



Do you need a corporate executor or trustee?

This article was provided by Hills Bank, Silver Sponsor of TRAIL's Johnson County Senior Housing and Services Fair.

Your estate plan, whether it takes the form of a Last Will and Testament or a trust, will most likely include an executor or a trustee who will be responsible for winding up your affairs after your passing.



An executor or trustee can be a trusted family member or friend. But note that executors and trustees are responsible for distributing property, handling accounting and legal reporting requirements, complying with tax and legal obligations, and investing assets in ongoing irrevocable trusts. Being asked to serve as an executor or trustee can be a great honor and privilege—

but it can also be a burden for someone who is unprepared for the task.

Consider these factors when you choose someone for this important role:

Technical Expertise

Will your executor have the know-how needed to fulfill their role? Financial institutions are staffed with experts in law, business, and accounting and additional training in estate and trust matters. Such professionals can generally administer an estate with greater accuracy and efficiency than an unprepared individual.

Continued on page 2



TRAIL's Annual Ice Cream Social

Thursday, August 14
4 to 6 PM

City Park Shelter #6
200 East Park Road
Iowa City

See you there!

Page 6 features a list of TRAIL sponsors who generously supported our mission and members in 2024-25.



TRAIL is grateful to the Fix team for sponsoring this month's newsletter.



Get your
fix!

Second Floor
The Chauncey
404 East College St.
Downtown Iowa City

Hours: Mon-Sat 7 AM to 3 PM / Sun 8 AM to 4 PM
Phone: 319-519-6445 / chaunceyfix.com



Let's go
Kayaking
at beautiful Kent Park.

Wednesday
August 6, 2025
10 to 11 AM

Kristen Morrow, DNR education specialist, will join us while we explore Kent Park Lake. Come learn the techniques of getting in and out of a kayak, as well as paddling. All skill levels are welcome.

Learn more at the [**TRAIL events calendar.**](#)

Do you need a corporate executor or trustee? *continued*

Connections

Most financial institutions that administer estates and trusts have professional relationships with attorneys, realtors, accountants, appraisers, auction companies, and others. These connections make the administration of an estate or trust efficient and cost effective.

Impartiality

An executor or trustee must distribute the property of the deceased person according to the terms of their will or trust agreement. This can put an individual executor or trustee in a difficult position if friends or family members are not happy with the terms of the will or trust. These unhappy parties may even go so far as to blame the executor or trustee. Financial institutions, on the other hand, have no personal stake in the affairs of the deceased person and cannot easily be accused of favoritism or partiality.

Liability

Probate, real estate, and tax laws are complex and even a well-informed and well-intentioned individual can make mistakes. In addition to causing extra work and delays, such mistakes could expose the individual executor or trustee to legal action. Corporate executors and trustees have the expertise, experience, and institutional memory to avoid most potential issues.

Time

Administering a deceased person's affairs is a vast undertaking. Some complex estate plans can require hundreds of hours of work over years, and even relatively simple estate plans can demand dozens of hours of work. Individuals often do not have the time to take on such work. This is especially true when the executor or trustee is a close friend or family member of the deceased, as he or she must confront their grief at the same time. Naming a corporate executor or trustee saves loved ones the stress and work of winding up a loved one's affairs at a time when they are grieving.

Ultimately, whether to choose an individual or a corporate executor or trustee depends on your specific circumstances, the nature of your estate, and your family relationships. Consider discussing these options with an estate planning attorney or trust officer to make an informed decision.



TRAIL member bats a 1000

Sometimes life throws you a curve ball.

Cindy Harrington was living in an Iowa City apartment when she fell. That fall left her with a concussion, and broken hip and wrist. After a hospital stay and time in rehab, she knew she couldn't return to living alone. Her two daughters, who live in Wisconsin and Minnesota, helped her move to Walden Place Senior Living, a retirement community in Iowa City.

"I was very familiar with Walden," she says, "because my second husband's daughter was here, living with Parkinson's, and we'd visit her a couple times a week. I like living here quite a lot."

One of the drawbacks for Cindy is the availability of transportation. Although Walden Place does offer rides on Tuesday and Friday mornings for doctor appointments, that doesn't fit well with her medical appointments. And, although she has used Uber and Lyft for rides for meals out and shopping, those may be more than she wants to pay, especially if she needs a ride outside of Iowa City and Coralville.

But Cindy hit that curve ball out of the park when she joined TRAIL as a Full member last November.

Transportation to her appointments is now easier, but even better is the relationships she has built with the volunteers.

"The reliability of rides and the friendliness of the volunteers is great," she says. "I've also really enjoyed talking with TRAIL Founder Maggie Elliott through TRAIL's Friendly Visits opportunity. She comes to visit once every two weeks for an hour. She is such a good conversationalist and is such a bright light in my day."

Did you know?

The value of all volunteer services provided to Full members by TRAIL volunteers, if those services were regularly purchased from local businesses, **adds up to several thousand dollars per year.** The cost of an annual Full membership is far less. TRAIL can make aging in place easier AND save you money!

Engaging volunteers

Spread the word—volunteers needed



TRAIL member Wally Helms recommends volunteering for TRAIL as a way to meet new people, see other areas of the community, and find joy in helping others. "I put myself in the other person's shoes and think how happy I would be to have someone help me out."

WANTED: More service volunteers!

If you can drive a car, pull some weeds, carry boxes, help with technology... GIVE US A CALL!

As TRAIL grows, so do the requests for the services our members rely on to stay in their own homes. Word of mouth has been our most successful recruiting method, so here's how you can help spread the word about our need:

Full Members: We know you value the services TRAIL volunteers provide. Talk with your friends and relatives, especially if they are looking for volunteer opportunities.

Affiliate Members: You may not be ready for Full membership and the services available, so maybe YOU can help by providing those services to your fellow TRAIL members.

Current Volunteers: We appreciate you so much! Please encourage your friends to become TRAIL volunteers. Be sure they know how rewarding it is on a personal level, but also how easily it can fit into their lives.

If you can spare a few hours a week to help, especially to provide transportation, please contact the TRAIL office at **319-800-9003** or **membersupport@trailofjohnsoncounty.org**.

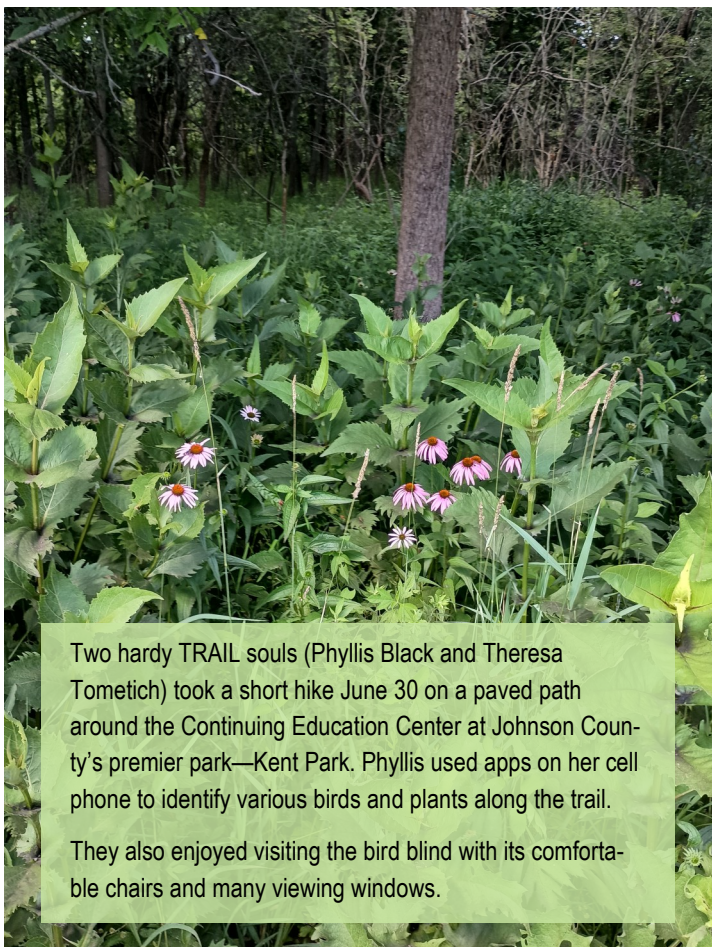
NEW: Senior Housing and Services Guide

Free copies of TRAIL's 50-page **2025 Johnson County Senior Housing and Services Guide** can be picked up from the TRAIL office in Room G03 of the Iowa City Senior Center. Regular office hours are 9 AM to 1 PM, Monday through Friday. Call ahead (**319-800-9003**) for staff availability after hours.

If you are unable to visit our office, please contact Member and Volunteer Services Coordinator Jessica Hahn at the number above or **membersupport@trailofjohnsoncounty.org**. She may be able to arrange for a volunteer to deliver the booklet, or we can place a copy in the mail to you.

Also remember that the guide is available in PDF format from the TRAIL website at this link: **<https://tinyurl.com/dvvyvfw7>**. We hope you find it useful!





Two hardy TRAIL souls (Phyllis Black and Theresa Tometich) took a short hike June 30 on a paved path around the Continuing Education Center at Johnson County's premier park—Kent Park. Phyllis used apps on her cell phone to identify various birds and plants along the trail.

They also enjoyed visiting the bird blind with its comfortable chairs and many viewing windows.



TRAIL members enjoying a visit to the Chimney Swift Tower at the Bickett-Rate Preserve near Tipton on July 7 included (L to R) Joy Smith, Theresa Tometich, Barb Stein, Vicki Tardy, Alfrieta Monagan, Phyllis Black, and Dwight Tardy. Not pictured: Bob Brooks.



Though the day was "hotter than hinges" TRAIL members Jane Zilch, Ana Peterson, Jim Ruebush, Phyllis Black, Dwight Tardy, Kathleen Kearney, Betsy Fischer, Theresa Tometich, Carol Throckmorton, Alfrieta Monagan, and Barb Stein enjoyed touring the Landfill and Recycling Center with Recycling Coordinator Jane Wilch.



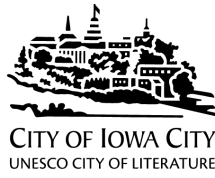
First United Methodist Church in Iowa City was ablaze with color when the Old Capitol Quilt Guild held its quilt show there June 7-8. TRAIL members Melanie MacNeil and Denice Connell shared quilts for the show, as did TRAIL supporter Linzee Kull McCray.

2025 CORPORATE SPONSORS

TRAIL is pleased to express our gratitude to the local businesses and other organizations who generously supported our mission and members in 2024-25.

PLATINUM

Support of \$5,000+



GOLD

Support of \$3,000-\$4,999



SILVER

Support of \$1,500-\$2,999



BRONZE

Support of \$500-\$1,499



CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

\$250-\$499

Ann Connors, DDS
Athletico
Faithful Companions
Fix! Coffee
Iowa City Dental Health
Mickey's

On With Life
Studio H2O
Towncrest Pharmacy
WinnerLynk Financial Planners
Woofables
ZAnderson



NOTE: Some events are virtual, while others are in person. Full details for each event can be found on [TRAIL's online calendar](#).

New events are frequently added, so check TRAIL's weekly calendar preview emailed on Fridays or the [online calendar](#) to stay up-to-date.

Calendar key: **BLUE** events are for TRAIL members. **GREEN** (virtual) and **YELLOW** (in-person) events are hosted by other groups but may be of interest to TRAIL members.

Members pay their own fees if there is a cost associated with an event (\$).

Want to attend an event, but need a ride? Call Jessica at 319-800-9003 or email her at membersupport@trailofjohnsoncounty.org.

TRAIL Guide is published on or about the 15th of each month by the TRAIL Marketing and Communications Committee for the benefit of TRAIL members, donors, volunteers, and friends. If you have questions or suggestions about the newsletter, email info@trailofjohnsoncounty.org.

Upcoming TRAIL Events Calendar

[Color My World: A Personal Approach to Color Theory](#)

Wednesday, July 16, 6 to 7 PM

Iowa City Public Library, Rooms A, B, C, 123 South Linn Street, Iowa City

["Live at FeatherStone" Outdoor Music Series](#)

Thursday, July 17, 6:30 to 8 PM

FeatherStone at Hickory Hill, 2450 Hickory Trail, Iowa City

[Book Club: Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club by J. Ryan Stradal](#)

(via Zoom)

Monday, July 21, 1 to 2 PM

[Senior Summer Series](#)

Tuesday, July 22, 4:30 to 6:30 PM

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 123 East Market Street, Iowa City

[Yarning Group](#)

Thursday, July 24, 1 to 3 PM

Vicky Tardy's house

[Afternoon in Amana \\$](#)

Wednesday, July 30, 11:30 AM to 3 PM

Ox Yoke Inn, Amana for lunch, Homestead Folk Art Museum, Homestead

[Hearing Loss and Amplification](#)

Thursday, July 31, 7:30 to 9 PM

Iowa City Senior Center, Room 308, 28 South Linn Street, Iowa City

[Member Happy Hour \\$](#)

Tuesday, August 5, 4:30 to 6:30 PM

Orchard Green, 521 South Gilbert Street, Iowa City

[Kayaking at Kent Park](#)

Wednesday, August 6, 10 to 11:30 AM

Kent Park, 2048 Highway 6 NW, Oxford

[New Member Orientation](#)

Thursday, August 7, 1:30 to 2:30 PM

Java House, 1575 South 1st Avenue, Iowa City

[Oaknoll: The Dementia Live Experience](#)

Monday, August 11, 1:30 to 3 PM

Oaknoll Retirement Residence, 1 Oaknoll Court, Iowa City

[Iowa City Airport Tour](#)

Tuesday, August 12, 1 to 2:30 PM

Iowa City Airport, 1801 South Riverside Drive, Iowa City