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WAUKEE

NOVEMBER 2024

Living

MAGAZINE

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WELCOME

BINDING generations

Take a left by the old police station. Go three blocks till you come up to the water tower, then head right until you see the bear statue. Go past that for another block and turn left at the corner with the big rock. Then you will find what you are looking for, right next to where the old grocery store used to be.

Sound familiar? If you have ever asked for directions from someone who lived in a town for a long time, you likely heard something like that.

I worked at a gas station in high school, and a day rarely went by when people didn't stop in and ask for directions — and they also rarely wrote my instructions down. Either my directions were really simple, or they got lost along the way. I am guessing the latter.

I learned to first ask directions-seekers if they were familiar with the area. If the answer was yes, I could use landmarks as a guide. If the answer was no, I offered street names and my best guess for a number of blocks.

You may know people in town who moved to an older home where the prior owners lived for many decades. The Smith home. The Johnson home. The Jones home. The new owners could live there for 20 years, but many of the locals would still call it by the name of the prior inhabitants. Change is slow for many of us.

When our editor and I discussed a story idea about popular landmarks in the community, we both wondered what we would hear from residents when asked to name a few of the most popular. Parks. Ponds. Monuments. Bridges. Things like these topped the list, but we also heard about some unique landmarks that we guess many have never heard of. In that sense, landmarks are like art, and what defines art is different to every person.

French essayist Joseph Joubert said monuments are the grappling irons that bind one generation to another. I believe this to be true with many other landmarks, too, as they give us a sense of comfort and belonging and identity. And, although many of our central Iowa communities have a great deal in common, these landmarks make each one unique.

In this issue of your Living magazine, we share some of the popular landmarks in town and tell the stories of their relevance to the community. We hope you smile as you recall some of these, and we hope you are also inspired to seek out the others.

Thanks for reading. ■



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ON THE

Map

Landmarks add to
Waukee's character

Terry Snyder, founder of the Waukee Area Historical Society, has a passion about preserving history, including Waukee's first hotel. It is located downtown but is currently empty. Photo by Jackie Wilson

By Jackie Wilson

Artworks. Architectural delights. Stunning homes. Monuments. Waukee abounds with well-known sights — historic and new — that serve as landmarks and add to the community's character. They catch the eyes of visitors, spark memories in longtime residents, and embed themselves in the minds of those who use them as guideposts as they traverse the town. As street scenes change with the times, the landmarks remain steadfast reminders that Waukee is one of a kind. This month's cover story tells the stories of some of the most recognizable landmarks of the city.

FEATURE

History of Waukee

Settlers arrived in the area in 1869, and the city of Waukee was incorporated in 1878. The Des Moines Valley Railroad was built, and many settlers and businesses arrived as a result. Waukee was primarily a coal-mining community. The Shuler Mine opened in 1921 and was the largest producer of coal in Iowa with the deepest mine shaft at 387 feet. Located by Alice's Road and Hickman Road, the Shuler Mine was 1.25 miles wide by 3.75 miles long. It operated until 1949.

The city was formerly named Shirley and changed its name to Waukee. According to historians, the name change came about because the "powers-that-be" in the railroad office in Keokuk insisted it should have an Indian appellation. Historians weren't sure what exactly "Waukee" means.

According to 2023 records, the city of Waukee boasted 31,645 residents and was the fastest-growing city in Iowa. Waukee features a variety of landmarks that have stood the test of time, as well as numerous newer sites that are quickly reaching "landmark" status.

Terry Snyder and Kat Sandie weighed in on which are the most notable landmarks in the



Kat Sandie, a fifth-generation Waukee resident, at the Gazebo at Triangle Park.

community.

Terry Snyder, founder of the Waukee Area Historical Society, has immersed herself in anything and everything Waukee-related.

She's been awarded the Waukee Citizen of the Year, Waukee Chamber's Ambassador of the Year, YMCA Spirit Award, served as executive director of the Waukee Leadership

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FEATURE

Institute, hosts cemetery talks and is a local photographer.

Snyder established the Waukee Area Historical Society to help preserve local history.

“History offers a chance to know our roots and how it (Waukee) was built,” Snyder says. “It’s good to know what we went through to get to where Waukee is today.”

Kat Sandie was born in Waukee and is a fifth-generation resident. Her family settled in Waukee about a century ago. She was raised in the same house in “old downtown” Waukee that her grandparents grew up in.

The Downtown Triangle

Waukee’s Downtown Triangle and Triangle Park are the hub of many historic landmarks in Waukee. Triangle Park is located at the triangle intersection of Sixth Street, Walnut and Ashworth Road. Many longtime residents worked to preserve the area by maintaining and refurbishing older buildings in the area.

“Local families helped to preserve the Triangle. It’s important to have the history,” Sandie says, adding that the community has also “done a great job of embracing growth.”

The Bank a.k.a. Norm’s Pub

The current Norm’s Pub just off the Triangle used to be a bank, and the original century-old bank vault is still in the basement. The bank missed being robbed by the infamous Bonnie and Clyde duo in the 1930s when they robbed a bank in nearby Stuart. Gang members were then involved in a shootout near Dexter.

“It’s all hearsay, but Bonnie and Clyde didn’t think it was safe enough to rob this bank,” Snyder says.

Historic hotel and Vince Meyer Learning Center

Waukee’s first hotel in the Triangle is still a historic spot, although it remains empty. Look a little closer, and you’ll see a boarded-up wishing well. In the late 1940s, the builders took off the third floor, and Waukee teachers and the superintendent lived in the building while teaching. As teachers were required to be single, this was a safe place for women teachers to live.

Kitty-corner to the hotel is a three-story building that served as a school for Waukee Consolidated Schools. It originally housed all grade levels from kindergarten to 12th grade. It



The building now home to Norm’s Pub was once a bank, and the vault is still in the basement. Photo by Jackie Wilson

was later used as an elementary school. Today, it serves as the Vince Meyer Learning Center, named after the long-time Waukee principal, coach, superintendent and athletic director.



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FEATURE

Gazebo

The gazebo in the Triangle was donated by Kat Sandie's great-great aunt and uncle, Frank and Eva Shoeman Kuehl.

Veterans Hall

The current Veterans Hall used to be the Waukee city hall and library. According to Nick Nichols, adjutant for Veterans Hall, the area under the building was part of a coal mine. "The basement is still a dirt floor," he says.

Kenny's Garage

Kenny's Garage hosts top bands in the area and is a favorite watering hole for local residents. But did you know it used to be a funeral home? Look at both sides of the building for brightly colored murals painted by Joan Skogstrom.

People who go to Kenny's Garage often park by the grain silos. Outside the silos are bulk scales for weighing grain. Many patrons have discovered their weight is displayed as they walk on the scale.

The Waukee Ice Cream Shoppe was formerly a tavern; it features a sweet mural painted by Skogstrom. The Pin Oak Gallery used to show movies on the back of the wall.



The mural on Kenny's Garage is a landmark. Photo by Jackie Wilson

The Kee

The Kee was formerly Mama Chops, a greasy spoon restaurant. Today, it's still a local watering hole with pool tables and a bar located at the Triangle. In earlier days, it housed switchboard operators. Snyder says she collected stories from long-time residents about the workings.

"When one of the calls came in to the switchboard operator, she told the caller that the person wasn't home because she was having coffee at the diner. Everyone knew everyone's business," Snyder jokes.

Alice Nizzi SpaghettiLand Park

Who says you can't play with — or on — your food? At the Alice Nizzi Park, a giant bowl of spaghetti noodles, dripping red sauce and sprinkled cheese beckon kids and adults to climb on the playground equipment.

The whimsical playground was constructed in 2020 to honor Alice Nizzi, a Waukee native who ran the famed Alice's SpaghettiLand restaurant. Alice was a respected community member from the coal mining era for which Alice's Road is named. She employed many women from the coal-mining community in

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FEATURE

the restaurant's 50-year history. It closed in 2004.

The park's design pays homage to Nizzi's legacy and the rich history of Waukee's coal mining camps. It is located at 715 Dellwood Drive and is a popular spot for taking pictures. Listen closely and you might hear some kids singing, "On top of spaghetti, all covered with cheese, I lost my poor meatball when somebody sneezed."

American Gothic-inspired sculpture

American Gothic, the famed 1930 Grant Wood portrait of a stoic couple, farmer with a pitchfork in hand, is honored by a larger-than-life rendering of the pair on display in front of the Waukee Public Library. The outdoor feature at the library is an American Gothic-inspired art piece called "Iowa — Past and Present — Living Fence."


The piece was created in 2003 by Des Moines area sculptor John Brommel. The artwork was originally sculpted for the William Krause



Alice Nizzi and her legendary Spaghettiland are honored with a spaghetti-themed park. Photo by Jackie Wilson

Family. The Krauses donated the piece to the city of Waukee in 2015.

The iron sculpture includes the man and woman. The sides of the piece feature prairie grass plants on one side and cornstalks on the other to represent Iowa's landscape.



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A sculpture inspired by the Grant Wood painting, American Gothic, is located on the lawn of the Waukee Public Library. Photo by Jackie Wilson



The artwork at the RRVT trailhead in Waukee pays homage to the railroad history of the area and trail. Photo by Jackie Wilson

Trailhead

After dark, head over to the Waukee trailhead of the Raccoon River Valley Trail (RRVT) for a colorful lighted art structure. Located just off Hickman Road, where the railroad used to be, the illuminated trailhead includes a 350-foot-long LED lighted art structure perched above 13-foot-tall columns.

The structure is designed to embrace railroad and train imagery. It took 11 months to create it, along with 550 labor hours to install the structure. It was completed in March 2018.

The structure, which serves as a gateway connecting the 89-mile RRVT, is called "In the Shadow of the Rails." Other iconic public art pieces dot the trail along the entire RRVT corridor.

The RRVT is one of the longest loop trails, not only in Iowa, but in the U.S. In 2024, an addition connecting the High Trestle Trail was completed to create a 120-mile loop that connects 14 communities. The art structure is designed by David Dahlquist with RDG Planning & Design, the same artist who designed the art at the High Trestle Trail Bridge.

Waukee Cemetery

The Waukee Cemetery, located on the south side of Waukee on R22, near Warrior Park, dates back to 1869. ■

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FINDING balance in retirement

As you edge closer to retirement, it is common to feel a bit wobbly. Transitioning from a steady paycheck to managing income from savings and investments is daunting. It's similar to my daughter



Jayce on the balance beam — one misstep can throw off everything. Just as she has to navigate her routine with precision, pre-retirees need to handle their retirement savings with care.

Watching her compete is thrilling but nerve-racking. She has one shot to execute her moves flawlessly. Similarly, in retirement, you can do many things right, but one misstep can have significant consequences. This parallel drives home the importance of having a comprehensive retirement plan.

Record inflation, fluctuating markets, and rising health care costs can make you feel off balance. Picture sitting in a coffee shop discussing how much more a cup of coffee costs

compared to a few years ago, followed by a trip to the grocery store where prices have also surged. And don't forget replacing a vehicle, which costs significantly more now than it did five years ago.

Watching your retirement accounts fluctuate wildly can be unsettling. Your 401(k) and IRA are crucial for sustaining your lifestyle, but how do you make sure they can withstand market ups and downs? How do you create a portfolio that's resilient enough to deliver consistent income despite recessions?

The latest estimates show that a 65-year-old retiring today could spend \$165,000 in out-of-pocket costs to cover medical expenses in retirement. These are only a few examples of the financial pressures pre-retirees face.

Our planning process includes developing a long-term retirement income strategy and an "Income for Now and Income Later" plan. We help pre-retirees segment investments into different "buckets," each with specific goals. An "Income Now" bucket, invested conservatively, provides immediate income. A second bucket, with a moderate risk profile, replenishes the first.

Finally, a third, longer-term growth bucket helps combat inflation and medical expenses.

On average, recessions occur every five to six years, meaning they will likely be a part of your retirement experience, but they don't have to knock you off course. You can prepare for market volatility before it happens by building a recession-resistant portfolio that doesn't rely solely on the stock market.

To sum up, just as Jayce finds balance on the beam, you can find balance as you head to retirement with careful planning and execution. This will help you avoid missteps, stick the landing, and build a confident future. ■

Information provided by Loren Merkle CFP®, RICP®, Certified Financial Fiduciary®, Merkle Retirement Planning, 1860 S.E. Princeton Drive, Grimes, 515-278-1006. Source: Fidelity Investments® Releases 2024 Retiree Health Care Cost Estimate as Americans Seek Clarity Around Medicare Selection (2024, August 08) Accessed October 10, 2024. <https://newsroom.fidelity.com/pressreleases/fidelity-investments--releases-2024-retiree-health-care-cost-estimate-as-americans-seek-clarity-arou/s/7322cc17-0b90-46c4-ba49-38d6e91c3961>



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SENIOR By Jay Heaton

AVOID the winter blues



Winter can feel especially long and lonely as we get older, but there are plenty of ways to lift your spirits and make the most of the season.

Staying active is key. Join an exercise class or gather a group for fun activities. Movement not only boosts your mood but also helps you stay energized. Don't underestimate the power of connection; spend time with neighbors, join clubs or participate in shared hobbies. A simple chat over coffee can brighten your day.

Take time to cozy up your space with warm blankets, cheerful decorations and family photos. This helps create a welcoming, homey atmosphere which can make all the difference.

Dive into hobbies that excite you, whether it's painting, knitting or solving puzzles; keeping your mind engaged is important. Mindfulness and meditation can also help you find peace and positivity. If the weather allows, bundle up for short walks outside; fresh air and a change of scenery can work wonders.

Look for volunteering opportunities; helping others often brings a sense of joy and purpose. Don't forget to join in on community events. There's always something happening that can spark excitement. If you ever feel down, reach out for support. You're not alone. By staying active and connected, you can truly embrace this winter season. ■

Information provided by Jay Heaton, leasing counselor, Attivo Trail Waukee, 835 N.E. Boston Parkway, Waukee, www.attivotrail.com.

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PLAN AHEAD By Buffy Peters

GRIEF and the holidays



After someone you love dies, special days like birthdays, anniversaries and holidays can result in what seems like a sudden wave of grief. But it makes a lot of sense. The holidays typically represent togetherness, emphasizing the one who isn't there. Traditions can bring up memories from past holidays, which may now feel painful. And the impossible expectations to have the "perfect" holiday season can leave you feeling as if there is no room for grief during this time of year.

Here is an important reminder: Allow yourself to feel however you are feeling, and make a plan for the days/situations that will be toughest for you.

When making that plan, consider these questions for yourself and those you care about:

What are the things you still want to do and the things you do not? Are there new things you want to try? Everyone grieves differently, so what is comforting to one might not be to another. Is there a way to meet in the middle? Are there others who could aid in making important things happen that you don't have the energy for?

How can you remember and honor your loved one during this season? What is meaningful to you? What was meaningful to them? How can you still incorporate them in new ways?

For more ideas, contact the Academy. Take good care of yourself. ■

Information provided by Buffy Peters, Director of Hamilton's Academy of Grief & Loss, 3601 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50266, 515-697-3666.

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MEET Carrie Kern

Grant provides paraeducator chance to earn teaching degree through apprenticeship.

Originally from Harlan, Carrie Kern has lived in the Waukee area for the past 20 years. She is currently in her 19th year working with the Waukee Community School District, where she spent her first 18 years at Eason Elementary School as an associate. Now, Kern is a first grade educator at Walnut Hills Elementary School after completing a paraeducator to teacher program.



Carrie Kern is a first grade educator at Walnut Hills Elementary School after completing a paraeducator to teacher program.

“Waukee District has an incredible culture of collaboration and support. Teachers, staff and administrators are deeply committed to the students, and there’s a strong emphasis on both academic achievement and personal growth,” Kern says.

Kern was part of a grant opportunity that allowed certified para-educators to pursue their teaching degree through an apprenticeship program. She was given credit for her experiences working at Eason Elementary School, and she had the opportunity to observe and student teach within the district.

Kern completed her degree through Western Governors University, starting in November 2022 and graduating in February 2024. This was an incredible opportunity for Kern because, had she participated in a traditional program, she would have had to quit working in order to student teach. Instead, she was able to continue working full-time while completing her coursework.

“When this program opened up, I jumped at the chance to sign up. I’ve had overwhelming support from my Eason co-workers/family encouraging and helping me on my way to becoming a teacher,” Kern says.

Kern says she likes working with first-grade students because of the hugs and high fives. She also likes when her students share their unique ways of thinking about both academic topics and the world in general.

One unique project her students enjoy is National Days. Kern compiled a list of things that could be celebrated on different days and incorporated them in a fun way while tying them into the educational standards and social-emotional learning goals. Her students have participated in Talk Like a Pirate Day, World Smile Day, Hero Day and more.

“My greatest reward so far has been seeing the growth in my first graders’ writing in their first 50 days,” Kern says. “Our recent pieces are so improved, and their phonetic spelling allows the students to share their creative thinking.”

This school year, Kern is looking forward to building a strong classroom community. She is excited to guide her students through collaborative activities where they learn the value of teamwork, kindness and respect. In first grade, Kern’s students are not only learning academics but also social skills and how to work together. ■

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SPECIAL Olympics volunteers

Robinsons with Krave Gym offer volunteer opportunities.

At Krave Gym in Waukee, athletes practice burpees, deadlifts, squats — anything to get their heart pumping and muscles burning.

Gym members are also given opportunities to donate to various charitable organizations.

Krave Gym owners Amber and Tyler Robinson began a “power partner” program shortly after they opened 11 years ago. They partner with various charities, usually in May or June, and set up signup sheets, donation boxes and more.

“Some folks don’t have time. By myself doing the research, we make it easy for them to volunteer,” Amber explains.

One organization they’ve partnered with is Special Olympics Iowa. Special Olympics offers games, sports and competitions for children and young adults with intellectual disabilities.

Shortly after the Robinsons partnered with Special Olympics, their son, Pierce, was born with Down Syndrome. Amber researched more about Special Olympics.

“We wondered what the future would look like for our own son, Pierce.”

Both Amber and Tyler, along with gym members, volunteer at



Travis Gaule of Edward Jones presents the Neighbor Spotlight certificate to Amber Robinson.

softball tournaments, assisting athletes with training and score keeping. They also help train athletes to attend the Special Olympics Summer Games in Iowa and assist with events, such as timing on the track, bocce ball, weightlifting and more. The summer games held in Ames and the winter games in Dubuque are their biggest events of the year.

The Robinsons also help with a “plane pull” to raise money. Groups of athletes participate in a fundraiser to see how fast they can pull an airplane across the line. A Special Olympics Polar Plunge tests folks jumping into cold waters to raise money.

Amber says she likes how the organization helps athletes.

“It provides athletes with disabilities an opportunity to compete, similar to high school or college levels. It showcases their abilities and how we can all be a part of a team.”

Pierce is now 8, which is when athletes can join the teams. He currently participates in bowling, swimming and gymnastics.

Because of donations, participation is free for all Special Olympics athletes. Volunteers are needed to coach, assist with athletes and attend events to cheer them on.

“The athletes are very independent but love cheerleaders who tell them how great they are. We are there for encouragement.”

Krave Gym athletes also ring the Salvation Army bell and offer an angel tree. Yet, Special Olympics Iowa is their favorite charity.

“Giving back to the community feels good. It can impact a life,” she reflects. “It helps rise up others around you. If you can volunteer time, it makes everyone better.”

For more information on volunteering for Special Olympics Iowa, visit www.soiowa.org. ■

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Do you know a neighbor who deserves recognition?
Nominate him or her by emailing tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com.

COMMITTED to staying in your home, but need some help?

Maria, 76, is committed to remaining in her home as she ages. She recently experienced some health issues, though, and is afraid her adult children will try to persuade her to move to a senior living community.



by an organization that serves older adults. CC@H programs are designed to help people proactively focus on their health at home while enabling them to financially plan for potential services and care down the road.

If you're interested in looking into a CC@H program, make sure to ask specifically what the program includes. A reputable CC@H program not only will offer services to enhance your well-being so you can remain independent longer; it will also help fund future long-term care needs.

You'll also want to ask:

- **Does the program feature personal support, such as wellness coaching?** Studies show people who embark on a life-enriching program or activity will be more likely to succeed with encouragement from a trusted adviser or advocate.

- **Does it include care costs and options?** A solid program will help fund your care, if

it's needed, whether through home healthcare or services in a senior living community later on. If the program you're considering does offer both, make sure you're comfortable with the services and care provided by the organization's home healthcare team as well as in its communities. A reputable provider will have longevity and solid outcomes behind it.

Not all CC@H programs are created equal. If a program appeals to you, make sure it meets both your current and future needs and provides you with peace of mind. Your well-being and your checkbook will thank you for it. ■

Aaron Wheeler is Vice President of Home and Community-Based Services for WesleyLife, which provides health and well-being services, including WellAhead — A WesleyLife Well-Being Experience, a CC@H offering. To learn more, visit wesleylife.org/wellahead.

Maria's challenge isn't unusual, as staying in our homes as we age is not always possible. Chronic health challenges can make living independently ill-advised, and full-time care at home can be expensive.

You may be asking yourself, then: "If I don't want to move into a community but my family and I are concerned about health issues later on, what can I do?"

The answer may lie in a Continuing Care at Home (CC@H) membership initiative, a program usually administered





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To learn more about how WellAhead could be the only thing you need to stay right where you want to be, call **(515) 642-1726**.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP) begins **October 15** and ends **December 7**.

During the AEP, individuals can review and make changes to their current over-65 plan. To find out if you have the best coverage option going into 2025, **contact me today!**



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Taylor Benshoof

INSURANCE

By Chase VanWerden

WHY YOU should regularly review your home and auto insurance coverage

Many people purchase home or auto insurance and then forget about it, assuming their coverage is sufficient. However, life changes, and so do your insurance needs. Regularly reviewing your insurance policies can save you money and ensure you have adequate coverage in the event of an emergency. Here are a few reasons why reviewing your home and auto insurance annually is a smart financial move.



Home insurance: adjusting for property value and new purchases

The value of your home and its contents can change significantly over time. If you've made home improvements — like adding a new roof, remodeling a bathroom or upgrading your kitchen — these updates can increase your home's value. You may need to adjust your coverage limits to reflect the current replacement cost of your home so you aren't underinsured if disaster strikes.

It is also important to remember that home insurance policies have limits on personal property. If you've purchased expensive items such as new electronics, jewelry or artwork, your existing coverage might not fully protect them. You may need additional riders or endorsements to ensure these high-value items are covered against loss or damage.

Auto insurance: adapting to changing driving habits and vehicle value

Your auto insurance should also be regularly reviewed, especially if your driving habits have changed. For example, if you've started working from home or retired, you may be driving significantly less than you did before. Many insurance companies offer usage-based or pay-per-mile programs that adjust premiums based on how much and how safely you drive, potentially saving you a substantial amount.

Moreover, if your vehicle is aging or paid off, you might want to reconsider maintaining comprehensive and collision coverage, particularly if the cost to repair the car exceeds its market value. Dropping these coverages can lower your premiums, but be sure the savings justify the risk, especially if you're reliant on the vehicle.

Bundling home and auto insurance for maximum savings

Another benefit of reviewing your policies together is the opportunity to bundle home and auto insurance. Many insurers offer discounts when you combine both policies, which can save you anywhere from 5-15% on premiums. Bundling simplifies your insurance management and can lead to significant cost reductions over time.

Your home and auto insurance needs are not static. Life changes — like home improvements, new purchases or lifestyle shifts — affect your coverage needs. Reviewing your policies annually ensures that you have adequate protection and that you're taking advantage of savings opportunities, like bundling. By staying proactive, you can avoid being underinsured and keep your insurance costs manageable. ■

Information provided by Chase VanWerden, IFG Insurance, 520 Walnut St., Waukee, 515-987-9598.

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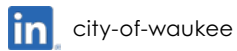
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City of Waukee Bulletin NOVEMBER 2024

Find more information on City services, programs and events at Waukee.org

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Waukee has plenty of activities to help you keep the winter blues away. Here are a few to get you started.

1. The Downtown Triangle will be full of holiday cheer at **WinterFest** on Friday, December 6 from 6-8 p.m. Visit Waukee.org/WinterFest for the schedule of activities.
2. The Library invites you to **"Get Yeti to Read"** in their Winter Bingo Challenge through January 31. Play a bingo card full of activities for up to two chances to win the grand prize for your age group. Sign up at WaukeePublicLibrary.org/Winter or in person at the Library.
3. When the snow comes, head to the **sledding hill** in Warrior Park near the water tower. It's specifically engineered for sledding fun.
4. Waukee Parks and Recreation has a **variety of programs**, classes and leagues for all ages at Waukee.org/Registration. Holiday tip: they make great gifts for family and friends!
5. **Join a league.** Find the details and register at Waukee.org/Registration.
 - Adults can form a team for the Coed Indoor Volleyball league, which runs Sunday afternoons from December 8-March 2. Registration closes December 2.
 - Kids in grades K-3 can play Youth Basketball from January 4-February 8. Register by December 2.
 - Kids in grades 4-7 should register by December 2 for the Youth Volleyball league, running January 4-February 22.
 - Online registration opens December 1 for Girls Recreational Softball, which runs mid-April to early June and serves girls in grades K-7.

Dates to Know

City Council Meetings
December 2 & 16 at 5:30 p.m.
City Hall and Zoom (See info at Waukee.org)

Life-Size Candyland
December 26, 27 and 30
Waukee Public Library
(Registration required only for Dec. 26)

City Buildings & Library closed
Dec. 24-25
Trash pick-up delayed one day

Trick or Treating Preferences

Trick or treating is traditionally held on October 30, which is a Des Moines metro tradition known as Beggars' Night. As a resident of Waukee, please let us know if you prefer to continue the October 30 tradition or move trick or treating to the Saturday before Halloween or Halloween night at bit.ly/WaukeeTrickorTreat. This is the same survey that was shared on social media earlier in November.



Results will be shared with City Council as they designate a trick or treating date in future years. Many metro communities are collecting feedback from their residents, so other cities may change their date. Waukee and neighboring communities will likely align on a common date.



Get Ready for Winter

If snow is forecast for Waukee, the City will implement the snow ordinance and emergency parking ban. During this time, all public street parking is prohibited so that plows can clear City streets of snow quickly and safely. Parking bans are shared at Waukee.org, through City of Waukee social media and alerts from Alert Iowa. Find the sign-up instructions at Waukee.org/Connect.



Holiday Closures & Trash Pick-up Delay

All City of Waukee offices will be closed December 24-25. There will be no garbage or recycling pick-up on Wednesday, December 25. Collection that week will run on a Thursday through Saturday schedule. If your regular pick-up day is Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, it will be delayed by one day.



Aquatic Center Update

The bond referendum for the aquatic center on the 2024 ballot did not pass. Though 54.9% of Waukee voters were in favor, this referendum requires 60% to pass. The aquatic center project will not move forward at this time. Thank you to everyone who participated in the feasibility study, took the time to learn about the proposal and the bond referendum and turned out to vote.



Utilities for Snowbirds

If you plan to leave Waukee for at least three consecutive months, you can request that gas and water service be disconnected during the time you are gone. There is a reconnection fee upon return, but it is a reduced rate for snowbirds. If you are a City of Waukee garbage customer, you may also request garbage services be suspended, but you will still pay the monthly landfill fee. Visit Waukee.org/Snowbird to learn more.



STAY IN THE LOOP!

Sign up for the email newsletter to get useful information on life in Waukee, such as free local events, fun leagues, major project updates and more at Waukee.org/Connect.



GET YETI to Read: Winter Bingo Challenge



When winter settles in, there's no better time to dive into new activities, explore creative challenges and, yes, cozy up with a great book. Join us for the Waukee Public Library's annual Winter Bingo Challenge — a fun-filled way for readers and adventurers of all ages to complete unique tasks, discover new hobbies and earn rewards.

Waukee Public Library

950 S. Warrior Lane, Waukee
515-978-7944

www.waukeepubliclibrary.org
Monday-Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.;
Wednesday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.;
Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.;
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
Sunday, noon to 4 p.m.

How it works

The Winter Bingo Challenge runs through Jan. 31. Register online or at the library and pick up your bingo card to start your winter reading adventure.

- Score a bingo: Complete five activities in a row on your bingo card and bring it to the library to claim a prize. You'll also earn an entry into the grand prize drawing.
- Go for the blackout: Complete all 25 activities on the bingo card to receive a special blackout reward and a bonus entry into the grand prize drawing.

Who can join?

Everyone is welcome — kids, teens and adults alike. Each age group will have its own grand prize, so the whole family can participate.

Register today

Sign up online or at the library. Visit waukeepubliclibrary.org/winter to learn more, check out the prizes, and Get Yeti to Read.

DECEMBER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Most events require advanced registration and can be viewed at waukeepubliclibrary.org/calendar.

Santa
Visits Luana Savings Bank
Clive Branch

Saturday, Dec. 14
9 - 11 am

Luana Savings Bank (Clive)
16390 Holcomb Court, Clive, IA 50325

Santa is visiting Luana Savings Bank! All children are welcome to meet Santa in the bank lobby and tell him what they would like for Christmas this year. There will be refreshments, treats, and gift bags for kids (as supplies last). We hope to see you!

This is a free event and open to the public.

Additional Santa Visits:

POLK CITY BRANCH	NORWALK BRANCH
Dec. 7 9-11 am	Dec. 21 9-11 am

Find the events on our Facebook page
fb.com/luanasavingsbank

LIBRARY

• **Art Gallery Exhibit:** “Capturing Nature’s Beauty Through Lens,” Nov. 28 - Dec. 29, Katie Kitterman

Kids: Dallas County Conservation, Thursday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m. Join Miss Erica from Dallas County Conservation for stories and activities to learn more about animals. Recommended for ages 3 and older and their caregivers. Registration required.

Teens: Teen Early Out, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1:30 p.m. Join us the first early out of each month for games, snacks and crafts. Each month, a structured activity will be provided, but students may also play games, color or just hang out. This month, we will offer DIY snow globes.

Adults: Journaling to Heal, Saturday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m. Journaling to Heal supports participants on their path of emotional healing and recovery from life’s challenges. Journaling is one of the best ways to explore emotions and feelings, sort through events and relationships, and strengthen self-awareness and problem solving. This workshop is facilitated by Billie Wade, BS, MS. She holds a BS in psychology and human services from Upper Iowa University and an MS in rehabilitation administration from Drake University.

Multi-age: Life-size Candyland, Dec. 26, 27 and 30 starting at 9:30 a.m. Get ready for giant candy fun. The library’s front room will be transformed into a life-size Candyland game board, and you may even meet some of your favorite game characters. For family and friend groups of all ages. Registration required for attendance on the morning of Dec. 26. All other dates and times will be first-come, first-served with a limit of three groups at a time.

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 3 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 28

Friday, Nov. 29

Sunday, Dec. 22

Tuesday, Dec. 24

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Sunday, Dec. 29

Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 5 p.m. ■

NEWS BRIEF

COMMUNITY Choice Waukee branch opens

Community Choice Credit Union’s (Community Choice) newest location, a branch in Waukee, opened in October. Located at 780 West Hickman Road, the roughly 1,000-square-foot UNbanking Center offers personal and business banking, mortgage services, wealth management, commercial lending and more.

“We’ve served Central Iowa for more than 70 years and are excited to continue expanding our UNbanking reach within the metro,” says Angie Richards, vice president of marketing. “Waukee is a natural choice for our newest location. We have an established membership base there and will now be able to serve them more efficiently with a physical location.”

Branch hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. ■

WELLNESS

By Kristen Shelton

HOW TO enhance your skin

Aesthetic treatments play a crucial role in combating visible effects of aging and improving overall skin health. As we age, collagen production decreases, leading to fine lines, wrinkles and volume loss in areas such as the cheeks, temples and jawline. Fortunately, there are several non-invasive and minimally invasive treatments that can help restore a youthful appearance and enhance skin quality.



One of the most common aesthetic treatments is Botox, which relaxes muscles to reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles. Dermal fillers, on the other hand, restore volume to areas of the face which have lost elasticity over time, such as the cheeks, chin and jawline, or enhance lips.

Sculptra, a popular regenerative aesthetic treatment, stimulates collagen production to gradually restore volume and reduce fine lines. Sculptra works best over time and provides long-lasting, natural-looking, glowing results. Additional treatments, such as chemical peels, are effective at removing dead skin cells, hyperpigmentation, evening out skin tone, addressing texture concerns such as acne scars, and improving overall brightness of the skin.

In addition, facials, such as the OxyVERVE treatment, are great for hydrating and exfoliating, improving skin texture, boosting hydration and enhancing overall skin health. These treatments not only enhance appearance, but also promote skin rejuvenation by stimulating collagen production, increasing cell turnover and providing a healthy glow. ■

Information provided by Kristen Shelton, RN, BSN, Vivid Wellness Lounge, 1980 N.W. 94th St., Suite E/F, Clive, Livin-Vivid.com 515-415-1550

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ART BAGBY

Waukee

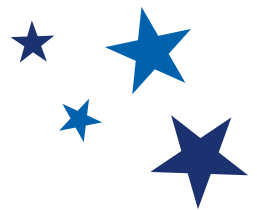
Military branch: U.S. Navy, Vietnam 1969-1973

Rank: BM2 (bosun's mate, second class)

Also served as an Iowa State Trooper from 1980-1998

How can Americans best honor veterans?

"The best way to honor veterans is to recognize them, although people are now expressing that."



ANDREW D. BOWERS

Waukee

Military branch: U.S. Army

Rank: Staff Sergeant, E6

Deployments: Iraq 2004-2005, Iraq 2008-2009, Afghanistan 2013-2014

How can Americans best honor veterans?

"The single most important way for the public to honor a veteran is summed up in two words: Never Forget."



CHARLES L. TENNANT

Waukee

Military branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Rank: L1 CPL

Service: 1958-1963

Other: Commander of VFW 2001-2004. Spearheaded the Veterans Memorial in Waukee Cemetery, 2003



Veterans Memorial
Waukee Cemetery

Thank you for your service!



MATTHEW VOIGTLANDER

Waukee

Military branch: U.S. Marine Corps

Rank: Master Gunnery Sergeant

Deployments: 2003 - Japan, Thailand; 2005 - Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom)

How can Americans best honor veterans?

"Instead of saying 'Thank you for your service,' which can sometimes feel awkward for veterans, a simple show of appreciation (smile and a tip of your hat) or saying, 'I appreciate the sacrifices you made,' goes a long way. Semper Fi."

ROBERT "BOB" APLIN

Waukee

Military branch: U.S. Army

Rank: Chief Warrant Officer 3

Deployments: Korea and Germany

Service: 1962-1988

How can Americans best honor

Veterans? *"Just say, 'Thank you for your service' with a handshake."*



WAUKEE VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

Waukee Veterans Hall 410 Sixth St., Waukee

VFW Post 11517 VFW11517

Veterans of Foreign Wars is open to all veterans of service in a war, campaign or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters. www.vfw.org/join

Waukee American Legion Post 737 groups/260348741496/

The American Legion is a non-profit organization with a primary mission to support our local veterans as well as contribute to our local community. The Waukee American Legion also has chartered the Legion Riders (www.alrpost737.com); the American Legion Auxilliary; and the Sons of the American Legion.



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HELPING aging parents

Adult children of aging parents can face many challenges. A gradual decline in health, a sudden health emergency, or a new diagnosis can thrust you into becoming a caregiver for your parents. If your aging parents need help to remain safe and healthy, you can take steps to manage the situation.



Know their assets

Keep a list of assets, such as real estate, bank accounts and investments. This includes life insurance policies, long-term care insurance, IRAs, 401(k) plans, annuities, and money market accounts. This list also needs to account for income from Social Security retirement benefits and other sources, like pensions or the required minimum distributions from investments.

Know their values

Have a frank and honest conversation with your family. Make sure you understand and acknowledge their wishes. Do your parents want to age in their own home? Are they capable of doing so, both financially and physically? Is it time to downsize? Is there a plan in place for when your parent cannot make decisions? Together, you can make a list of values and goals and then work together to accomplish them.

Execute key documents

Develop a plan for having key legal documents in place. If you parents have never executed these documents (or if they are out of date), it is critical to prepare and revise new ones. Ignoring this issue will only lead to bigger problems.

A last will and testament controls the disposition of assets and nominates an executor to wrap up final affairs. A revocable living trust can supplement a will by naming a trustee who will distribute certain assets. Unlike a will, a trust doesn't go through court-supervised probate. This can save time and money when settling an estate.

A durable power of attorney for health care nominates an agent to make medical decisions. A living will is the document that tells that agent what decisions to make. A financial power of attorney gives an agent the ability to manage assets. These three separate documents are key to allowing you to better handle your parents' affairs.

Caring for your aging parents and providing for your family at the same time can be emotionally overwhelming. Talk with an experienced elder law attorney to help you navigate these dramatic changes. ■

Information provided by Gail Barnett, Abendroth Russell Barnett Law Firm, 2560 73rd St., Urbandale, 515-278-0623, www.ARPCLaw.com.

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BRING the taste of takeout home

(Family Features) Some nights, especially when schedules are jam packed, the allure of grabbing takeout or swinging through a drive-thru between activities may sound more appealing than spending time in the kitchen. You can skip the to-go boxes, however, with these tasty Asian-inspired dishes that come together almost as fast as delivery while allowing you to get creative at mealtime.

Packed with fresh shrimp and crispy veggies, this crab and shrimp sushi burrito fuses some favorite takeout dishes together to satisfy cravings in half an hour using Success Boil-in-Bag Jasmine Rice, which cooks up soft and fluffy and provides a flavorful and aromatic base. This combination of seafood, homemade sauces and flavorful veggies makes for an unforgettable taste experience comparable to your favorite quick-serve restaurant.

Find more recipe inspiration to tackle takeout cravings and more at SuccessRice.com. ■

Crab and shrimp sushi burrito

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 4

- 1 bag Success Jasmine Rice
- 1/2 cup unseasoned rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons Sriracha sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1 tablespoon black sesame seeds
- 4 sushi nori sheets
- 1/2 carrot, ribboned, divided
- 1/2 cucumber, ribboned, divided
- 6 crab sticks, shredded, divided
- 6 large shrimp, cooked, deveined, tails removed and butterflied, divided

DIRECTIONS

- Rinse rice bag under cold water to remove starch. Prepare rice according to package directions.
- In small saucepan over medium-low heat, heat rice vinegar, sugar and salt until sugar and salt have dissolved, about 1 minute. Set aside.
- In small bowl, mix mayonnaise, Sriracha sauce and sesame oil. Set aside.



- Transfer cooked rice onto large baking sheet. Drizzle half the vinegar mixture over rice, turning until all rice is fully coated. Taste and add more vinegar mixture, if desired. Spread rice into thin layer and cool to room temperature. Sprinkle sesame seeds on top.
- Lay down one sushi nori sheet. Spread layer of rice on it. Place half the carrots and cucumbers on rice. Place crab and shrimp on top.
- Place another sushi nori sheet just under first one and roll. Repeat with remaining sushi nori sheets, rice, carrots, cucumbers, crab and shrimp. Wrap both burritos in plastic wrap. Let rest 10 minutes.
- Slice burritos in half and serve with spicy mayo.



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WAUKEE

Warriors

2024-25 WINTER SCHEDULE

V GIRLS/BOYS BASKETBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Nov 26*	6:15PM	WDM Valley	Valley High School
Dec 3	6:00/7:30PM	Indianola	Indianola High School
Dec 6	6:15/7:45PM	Johnston	Waukee High School
Dec 7	1:30/3:00PM	Linn-Mar	Linn-Mar High School
Dec 10	6:15/7:45PM	SE Polk	Waukee High School
Dec 13	6:15/7:45PM	Ankeny	Waukee High School
Dec 17	6:15/7:45PM	Waukee NW	Waukee High School
Dec 20	6:15/7:45PM	Dowling	Dowling Catholic
Dec 21*	2:00PM	Ottumwa	Evans Middle School
Jan 3	6:15/7:45PM	Urbandale	Urbandale High School
Jan 7	6:15/7:45PM	Johnston	Johnston High School
Jan 11*	2:30PM	CR Washington	Waukee High School
Jan 14	6:15/7:45PM	Ankeny	Ankeny High School
Jan 17	6:15/7:45PM	SE Polk	SE Polk High School
Jan 21	6:15/7:45PM	Dowling	Waukee High School
Jan 24	6:15/7:45PM	Waukee NW	Waukee Northwest
Jan 25*	3:00PM	Iowa City Liberty	Waukee High School
Jan 31	6:15/7:45PM	Centennial	Waukee High School
Feb 1**	2:00PM	Council Bluffs	Abraham Lincoln
Feb 4	6:15/7:45PM	Urbandale	Waukee High School
Feb 7	6:15/7:45PM	Valley	Waukee High School
Feb 8**	4:00PM	TBD	Waukee High School
Feb 11	6:15/7:45PM	Centennial	Ankeny Centennial
Feb 14	6:15/7:45PM	Roosevelt	Waukee High School
Feb 18**	7:45PM	North	Des Moines North
Feb 20**	6:15PM	WDM Valley	Valley High School

* Girls Only ** Boys Only

V BOYS WRESTLING

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Dec 3	5:30PM	Ottumwa	Evans Middle School
Dec 6	12:00PM	Donnybrook	Coralville XTREAM Arena
Dec 12	7:30PM	Johnston	Waukee High School
Dec 14	10:00AM	Saydel	Saydel High School
Dec 19	7:30PM	Ankeny	Waukee High School
Dec 21	9:30AM	Waukee NW	Waukee NW High School
Jan 7	7:30PM	Dowling Catholic	Waukee High School
Jan 9	7:30PM	Waukee NW	Waukee NW High School
Jan 11	9:30AM	Multiple Schools	Winterset High School
Jan 16	7:30PM	Centennial	Waukee Timberline
Jan 18	10:00AM	LeMars	LeMars High School
Jan 21	7:30PM	SE Polk	SE Polk High School
Jan 23	7:30PM	Urbandale	Urbandale High School
Jan 25	9:00AM	Multiple Schools	Urbandale High School
Jan 28	7:30PM	Roosevelt	Roosevelt High School
Jan 30	7:30PM	WDM Valley	Valley High School

V GIRLS WRESTLING

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Dec 10	5:00PM	Multiple Schools	Urbandale High School
Jan 7	5:30PM	Multiple Schools	Northview Middle School
Jan 14	6:00PM	SE Polk	Waukee High School
Jan 16	6:00PM	Multiple Schools	Waukee Northwest

V BOYS SWIMMING

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Nov 26	5:30PM	Multiple Schools	DMACC
Dec 5	5:30PM	Ankeny Boys	Waukee Natatorium
Dec 10	5:30PM	WDM Valley	Valley High School
Dec 12	4:00PM	Southeast Polk	SE Polk High School
Dec 17	5:00PM	Multiple Schools	SE Polk High School
Dec 19	5:30PM	Johnston	Waukee Natatorium
Jan 6	5:30PM	Waukee NW	Waukee Natatorium
Jan 14	5:30PM	Multiple Schools	Nishna Valley YMCA
Jan 16	5:30PM	Dowling	Dowling Catholic

V BOYS/GIRLS BOWLING

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Dec 3	3:30PM	Ames	Perfect Games
Dec 5	3:15/4:5PM	Dowling Catholic	Val Lanes
Dec 7*	9:00AM	Multiple Schools	Cardinal Lanes
Dec 9	4:00PM	A-D-M	Adel Family Fun Center
Dec 16	3:30PM	Clarke	Warrior Lanes
Dec 19	3:30PM	WDM Valley	Warrior Lanes
Jan 9	3:30/4:5PM	Urbandale	Warrior Lanes
Jan 13	4:00PM	Greene County	Spare Time
Jan 16	3:45PM	Southeast Polk	Great Escape
Jan 23	3:30/4:5PM	Johnston	Warrior Lanes
Jan 30	3:30/4:5PM	Ankeny	Warrior Lanes

* Girls Only

FOR ALL WARRIORS'S SCHEDULES



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FOR ALL WOLVES'S SCHEDULES



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NORTHWEST Wolves

The Living Experience

2024-25 WINTER SCHEDULE

V GIRLS/BOYS BASKETBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Nov 26*	7:45PM	Dowling	Waukee NW High School
Dec 3	6:15/7:45PM	Centennial	Ankeny Centennial
Dec 6	6:15/7:45PM	Urbandale	Urbandale High School
Dec 7*	5:00PM	Iowa City West	Waukee NW High School
Dec 10	6:15/7:45PM	WDM Valley	Waukee NW High School
Dec 13	6:15/7:45PM	Johnston	Johnston High School
Dec 17	6:15/7:45PM	Waukee	Waukee High School
Dec 20	6:15/7:45PM	SE Polk	SE Polk High School
Dec 21**	5:30PM	TBA	Chillicothe Ketcham CC
Dec 21**	7:00PM	TBA	Kipp Legacy Ketcham CC
Jan 3*	7:45PM	Ankeny	Waukee NW High School
Jan 7	6:15/7:45PM	Urbandale	Waukee NW High School
Jan 10	6:15/7:45PM	Centennial	Waukee NW High School
Jan 13**	7:45PM	Hoover	Waukee NW High School
Jan 14	6:15/7:45PM	Johnston	Waukee NW High School
Jan 17	6:15/7:45PM	WDM Valley	Valley High School
Jan 21	6:15/7:45PM	SE Polk	Waukee NW High School
Jan 24	6:15/7:45PM	Waukee	Waukee NW High School
Jan 30*	7:00PM	Millard South	Waukee NW High School
Feb 3	6:15/7:45PM	Ankeny	Ankeny High School
Feb 7	6:15/7:45PM	Dowling	Dowling Catholic
Feb 11*	7:00PM	Ballard	Waukee NW High School
Feb 17**	7:45PM	North	Waukee NW High School
Feb 20**	7:45PM	Ankeny	Waukee NW High School
Feb 21**	7:45PM	Dowling	Waukee NW High School

* Girls Only ** Boys Only

V BOYS WRESTLING

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Dec 5	7:30PM	Ankeny	Ankeny Centennial
Dec 6-7	TBD	Multiple Schools	Xtream Arena
Dec 12	7:30PM	Urbandale	Waukee NW High School
Dec 14	10:00AM	Saydel	Saydel High School
Dec 19	7:30PM	Johnston	Johnston High School
Dec 21	10:00AM	Multiple Schools	Waukee NW High School
Jan 2	7:30PM	Multiple Schools	Waukee NW High School
Jan 7	7:30PM	SE Polk	SE Polk High School
Jan 9	7:30PM	Waukee	Waukee NW High School
Jan 11	8:00AM	Multiple Schools	Benton Community HS
Jan 18	10:00AM	CR Jefferson	Jefferson High School
Jan 23	7:30PM	Ankeny	Waukee NW High School
Jan 25	9:00AM	Multiple Schools	Urbandale High School
Jan 30	7:30PM	Dowling	Dowling Catholic

V GIRLS WRESTLING

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Nov 21	6:00PM	Multiple Schools	Van Meter High School
Nov 23	10:00AM	Nevada	Nevada High School
Nov 30	10:00AM	Multiple Schools	Linn-Mar High School
Dec 5-6	12:00PM	Multiple Schools	Xtream Arena
Dec 7	10:00AM	Ames	Ames High School
Dec 10	5:00PM	Multiple Schools	Urbandale High School
Dec 13-14	TBD	Council Bluffs	Mid-America Center
Dec 21	10:00AM	Multiple Schools	ADM High School
Jan 3-4	TBD	The CLASH	La Crosse, WI
Jan 7	5:30PM	Multiple Schools	Northview Middle School
Jan 16	6:00PM	Multiple Schools	Waukee NW High School
Jan 18	10:00AM	Multiple Schools	Waukee NW High School

V BOYS SWIMMING

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Nov 26	5:30PM	Multiple Schools	DMACC
Dec 3	5:30PM	WDM Valley	Waukee Natatorium
Dec 12	5:30PM	Johnston	Summit Middle School
Dec 14	11:30AM	Cedar Falls	Homes Junior HS
Dec 16	5:30PM	Dowling Catholic	Waukee Natatorium
Dec 21	11:30AM	Multiple Schools	Dowling Catholic
Jan 6	5:30PM	Waukee	Waukee Natatorium
Jan 11	12:00PM	Linn-Mar	Linn-Mar Aquatic Center
Jan 14	5:30PM	Southeast Polk	Waukee Natatorium
Jan 16	5:30PM	Ankeny	DMACC

V BOYS/GIRLS BOWLING

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Dec 5	3:15/45PM	Dowling Catholic	Val Lanes
Dec 19	3:30PM	WDM Valley	Warrior Lanes
Jan 9	3:30/45PM	Urbandale	Warrior Lanes
Jan 16	3:45PM	Southeast Polk	Great Escape
Jan 23	3:30/45PM	Johnston	Warrior Lanes
Jan 30	3:30/45PM	Ankeny	Warrior Lanes

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KICK OFF the holidays at WinterFest

Enjoy holiday cheer at the Triangle Dec. 6.

Waukee is ready to kick off the holiday spirit at WinterFest. The annual event will be held at the Downtown Triangle on Friday, Dec. 6 from 6-8 p.m.

The event is organized and hosted by Waukee Parks and Recreation in partnership with downtown businesses around the Triangle.

At 6 p.m., Mayor Courtney Clarke will light the WinterFest tree and surrounding lights. After the tree lighting, activities await folks of all ages.

Rumor has it that Santa's reindeers are saving their strength for Christmas Eve, so Santa hitches a ride from Waukee Fire Department on a fire truck. After his arrival, Santa will be on hand to listen to children's wish lists at the Community Center. Kids can also decorate cookies and participate in various games and crafts. All ages can enjoy free s'mores, hot chocolate and cider.

An ice sculpting demonstration will take place. Kids can participate in the snowball drop and turn in their snowballs (ping pong balls) for books at Charter Bank.

Local businesses and food trucks will offer dinner and snacks.

Heather Behrens, director of marketing and communications for the City of Waukee, invites all ages to the festival. She recommends folks dress in weather-appropriate layers, as the activities are a mix of indoor and outdoor events.

Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys or monetary donations to help neighbors in need and drop them off at the Community Center. Waukee Area Christian Services will then distribute the donations.

Waukee began hosting the festival more than 20 years ago. Each year, the city tries to offer a new activity.

"Last year, it was the fabulous letter lights, spelling out WinterFest, and some extra lights in Triangle Park," says Behrens. "This year, you'll have to come to the festival to find out what's new for 2024."

Behrens says it is important to offer special events and traditions.

"Waukee has kept its hometown feel, even with rapid growth," she says. "Special events and traditions like WinterFest are an important



Triangle Park will feature lights and activities at WinterFest.



WinterFest activities include an ice sculpting demonstration.

part of keeping that welcoming hometown vibe."

She says the Waukee Parks and Recreation department creates opportunities for people to gather and enjoy the community.

"WinterFest helps draw people to explore the historic Downtown Triangle who may not know all the local businesses and the unique



Santa arrives at WinterFest via firetruck.

Triangle Park. These events also give residents a chance to have some fun and maybe make some new friends while they enjoy the different activities."

For more information and updates on WinterFest, follow Waukee Parks and Recreation on Facebook or visit www.Waukee.org/WinterFest for the full lineup of fun. ■

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

To submit calendar items for consideration, send to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

Be sure to check for cancellations.

Upcoming in Waukee Living magazine:



Holiday recipes: Do you have a holiday recipe that has special meaning to you? Will you share it with our readers? Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com by Dec. 1 to have it included in our December issue.



First cars: Do you remember your first car? Do you have a photo of yourself with it? Or maybe you still own it? We want to hear your stories. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com by Jan. 1 to be included in the January issue.

WinterFest

Friday, Dec. 6, 6-8 p.m.
Downtown Triangle

Waukee is ready to kick off the holiday spirit at WinterFest. The event is organized and hosted by Waukee Parks and Recreation in partnership with downtown businesses around the Triangle. At 6 p.m., Mayor Courtney Clarke will light the WinterFest tree and surrounding lights. After the tree lighting, activities await folks of all ages. Santa will arrive on a Waukee Fire Department truck. After his arrival, Santa will be on hand to listen to children's wish lists at the Community Center. Kids can also decorate cookies and participate in various games and crafts. All ages can enjoy free s'mores, hot chocolate and cider. An ice sculpting demonstration will take place. Kids can participate in the snowball drop and turn in their snowballs (ping pong balls) for books at Charter Bank. Local businesses and food trucks will offer dinner and snacks.

Women's Social

Saturday, Jan. 11, 9-11 a.m.
Veterans Hall, 410 Sixth St., Waukee

The Waukee American Legion Auxiliary is sponsoring a social event. All women are invited to start the New Year by meeting new people and enjoying coffee, pastries, fun and prizes.

Bingo

Sundays, 3-6 p.m.
Kenny's Garage, 605
Ashworth Drive, Waukee

Enjoy Bingo Sunday evenings at Kenny's Garage.



Tuesday Night Trivia

Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.
Central Standard Burgers, 1222 S.E.
University Ave., Waukee

Come one come all and test your thinking skills while having a great time. Trivia night is every Tuesday, with featured themed trivia nights once a month. Hosted by Think and Drink Entertainment.

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

To submit calendar items for consideration, send to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

Be sure to check for cancellations.

Bowling events

Various Sundays, noon to 1:30 p.m.
Warrior Lanes, 190 S.E. Lauren St.,
Waukee

Various parties are planned with registration required two days prior.

Themes are: Dec. 15, Ugly Sweater Holiday.

On Tuesday, Dec. 31,

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. is

the Countdown to Noon Year's Eve Party.

For more information and registration, visit warriorlanes.com.



Christmas in Olde Town

S.E. Second St., downtown Altoona
Saturday, Nov. 30

Once a year, downtown Altoona transforms into a bustling winter wonderland for Christmas in Olde Town — a celebration of the community and the holiday season. Load up your sleigh with family and friends and enjoy live music, walking tours, the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony, a light show, and a special appearance from the Big Guy himself. Family-friendly activities start at 2 p.m.
<https://altoonahistory.org/christmas/>

Winterset Festival of Lights

Nov. 29, 5-8 p.m.

Winterset Courthouse,
112 S. John Wayne Drive

Come to Winterset's courthouse retail district for a holiday experience like none other. At 5 p.m., the whole family will enjoy food, live and lighted window displays, free horse-drawn wagon rides, extended shopping hours, roaming carolers, and interactions with Santa, all around the Madison County courthouse. A lighted parade gets underway at 7:15 p.m. This year's theme is A Toyland Christmas.
www.madisoncounty.com/special-events



Festival of Trees and Lights

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1

Iowa Events Center, 833 Fifth Ave., Des Moines

Expertly decorated trees, local musicians, dance groups and a visit from Santa himself, all in the name of supporting Blank Children's Hospital. Friday and Saturday hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.unitypoint.org/giving/blank-childrens-hospital-foundation/ways-to-give/events/festival-of-trees-and-lights



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EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancellations.

Holiday Hullabaloo

Nov. 29 - Dec. 29

Horizon Events Center, 10320 Hickman Road, Clive

The 2024 Holiday Hullabaloo is an immersive, family-friendly holiday experience that will surprise and delight guests this holiday season. Enjoy a variety of activities, entertainment and festivities that will allow you to create some fun holiday hullabaloo and memories.

www.holidayhullabaloo.com

Running of the Reindeer

Nov. 30, 8:45-10 a.m.

Valley Junction

Dress up in your best holiday costume and kick off Small Business Saturday with a 3-block fun run in Historic Valley Junction. Run, walk, crawl, we don't care. Only one prize is given for speed, the other two are given for creativity. Bring the whole family. There is no entry fee for this race and all ages are welcome. At 8:45, a.m., lineup starts at Fifth and Walnut in front of St. Kilda, 333 Fifth St. Race starts at 8 a.m. with a \$100 cash prize each for race winner, best adult costume and best children's costume. Most shops open at 10 a.m. for Small Business Saturday with some restaurants open earlier for breakfast and brunch.



Holiday Promenade

Fridays through Dec. 20

Historic East Village

The Greater Des Moines Partnership and the Historic East Village Neighborhood Association will spread holiday cheer during the Holiday Promenade, an exciting, free celebration full of holiday-themed activities, entertainment, shopping and family-friendly fun. A number of activities will be scheduled including a tree lighting, a scavenger hunt, ice skating and more. During the Holiday Promenade dates, Historic East Village retailers are encouraged to remain open until 8 p.m. while restaurants and attractions are open later.

Jingle in the Junction

Dec. 5, Dec. 12, Dec. 19, 5-8 p.m.

Valley Junction

The holiday season is in Valley Junction as many businesses extend their hours on Thursday nights to give you more time to find the perfect holiday gift, enjoy dinner, and enjoy three blocks of free entertainment on Fifth Street under the glow of more than 100,000 holiday lights.

Enjoy free horse-drawn trolley rides, ice carvings, photo op, a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at 6 p.m. in front of the West Des Moines Fire Administration Headquarters at 318 Fifth St, rotating entertainers, live reindeer, carolers, and Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Historic Valley Junction Foundation office from 6-8 p.m. ■



OUT & ABOUT

RIBBON Cutting

Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for 4EverYoung Anti Aging Solutions Oct. 29.



Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for 4EverYoung Anti Aging Solutions on Oct. 29.



Kelly Troxel, Aly Davis and Jessica Taylor-Fink



Lauren Lohse, Erin Christensen and Amanda Hancock



Mayor Courtney Clarke and Melissa Stimple



Rob Reinard, Amy Anderson-Vali and Connie Blodgett



Mark Hanson and Terry Snyder



Candy Murphy, Anita Nemmers and Joyce Numedahl



Amy Anderson-Vali and Viktor Vali



Edye Beckerman and Dan Kollorgen



Sue Robertson and Daniele Ogre

OUT & ABOUT



Nick Petersen and Bret Maxwell at the Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce appreciation breakfast for first responders Oct. 29.



Taylor Hawk and Andrew LoVan at the Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce appreciation breakfast for first responders Oct. 29.



Josh Minidus, Chief Chad McCluskey and Scott Cunningham at the Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce appreciation breakfast for first responders Oct. 29.



Jeff Larson, Tom Peterson and Chief Clint Robinson at the Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce appreciation breakfast for first responders Oct. 29.



Neil Lemke, Rob Dehnert and Nick Gilchrist at the Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce appreciation breakfast for first responders Oct. 29.



Dave Abram and McKenna Townsend at the Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce appreciation breakfast for first responders Oct. 29.



Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for 5 Borough Bakery Oct. 31.



Toney and Sarah Chem and Jessica Taylor-Fink at the ribbon cutting for 5 Borough Bakery Oct. 31.



Amber Rhodes, Dan Giles and Amy Ganoë at the ribbon cutting for 5 Borough Bakery Oct. 31.



Jolene Goodman and Terry Snyder at the ribbon cutting for 5 Borough Bakery Oct. 31.



Edye Beckerman and Kelly Troxel at the ribbon cutting for 5 Borough Bakery Oct. 31.

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