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director'sdesk

As our state continues to move towards national best practices that allow individuals of all ages to live successful lives in their homes and communities, I'm honored to be a part of this Administration and usher the Department on Aging into a new period of innovation and integration through Governor Rauner's [HHS Transformation](#) initiative.

The success of our Nursing Home Deflection program, Money Follows the Person and Colbert Consent Decree are critical components of our agency's overarching mission to help older adults live happier, healthier lives within their communities while saving Illinois taxpayers money.

As we move forward on the transformation in Illinois, the Department on Aging continues to work closely with our sister agencies and network partners to ensure the most efficient, effective implementation of a better quality of life for Illinois' most vulnerable population.

Thank you all for your contribution to this mission; I'm excited for the future of our state, our agency and our relationship with all of our partners.

Jean Bohnhoff
Director-designate, IDoA

in|thenews

Senior spellers from suburbs vie for state bee title

Written by: James Fuller, Daily Herald

In a small room with mirrors and railings more suited to ballet practice, Aurora's Landa Midgley engages in a mental dance of her own. She has four rivals preventing her from becoming the Glen Ellyn-area spelling bee champ.

The final two spellers move on to the regional competition. But with her bright red "Straight Outta Denmark" sweater and tenacious grip on the microphone, it's clear Midgley will not be content with second place.

It's only a few rounds before the word "khaki" eliminates the first competitor. Then "tentacle" creates another spelling casualty. The next round, "thwart" creates a head-to-head battle between Midgley and Mike Burns of Gurnee.

Burns has his shot at glory when Midgley misspells "financier." But he also bungles the word. It only takes one misplaced letter to become an also-ran. Then the moment comes. Burns trips up on "glutinous." He puts an "A" where there should be an "I." Midgley pounces. Audience applause and handshakes follow. Click [here](#) to finish reading...

the|longgoodbye

Fighting the effects of dementia

They call it the long goodbye. The cruelty of Alzheimer's – the most common cause of dementia – holds no prejudice. Irrespective of race or gender, this neurodegenerative disease affects approximately 5.2 million Americans over the age of 65 in Illinois alone, a number that is likely to increase with the projected 57 percent growth of Illinois' aging population over the next 15 years.

It's a difficult thing to watch someone we love begin to show symptoms of Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. But the reality is this – these diseases exist and we must continue to find ways to support and care for each other.

Family members, caregivers and neighbors alike should incorporate checking on the elderly in their communities as part of their daily and weekly routines. Organizations and programs within your neighborhood and community may help keep those affected by dementia as active and functional as possible.

Being socially and physically active, engaging in cognitive activities, having a well-balanced diet and having a purpose to go and do things may reduce the risk of developing memory issues associated with Alzheimer's disease later in life.

IDoA works closely with our Aging partners to train staff and provide resources. On July 26th, IDoA Office of Training & Development hosted a webinar titled, "Understanding Dementia Basics," presented by Greg Kyrouac, MSED, Director of Outreach & Education Programs at SIU School of Medicine Center for Alzheimer's Disease and related Disorders (CADRD), Springfield.

The webinar focused on three key objectives:

1. Discussing the experiences of persons with dementia;
2. Describing the common issues that often occur at various stages of dementia; and
3. Identifying possible causes of difficult behaviors and listing strategies for improving communications with people living with dementia.

IDoA plans to host a second webinar focusing on dementia in the coming months.

Despite the cruelty of dementia, it is not hopeless. According to the Alzheimer's Association, the Alzheimer's treatment horizon has never looked brighter. "More potential treatments are in

development than ever before as a result of 30 years of accelerating insight and identification of promising targets for intervention," reads their website.

Until the day comes when we can successfully treat, reverse and prevent Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, it's up to all of us to work together and care for one another.

from|thecomunity

Resident a Natural for Country Store

From Generations Healthcare Network

Anthony Latuszek has been a resident at Generations at Oakton Pavillion for over two years. Currently he is the attendant and cashier at the Country Store at Generations at Oakton Pavillion. The Country Store offers residents and guests' sweets and treats reminiscent of days gone by and opened in May 2016 as a part of the Grand Reopening at Generations at Oakton.

He honed his retail skills as a part of the Carson Pirie Scott family in Downtown Chicago for 43 years, working his way up from stock to supervisor of supplies.

Anthony knows this is the place for him, he works a great shift and it gives him joy to chat and help residents and visitors with their purchases.

He has told many staff members that this position has saved his life. Anthony states, "Retailing is in my blood and I know what to do and how to adequately display the merchandise in the Country Store. I have an eye for what is selling and how to get the customers to buy."

Reflecting on the Generations at Oakton community as a whole, Anthony is very satisfied. "I like Oakton a lot, very much," he states with a smile. "I was at two other homes before Oakton. They have great activities and the residents are very involved. There are so many opportunities to keep busy and the staff is excellent and friendly."

Make sure to visit Anthony daily in the Country Store from Noon to 4 p.m. where he can give his recommendations on the best treats in town!



agencyinsider

From the Office of Community Relations & Outreach

At the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA), we strive every day to fulfill our mission of helping older adults live full, independent lives. One of the ways we do that is through community engagement, organized by our Office of Community Relations and Outreach.

This office participates in 2-3 events every month in various sections of the state, helping people by locating services in their communities, evaluating needs, answering questions, linking people to local care coordination services and providing information, assistance and literature.

Every year during the Illinois State Fair, IDoA hosts Senior Day – a day where older adults are treated to complimentary admission, fun family game shows and informative displays from our sister agencies and sponsors.

This year, Senior Day falls on Monday, August 15th, and will include the 2016 Illinois Senior Spelling Bee finals, the NOT SO Newlywed Game and the presentation of some of our Outstanding Caregiver Awards.

If you can't make it to the fair on Senior Day, don't worry! IDoA will be hosting a variety of fun events and activities throughout the duration of the fair!

Be sure to drop by our booth in the Illinois Building and say, 'hello,' while you're at the fair – we'd love to meet you and answer any questions you have about our Department and how you can be connected to local services.

We'll see you on Senior Day – August 15th!

Anyone interested in pre-registering for events including the "NOT SO Newlywed Game" and the Grandparent/Grandchild contest should contact (217) 524-6911 or (800) 252-8966.

resident's corner

Senior Day – hosted by the Illinois Department on Aging Monday, August 15, 2016

10:45am

Opening remarks by Director Jean Bohnhoff, Illinois Department on Aging

11:05am

2015 Caregiver of the Year Awards presented by Director Bohnhoff

11:15am

The NOT SO Newlywed Game
Sponsored by Central Illinois Senior Celebration
Emcee – Paul Palazzolo, Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

**Participants are couples 50 years of age or older.*

**Cash Prizes – to be awarded to the couple that answers the most questions correctly:*

1st Place - \$100.00

2nd Place - \$50.00

Register no later than August 15th at 10:45am in the Illinois Building at the Illinois Department on Aging informational booth

1:00pm

2016 Illinois Senior Spelling Bee State Finals
Sponsored by the Association of Illinois Senior Centers and Humana
Pronouncer – Paul Palazzolo, Sangamon County Circuit Clerk

August 18th, 2pm

Grandparent/Grandchild Contest
Sponsored by Springfield Supportive Living

**Cash Prizes to be awarded:*

1st Place - \$150.00

2nd Place - \$100.00

3rd Place - \$50.00

at|thecapitol

The Governor has signed these two bills into law:

Public Act 99-0530

In some parts of the state, Adult Protective Services fatality review teams have an insufficient caseload to justify meeting six times per year. HB 4826 reduces the minimum number of annual meetings for each fatality review team from six to four. They may still meet more frequently when determined necessary by the review team.

Public Act 99-0547

HB 4552 adds the State's Attorney to the list of entities who may request access to Adult Protective Services records.

awardnominations

We are currently accepting nominations for the 2016 Outstanding Caregiver Award; **the deadline to submit nominations is Friday, August 26, 2016.**

Please submit nominations to Veronica.Vera@illinois.gov; if you have any questions please email Veronica Vera or call at 312-814-4284.

We are also accepting nominations for the 2016 Senior Hall of Fame Award; **the deadline to submit nominations is Thursday, August 25, 2016.**

Senior Hall of Fame Nomination Forms can be accessed [here](#); if you have any questions, please call the Senior Helpline at 800-252-8966 or email aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov.

awardrecipients

This month, we have the long-awaited opportunity to present both 2015 Outstanding Caregiver of the Year and 2015 Senior Hall of Fame awards to several recipients. We are pleased to be able to recognize these noteworthy individuals and we thank them for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the aging community.

2015 Senior Hall of Fame Award Recipients

Jim Pioth of Oak Forest, IL
Martin Vilimek of Bridgeview, IL
Robert Saddler of Chicago, IL

2015 Outstanding Caregiver of the Year Award Recipients

Sharon Rigler of Pekin, IL - Nursing Facilities
Joyce Schweig of LaGrange, IL - Older American Act Services
Sandra Foster of Washington, IL - Housing Facilities
Geraldine Coleman of Melrose Park, IL - Home Health Services
Carole Lane of Joliet, IL - Community Care Program Services

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