

# Consider Harlan

*Social scene, retirement activities among the best, surveys say*

**HARLAN** – Considering an Iowa retirement soon? Already live in Harlan? Well, you’re in luck...according to some “experts,” this is the place to be in your senior years if you live in Iowa.

Real estate website findthefirst.com partnered with msn.com recently to rank the “most fun” places to retire in every state, and Harlan tops the list in the state with “fields of opportunities.”

In addition, smartasset.com recently published a study that names Harlan as having one of the best senior scenes in Iowa. The financial technology company ranked the cities with the most recreational and social opportunities for retirees.

Harlan Mayor Gene Gettys, Jr. isn’t surprised by the high praise. The community is senior-friendly, he says, having everything from a top-notch medical facility and wellness center to a busy community center and a city with great parks and trails systems.

Harlan has “top-notch health care, well-kept parks, beautiful walking trail, modern and active senior center, unparalleled wellness center, movies, blue-ribbon educational system, ongoing community activities and a community which cares about our appearance,” said Gettys.

“Our recent designation as a Blue Zone community I believe is very attractive to any age group, inclusive of seniors. Need I say more?”

Findthefirst.com utilized a metric to rank cities and gave each a “senior entertainment score.” Harlan earned an 80.04 rank, noting the following features:

- Two movie theaters per 10,000 people
- 5.9 bowling establishments per 10,000 people
- 1.97 golf and country clubs per 10,000 people

It gave particular note to the all-inclusive Harlan Golf and Country Club for being perfect for novices and experts, members and non-members alike who want to share their love of the links.

Smartasset.com ranked cities on everything from medical facility availability and recreation centers to the percentage of seniors in the city and retirement centers. Harlan ranked fourth among Iowa cities, behind Charles City, Winterset and Decorah.

The community was given an 86.12 recreational and social index score. All of those things make Harlan attractive to

**Harlan** *please see next page*



The wellness center (right), hospital services (middle) and park systems (below) help to make Harlan an attractive location for seniors and those thinking of retirement. *(Harlan Newspapers photos)*

