

# Volunteer Spotlight

RSVP OF JASPER COUNTY

August/September



## Back to School Events:

Newton:

August 11th- Back to School Day 7am-5:30pm @Berg Middle School & Newton High School

August 18th- Back to School Night: 4:30pm-6pm @Preschool and Elementary

August 19th- Orientation 1pm-2:30pm @West Academy

September 1st- Back to School night 5pm-7pm @Berg Middle School

Baxter:

August 22nd- Back to School Night 6-7:30pm @Elementary

Sully Christian:

August 21st - Back to School Night 6pm-7pm

## OLLI: Lifetime of Learning Opportunities

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Iowa State University (OLLI at ISU) is a program of the ISU Alumni Association and began receiving support from the Bernard Osher Foundation in 2008. There are 125 OLLI programs at universities and colleges throughout the United States.

OLLI at ISU is a volunteer-led, membership-based organization that offers many learning opportunities that appeal to many interests and backgrounds. Anyone age 50+, regardless of their school affiliation, with a desire to continue learning is welcome to join. More information On page 3

### In this newsletter you can expect:

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HEART and Writing to Read information	Socials	OLLI Registration Information	Calendar of Events for August and September	Volunteer Sheets

# Help Engage A Reader Today (HEART) Program Information

The HEART reading program is gearing up for another year! This program involves helping elementary students with their reading skills. Many of you who volunteered previously have already indicated interest in being in the schools again for 24-25. This year, we will try to place a volunteer in every 2nd-grade classroom. So, we will need a few more volunteers. Those of you who wanted to stay with the teachers you have been with will remain there if possible. Sarah would love to hear from you if you'd like to know more about the HEART program and/or are interested in helping children with literacy. We will have a short training in August and ensure teachers and volunteers know their placements. Email Sarah at [patter@iastate.edu](mailto:patter@iastate.edu) or call the office to sign up for HEART (641-792-6433). Mark your calendars for the HEART meeting on Tuesday, August 20th, 2024, from 10am-11am.

## One Book One Berg

We have a new literacy program for the school year 2024-25! Every student at Berg Middle School will be reading the same book and having a book club. Each homeroom will read the book and have discussions. We are going to have any RSVP Volunteers who would like to be a part of this book club be placed in a 5th-grade classroom. Tentatively, you will meet with your homeroom teacher/classroom once a week. You may work with struggling students to check for understanding, meet with advanced students, or work with kids who have been absent. It will be up to you and the teacher. The book is: *Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus* by Dusti Bowling. The book is FANTASTIC! And, the author will be coming to Berg in October. If you want to join us with One Book, One Berg, please email or call Sarah at [patter@iastate.edu](mailto:patter@iastate.edu) or 641-792-6433. If you plan on volunteering and want a copy of the book before school starts, RSVP is willing to buy them. Let Sarah know that as well!

## Writing to Read (Pen Pal) Program Information

Writing to Read is a program to help 3rd graders at Baxter Elementary School. The importance of a Pen Pal Program extends far beyond the mere exchange of letters between individuals from different walks of life. It represents a bridge between cultures, ages, and perspectives, fostering understanding and empathy and broadening one's worldview. For volunteers, the benefits are manifold. Engaging in a Pen Pal Program offers an enriching opportunity to enhance one's written and emotional communication skills as one learns to express thoughts and ideas coherently and sensitively. It also serves as a platform for practicing another language, understanding new cultures, and forming meaningful, albeit long-distance, relationships. Moreover, volunteers often experience a sense of fulfillment and joy in positively impacting someone else's life, proving that sometimes, the simplest acts of kindness can be the most rewarding.

For students, the impact of participating in a Pen Pal Program is equally significant. It introduces them to new perspectives and ideas that might not be accessible through their immediate environment, thus promoting cultural awareness and sensitivity from a young age. Students develop literacy and communication skills uniquely and engagingly, which can enhance their confidence in writing and articulation. Regular correspondence with a pen pal teaches students patience, commitment, and the value of building and maintaining relationships over time. These experiences augment their academic learning and contribute to their personal growth, preparing them to navigate a globalized world with an open mind and a compassionate heart.

If you are interested in being a Pen Pal this year, please contact Jasmine and come to our Writing to Read Volunteer Meeting August 22nd, 2024 from 10am -12pm.

## Spend Smart, Eat Smart Recipes

### **Cool Cucumber Salad**

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup grape tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup cucumber (quartered and sliced)
- 1/4 cup onion, diced
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 2 teaspoons oil (canola, olive, vegetable)
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wash and cut tomatoes, cucumber, and onion. Stir together in a bowl.
2. Add cheese, oil, lemon juice, and ground black pepper. Stir until combined.
3. Store, tightly covered, in the refrigerator for 3–4 hours before serving. Stir well before serving.

### **Take - Along Trail Mix**

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups unsweetened cereal (such as Cheerios®, Wheat Chex®, Fiber One®, Cracklin' Oat Bran®, or All Bran®)
- 2 cups sweetened cereal (such as Honey Nut Cheerios®, Frosted Mini-Wheats®, or Life®)
- 2 cups small pretzel twists
- 1 cup dried fruit (raisins, dried cranberries, dried apricots, or pineapple)(chopped into small pieces)
- 1 cup peanuts

#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wash hands.
2. Mix together all ingredients in a large bowl.
3. Store in an airtight container in cupboard for about 1 week, or in freezer for several weeks.

## ISU Extension and Outreach Classes

### A Journey through Parkinson's Disease

- Monroe, IA @ The Gathering Place
- August 5 12:15pm-1:15pm
- August 12 12:15pm-1:15pm
- August 19 12:15pm-1:15pm

If you're struggling with Parkinson's disease or know someone who is, it's helpful to know where to find support on the journey. Learn about the causes and symptoms of Parkinson's disease, and how treatments work, as well as therapeutic activities to do at home.

### Powerful Tools for Caregivers- Adults

- Seeland Park/ St. Francis Manor
  - 2021 4th Ave Grinnell, IA 50112

#### Session Dates:

- August 29th, 2024 12pm-2pm
- September 5th, 2024 12pm-2pm
- September 12, 2024 - 12:00pm-2:00pm
- September 26, 2024 - 12:00pm-2:00pm
- October 3, 2024 - 12:00pm-2:00pm
- October 10, 2024 - 12:00pm-2:00pm

Feeling stretched in your role as a caregiver? Caregiving can be stressful—physically, emotionally, and financially. Whether you care for a loved one at home or in a care facility, nearby or far away, your role is important. You will learn ways to take care of yourself, reduce stress, improve your caregiving confidence, and establish balance in your life as you care for others.

# Community Events

**\$5 Craft Fridays!**

August 2nd  
Slap Bracelets

August 9th  
Foam Sculptures

August 16th  
Junk Sculpture

centre for **Arts & Artists**

moreinfo.caa@gmail.com 641-792-1391 501 W 3rd St N, Newton, IA

COLFAX MAIN STREET PRESENTS

# COLFAX BINGO

EVERY SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH!

Join us for an evening of excitement, laughter, and a chance to win money and fun local prizes! Winner takes 50% of the pot each round and 50% is a fundraiser for Colfax Main Street.

2nd Thursdays of the Month 6:30PM

AYB/Cocina Hernandez \$1/ CARD

118/124 N Walnut St. Colfax, IA 50054

V.F.W.

# BINGO

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

TUES. & THURS. 7pm *Jack Pot \$500*

Early bird 6:30pm  
Regular session 7:00pm  
\$500 Progressive Blackout  
Players must be 18 or over.  
Food & drink available!  
Come join the fun!!

VFW POST #1655  
315 1st AVE W  
NEWTON, IA 50208

I'm thrilled to share some of our community events through our newsletter, highlighting fun gatherings like Bingo nights in Newton and Colfax. This isn't just about the thrill of the game or the prizes. To me, it's a profound expression of our commitment to nurturing a close-knit community, spreading happiness, and creating unforgettable moments together.

But as much as we enjoy these games, I'm deeply conscious of the importance of playing responsibly. It's crucial to me that we all enjoy these events in a way that's healthy and balanced. If you ever feel the need for support or advice about gaming, please know that I'm here for you. We have access to wonderful resources, and I'm more than willing to help you navigate them.

I promise to keep working hard to make sure our events are always enjoyable and safe for everyone. Supporting our community, celebrating each success, no matter how small, and ensuring a mindful gaming experience mean the world to me.

# Community Events

## August

## September

August 2 & 3: Monroe Old Settlers More information: [facebook.com/MonroeOldSettlers](https://www.facebook.com/MonroeOldSettlers)

August 6- Healthy Steps for older Adults: Fall Risk Reduction @Colfax Senior Center  
9:15am-11:15am

August 12: Free Community Movie @Captiol II Theatre 10am

August 13 - Newton Farmer's Market @Newton Town Square 4pm-6pm

August 13: Colfax Farmer's Market @Mineral Springs Park 4pm-6:30pm

August 14: Jasper County Cares Coalition 10:30am-12pm @Jasper County Administration Building

August 15: Virtual Alzheimer's Education Series @Via Zoom (Online)

August 20: Newton Farmer's Market @Newton Town Square 4pm-6pm

August 20: Colfax Farmer's Market @Mineral Springs Park 4pm-6:30pm

August 20: Country Music Memories 5pm- 7pm @Newton Public Library

August 27: Newton Farmer's Market @Newton Town Square 4pm-6pm

August 27: Colfax Farmer's Market @Mineral Springs Park 4pm-6:30pm

September 2: County offices Closed

September 3: Newton Farmer's Market @Newton Town Square 4pm-6pm

September 10: Newton Farmer's Market @Newton Town Square 4pm-6pm

September 17: Newton Farmer's Market @Newton Town Square 4pm-6pm

September 19th: Virtual Alzheimer's Education Series @Via Zoom (Online)

September 20th: Newton Community Theatre: Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express

September 24th: Iowa Legal Aid Age 60+ @Jasper County Community center 11am-2:30pm

September 24th: Newton Farmer's Market @Newton Town Square 4pm-6pm

**Jasper County Historical Museum: Open Tuesday through Sunday, from 1pm to 4pm, for an engaging and educational experience. Our museum is located at 1700 S. 15th Ave West, Newton, Iowa, 50208.**

# Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Information

I can't believe it is already time to start thinking of VITA. Jasmine had an amazing first year running the program and learned a lot from the volunteers. We are so excited about another year! We are in the process of getting more information from DMACC on our location next year so stay tuned. Lunch is provided for all volunteers each day we are open to the public.

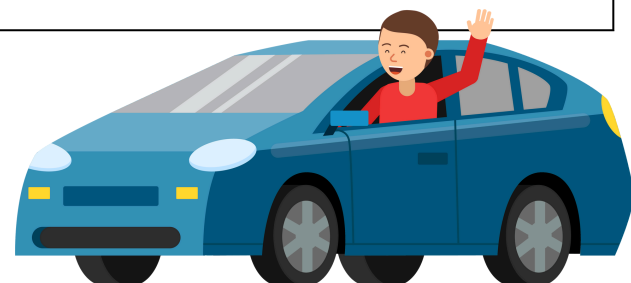
We are looking for VITA volunteers to help with:

- Scheduling clients
  - Volunteers answer the VITA phones and schedule clients into a time that best works for the client. Must be willing to work on the computer to input client information and match them up with an available time slot and have a kind, welcoming tone.
- Greeters:
  - Volunteers welcome and check-in guests, ensuring they have a Social Security card for each person on their tax return ( except if they got their taxes done in 2024 with us). Must be able to handle difficult clients and be a kind, welcoming person as they are the 1st point of contact that day.
- Tax Volunteers:
  - Volunteers complete training and pass the tax certification online. Must be able to explain tax information to clients calmly and accurately. Various Positions as a tax preparer, intake, and quality assurance.
- Newsletter Helpers:
  - Volunteers help Jasmine fold, label, and stamp the VITA newsletters that will go out around October, December, and May of each year.
- RecordKeeping (NEW)
  - Volunteers help Jasmine with paperwork and filing of client information. Must be comfortable working on a computer and have excellent communication/organization skills.

If interested in any position, please contact Jasmine and come to the VITA Volunteer meeting September 20th from 10am-12pm.

## Jasper County Ride Drivers Needed

Do you know of someone who loves to drive and who is social? We would love to have them as a driver for Jasper County Ride. Our snowbirds usually leave around November, so we would love some individuals willing to drive in and out of town. Call 641-787-3078 if you know of someone who would be a great fit!



## August Social

When: 9am-10am August 8th, 2024  
Theme: Back to School  
Where: ISU Extension and Outreach- Jasper Classroom



## September Social

When: 9am-10am September 12th, 2024  
Theme: Tailgate/ College Football  
Where: Maytag Park in Newton - West Shelter



### OLLI: Registration Information

MEMBER PRICING: July 1st - June 30th  
\$35/Person

#### MEMBER BENEFITS FOR 2024-2025

- Connection to a community of enthusiastic learners
- A minimum of nine OLLI Talk programs with no cost or registration (\$225 value)
- A monthly newsletter (delivered electronically or by mail)
- Weekly Friday emails during class sessions about the next week's activities
- Central Iowa Symphony complimentary pair of concert tickets
- Octagon Center for the Arts reusable 10% discount off purchases of \$25 or more in the Octagon Gallery Shop or on Octagon class registrations
- Stephens Auditorium Buy One Get One ticket offers to select shows

### Get Walking!

The City of Newton and Kinetic Edge Physical Therapy invite seniors 55 and older to come out to our Senior Walks for the month of September! We encourage you to get outside, walk, and enjoy the scenery of our parks.

The Senior Walks and other activities will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. and include a walk/scavenger hunt, bocce, cornhole and refreshments.

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on events, news, and other RSVP related content!

[facebook.com/JasperCountyRSVP](https://facebook.com/JasperCountyRSVP)



If you would like to view our newsletter at any time, you can view it on our [jaspercountyrsvp.org](https://jaspercountyrsvp.org) website. We post events, program information and all things RSVP.

If you would like to opt out of the newsletter and get an email copy every other month, please let Jasmine know to take you off her mailing list.



# AmeriCorps Seniors

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program  
550 N 2nd Ave W  
Newton, IA 50208

# RSVP ADVISORY COUNCIL

## JASPER COUNTY RSVP

550 N 2nd Ave W  
Newton, IA 50208  
Phone : 641-792-6433

Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday 8am-4:30pm  
Friday 8am- Noon

**Jasmine Bailey - RSVP Program Coordinator**

**Sarah Patterson - RSVP Grant Manager**

Jackie Woods-Goodwin	Diana Cumpton	Pepper Self
Violet Bakalar	Linda Schafer	Terry Townsend
Chantelle Lundberg	Carla Robeson	Bill Ward
Bill Ehler	Lori Korte	Marci Longren

Next Meeting:  
September 11th, 2024 2:30-3:30pm

### REMINDER

Federal grant requirements state that all volunteers must record their hours on a time sheet with hours approved by the station supervisor and submitted to the RSVP office. Please be sure to record your volunteer hours on your timesheet for EACH time you volunteer. Thank you for your attention to this very important detail. Please turn in all volunteer time sheets on a MONTHLY basis. If you need additional sheets, please call Jasmine at 641.792.6433.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Extension and Outreach



AmeriCorps Seniors



United Way  
Of Jasper County