

JOHNSTON *Living Weekly*

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ROTARIANS VOLUNTEER AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE



Johnston Rotarians prepared a meal for about 70 people at the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines.

Members of the Johnston Rotary Club recently volunteered to prepare meals for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Des Moines.

“Even on the very last day of the year, our members demonstrated the true spirit of Rotary by coming together to serve others in need,” Rotarian Mike Pogge-Weaver said.

The group prepared dinner for approximately 70 people, including families facing challenging times as their children navigate medical emergencies. The meal consisted of chicken Parmesan with pasta, tossed salad, green beans and freshly baked chocolate chip cookies.

“It was a heartwarming way to provide comfort and nourishment to

these families and a meaningful way to finish 2024,” Pogge-Weaver said in thanking those who volunteered. “The holiday season is a time for giving, and your contributions remind us all the importance of helping others — especially families in need. Your support and hard work exemplify the values that make Rotary so special.” ■

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

WED. HIGH 29 | LOW 21
Partly sunny



THURS. HIGH 29 | LOW 10
Morning snow; mostly cloudy



FRI. HIGH 21 | LOW 5
Turning cloudy and colder



SAT. HIGH 20 | LOW 12
Cloudy and cold



SUN. HIGH 18 | LOW 8
Cold with a little snow at times



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

IT'S A BIRD. IT'S A PLANE. IT'S... A DRONE?

I wrote a column a couple years ago about a drone I own that sparked many comments from readers. With all the sightings of these much larger devices hovering in the air around New Jersey recently, it seemed worth revisiting.

My wife bought that simple drone for me as a Christmas present in 2022. I still have it, though I rarely use it, mostly because I still have not become properly licensed. I argued in the past that it seemed like a complicated process, although several readers offered me tips back in 2023 to make it easier. I saved their messages for future use. Well, it's the future, and I have still haven't used them. I ask myself, why? I have certainly learned to navigate through various certifications and training and government requirements many times. Why am I stalling on this one, especially when the drone footage could be quite helpful in my business?

The more I thought about it, the more I realized the truth can be found in multiple explanations.

First, I have learned that operating a drone is tricky — maybe not for those of you who have been playing

complex video games for a few decades, but the skills I gained from mastering Pac-Man as a kid don't seem to help much.

Second, the margin of error is also low, and the replacement cost is high. That's not a good combination for me.

Third, as many of you loyal readers know, I am a privacy freak, and the whole idea of drones taking photos and video on demand is concerning to me. It should be to you, too. Clearly, our government is using drones in ways that would make us all uncomfortable if we knew the entire truth. And, clearly, other governments are doing the same.

Admittedly, I don't fully understand a property owner's rights on how to deal with drones, but I do know I would not hesitate to shoot one down if I felt it was intruding on me, and I would be more than willing to go to court to justify my actions. I wish our government officials would feel the same way about unidentified drones flying over our cities. I find the silence more concerning than the



drones.

I mentioned in the 2023 column about when I attended the Des Moines Symphony's Yankee Doodle Pops outdoor concert in Des Moines and could see a dozen or so drones flying around in the sky. It was uncomfortable, especially when one realizes how easy it would be for a terrorist to fly a drone with a small bomb into a packed outdoor crowd. That's a real concern.

I am not suggesting all drones be banned, but operators should know if they are flying above areas other than property they own, their drones are at risk of being destroyed. And despite the annoying hoops I still haven't jumped through, I believe the licensing is a good idea, as we need to know who is on the controls of these invasive devices. We can only hope it is a group of tech-savvy kids with too much time on their hands.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

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FUNERAL NOTICES

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

SISTER JOAN SHEIL



Sister Joan Sheil, CHM, 90, died Dec. 24, 2024, at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center in Johnston. Services at Bishop Drumm Our Lady of Peace Chapel were Dec. 28. Services at Humility of Mary Center, Davenport, were Dec. 30. Burial was in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Davenport.

Margaret Joan Sheil was born July 28, 1934, in Des Moines and grew up in Mount Ayr. She entered the Congregation of the Humility of Mary (CHM) in 1955 and professed vows in 1958 as Sister Michael Maureen.

Sister was a lifelong learner dedicated to libraries and scholarship. She had bachelor's and master's degrees in library science. In addition to her formal degrees, she completed continuing education studies on numerous topics over the years.

Sr. Joan served Marycrest College/Marycrest-Teikyo University/Marycrest International University for 43 years, most recently as director of library services (1972-1999). Between 1991 and 1998, she had 19 committee appointments. She also enjoyed softball, tennis and camping. She taught numerous courses as well. After retiring from Marycrest, she served as a staff assistant at the Humility of Mary Center in Davenport for two years, and, from 2001-2017 served as archivist there. Since 2017, she exercised a ministry of prayer and witness at the Bishop Drumm Retirement Center.

Unafraid of change, Sr. Joan was an advocate for embracing new technology, encouraging early adoption of computers in the Marycrest library and working among the first librarians to link their collections online in the Quad Cities area. She was a member of, and served in many capacities, for numerous professional organizations.

She published on the topics of incorporating media into higher education and research, provided in-service workshops on topics of libraries and media, served as a panelist for regional and national library and audiovisual meetings, and was an evaluator for high school libraries through the North Central Association evaluation team and for the BOOKLIST publication of the American Library Association.

Her service also included the CHM community, for which she served on multiple committees concerning governance and development, and in 2000 she chaired the Stewardship Committee.

Sister Joan is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her cousins, Michael (Diane) Sheil, Sandy Sheil, Denise (Paul) Cameron, Donna Sheil, Janice Sheil and the religious community she shared life with for 69 years.

Memorials may be made to the Congregation of the Humility of Mary. Arrangements were by Iles Dunn's Chapel. ■

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. ■

CITYVIEW'S WINTER EVENT IS BACK!

FIRE & ICE

AN INTERACTIVE WINTER PUB CRAWL IN VALLEY JUNCTION

SATURDAY, JAN. 18 • 1-4 P.M.

**BREAK THE WINTER BLUES, GET OUT
AND HAVE FUN ON A SATURDAY
AFTERNOON IN VALLEY JUNCTION!**

**FOR \$25 TICKET PRICE*, YOU GET 10 TICKETS
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TICKETS AT FIRE-AND-ICE.DMCITYVIEW.COM

JOHNSTON LIBRARY NEWS

For information about all events and resources, visit www.johnstonlibrary.com or at 515-278-5233.

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.

The library is 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 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 or by calling the library at 515-278-5233. ■

LIONS HOLD OPEN HOUSE FOR VENUE

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. ■

MOVIE MAKERS: FILMMAKING FOR KIDS

Lights! Camera! Action! Learn the basics of filmmaking in this three-part class for kids in grades 3-5 on Thursdays, Jan. 6, 13 and 20, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Johnston Public Library, 6700 Merle Hay Road. By the end of the series, participants will have written, filmed and edited their own video. Register for Part 1: Screenwriting and be automatically registered for all three sessions. For more information and registration, visit www.johnstonlibrary.com. ■

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. ■

FAMILY PUZZLE COMPETITION

Get your team together and sign up for the first library Family Puzzle Competition on Saturday, Jan. 18, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Johnston Public Library, 6700 Merle Hay Road. Teams will have two hours to complete a 500-piece puzzle. Teams who complete the puzzle in time get a prize. First team to complete it gets a grand prize. Register each participant (kids ages 9 and older and adults) with the same team name. Arrive early because the clock will start at exactly 2:30 p.m. Register at www.johnstonlibrary.com. ■

CITY HALL AND LIBRARY CLOSED FOR THE MLK HOLIDAY

Johnston City Hall and the Johnston Public Library will be closed on Monday, Jan. 20, to observe the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Trash and recycling pickup days will remain the same. The Johnston City Council work session and meeting have been rescheduled to Tuesday, Jan. 21. ■

EVENTS IN THE AREAEMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**THEATRE****ACTORS, INC. - AMES COMMUNITY THEATER**120 Abraham Drive, Ames
actorsinc.org

- Jan. 23-25, 31, Feb. 1-2: "Angel Street"

DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTSDes Moines Civic Center, Cowles Commons, Stoner
Theater, Temple Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines
desmoinesperformingarts.org

- Jan. 9: Capital City Pride Presents: "V Spehar"
- Jan. 25: "A Night of Magic and Comedy"
- Jan. 28 to Feb. 2: "Shucked"

TALLGRASS THEATRE COMPANY2019 Grand Ave., Suite 100, West Des Moines
tallgrasstheatre.org

- Jan. 31 to Feb. 16: "Ripcord"

STEPHENS AUDITORIUM1900 Center Drive, Ames
center.iastate.edu/events

- Jan. 24: "Matt Mathews: Boujee On A Budget"

LIVE MUSIC**WOOLY'S**

504 E. Locust St., Des Moines

firstfleetconcerts.com/first-fleet-venues/woolys

- Jan. 18: The Prince Experience at 8:30 p.m.
- Jan. 24: Smells Like Nirvana: A Tribute to Nirvana at 8 p.m.
- Jan. 26: Beach Bunny at 8 p.m.
- Jan. 30: Aaron Watson at 8 p.m.

DES MOINES CIVIC CENTER

221 Walnut St., Des Moines

www.desmoinesperformingarts.org

- Jan. 31: Judy Carmichael

DES MOINES SYMPHONYDes Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines
dmsymphony.org

- Feb. 8-9: Chen conducts Rachmaninoff

- Feb. 12: Youth Jazz Orchestra Winter Concert

HOYT SHERMAN PLACE

1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines

hoytsherman.org

- Feb. 4: Guster at 8 p.m.
- Feb. 7: Folsom Prison Experience at 8 p.m.

NOCE

1326 Walnut St., Suite 100, Des Moines

nocedsm.com

- Jan. 18: Fly Me To The Moon: Max Wellman Sings Sinatra at 7 p.m.
- Jan. 22: The Des Moines Big Band at 7 p.m.
- Jan. 24: The Art of the Trio with Mike Conrad at 7 p.m.
- Jan. 25: Fly Me To The Moon: Max Wellman Sings Sinatra at 7 p.m.
- Jan. 29: The Des Moines Big Band at 7 p.m.
- Jan. 31: For Once in my Life: A Night of Stevie, Luther and more with Napoleon Douglas at 7 p.m.
- Feb. 1: NOLA Jazz Band: Something Old, Something New, Something Bowered, Something Blues at 7 p.m.
- Feb. 6: Jazz on the House with the Carson Parker Trio at 7 p.m.
- Feb. 7: Bojangles: Napoleon Douglas sings Sammy Davis Jr. at 7 p.m.

VIBRANT MUSIC HALL

2938 Grand Prairie Parkway, Waukee

www.vibrantmusic hall.com

- Feb. 7: Wallows at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 8: R&B Only at 7:45 p.m.

VAL AIR BALLROOM

301 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines

www.firstfleetconcerts.com/val-air-ballroom

- Jan. 31: Ella Langley at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 1: Paul Cauthen at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 6: Zach Top at 8 p.m.
- Feb. 7: NOCAP at 8 p.m. ■

RECIPE

CONVENIENT BREAKFAST TO KICKSTART THE NEW YEAR

(Family Features) Starting the morning on the right foot can set the tone for a productive day. Even when crunched for time before work or school, eating a filling breakfast before heading out the door is an important part of setting yourself up for success.

Between work, kids and making it to that early morning workout session, finding time to prepare a quick and tasty meal can be a real challenge. For a flavorful and easy breakfast that can be on the table in just 8 minutes when you're in a rush, try this Quick Breakfast Skillet. With crispy bacon, scrambled eggs and rich cheddar cheese, it's a perfect way to fuel your morning.

The secret, convenient ingredient: fluffy Minute Butter & Sea Salt Jasmine Rice Cups. Ready in just 60 seconds to fit into the day with no hassle, this versatile and flavorful ingredient is perfectly portioned in a BPA-free cup and features a delicious blend of familiar flavors to liven up breakfast. ■

QUICK BREAKFAST SKILLET

Prep time: 2 minutes

Cook time: 6 minutes

Servings: 1

Ingredients:

- 1 Minute Butter & Sea Salt Jasmine Rice Cup
- 1 slice bacon, chopped
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- cracked black pepper

Directions:

Heat rice according to package directions.

Heat medium frying pan over medium heat and add bacon. Cook about 4 minutes, or to desired doneness.

Scramble egg and add to frying pan. Cook 1 minute, or to desired doneness.

In bowl, mix rice, egg and bacon mixture and cheese. Top with cracked black pepper.



Tips:

Breakfast sausage or breakfast potatoes can be substituted for bacon. Add favorite hot sauce for a little heat.

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City of Johnston photo

SNOW REMOVAL REGULATIONS

The city of Johnston has a snow ordinance that aims to simplify parking regulations during snow and/or ice removal operations. The ordinance requires people to remove their vehicles from city streets during snow removal activities. This helps to improve efficiency and safety for street crews and first responders. The city of Johnston may declare a snow ordinance based on several factors such as snow, sleet, freezing rain and blowing snow. Note the following regulations:

- No parking on a city street, alley or city-owned off-street parking once the snow emergency has been declared.
- A snow emergency parking ban shall continue from its proclamation through 5 p.m. the following day. The parking ban may be extended using the same process to enact the original snow emergency if conditions require additional time to clear the snow and/or ice.
- Vehicles parked on the street during a snow emergency will be ticketed \$25 and may be towed.
- When a snow emergency is put into effect, the declaration will be communicated, along with the start and stop times for the parking restrictions in a red bar at the top of the city website, via text and email alerts (sign up by visiting "Notifications" at www.cityofjohnston.com), via the city of Johnston Facebook and Twitter pages, via local news and radio channels.

SNOW REGULATIONS FOR SIDEWALKS AND PRIVATE PROPERTIES

No one may place, throw, or push snow onto city streets from private property, sidewalks or driveways.

All sidewalks adjacent to private property are the responsibility of the property owner. Sidewalks must be cleared of snow within 48 hours after a snowfall, or a fine may be issued.

City snow plows will not clear private driveways or private property except to allow emergency vehicles access to private property for fire, police or EMS calls. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

LOOKING TO BUY VINYL RECORDS:

Paying cash for 60's-90's rock and jazz and blues. Please call Brian at 515-326-5033.

WANTED: Stereo & electronic radio stuff receivers speakers guitar amp etc. Any age or condition is OK. Call 515-238-3343.

BICYCLES WANTED: Any condition is ok. For parts or repair. Will pick them up. Phone 515-238-3343.

WANTED: Electronics, stereo receivers, guitar or amps, speakers, radios, etc. Any age or condition for parts or repair. Call 515-445-6023.

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