home safety are emphasized. The booth is organized by the **JCLC Fall Prevention Action Team** in conjunction with the **Sure Steps Fall Prevention Project**.

Local fall prevention experts will be on hand at the fair to provide information and answer questions. Bone density screening will be provided by University of Iowa College of Pharmacy students. Home safety and personal risk assessment appointment scheduling will also be available. The assessments will be conducted by the Visiting Nurse Association of Iowa City (VNA) and University of Iowa College of Nursing Faculty Practice House Calls nurses. The booth will be located in Exhibit Hall A. See you at the fair!



## **FITTING YOUR HOME TO YOUR NEEDS**

**Housing Accessibility Program (HAP)**

Call **319.631-8083** for **HELP**

This JCLC program operates in partnership with Access2Independence, Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity, Elder Services and Carpenter's Local 1260. The program builds **wheel-chair ramps**, and makes **minor repairs for safety** by adding features like **grab bars or handrails**. A home assessment can be completed to determine need for specific items and cost of home repairs and other safety features. Financial assistance is available to qualifying applicants. Call for information.

55 to 69 age range and 33 percent of those older than 70 support such a move.

Older respondents were more supportive of raising the retirement age. Fifty-eight percent of people 70 or older and 50 percent of those ages 55 to 69 supported a three-year increase in the retirement age. But only 42 percent of 35- to 54-year-olds and 40 percent of 18- to 34-year-olds support that option. The Hawkeye Poll of 867 respondents was conducted by phone in April.

Topline results are available at: [http://news-releases.uiowa.edu/2011/april/042211Social\\_Security\\_Topline.pdf](http://news-releases.uiowa.edu/2011/april/042211Social_Security_Topline.pdf)

*Reprinted from Corridor Business Journal, April 25, 2011*

## **Social Security Stats in Iowa**

**Social Security, established in 1935 during the Great Depression, is a social insurance program funded through payroll taxes. Social Security provides guaranteed retirement, disability and survivor benefits to eligible workers.**

- Social Security Beneficiaries in Iowa: 574,315
- One in six Iowans receives Social Security
- 574,315 Iowans rec'd Social Security in 2009
- 388,139 retirees
- 68,425 people with disabilities
- 52,462 widows and widowers
- 37,683 children and
- 27,606 spouses
- 33.6 percent non-government workers aged 55-64 are without workplace other retirement benefits
- S.S. puts \$616 into Iowa's economy @ month
- 40.5 percent of state's 65+ population were kept out of poverty because of Social Security.
- S.S. makes up 50 percent or more of the family income for about 56.5 percent of Iowans age 65 and older
- S.S. makes up 90 percent of family income for more than 21.4 percent of Iowans 65+.

SSA: [www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/factsheet/cong\\_stats/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/factsheet/cong_stats/)  
[www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/factsheets/cong\\_stats/2010/ia.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/factsheets/cong_stats/2010/ia.html)  
*Older Americans' Reliance on Social Security Income by State April 2010*  
[www.aarp.org/work/retirement-planning/info-04-2010/fs1178-soccec-new.html](http://www.aarp.org/work/retirement-planning/info-04-2010/fs1178-soccec-new.html)

### **Hawkeye Poll: Majority of Americans supports Social Security reform**

President Obama has recently alluded to changing Social Security benefits to balance the budget. A recent national University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll suggests most Americans support such a move with nearly nine out of 10 respondents supporting at least one reform, and two-thirds supporting at least two reforms.

Half of the respondents supported increasing the retirement age by up to three years, and 55 percent supported raising the income ceiling on Social Security taxes. Nearly half (48 percent) supported increasing the payroll tax by 2 percent. Some proposed reforms would be much less popular, according to the poll. Seventy-eight percent opposed a decrease in benefits, and 60 percent opposed decreasing the cost-of-living adjustment. The poll revealed differences across generations, and across parties. Nearly 60 percent of Democrats and half of Independents support increasing the payroll tax, but 68 percent of Republicans oppose such an increase. A majority of Democrats (66 percent) and Independents (60 percent) also support raising the income limit on Social Security taxes, but only 40 percent of Republicans would like to see that happen. In contrast, 64 percent of Republicans support increasing the retirement age while many Democrats (48 percent) and Independents (47 percent) oppose this option.

Younger Americans were more supportive of increasing payroll taxes. That option was supported by 53 percent of people ages 18 to 34 and 57 percent of those 35 to 54. Only 30 percent of respondents in the

# Population: Iowa & Johnson County

## Median Age in years – 38.1

Age of Population	Number	Percent
<b>Total – State of Iowa</b>	<b>3,046,355</b>	<b>100%</b>
0-9 years	402,769	13.2%
10-19 years	417,741	13.7%
20-29 years	411,193	13.5%
30-39 years	361,888	11.9%
40-49 years	403,882	13.3%
50-59 years	427,637	14.0%
60-69 years	292,722	9.6%
70-79 years	183,678	6.0%
80 years & up	144,845	4.8%

Source: Iowa Data Center

## Johnson County Aging Population: 2010

### Median Age in years – 29.3

Age of Population	Number	Percent
<b>Total: Johnson County</b>	<b>130,882</b>	<b>100%</b>
0-9 years	15,361	11.7%
10-19 years	17,633	13.5%
20-29 years	34,042	26.0%
30-39 years	17,122	13.1%
40-49 years	14,788	11.3%
50-59 years	15,009	11.5%
60-69 years	9,334	7.1%
70-79 years	4,459	3.4%
80 years & up	3,134	2.4%

Source: Iowa Data Center

<http://data.iowadatacenter.org/DemographicProfiles/2010DP1/stIowaDP12010.pdf>

## Johnson County Towns Population: 2010

Note: The city of West Branch, primarily in Cedar County, annexed into Johnson County in 1994. Rural total includes 165 people in unincorporated community of Frytown.

Johnson County	Population	% change 2000-2010
Coralville	18,907	25.02%
Hills	703	3.53%
Iowa City	67,862	9.07%
Lone Tree	1,300	12.95%
North Liberty	13,374	149.19%
Oxford	807	14.47%
Shueyville	577	130.80%
Solon	2,037	73.07%
Swisher	879	8.12%
Tiffin	1,947	99.69%
University Heights	1,051	6.48%
West Branch	95	10.47%
Rural Total	21,178	-0.16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>130,882</b>	

Source: [www.johnson-county.com/auditor/misc/census.htm](http://www.johnson-county.com/auditor/misc/census.htm) and [www.data.iowadatacenter.org/DemographicProfiles/2010DP1/stIowaDP12010.pdf](http://www.data.iowadatacenter.org/DemographicProfiles/2010DP1/stIowaDP12010.pdf)

**Johnson County's Older Population Increase nearly double that of the rest of the state.** According to new census figures, the number of Johnson County residents age 55 to 64 increased by 98 percent over the last decade, from 6,595 to 13,045 people. The number of residents 65 and older jumped 34 percent, from 8,373 to 11,211 people. Statewide, those age 55 to 64 increased by 44.8 percent, and those age 65 and older increased 3.8 percent." Residents 55 and older account for about 18 percent of the county's total population, up from 13.5 percent a decade ago. The average median age in Johnson County was 29.3 in 2010, compared with 38.1, statewide.

Jeff Schott, program director at the Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Iowa, said he expected to see the trend of an aging population continue, but he was surprised by the rate of increase in Johnson County. Schott said the increase speaks to the migration of people from rural to urban areas and from western Iowa to eastern Iowa. He said the increase could be attributed to people living longer, and also wanting to live in an area that provides a lot of services for older residents. "There's been a general understanding that folks of retirement age have been moving to the Johnson County, Iowa City area," he said. "Johnson County is one of the few counties that saw an increase in population."

Jason Wilbur, clinical associate professor in the department of Family Medicine at the UI Carver College of Medicine and a family practice physician at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, said he has seen a significant increase in senior patients since he first joined UIHC in 1999. "I could see even without looking at the census number there is an increase in the older population in this area," Wilbur said. "There's more demand for physicians to be able to be well-versed in caring for older people. We do need physicians of all specialties to have a special understanding for older populations. The census results also revealed a statewide decrease in school-aged children and residents age 35 to 44. Iowa saw its population of children age 5 to 14 drop about 3 percent, and the population age 35 to 44 drop 18 percent."

Schott said population shifts could be attributed in part to smaller families and the baby boomer generation aging, but he said it also speaks to the migration of young families out of the state. "It's not surprising, but it's still alarming," Schott said. "There has been an out migration, particularly of younger families. We're really realizing the impact of that."

Source: from the Iowa City Press-Citizen, May 25, 2011

## Iowa Department on Aging Director



**Donna Harvey** is holding 16 “Community Conversations” across Iowa this summer to provide Iowans an opportunity to understand the aging network and IDA the opportunity to understand your aging concerns. (The Johnson County event was July 11 at the Coralville Public Library.) The conversations are also an opportunity to discuss HF 45, the legislative mandate to reduce the number of Area Agencies on Aging.

**What does Aging look like to you?**

**What are the Community’s concerns as we age?**

**How can Iowa become a more Aging Friendly state?**

Interested Iowans are invited to participate in the meetings (see [www.agingiowa.gov](http://www.agingiowa.gov) for additional locations) or contact IDA directly by e-mail, by telephone or in writing.

**E-Mail:** [aging.conversations@iowa.gov](mailto:aging.conversations@iowa.gov)

**Phone:** (800) 532-3213

**Mail:** Iowa Department on Aging  
c/o Community Conversations  
510 E. 12th Street – Suite. 2  
Des Moines, IA. 50319

## Demographics 2011:

### “COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS ON AGING”

from the Iowa Department on Aging

#### Income and Poverty:

**\$31,863** – median 2009 income for householders aged 65 and older. All Iowa householders median income (2008) - **\$48,044**.

**Poverty rate** for those age 65 and over – **7.3 percent** in 2009 compared with **11.8 percent** for all Iowans.

**427,910** – number of Social Security beneficiaries in Iowa aged 65+ in 2009. This group collected total monthly benefits of **\$485,942,000**

**88 counties in 2030** – the number of counties in Iowa with expected 20% of the population 65+. That is up from the 2000 figure, which included **30** counties.

**73,942** – number of Iowans age 65+ in the labor force in 2009.

**102,028** – estimated number of Iowans 65+ who are military veterans.

**139,313** – number of Iowans age 65+ with at least one type of disability

**37.9 percent** - percent of Iowa veterans age 65+ with a disability.

Source: [www.aging.iowa.gov/Documents/HF45/CC\\_PP.pdf](http://www.aging.iowa.gov/Documents/HF45/CC_PP.pdf)

The JCLC Visibility Action Team has produced a printed resource guide (check on URL below or on the JCLC website) that was distributed at the Iowa City Pride Festival on June 18. We also collected responses to our needs assessment survey and will use the results in our development of a grant application. We are seeking funding to develop training opportunities for long term care providers. We meet the 1st Friday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.



Jefri Palermo

**NOTE:** to access this 20-page booklet visit JCLC website: –

<http://www.livablecommunity.org/Portals/3/GLBTQI%20Aging%20in%20Johnson%20County%205-2-2.pdf>

## ***IT'S YOUR CALL***

by Betty Kelly

In the 40 years I’ve observed Iowa politics I have never been so disgusted with the legislative process. It appears that attacking the other political party is the goal, not resolving the state’s most pressing issues. This Iowa legislative session is already the third longest in the state’s history. Statistics from the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency reveal the 2011 session approved the fewest bills (118) in more than two decades. As an advocate for the elderly, there is little to rejoice about.

Financial support for human service is still unresolved. In this column, I plan to address some of the issues that need legislation. Hopefully, you will discuss them with your elected representatives.

The state, which showed too little population growth, accomplished conflict-free redistricting as required by the 2010 Census. As a result, many will find new faces in their districts in 2012. Now, Iowa City and Cedar Rapids will be in different congressional districts.

Two of the biggest conflicts this year was the passage of a state budget and the percent of allowable growth. Gov. Branstad advocated for a two-year budget. No one determined the impact on state services or employees from a state shut down.

One of the first legislative measures to pass was Taxpayer 45, which requires the Area Agencies on Aging to reduce the number of offices from 13 to 7 or 5. This is supposed to make these agencies more equal in elderly population and save money. However, it may require the elderly to have a longer drive time and wait for a waiver.

Another heated issue is commercial property tax relief recommended by the Governor. This would create

a deficit in the tax revenue collected by local communities. The Executive Director of the Iowa State Association of counties said county governments could lose \$61 million if the amount supported by the Governor becomes law. Sen. Joe Bolkcom, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, said 30 percent of the state's commercial property is owned by companies based in other states. Another problem with local property taxes is a loophole that allows nursing homes to be classified as residential properties. This "back door" to Iowa law had led 20 counties and cities to accept care provider's property as residential costing those communities nearly \$620,000 in lost taxes. Fifteen more communities have denied similar requests and those cases are pending appeal. This problem needs a State Attorney General ruling or legislative fix to clarify nursing home classification and insure consistency. The largest Iowa group representing Iowans, aged 50 or older, issued a poll indicating 80 percent of that demographic group support stronger oversight of the state's nursing homes. A chilling event in nursing homes occurred when a judge ordered the housing of violent offenders in care facilities for the disabled. Three suspects, each with a history of violent crime, were ordered by judges to reside in Fairview care Facility. Ten days later, the three began sexually abusing one of the female residents. Iowa judges must stop ordering these offenders into lightly regulated and unsecured facilities. At the same time as the Des Moines Register reported that the state's residential care facilities are housing a growing number of violent offenders. The Department of Inspections and Appeals began inspecting these facilities only in response to complaints. The legislature is proposing an extension of this inspection ruling which means some of Iowa's care facilities will remain uninspected 4 1/2 years. Minnesota, Illinois, and Ohio have laws dealing with this problem.

One failed bill this session, was a measure to reform mobile home park legislation to clarify property tax issues and eviction procedures as well as a better balance, between the rights of mobile home park owners and owners of mobile homes. Johnson County irregularities in the sale of abandoned trailers were uncovered. Many Iowa elderly live in mobile home parks.

A bill passed dealing with a growing problem of assisted living facilities changing to residential homes. The bill gives residents more time when this conversion is done but does not stop the advertising of assistance and regulation when none will be included. This change is largely to escape inspections and fines.

Many older adults seek help with mental and disability problems. Due to the current state budget

impasse, Johnson County will put new clients and those seeking new services for mental health and disabilities on a waiting list. The new state mental health bill will replace the county-based system that is regionally administered and locally delivered with a state system. This legislation must still be approved in 2012 session to implement the new system in 2013.

According to the recent census Johnson County's older population is increasing at a rate nearly double that of the rest of the state. People are living longer and seeking cities that provide services for older residents. The Johnson County Livable Community is addressing these needs. A new program, HAP, is providing assistance in building ramps for home access. The Livable Community Falls Committee received a "Sure Steps" grant and is establishing programs to help prevent falls among elderly citizens.

The Iowa Care Givers Association is an important voice for direct care workers in long term care institutions. It is hoped the Legislature will continue to support this group. There is a need for Home Care Aides to be listed on the Direct Care Workers Registry and meet some type of standards. Their work is similar but in a home setting.

On a Federal level, political parties are world's apart on Medicare reform. The U.S. House passed a Republican budget blue print proposing to privatize Medicare and make sharp spending cuts to social safety-net programs like food stamps and Medicaid. The plan by Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan transforms Medicare from a program in which the government subsidizes purchases of private insurance plans. People under 55 would receive subsidies that would steadily lose value over time. Ryan's plan would repeal Obama's health care law that makes health care insurance available to 32 million uninsured. The Ryan bill also extends the Bush tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 for all income levels. Obama's Health Care Plan creates an Independence Payment Advisory Board of 15 members who are charged to keep Medicare spending in line. The panels spending recommendations automatically become law and can be overruled only by a three-fifths majority Senate vote. The Panel cannot raise fees.

**IT'S YOUR CALL!** To contact your Congressional representatives dial 1-888-722-8 514 and follow the prompts to enter your zip code. Then press "1" to contact one of your senators. A staff person will answer the phone. Tell them where you are calling from and your feelings on Medicare and Social Security changes. You can dial again 1-888-722-8514 and press "2" to contact second senator. You can dial a third time and press "3" to be connected to your

representative. ABOVE ALL STAY INFORMED AND EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS TO YOUR REPRESENTATIVES.

### Advance Care Planning Initiative Started in Johnson County

The **Advance Care Planning (ACP) Initiative** officially began in December 2010 when a broad-based group of community leaders convened to form a Steering Committee. The ACP Initiative strives to create an integrated community and health care structure to encourage conversations about preferences for future medical care, ensure people's advance care plans are clear and reviewed at regular intervals and honored throughout people's lives. The Steering Committee and three task forces are comprised of representatives from hospital, home health care, hospice, religious, legal, long-term care, political, city, county, and other community sectors.

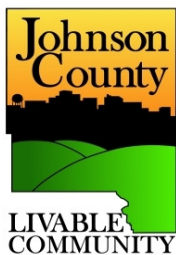
Pilot studies are taking place at the UIHC Family Care Center, Mercy Home Health, Consultation of Religious Communities/First Christian Church, Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Center and Oaknoll Retirement Center. The ACP Initiative hopes to learn from these pilot studies and develop a plan for a wider community rollout in 2012.

The Initiative has received generous financial support from Iowa City Hospice, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Mercy Iowa City, the Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Center, University of Iowa Community Home Care, the Rotary Club of Iowa City A.M., and Zion Lutheran Church.

For further information, please contact Jane Dohrmann, ACP Coordinator, at 319-688-4214, or [jane.dohrmann@iowacityhospice.org](mailto:jane.dohrmann@iowacityhospice.org).

### FREE SERVICE

**DIRECTORIES:** A JCLC **Directory of Aging Services and Resources** is now available in its second printing. The resource is available at area libraries and county offices. This 20-page booklet lists services available and contact information. This is a free mini-version of the detailed information available on the JCLC website. The "**JCLC Guide for Seniors: Transportation Options in Johnson County**" is also available in print form at no charge.



## JCLC Policy Board Transitions



The JCLC Policy Board bade farewell to three longtime members recently. **Amy Correia** (pictured left) has resigned her post with Johnson County Social Services effective July 15 to pursue a new career opportunity.

**Dee Vanderhoef** (pictured right), an at-



large policy board member from Iowa City and an activist in community and state transportation issues and a member of the Iowa Workforce Development Commission, has concluded her policy board membership, though not her service with JCLC where she serves as an active member of the JCLC Transportation Action Team. **Mary Wiemann**, formerly of Elder Services, Inc., has moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, where she will be with Aging and In-Home Services of NE Indiana.

Newly appointed to the JCLC Policy Board is



**Maggie Elliott**, executive director of Iowa City Hospice since 1995 (pictured left). In Iowa City Hospice's tradition of community commitment, Maggie is involved with a number of community organizations. Currently, she is member of the Business Exchange, an Iowa City

group that encourages local business development; and a member of the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Commission, a member of Rotary and PEO groups; and she volunteers with Elder Services and Johnson County AARP. In addition, Maggie is a member of the Iowa Hospice Organization and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

Also appointed July 1 is at-large member **Peggy Swails** of Lone Tree. A program associate with the Child Health Specialty Clinics at University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Peggy is an alum of UI SSW. Peggy's interests have been concentrated on aging-related issues. She is looking forward to being part of the JCLC Policy Board and advocating and empowering current and future aging residents of Johnson County.



## Your Gifts Support JCLC

JCLC is a community-based, **volunteer board**, appointed by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, dedicated to making of all segments of Johnson County a livable community where persons can age successfully. When you make a gift, pledge or plan for a future gift to Johnson County Livable Community, 100 percent of your gift stays at home and directly benefits the people and communities of Johnson County.



Gifts to JCLC can be made by sending a check to:  
**Community Foundation  
of Johnson County  
325 E. Washington St.  
Iowa City, IA 52240**

And, be sure to write on the Memo Line of your check:

**"Johnson County Livable Community" \***

[www.communityfoundationofjohnsoncounty.org](http://www.communityfoundationofjohnsoncounty.org)

**\* NOTE:** Tax Deductible Donations to Johnson County Livable Community, in care of the Community Foundation of Johnson County, may be directed with to the JCLC "Endowment Fund" or to the JCLC "Charitable Giving Fund." Contributions to the "Endowment Fund"(1) are eligible to for a Endow Iowa tax credit. Contributions to the Charitable Giving Fund do not receive the Endow Iowa Tax Credit but are treated as regular contributions for tax purposes.

(1) Endowment funds deductibility are described in the Community Foundation of Johnson County annual report.

*"Old Age is the most unexpected of all the things than can happen to people".*

Leon Trotsky - 1870-1940  
(also attributed to James Thurber - 1894-1961)

## Johnson County Livable Community For successful Aging Policy Board members

Eve Casserly – JC AARP – Chair; Newsletter editor - 2014  
319.351-1135 - [Casserly@mchsi.com](mailto:Casserly@mchsi.com)

Larry Meister - Solon Senior Advocates, Vice-Chair- 2012  
319.624-2516 - [LDklikmeister@aol.com](mailto:LDklikmeister@aol.com)

Carl Kice Brown - Lone Tree City Council – Sec't. - 2013  
319.629-5524 - [kice@iowatelecom.net](mailto:kice@iowatelecom.net)

Doug Beardsley - Public Health Department - 2013  
319.356-6040 - [dbeardsley@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:dbeardsley@co.johnson.ia.us)

Lori Benz – University of Iowa - 2012  
319-339-1855 - [loribenz7@gmail.com](mailto:loribenz7@gmail.com)

Susan Boyd - Iowa City - 2012  
319.339-5948 - [slizboyd@msn.com](mailto:slizboyd@msn.com)

Amy Correia - Johnson County Social Services - 2011  
319.356-6090 - X 5703 - [acorreia@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:acorreia@co.johnson.ia.us)

Maggie Elliott – Iowa City Hospice - 2014  
319.351-5665 - [Maggie.elliott@iowacityhospice.org](mailto:Maggie.elliott@iowacityhospice.org)

Patti Fields - United Way of JC – Past Chair, 2013  
319.338-7823 - [pfields@unitedwayjc.org](mailto:pfields@unitedwayjc.org)

Scott Gill - Access 2 Independence of Eastern Iowa- 2014  
319.471-3827 - [scottg@access2independence.org](mailto:scottg@access2independence.org)

Linda Kopping - Iowa City Senior Center- 2012  
319.356-5220 - [Linda-kopping@iowa-city.org](mailto:Linda-kopping@iowa-city.org)

Jeff Nock – Goodwill of the Heartland - 2012  
319.331-2608 - [jnock@goodwillheartland.org](mailto:jnock@goodwillheartland.org)

Janelle Rettig - - Johnson Co. Board of Supervisors.  
319.356-6000 - [jrettig@co.johnson.ia.us](mailto:jrettig@co.johnson.ia.us)

Peggy Swails – Lone Tree – 2014  
319.330-9527 – [dplswails@mchsi.com](mailto:dplswails@mchsi.com)

Bob Welsh - JC Task Force on Aging- Past Chair - 2012  
319.354-4618 - [welshbob@aol.com](mailto:welshbob@aol.com)

Ingrid Wensel - Heritage Area Agency on Aging - 2012  
319.398-5559 - [iwensel@kirkwood.edu](mailto:iwensel@kirkwood.edu)

*Policy Board members are appointed by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors for three-year terms.*

JCLC AGING SPECIALIST: Mary Willie  
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