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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2010

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State Department on Aging invites seniors and their families to enjoy activities at this year's Illinois State Fair

Admission is free on August 16 "Senior Day" for those 60 years & older

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) is again rolling out the red carpet for seniors and their families during activities at this year's Illinois State Fair. During each day of the State Fair, which runs August 13-22, IDoA will present special seminars and entertainment in the Illinois Building. Seniors and their families are invited to check out the information about programs and benefits, while enjoying the entertainment offered in the air conditioned setting of the Illinois Building, which is near the main gate on the state fairgrounds. Daily admission is 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and is free on August 16 *Senior Day* for people 60 years of age and older.

"The Illinois Department on Aging is pleased to host activities, again this year, during the State Fair," said Director Charles D. Johnson. "Senior Day" activities prove an exceptional day of fun while also offering a chance to provide information about the programs and services the state offers to older adults."

Department staff will be on hand to explain the programs such as the Community Care Program, elder abuse prevention and more. In addition to the information offered, seniors and their families are invited to attend seminars on *Senior Day*. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois will present "Understanding Medicare" at 10:30 a.m., following by a presentation on "Investment Fraud" at 11:30 a.m., by the Secretary of State's Securities Department. A State Fair favorite is the annual Senior Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging, Association of Illinois Senior Centers and Illinois Homecare Council, when finalists compete, on *Senior Day* at 1:00 p.m.

Seniors and their families are also encouraged to compete for fun. The Senior Twins Contest is August 14 and

The Grandparent/Grandchild Contest returns again this year on August 19 when judges score participants on resemblance, costumes, talent and interviews. (A full list of IDoA State Fair activities is attached.)

St. John's Hospital, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, and the Illinois Lion's Club will again provide free health screenings each day. Free screenings include:

- Body Composition
- Bone Density (Osteoporosis)
- Blood Pressure/Stroke
- Blood Sugar/Glucose
- Cholesterol Diabetic Eye Testing
- Health/Weight
- Hearing
- Heart Risk Assessments

- Mental Health

(Free screenings continued...)

- Overactive Bladder
- Pulmonary Function
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Skin Cancer (Derma Scan)

IDoA thanks the representatives from various state agencies and private companies who will be on hand during the entire fair to provide information about services they provide to older adults. They include:

- AARP
- The Office of the Attorney General
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois
- Humana
- Illinois Assistive Technology Project and Battery Specialists
- Illinois Bee Keepers
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
- Illinois Department of Employment Security
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency
- Illinois Lion's Club
- Illinois State Employees Retirees Association
- Logan County Senior Center Bingo
- Prairie Heart Institute
- The Office of the Secretary of State
- United States Social Security Administration
- Watkins Home Products

For more information about the Department on Aging, call the Senior HelpLine at (800) 252-8966 or (888) 206-1327 TTY for the hearing impaired, or log on to the website at www.state.il.us/aging.

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2010 Illinois Building Auditorium Schedule

**activities presented by the IL Department on Aging*

Friday, August 13

M.C. – Maureen Squires (IDoA)

1:30 Jan's Dance Studio "Dazzlers" Inc. (Springfield)

3:00 Marshall-Putnam-Stark Show Choir

5:00 Female Vocal Solo Contest

Saturday, August 14

M.C. – Debbie Deopere (AAA for Lincolnland)

10:00 Marshall-Putnam-Stark Show Choir

11:30 Springfield Ballet Company

12:15 Fleming Academy of Performing Arts (Springfield)

1:00 Senior Twins Contest *sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging, Central Illinois Senior Celebration and Springfield Park District*

3:00 Monica L. Hay (Auburn)

3:45 Harmony Circle (Henry)

4:30 Catholic Mass

6:00 Male Vocal and Group Vocal Talent Contest

Sunday, August 15

M.C.'s – Kelly Dehlinger and Mary Ann Burge

9:00 Lutheran Church Services

10:30 Church of Christ Services

12:15 Troupe Zahava (Springfield)

1:00 Illinois 4-H Performance Showcase

2:15 Golden Girls and a Guy (Springfield)

3:15 Silver Steppers (Springfield)

4:15 Gymnastics & Cheer Zone Extreme Teams (Springfield)

5:00 Keyboard and Instrumental Talent Contest

Monday, August 16 - SENIOR DAY

M.C.'s – Kelly Allen and Chuck Miller (IDoA)

10:30 "Understanding Medicare" presented by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois

11:30 "Investment Fraud" presented by the Secretary of State Securities Department

12:15 Country Cousins – Paul & Dee (Mechanicsburg)

1:00 2010 Illinois State Senior Spelling Bee Finals *sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging, Association of Illinois Senior Centers and Illinois Homecare Council*

Tuesday, August 17 - Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Agri-Quiz Bowl State Competition, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Teams of County Farm Bureau Young Leaders/ Young Farmers compete & test their knowledge in areas such as Ag Safety/ Mechanics/ Management, Animal Science Horticulture/ Natural Resources, Crop Production & Farm Bureau

8:00 Preliminary Rounds 1, 2 & 3

9:30 Consolation Bracket 1

10:00 Semi-final Round 1

10:30 Preliminary Rounds 4, 5, & 6

12:00 Consolation Bracket 2

12:30 Semi-Final Round 2
1:00 Preliminary Rounds 7, 8 & 9
2:30 Consolation Bracket 3
3:00 Semi-Final Round 3
3:30 Consolation Bracket Semi-Finals
4:00 Finals

5:00 Dance Solo and Dance Group Contest

Wednesday, August 18

M.C. – Lee Beneze (IDoA)

12:15 Springfield Fit Club
1:00 Sangamon Towers Kitchen Jam Band (Springfield)
2:00 Mob on the Road (Springfield)
3:00 Sokol Polish Folk Dancers (Springfield)

Thursday, August 19

M.C.'s – Gidget and Brittany Freeberg (IDoA) and Sandy Leith (SHIP)

11:15 Secretary of State Security Department - Investment Fraud Presentation
12:00 Taylorville Tappers
1:00 Mary Bryant Home Singers (Springfield)
2:00 Grandparent/Grandchild Contest, sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging and Springfield Supportive Living. Participants are judged on Resemblance, Costumes, Talent and Interview. Prizes are: 1st Place-\$150.00, 2nd Place-\$100.00 and 3rd Place-\$50.00. Register no later than August 19th at 1:45 p.m. in the Illinois Bldg.
3:00 Linda Dust – Singer/Storytelling – (Assumption)

Friday, August 20

No Entertainment

Saturday, August 21- IL Association of Park District Day

M.C. – Cathy Houghtby (IDoA)

10:00 Peoria Park District's POP Orchestra
11:30 Peoria Park District's Summer Band and Orchestra
12:30 Illinois Park and Recreation Presents The McDancers
1:15 Oak Forest Park District's Cinderella Performance
2:00 Worth Park District's Color Guard
2:15 Peoria Park District's Explosion Cheer & Dance Teams
2:50 Hanover Park District's Allegro Dance Company
3:30 Collinsville Area Recreation District's Kelly O'Sullivan Irish Dancers
4:30 Catholic Mass

Sunday, August 22

9:00 Lutheran Church Services
10:30 Church of Christ Services