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## SEEN IN JOHNSTON



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INSIDE

HOLIDAYS AT JOHNSTON TOWN CENTER DEC. 7: Santa visits with Anderson and Zayda Scott. ■

### JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**WED. HIGH 22 | LOW 5**  
Sunny to partly cloudy; windy



**THURS. HIGH 19 | LOW 11**  
Cold with plenty of sunshine



**FRI. HIGH 35 | LOW 29**  
Periods of snow and sleet



**SAT. HIGH 37 | LOW 30**  
Cloudy



**SUN. HIGH 44 | LOW 33**  
Low clouds; mild



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# WHAT HAPPENED TO HATS?

Hats off. This is where we are at as a society, especially for men. Sure, hats should still be removed when indoors or when our national anthem plays, but men today are clearly wearing hats less than those from past generations. Look at most any group photo or film of gatherings of men from years past, and you will see a bunch of hats. Today? Not so much. In fact, other than trucker caps or MAGA hats, barely any. The question is, why?

There is no shortage of opinion on the subject from a variety of sources, and they most all seem to have the same reasoning. Many say the changes started with President John F. Kennedy at his inauguration, when he chose not to wear the traditional top hat during the ceremony. With hair like his, could you blame him?

Others say the change came from the anti-establishment movement in film and music from non-hat-wearers like the Beatles, Elvis Presley, James Dean and Steve McQueen. Once again, a bunch of guys with great hair.

Except Ringo, of course.

The growth in automobile ownership is also said to have had an impact on men choosing not to wear hats. In the 1920s, less than 1% of the population owned a car. This number increased to 25% in 1940 and to 55% in 1970. When men were walking outside or using public transport, hats made sense to stave off the elements and to stay warm. When cars became more common as a means of transportation, the narrow head-to-roof distance made wearing hats a challenge.

The return of soldiers from wars is also a factor, as many military men swore off hats with the rest of the uniform they were required to wear. Wearing hats even caused PTSD for some.

Maybe the greatest contributor to the decline in men wearing hats is due to something we most all can appreciate — heat. Those



who work outside still value the warming effects of hats, but with more people working indoors, the need has seemed to dissipate. Heat is now better dispersed in buildings, and layered clothing has helped keep our bodies warmer, too.

Meanwhile, a few reminders of the hat-wearing generation remain. Some old church pews still have the clips that secured hats. Coat racks still have the top hooks to hang them. And my dad's felt hat and furry Russian-type hat are still collecting dust somewhere.

How about you? Do you, or does a man you know, wear dress hats? Or do you still have a few in your closet from your father or grandfather? Send me a note and let me know.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman  
President and  
Publisher  
Big Green Umbrella Media  
shane@dmcityview.com  
515-953-4822, ext. 305



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8101 Birchwood Court, Suite, D, Johnston, IA 50131  
www.iowalivingmagazines.com



**News contact**  
Tammy Pearson  
515-953-4822, ext. 302  
tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com



**Advertising contact**  
Andrea Hodapp  
515-953-4822, ext. 322  
andrea@iowalivingmagazines.com

# MAYOR'S 11TH ANNUAL RUN FOR FOOD

Mayor Paula Dierenfeld is again embarking on her journey to Run for Food. This year, her goal for the community is to log 2,500 miles. Donations for the Johnston Partnership will be accepted until Dec. 30 to ensure families have a joyous holiday season.

Mayor Dierenfeld has pledged to run one mile for every bag of food or \$10 donated to the Johnston Partnership for a Healthy Community. Over the years, the community's response has been incredible, with an outpouring of food and monetary contributions. More than \$81,130 has been raised through this annual initiative. In 2023, Mayor Dierenfeld covered an impressive 2,328 miles, finishing her last mile on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024.

Donations are more important than ever to support families in need. When the pantry opened in 1999, it served approximately 343 people per month. By October 2024, that number had risen to around 2,700 people. This exponential growth in need highlights the importance of your support — not only to help the mayor reach her goals but also to assist families in need.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- **Online:** Visit <https://johnstonpartnership.org/donate/> to give a monetary donation.
- **Venmo:** @johnstonpartnership – Scan the code by visiting <https://johnstonpartnership.org/donate>.
- **Drop-off:** Drop off monetary or food donations to the Johnston Partnership on Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.; Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Fareway:** Mayor Dierenfeld will stand inside Fareway on Saturday, Nov. 30, and Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to noon. ■

## BACKPOCKET OFFERS EVENTS

The public is invited to a variety of events coming up at Backpocket, 6205 Merle Hay Road, Johnston.

- **Hot cocoa bar,** pictures with Santa and cookie decorating, Monday, Dec. 16.
- **Elf and Friends Guided Paint Night,** Dec. 17, 6 p.m., \$55. [www.makeitartfull.com/event-details/elf-and-friends-guided-painting-trio](http://www.makeitartfull.com/event-details/elf-and-friends-guided-painting-trio). Get in the holiday spirit and create your own home decor inspired by a classic Christmas movie.
- **Family Fun New Year's Eve** is Dec. 31, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and features face-painting, a photo booth with props, a DIY party hat making station, a balloon drop and sparkling cider toast at 2 p.m., food and drink specials, and more. ■

## COMMUNITY GREETINGS

Johnston Community Greetings would like to welcome anyone new to Johnston with a welcome bag including discounts at local businesses and city information. Contact Missy Shepherd by phone, text or email at 515-991-5014 or [mshepherdgreetings@gmail.com](mailto:mshepherdgreetings@gmail.com). ■

## GIVING TREE BENEFITS ANIMALS

Woof Pack Resort and Spa is sponsoring a Giving Tree to benefit Hope Animal Rescue of Iowa the entire month of December. Stop by the resort to grab an ornament to donate to Hope or give us a call to donate. The resort address is 5700 West Parkway in Johnston. For information, contact 515-416-4255 or [info@woofpackresort.com](mailto:info@woofpackresort.com). ■

## LOOKING FOR EVENT OR MEETING SPACE?

The Johnston Lions Club is here to make your next event unforgettable. Whether you're planning a business meeting, family gathering or special celebration, the Lions have the space for you. Join them on Sunday, Jan. 19 to learn more about renting the club's venue. Explore the space, get all your questions answered, and see how they can help make your event a success. For more information, email [venueclub@gmail.com](mailto:venueclub@gmail.com). ■

# SEEN IN JOHNSTON

## HOLIDAYS AT JOHNSTON TOWN CENTER DEC. 7



Kira and Arlo Strong-Gonzalez playing toss, sponsored by First Baptist Church.



Ethan and Brody Snyder show off their cookie-decorating skills.



Kenzie Leach (front), Amelia Clausen and Sarah Clausen at the ice rink.



The tree lighting was held.



Santa and Mayor Paul Dierenfeld



Bill Gordish demonstrates ice carving.



Zaria and Autumn Kawooya enjoying hot chocolate while in line to see Santa.



Karl Kruse, Graham Coaldrake, Diane Kruse and Addy Coaldrake enjoying the evening.



Holiday carriage rides were enjoyed by families. ■

## JOHNSTON LIBRARY NEWS

For information about all events and resources at Johnston Public Library, visit [www.johnstonlibrary.com](http://www.johnstonlibrary.com) or by calling the library at 515-278-5233.

**School's Out!** On Dec. 23, 30 and 31, JPL's Teen Space will have extended hours so kids in grades 6 and up can hang out at the library. On Dec. 23 and 30, a Shrinky Dinky, Cocoa Drinky Movie Jamboree will be held from 1-3 p.m. Teens can ring in New Year's Eve at the Pokemon Club: Legendary New Year's Eve Party at 1 p.m. on Dec. 31.

Do you have a teen in grades 8-12 looking to make a difference in the community? If so, the new VolunTEEN program at JPL may be the perfect opportunity to do so. On the second and third Saturdays of each month, from 2-5 p.m., teens can help prepare materials for youth activities and complete other needed tasks in the library. Interested teens can register to receive email reminders about upcoming volunteer times and opportunities at the library, or they can just drop in on a VolunTEEN Saturday and volunteer.

Get ready to hear some holiday tunes at the library. The Peter Roberts Band is coming to JPL to perform a musical rendition of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. Peter and his band, composed of jazz musicians Jamie Cord and Steve Charlson, not only bring the classic music to life but detail the stories about the television special's creation. Come hear the memorable music and discover why the predicted flop has aired every year since its premiere in 1965.

To get your New Year's celebration started, bring your family to the library for a techy scavenger hunt on Tuesday, Dec. 31 anytime during open hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). The QR Code Quest: New Year's Eve Edition will lead explorers to clues throughout the library. Those who complete the quest will receive a prize. No registration is required, and participants can use their own devices or one of ours.

The library is also happy to be able to provide the gift of language this holiday season. Everyday English, held on Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:45 p.m., is an ongoing program designed for English language learning adults. Led by a professional ESOL teacher and trained volunteers, lessons focus on functional English as well as life in the United States. Let's Talk: ESL Conversation Group is a casual program designed for non-native English speakers to practice their English conversation skills with a native English speaker. Discussions focus on current news, events and American culture. This program is on Mondays from 6:30-7:45 p.m. Both Everyday English and Let's Talk are held in-person and online via Zoom. Email library staff at [esol@johnstonlibrary.org](mailto:esol@johnstonlibrary.org) for sign-in information. Both programs are free, and registration isn't required but is appreciated.

More information about all events and resources at Johnston Public Library can be found online at [www.johnstonlibrary.com](http://www.johnstonlibrary.com) or by calling the library at 515-278-5233. ■

## JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP ENCOURAGES DONATIONS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need, as well as children's seasonal clothing. Almost 600 families are being served per month, so the need is high. Donations can be dropped off at 5870 Merle Hay Road, Suite C, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m., and on Thursdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every third week of the month, they collect for the Friday food bag program that serves food insecure students at all nine Johnston schools. Currently they pack 220 food bags each week to go home with students. They can use fruit cups, macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, granola bars, individual shelf-stable milk and individual peanut butter. ■

## WINTER CURBSIDE YARD WASTE COLLECTION

The Compost It! winter collection in Johnston will be on Dec. 30 and 31 and Jan. 6 and 7, corresponding with your regular trash collection day. This is a great time to dispose of brush, leaves, lawn clippings, garden waste and live holiday trees. ■



## EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO  
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM

### POP N' JOLLY: A HOLIDAY SHOW FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Monday, Dec. 23, 6:30 p.m.

Temple Theater, 1011 Locust St., Des Moines

Join Wagner Summer Theater for its first annual holiday family-friendly event, Pop n' Jolly. Come enjoy fun and laughs with some of the area's top musicians. Grab the crew and take fun photos with Santa and partake in a holiday singalong. The evening will include holiday classics by Dave Wagner and his special guests including two-time Cloris Award winner Julie Larson and national opera vocalist Craig Irvin. Also featured will be a selection of everyone's favorite holiday songs performed by the Wagner Summer Theater Youth Vocal Group. Signature cocktails, mocktails and hot cocoa will be available for purchase. Tickets are available through Des Moines Performing Arts, [www.desmoinesperformingarts.org](http://www.desmoinesperformingarts.org). For more information, visit [www.wagnersummertheater.com](http://www.wagnersummertheater.com).

### CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE

Dec. 15, 3 p.m.

Staplin Performing Arts Center at Valley High School, 3650 Woodland Ave., West Des Moines

The Central Iowa Wind Ensemble (CIWE) welcomes audiences to its new performance home for a heartwarming holiday concert. In addition to celebrating the season through music, CIWE is honored to partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Central Iowa to bring the joy of music to youth across the community. For tickets, visit [www.ciwe.org/deck-the-halls-dsm](http://www.ciwe.org/deck-the-halls-dsm).

### JINGLE IN THE JUNCTION

Dec. 19, 5-8 p.m.

Valley Junction

The holiday 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.

### HOLIDAY PROMENADE

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 throughout the five Fridays including 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.

### HOLIDAY HULLABALOO

Through 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](http://www.holidayhullabaloo.com) ■

RECIPE

# PUNCH UP YOUR HOLIDAY BEVERAGE MENU

(*Culinary.net*) This time of year is all about food and sweet desserts, but don't forget to quench guests' thirst with a seasonal sip. This Christmas Cranberry Punch offers a slightly less sweet take on traditional punch so you can add a touch of tart to the beverage cart. Visit [Culinary.net](https://www.culinary.net) to find more delicious holiday recipe ideas. ■

## CHRISTMAS CRANBERRY PUNCH

*Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"*

### Ingredients:

- 1 package fresh cranberries
- 1 can pineapple chunks
- 3-4 rosemary twigs
- 6 cans lemon-lime soda, divided
- 64 ounces cranberry juice
- 20 ounces orange pineapple juice
- 1 orange

### Directions:

The night before, place four cranberries, two pineapple chunks and a few rosemary sprigs in each hole of silicone muffin pan or ice tray. Cover with 1 can lemon-lime soda and freeze.

Chill remaining soda, cranberry juice and orange pineapple juice overnight.

In punch bowl, mix remaining soda, cranberry juice and orange pineapple juice. Slice orange into 5-6 slices. Add lemon-lime soda ice cubes, handful of cranberries and orange slices. Serve.



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## WINTER COATS NEEDED

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need, as well as children's seasonal clothing. The Partnership has been extremely busy and has already distributed more than 850 winter coats. Many more are needed to make it through the cold months and keep all of our neighbors warm. With the drastic weather change, the largest current need is winter coats of any size (baby through adult) in good or new condition. The Partnership has worked through its storage and are putting out whatever comes in, and they are going quickly. The goal is to provide one coat per client per year.

Donations can be dropped off at 5870 Merle Hay Road, Suite C, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m., and on Thursdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every third week of the month, they collect for the Friday food bag program that serves food insecure students at all nine Johnston schools. Currently they pack 220 food bags each week to go home with students. They can use fruit cups, macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, granola bars, individual shelf-stable milk and individual peanut butter. ■

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

Johnston Station Historical Society, 6161 Northglenn Drive, will hold its annual holiday open house Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon. The Museum, which is located in a turn-of-the-century farmhouse, will be decorated for the holidays. Guests can enjoy guided tours, along with coffee, cocoa and cookies. Visit [www.cityofjohnston.com/calendar.aspx?EID=3856](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/calendar.aspx?EID=3856) for more information. ■



## SUPPORT THE BLUE DRAGON PROGRAM

The Blue Dragon Program is holding a special holiday shopping event. The event pairs officers with less fortunate children or those who have faced tragic experiences, allowing them to enjoy a memorable shopping spree at Grimes Walmart. Your participation can help create unforgettable memories for these children.

• **How you can contribute:** Your support is invaluable, and there are two easy ways to make a difference:

• **Traditional giving:** Send or drop off your monetary donation to the Johnston Police Department, Attn: Blue Dragon Program, 6373 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA 50131. (Checks should be made payable to the Johnston Police Officers Association.)

• **Online contribution:** Embrace the convenience of online giving by donating through Donor Box at <https://donorbox.org/blue-dragon>.

If you have questions or need help with donations, contact Sgt. Grandon at 515-278-2345. Your generosity helps create cherished moments and ignites the warmth of the holiday spirit for those who need it most. ■

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**PANORA COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR SALE OR LEASE:** Nearly 1,500 square feet of professional office or retail space on Main Street in Panora. Approximately 1,000 square feet finished with remaining space ready to be built out or used as storage or shop area. Front portion walled off for reception area. Open space in the middle. New windows in middle and back area installed this year, as well as a new canopy on front of building. Painted recently inside and out. Sale price of \$75,000 or lease for \$750 per month with flexible terms. Contact Shane Goodman for a viewing at 515-473-8312 or [shane@dmcityview.com](mailto:shane@dmcityview.com).

**LOOKING TO BUY VINYL RECORDS:** Paying cash for 60's-90's rock and jazz and blues. Please call Brian at 515-326-5033.

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