

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fun, Free and Informative Activities for Seniors and Their Families at the Illinois State Fair

“Senior Day” is August 15 when admission is free for those 60 years & older

SPRINGFIELD – August 12, 2011. Attendees 60 years of age and older will be admitted free to the State Fair on Monday August 15, for *Senior Day*. Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) is hosting activities for seniors and their families during the Illinois State Fair, which runs August 12 – 21. The department has a lineup of special events in the senior center, which is in the air conditioned setting of the Illinois Building, located near the main gate of the fairgrounds. (A full list of IDoA State Fair activities is attached.)

“We hope older adults and their families enjoy this year’s State Fair activities, especially on August 15 for *Senior Day*. Make sure to visit the senior center where department staff and other partners will be on hand to offer free health screenings, and information about programs to benefit older adults,” said Michael Gelder, acting director of the Illinois Department on Aging.

Department on Aging staff will describe state programs to assist older adults, who need help living independently, the Elder Abuse Prevention Program, as well as home delivered meals and nursing home care.

Free health screenings are available each day from representatives of St. John's Hospital, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, and the Illinois Lion’s Club. Free health screenings each day include:

- Body Composition
- Bone Density (Osteoporosis)
- Blood Pressure/Stroke
- Blood Sugar/Glucose
- Cholesterol Diabetic Eye Testing
- Health/Weight
- Hearing
- Heart Risk Assessments
- Mental Health
- Overactive Bladder
- Pulmonary Function
- Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Skin Cancer (Derma Scan)

Seniors will also have fun competing for prizes. August 13 is the “Twins and Triplets Contest.” On *Senior Day* (August 15), couples 50 years of age and older will test how much they know about their spouse in the “NOT SO Newlywed Game.” And a contest favorite returns on August 18 when judges score grandparents and grandchildren on resemblance, costumes, talent and interviews.

The Illinois Department on Aging thanks representatives from the state agencies and private companies who will be on hand during the entire fair to provide information about services to help older adults. They include:

- 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
- Illinois State Treasurer's Office
- Logan County Senior Center Bingo
- Prairie Heart Institute
- The Office of the Secretary of State
- St. John's Hospital
- United States Social Security Administration
- Watkins Home Products

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

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2011 Illinois Building Auditorium Schedule

**activities presented by the IL Department on Aging*

Friday, August 12

M.C. – Gidget Freeberg (IDoA)

- 1:00 p.m. 4-H Fashion Revue & Clover Celebration
- 2:15 p.m. Jan's Dance Studio (Springfield)
- 3:30 p.m. Sokol Polish Folk Dancers (Springfield)
- 5:00 p.m. Female Vocal Solo Talent Contest**

Saturday, August 13

M.C. – Cathy Houghtby (IDoA)

- 10:00 a.m. Springfield Ballet Company
- 10:45 a.m. Marshall-Putnam-Stark Show Choir
- 12:15 p.m. Monica Hay (Auburn)
- 1:00 p.m. 4-H Fashion Revue & Clover Celebration
- 2:30 p.m. Twins & Triplets Contest - sponsored by Springfield Parents of Twins Club & IL Dept on Aging**
- 4:30 p.m. Catholic Mass
- 6:00 p.m. Male Vocal; Group Vocal; Keyboard and Instrumental Talent Contest**

Sunday, August 14

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

- 9:00 a.m. Lutheran Church Services
- 10:30 a.m. Church of Christ Services
- 12:00 p.m. Troupe Zahava – Middle Eastern Dance Company (Springfield)
- 1:00 p.m. Illinois 4-H Fashion Revue & Clover Celebration
- 2:15 p.m. Silver Steppers (Springfield)
- 3:15 p.m. Golden Girls and a Guy (Springfield)
- 4:15 p.m. Gymnastics & Cheer Zone (Springfield)
- 6:00 p.m. Dance Solo and Dance Group Talent Contest**

Monday, August 15 - SENIOR DAY

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

- 9:30 a.m. Illinois Secretary of State Securities Dept. & U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
- 10:15 a.m. Linda Dust – Singer/Storyteller (Assumption)
- 11:00 a.m. Illinois 4-H Fashion Revue & Clover Celebration
- 12:00 p.m. Taylorville Tappers
- 1:00 p.m. NOT SO Newlywed Game – sponsored by Central IL Senior Celebration, IL Dept on Aging & Springfield Park District**
- **Participants are couples 50 years of age or older. Just how much do you actually know about your spouse after all those years? Cash prizes will be awarded to the couple that answers the most questions correctly. ** Register no later than Aug. 15 at 12:45 in the Illinois Building.*
- 3:00 p.m. “Understanding Medicare” presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield

Tuesday, August 16 – 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Agri-Quiz Bowl State Competition

Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Agri-Quiz Bowl State Competition –
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 Management.

- 8:00-11:00 a.m. Preliminary Rounds
- 11:00-11:30 a.m. Announcement of Achievement Award and Excellence in Agriculture State Winners
- 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Preliminary Rounds - continued
- 4:30 p.m. Final Round
- 5:00 p.m. Announcement of Championship Team

Wednesday, August 17**M.C.'s – Kelly Allen & Chuck Miller (IDoA)**

12:00 p.m. Songbird Quartet (Chatham)

1:00 p.m. Mob on the Road (Springfield)

2:00 p.m. Mary Bryant Home Singers (Springfield)

3:00 p.m. "Investment Fraud" presented by the Illinois Secretary of State's Office

Thursday, August 18**M.C. – Lee Beneze (IDoA)**

11:00 a.m. Understanding Medicare presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield

1:00 p.m. Investment Fraud Presentation by
Secretary of State Securities Department**2:00 p.m. Grandparent/Grandchild Contest - sponsored by IL Dept on Aging & Springfield Supportive Living**
***Participants judged on Resemblance, Costumes, Talent & Interview. Prizes: 1st Place \$150; 2nd Place \$100; 3rd Place \$50. Register no later than Aug. 18 at 1:45 p.m. in the Illinois Building.*

3:00 p.m. Fleming Academy of Performing Arts (Springfield)

3:45 p.m. Central Illinois Irish Dance (Springfield)

Friday, August 19 - No EntertainmentSaturday, August 20 - Park District Conservation Day**M.C. – Maureen Squires (IDoA)**

10:00 a.m. Peoria Park District's POP Orchestra

11:30 a.m. Peoria Park District's Summer Band and Orchestra

12:20 p.m. Peoria Park District's Explosion Cheer & Dance Teams

12:55 p.m. Hanover Park District Allegro Dance Company/Hanover Park School of Dance

1:50 p.m. Oak Forest Park District Little Mermaid Dance Production

2:30 p.m. Oak Forest Park Dist. Gymnastics & Cheer

2:55 p.m. DesPlaines Park District Artistry in Motion

3:30 p.m. Collinsville Area Recreation District's Kelly O'Sullivan Irish Dancers

4:30 p.m. Catholic Mass

Sunday, August 21

9:00 a.m. Lutheran Church Services

10:30 a.m. Church of Christ Services