

Living

RESIDENTS' CHOICE AWARDS

Dallas County residents share their favorites

Meet Nick Saluri

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Residents' Choice. Those two simple words have a lot of meaning to those who are recognized and those who seek out the people, businesses, places and events that are honored.

Yes, we have once again compiled the results of our local Residents' Choice poll, the only one of its kind. It is truly unique in two significant ways.

First, our poll is mailed to every residential household in the pages of this magazine with a link to an open website. That makes the poll available to every single resident. No exclusions.

Second, our poll has open-ended questions, which means we don't load the ballots with pre-determined answers to try to sway it in a certain way. The results are what they are. You will likely agree with some of them, and you will disagree with others — kind of like political elections. But, in this poll, all who are recognized are winners, and the end result is a great positive for all involved.

Readers of this publication have proven to seek out the winners and spend their time, energy and money with them. The poll results have become a customized search engine of sorts, providing valuable information on the choices of local residents in a variety of categories that are important to them.

Those who have been chosen tell me how much of an impact this directly has on them, their businesses and their organizations. Being recognized for positive contributions is seemingly always great, but when it helps create commerce, it is even better — and this Residents' Choice poll is a commerce-creating machine.

I explain this next point each year, but it is worth noting again. Those recognized in this poll are the choices of our readers — local residents. Although we agree with many of you on your choices, we do not pick them, and we have no impact on the results. I wouldn't have it any other way.

Other organizations are continuing to try to implement polls like ours, but none have the reach and credibility that ours has. You can't blame others for trying to imitate what we do, but you can question how they implement their polls and how many people actually vote in them.

Meanwhile, I thank all of you who took the time to vote in this year's Residents' Choice poll. Your votes do make an incredible difference. And, if you didn't vote, well, there is always next year.

Thanks for reading. ■

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RESIDENTS' CHOICE AWARDS

Dallas County residents share their favorites



Residents of Dallas County have again weighed in on their favorite businesses, people, events and places in the latest Residents' Choice poll. The poll results share residents' top three choices in dozens of categories, many of which are extremely competitive with a handful of votes separating the winner from the runners up. Consequently, we view them all as winners. They have captured the favor of people who live in Dallas County and who know the businesses, people, events and places of the area best.

Some winners are now going on three or more years at the top of their categories. Their supporters have proven to be a loyal bunch. Others are new to the awards list, showing they have made a good impression over the last year and are building up a strong

following as well.

Waukee residents won't have far to go to enjoy many of the winners and runners up. Stop in at Mickey's Irish Pub or The Kee for drinks and dinner; Waukee Ice Cream Shoppe for a scoop of your favorite flavor; Shottenkirk Chevrolet or Stivers Ford Lincoln for a new ride; and Triumph Park for a family outing. These are only a few of the Waukee top three. Read on for the others.

If you aren't familiar with any of the winners, give those businesses, events and places a visit and find out why they are residents' favorites. And if you didn't vote this year, be sure to next time. It may be your vote that makes a difference and lifts one of your favorites into the top tier of the Residents' Choice poll.

Justin Cottrell and Kevin McCormick of Fareway, which was voted favorite grocery store by residents.

FEATURE

Dallas County Residents' Choice for Favorite..

(Runners up in alphabetical order; *indicates repeat winner.)

Restaurant

Fiesta Mexican Restaurant

Runners up: Ambro's Roadhouse; Patrick's Restaurant

Restaurant for breakfast

* Patrick's Restaurant

Runners up: Early Bird Brunch; Waveland Cafe West

Restaurant for lunch

Fiesta Mexican Restaurant

Runners up: Ambro's Roadhouse; Patrick's Restaurant

Restaurant for dinner

Fiesta Mexican Restaurant

Runners up: Ambro's Roadhouse; Mickey's Irish Pub

Restaurant for dessert

* Billy's Ice Cream Store

Runners up: Home Sweet Cone Ice Cream; Patrick's Restaurant

Place for ice cream

Billy's Ice Cream Store

Runners up: Home Sweet Cone Ice Cream; Waukee Ice Cream Shoppe

Pizza establishment

* Casey's

Runners up: 7 Stone Pizzeria; Patrick's Restaurant

Bar

The Kee

Runners up: Ambro's Roadhouse; Mickey's Irish Pub

Coffee shop

* The Morning Grind

Runners up: The Coffeesmith; Scooter's Coffee

Catering company

* Hy-Vee Catering

Runners up: Kue'd Smokehouse; Snappy's Stick Fire Barbecue

Server/bartender

Samantha Tonelli, The Kee

Runners up: Brent Kolk, Corner Tap; Miranda Broeker, Ambro's Roadhouse

Auto service

* Alley Auto Sales

Runners up: Adel Tire & Service; Lund Motors

Auto body shop

Modern Motors

Runners up: Graham Collision; Olson's Body & Paint

Car dealership

* Shottenkirk Chevrolet

Runners up: Stivers Ford Lincoln; Willis Automotive

Preschool/daycare

Raccoon River Preschool

Runners up: Faith's Flock Preschool; University Kids

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FEATURE

Nonprofit

* Waukee Area Christian Services

Runners up: Adel Good Samaritan Food Pantry; AHeinz57 Pet Rescue & Transport

School

* Meadow View Elementary

Runners up: Adel Elementary; ADM High School

Park

* Triumph Park

Runners up: Centennial Park; Evans Park

Community festival

* Adel Sweet Corn Festival

Runners up: Dallas County Fair; Waukee Arts Festival

Church

* Lutheran Church of Hope

Runners up: New Hope Church; St. John's Catholic Church

Pastor

* Mike Housholder

Runners up: Matt Krause; Ryan Whitson

Chamber of commerce

* Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce

Runners up: Adel Partners Chamber of Commerce; Perry Chamber of Commerce

Library

* Adel Public Library

Runners up: Van Meter Public Library; Waukee Public Library

Camping spot

Des Moines KOA West Holiday

Runners up: Dallas County Fair Campgrounds; Timberline Campground

Grocery store

* Fareway Meat & Grocery

Runners up: Aldi; Hy-Vee

Boutique

* Azalea Lane Boutique

Runners up: Mainstream Boutique; Real Deals

Retail store

Azalea Lane Boutique

Runners up: Real Deals; The Tiger Shop by Iconic

Thrift Store

* Goodwill of Central Iowa

Runners up: Many Hands Thrift Market; The Salvation Army Thrift Store

Home improvement retail store

Waukee Hardware & Rent-It Center

Runners up: Baldon Hardware; Lowe's

Liquor store

World Liquor & Tobacco + Vapors

Runners up: Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits; University Liquors

Nursery or garden center

* Harvey's Greenhouse

Runners up: Bentley Ridge Tree Farm & Nursery; Earl May Garden Center

Place to purchase a gift for a man

Old Station Craft Meats

Runners up: Baldon Hardware; The Tiger Shop by Iconic

Place to purchase a gift for a woman

Azalea Lane Boutique

Runners up: Real Deals; Adel Flowers & Gifts

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FEATURE

Bakery

River to River Bakery & Pizza

Runners up: 5 Borough Bakery; Black Water Bakery

Florist

* Adel Flowers & Gifts

Runners up: Hazel Mae Floral Events; Hy-Vee

Dad/child date spot

* Adel Family Fun Center

Runners up: The Palms Theatre & IMAX; Warrior Lanes

Mom/child date spot

* Adel Family Fun Center

Runners up: The Morning Grind; The Palms Theatre & IMAX

Place to take your mom and dad

Fiesta Mexican Restaurant

Runners up: The Brenton Arboretum; Early Bird Brunch

Place to take your kids or grandkids

Triumph Park

Runners up: Adel Family Fun Center; The Palms Theatre & IMAX

Children's birthday party spot

* Adel Family Fun Center

Runners up: Tigers' Den; Warrior Lanes

Golf course

* Sugar Creek Golf Course

Runners up: Hillcrest Country Club; River Valley Golf Course

Hair salon

* Texture Salon

Runners up: Hairs2You; Studio 10

Physician's clinic

* The Iowa Clinic

Runners up: MercyOne; UnityPoint Health

Dental office

* Adel Family Dentistry

Runners up: Adel Dental Group; Lush Family Dental



Nick Lenters, owner of Old Station Craft Meats, with house-made bacon. The store was residents' favorite place to buy a gift for a man.

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FEATURE

Orthodontics office

* Johnson Orthodontics

Runners up: Bernhardt and Smith Orthodontics; Central Iowa Orthodontics

Mental health services

Lifetime Therapy Services PLLC

Runners up: Lambertsen Therapeutic Services; Optima LifeServices

Chiropractic office

Luellen Chiropractic

Runners up: Key Potential Chiropractic; Waukee Wellness & Chiropractic

Vision care

* Elite Eye Care

Runners up: Adel Vision Clinic; Wolfe Eye Clinic

Health club or gym

* Waukee Family YMCA

Runners up: Fit & Fierce 515; SOULSHINE yoga + fitness

Pharmacy

Sumpter Pharmacy

Runners up: Adel HealthMart; Medicap

Cosmetic services

The Kissed Peach Integrative Aesthetics & Wellness

Runners up: Chelsis Skin Therapy; Reese Hood Lash and Brow

Physical therapy

* Core Physical Therapy

Runners up: Athletico Physical Therapy; Maximum Physical Therapy

Dance studio

Let's Dance

Runners up: Adel Tumbling & Dance Club; Premiere Dance Project

Gymnastics and/or tumbling studio

Adel Tumbling & Dance Club

Runners up: Jacobs Gymnastics; Sapphire Gymnastics Academy

Audiologist/hearing clinic

The Iowa Clinic

Runners up: MercyOne Clive ENT Care Clinic; Wolfe Audiology

CBD Store

* CBD American Shaman

Runners up: CIV Plus; Sumpter Pharmacy

Financial planner

* Travis Gaule, Edward Jones

Runners up: Bob Grove, Edward Jones; Brad Heyer, Edward Jones

Law firm

Bergkamp, Hemphill & McClure, P.C.

Runners up: Brown, Fagen & Rouse; Hopkins & Huebner, P.C.

Accounting firm

* Banwart Tax & Accounting

Runners up: Meriwether, Wilson & Company, PLLC; Peter M. Comito, CPA

Veterinarian

* Adel Veterinary Clinic

Runners up: Broderick Animal Clinic; The Animal Hospital of Adel

Dog groomer

* Handsome Hounds Boarding and Grooming

Runners up: Perry Paw Spa; Stylin' Paws

Pet care

* Handsome Hounds Boarding and Grooming

Runners up: Adel Veterinary Clinic; Dogtopia

Lawn care business

Grassy Knoll Lawn Care, LLC

Runners up: Innovative Lawn Solutions, LLC; Luke's Lawn & Landscaping

Landscaping company

* Executive Outdoor Solutions

Runners up: Ripke Outdoor; RJ Lawn & Landscape

Heating and cooling business

* Adel & Winterset TV & Appliance

Runners up: Baldon Plumbing, Heating & Cooling; Tigges Comfort Services

Electrical business

* Elite Electric & Utility Contractors

Runners up: Slycord Electric Co.; Webster Electric Inc.

Plumbing company

Home Run Plumbing

Runners up: Baldon Plumbing, Heating & Cooling; Lenhart Plumbing

Senior living establishment

Edgewater Senior Living Community

Runners up: Attivo Trail - Waukee; Village Cooperative of West Des Moines



The Kee, owned by Joel and Megan Pinkerton, was Dallas County residents' choice for favorite bar.

Insurance Agency

* Eric Schepers Insurance

Runners up: Luellen Richardson Insurance Inc.; Valor Insurance Services

Realtor

* Julianna Cullen, RE/MAX Precision

Runners up: Donna Stall, RE/MAX Concepts; Kevin Howe, RE/MAX Precision

Bank/credit union

Lincoln Savings Bank

Runners up: Racoon Valley Bank; Veridian Credit Union

Photographer

* DKay Photography - Danielle Hawkins

Runners up: Kelsey Arganbright Photography; LE Photo Design - Lori Mortensen

Place for guests to stay

* Big Blue Bed & Breakfast

Runners up: Aloft Waukee; Hotel Pattee

Home builder/remodeling contractor

RCI Builders

Runners up: Cody Bailey Construction & Remodel; NexGen Baths

Outdoor lawn equipment store

* Waukee Power Equipment

Runners up: Baldon Hardware; Waukee Hardware & Rent-It Center

Pest Control

* Paul's AAA Pest Control

Runner up: Central Iowa Pest Control; Fenix Pest Control, Inc. ■

RETHINKING your IRA

The evolution and tax strategies

IRAs play a key role in retirement planning for many Americans. According to the Investment Company Institute, 42% (or 55.5 million) of U.S. households reported owning an IRA in 2023.



Since its introduction in 1974, the Individual Retirement Account (IRA) has transformed from being solely offered by banks with limited investment choices to being available through various carriers that provide hundreds of investment options.

The contribution limit started at \$1,500 and was only increased once between 1974 and 2001. The 2025 limit is \$7,000 for those under age 50 and \$8,000 for those 50 and older.

One of the initial attractions of traditional IRAs is that they are tax-deferred. This means that contributions may be fully or partially deductible (depending on filing status and income), and earnings and gains are not taxed

until you take distributions.

They are a great way to save for retirement, especially as few employers offer pensions. However, a consequential factor that many overlook is the tax implications of withdrawing IRA funds in retirement. As the IRA grows, so does the tax bill. The tax-deferred nature of these accounts can essentially be viewed as a loan from the IRS. Essentially, your pre-tax IRA represents a debt to the IRS that you might have to repay at a less than convenient time — when you retire and perhaps desire financial simplicity more than ever.

This is where strategies like Roth conversions come into play. Converting a portion of your pre-tax IRA to a Roth IRA involves paying taxes on the converted amount at the time of the conversion. However, once the funds are in the Roth IRA, they grow tax-free, and qualified distributions are also tax-free. For most, this can significantly reduce the overall tax burden throughout retirement.

The Roth conversion is not the only strategy to consider. Qualified Charitable

Distributions (QCDs) offer another powerful tool. A QCD is a tax-free transfer of funds from an IRA to a qualified charity. Once you reach 70 1/2, you can transfer funds directly from your IRA to a qualifying charity annually (the limit is \$108,000 for 2025). This transfer counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) requirements when those kick in at age 73 or 75, depending on when you were born. For those already inclined to charitable giving, this is a win-win scenario — supporting causes you care about and lowering your RMD and possibly your retirement tax bill. The key is to think ahead now about how the IRA that helped you get to retirement could become tax-efficient income in retirement. ■

Information provided by Loren Merkle CFP®, RICP®, Certified Financial Fiduciary®, Merkle Retirement Planning, 1860 S.E. Princeton Drive, Grimes, 515-278-1006. Source: Investment Company Institute (2024, February 24) IRAs Play a Key Role in US Households' Retirement Planning [Press Release www.ici.org/files/2024/per30-01.pdf]



Learn what other tax strategies you could implement in this episode of *Retiring Today with Loren Merkle*. Scan the QR code to watch now.



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A WARRIOR at heart

Trembly fond of quiet neighborhoods and top-notch schools.

Ben Trembly has seen Waukee grow and change over the years, but, for him, it's the consistent sense of community and safety that has made it feel like home.

Having lived in the city off and on since 2001, Trembly, a Waukee Warrior alumnus from the Class of 2007, continues

to appreciate everything the community offers — from the quiet neighborhoods to the top-notch schools.

"I have always felt safe compared to other cities I have lived in," he says.

That feeling of safety has been a key factor in his decision to keep coming back to Waukee. In a world where cities are growing and changing rapidly, Waukee has maintained a welcoming, secure atmosphere that makes it stand out. For Trembly, that peace of mind is invaluable.

Another thing that keeps Trembly connected to Waukee is the quality of the local schools. The Waukee Community School District has been a source of pride for the community for years, and Trembly is no exception in his praise for it. He believes the schools are one of the biggest draws for families moving to the area and a reason why so many residents stay.

Beyond the schools and safety, Trembly also appreciates the friendly and quiet neighborhoods that make Waukee an ideal place to live. His current home is a reflection of what he loves most about the area — it's a comfortable place with neighbors who are welcoming and respectful.

Reflecting on his time in Waukee, Trembly is proud to be a Waukee Warrior and to have been part of a community that has always made him feel at home. The experiences he had growing up in Waukee shaped his appreciation for the city, and those same values keep him grounded today.

"I love living in Waukee," he says. "I like everything that Waukee has to offer in the community."

As Waukee continues to grow and attract new residents, Trembly is a testament to the lasting impact a community can have — and why so many people continue to call Waukee home. ■



Over the years, Ben Trembly has seen Waukee grow and change but says it has remained a great place to live.

ANOTHER Dance

Novel by Angela Youngers draws on real life.

"Everyone has a story worth telling," is Angela Youngers' mantra.

The story she is telling is through her recently published novel, 'Another Dance.'

Youngers always has a "story in her head." Her fiction book talks about how a young woman, Annie, struggles with grief after the death of her husband and finds solace by enrolling in a ballroom dance class.

The character's struggle to redefine herself and identity is captured in this book.

Youngers says the book interweaves true-life stories of people and situations she's encountered over the years. By taking bits and pieces of real life, it has helped create the content of her book.

"Annie has two kids, and I have two kids. There are parts of myself in the book I can relate to," she explains. "One of them is mom guilt."

She says, by being a mom and a teacher, she often invests her energy into other people.

"It's hard being a mom. Sometimes we have to go through hardship and not lose ourselves. My character is not perfect — like myself. I make mistakes, forgive myself and move forward."

Youngers likes how the character has helped in her own personal life.

"I've learned it's OK to invest in myself. Writing a book — I was taking a chance. It's given me validation that I can do something and provides a creative outlet," she reflects.

Youngers has followed a creative path most of her life. She has acted, sang and loves performing. She directed school theater in West Des Moines until she had two kids, and her priorities and time shifted.

"These little humans came along," she explains.

She is currently an English, speech and theater teacher at Waukee Northwest High School. She's head of the Iowa High School Speech



Angela Youngers will be at book events with her novel, "Another Dance."

Association team at Waukee.

In her English classes, her editing skills have made her a better teacher when correcting students' work. Additionally, another teacher helped edit her book.

"It's vulnerable to show your work and see all the edit marks. It's tough to change words you've created," she says.

Since the book release, she's attended a few author events. The book was published locally at Book Press Publishing. Since it's not self-published, she can get her books into local libraries and book stores.

"I'm a no-name author," she admits. "It's a slow process. When people come to an event, it's a special thing. For those who support you, it's eye opening and heartwarming."

She's writing a second book, which has taken her to various Iowa landmarks for research. As she puts in time and effort, she hopes her writing touches the reader.

"I think, in every story, someone can take something from it. I hope I can help readers with this book."

Find "Another Dance" on Feb. 1 at Beaverdale Books and Feb. 6 at Urbandale Library's Galentine's Day event, or visit www.bookpresspublishing.com/authors/angela-youngers. ■

NEW YEAR, new plan

Staying independent at home as you age

Chris, 72, has lived in her home in West Des Moines for nearly 50 years and plans to remain there forever, but her son and daughter-in-law are concerned. Chris is healthy, but if she needs assistance at some point, her family won't be able to help, as they live abroad.



I do?"

Consider a Continuing Care at Home (CC@H) membership initiative. Usually administered by an organization that serves older adults, a CC@H program is 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.

Here are some questions you'll want to consider asking before you join a program:

- **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.

- **How long has the organization that's backing the program been in business, and what's its reputation in the senior-living industry?** Even if the program itself does offer all the services you're looking for, make sure you're comfortable with the organization itself. 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. ■

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.

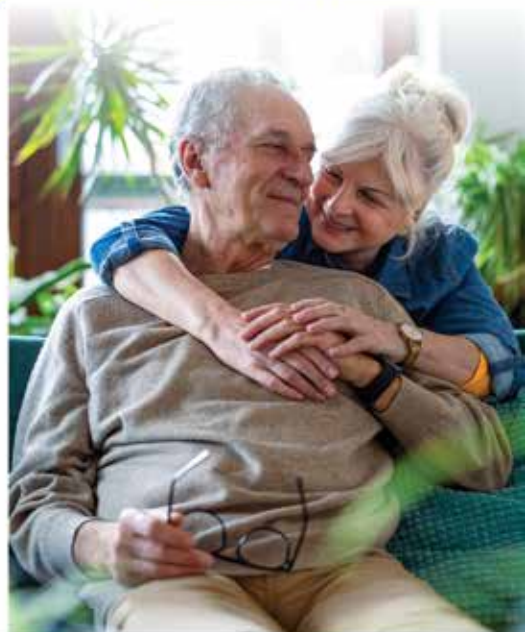
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ENGEBRECHT helps feed children near and far

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When Kayla Engebrecht talked with her friend, Ellen Miller of Indianola, she became intrigued with the concept of Mary's Meals. Miller became involved with Mary's Meals after her son began working in Africa. Mary's Meals provides food to kids at their place of education and was established in 2002. It's named in honor of Mother Mary; however, the organization is not faith-based and helps all in need.

As she learned more about the non-profit, Engebrecht quickly became involved.

"After Ellen and I started chatting, it blew up from there. I told her I'd love to help," she recalls.

She helps with fundraising events, such as a concert series, concerts at Jasper Winery, a 5K run and T-shirt sales.

After volunteering for Mary's Meals, she realized hungry children are also suffering in Iowa. That led her to form a local non-profit, Heartland For Kids. The local group provides food for kids in Iowa. At various events, food is collected for local food pantries and shelters.



Travis Gaule of Edward Jones congratulates Kayla Engebrecht, this month's Neighbor Spotlight recipient.

Engebrecht says the Mary's Meals group from Iowa provides food for 3,000 students in three schools in Malawi. Kids must attend school to receive the food.

"One of the things I love is that kids get fed at their place of education. This is what will change their lives. By getting an education, they're changing lives. Our motto is 'School + Food = Hope.' "

In addition to feeding children, the rest of the Malawi community also benefits. Food is grown by local famers. Cooks and volunteers at the sites pitch in to help.

Not all schools look like typical U.S. schools. Some meet in villages at a gathering place, while some kids are in the prison system. The biggest takeaway is that, if kids attend school, they'll get fed.

"It's like a lunch ticket for a whole year. It's amazing," says Engebrecht.

Adding a local angle to the Mary's Meals efforts made sense.

"People love helping kids and helping locally," she says.

The T-shirt sales offer a great marketing tool.


"I was at a nursing home, wearing my Mary's Meals shirts. People ask what it's about. Buying a T-shirt is like a walking billboard," Engebrecht says.

Mary's Meals and Heartland For Kids encourages folks who want to help feed kids.


"It's all about sharing little acts of love," Engebrecht says.

For more information on Heartland for Kids, visit www.heartlandforkids.com. To have Ellen Miller speak about Mary's Meals, or for other information, send an email to lovereacheseverywhere@gmail.com. ■

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

MEET Nick Saluri

Watching students grow in confidence



Nick Saluri teaches kindergarten at Waterford Elementary.

Originally from Johnston, Nick Saluri attended Iowa State University where he received a degree in elementary education. He also received a master's degree in teacher effectiveness and professional development from Drake University. Saluri is now in his sixth year teaching kindergarten with the Waukee Community School District. He first taught for five years at Radiant Elementary School before joining Waterford Elementary School this year.

“My favorite thing about working in the district is the strong sense of community and collaboration. There is a high value placed on our relationships with students, families and coworkers. It is a very supportive place to work and learn,” Saluri says.

Saluri likes teaching students in kindergarten because he has the opportunity to witness the growth that takes place from August to May. During the school year, his students participate in a variety of activities and projects. As part of their study on living and non-living things, Saluri's students carve a pumpkin named Pumpkin Jack and then watch it decompose in a clear box. Together, they also celebrate the 100th Day of School by dressing like grandfathers and grandmothers.

“The most rewarding thing as an educator is to watch my students grow in their confidence within reading, writing and math. It is amazing to watch students view themselves as readers, writers and mathematicians,” Saluri says.

In addition to classroom activities, Saluri's students explore their community by attending various field trips. Some of these field trips have included the Science Center, Blank Park Zoo, the Civic Center, and the Pumpkin Patch. During the school year, Saluri also works to develop a classroom community where all of his students feel safe, loved and welcomed when they walk through the doors every morning.

“Kindergartners are enthusiastic, curious, loving and creative. It is such a joy to teach them,” Saluri says. ■



Protect Your Loved Ones from RSV

RSV is a common respiratory virus, which peaks in the winter months.

RSV can be dangerous for infants and older adults. These age groups are more likely to be hospitalized from RSV.

Talk to your family's healthcare providers about RSV prevention.

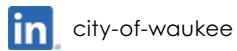




City of Waukee Bulletin JANUARY 2025

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

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Waukee on



Waukee.org



Waukee City Hall
230 W. Hickman Rd.
515-978-7900



100+ Seasonal Jobs Open with the City of Waukee

If you're looking for a summer job, check out a wide range of roles at Waukee.org/Jobs. If you love being outside and seeing the results of your efforts, a laborer, grounds keeper or field crew opening could be a great fit. If you enjoy interacting with people and want to gain customer service experience, a concession, clubhouse or recreation program role could suit you. Roles range from 10 to 40+ hours weekly with wages ranging from \$11-21 per hour, depending on position. College students with internship hours to fill can try out a future career path with two internships.

Parks & Recreation Department

- Parks Laborer
- Recreation Program Assistant I
- Recreation Program Assistant II
- Recreation Site Supervisor
- Triumph Park
 - Concession Attendant
 - Lead Concession Attendant
 - Triumph Park Site Supervisor
 - Field Crew
 - Field Crew Lead
- Sugar Creek Municipal Golf Course
 - Clubhouse Assistant
 - Clubhouse Lead
 - Golf Course Attendant
 - Golf Course Grounds Keeper
 - Golf Course Maintenance Laborer

Public Works Department

- Water/Wastewater Laborer
- Streets Laborer (Truck Driver, Mower, Laborer)
- Gas Laborer
- Truck Driver

Internships

- Parks & Recreation
- Sugar Creek Municipal Golf Course

Dates to Know

City Offices and Public Library Closed
February 17
No delay for trash pick-up

Regular City Council Meetings
February 3 & 18 at 5:30 p.m.
Waukee City Hall and Zoom



Special Election: Gas Utility Sale Referendum

The Mayor and City Council have heard concerns about the cost of natural gas services in Waukee compared to neighboring communities. After extensive review, the Waukee City Council is holding a Special Election on March 4, so voters can decide if the City should pursue a sale of the utility. The referendum will pass if more than 50% of voters are in favor. City Council would evaluate proposals and work to secure a favorable deal for Waukee. If they are unable to negotiate a deal in the best interest of customers, the council can decide not to sell the gas utility. Find more information at Waukee.org/SpecialElection.



Improved Report a Concern Form

You can report non-emergency concerns, like potholes, at Waukee.org/ReportaConcern. The updated form lets you mark the location on a map. Please include photos and details about the issue to help City staff address it quickly. You don't need to log in to submit a concern, but adding your contact info helps with follow-up questions.



Do not use the form for emergencies or urgent issues. Instead, call 911 for emergencies requiring police, fire or medical services. For a gas leak or water main break, call 515-249-1212 any time day or night. To report non-emergency situations to the Police or Fire departments, call dispatch at 515-222-3321. Report street light or power outages to MidAmerican Energy through their online portal or calling 1-888-427-5632. For garbage, recycling and yard waste questions or pick-ups, call Ankeny Sanitation, Inc. (ASI) at 515-964-5229.

Sled & Skate in Waukee

Warrior Park Sledding Hill was specially engineered just for sledding. Take the gravel lane south of the cemetery and head toward the water tower to access parking. The outdoor skating rink in Grant Park at 605 SE Driftwood Lane is free to the public and has designated hours for free skating and hockey. Check the signs at the rink before getting onto the ice. Follow Waukee.org and City of Waukee social media pages for ice rink updates.



Girls Rec Softball

Waukee Parks & Recreation has a popular recreational softball league for girls in kindergarten through 7th grade. Teams will be formed in early March with practices beginning after spring break. The season runs early April through mid-June with games Monday-Thursday nights at Triumph Park. Sign your player up at Waukee.org/Registration. If you want to be a volunteer coach, email parksandrec@Waukee.org.



2025 Pet Licenses & Dog Park Passes

It's time to get Waukee pets licensed for 2025. To renew or apply for a pet license, go to PetData.com. Dog and cat licenses are required per City ordinance. Trailside Dog Park passes for 2025 are available at Waukee.MyBarkPass.com. Registering for a day or annual pass will come with a code that enables you to unlock the gate.



Registration Opens for Spring and Summer Recreation Programs
March 3, 8 a.m.
Waukee.org/Registration

Special Election for Gas Utility Sale
March 4
Various voting locations in Waukee



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INSURANCE

By Chase VanWerden

WATCH for winter weather damage to your home

Winter weather can be hard on your home. Here are some things to watch out for:



1. Frozen pipes.

Extreme cold temperatures can cause your pipes to freeze. Be sure you're familiar with where your shutoff valves are in your home. And never set your thermostat too low.

2. Roof damage.

There are several things that could damage your roof this winter. High winds can loosen shingles and send them flying. The weight of snow and ice could cause the roof to collapse. Lastly, ice dams can cause water to penetrate your home. Going on your roof can be dangerous anytime of the year. It's especially true during the winter months.

3. Concrete damage.

It's important to keep your sidewalks and driveway clear of ice and snow to prevent slips and falls. Unfortunately, shoveling, picking away at ice, and using de-icing products can cause damage, such as chips and cracks.

4. Deck damage.

Like your roof, the weight of snow and ice can cause damage to your deck. If snow begins to build up, it's a good idea to remove it. However, don't use a metal shovel or plastic shovel with a metal edge because they can damage the wood. If that's all you have, then remove the snow in layers and use a soft bristled push broom or leaf blower to remove the rest.

5. Cracked caulk.

If you feel a draft in your home, check around your windows. Cold temperatures can cause the caulk to crack. The last several winters, I've had to apply additional caulk around a few of my windows. It's an easy fix that can keep your home warmer this winter.

6. Gaps in hardwood floor or other trim.

Gaps in your wood doesn't necessarily mean damage occurred. It means that your home is extremely dry. Humidity levels in your home during the winter months should be between 30 and 50 percent.

7. Broken tree limbs.

High winds and the weight of ice and snow can damage your trees. Unfortunately, there's not much you can do to protect them. If the trees are too big, call a professional service to have them removed. If your home is damaged, make sure you report it to your insurance company right away. Depending on the damage, a restoration company may be needed.

8. Fire damage.

Nearly half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February. And, if you have an old electrical system, space heaters may tax their capacity. ■

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

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ifgtoday.com

MAKING the holidays brighter

Waukee American Legion Post 737 and Riders provide necessities and gifts.



The Waukee American Legion Riders prepare gifts for military and low-income families.

The Waukee American Legion Riders held their 15th Annual Toy Drive. The Riders provided gifts to six military families in central Iowa. They also provided gifts to a low-income Waukee family that consists of a single dad, his 3-year-old daughter, and the dad's younger brother.

The Riders provided food, clothing, toys, electronics and household necessities.

"We make sure every kid gets a new coat, new hat, new gloves, new boots and snowpants." John Parcel, director of the Riders says. "We make sure everyone's wants and needs are fulfilled. We also read between the lines and work to have everyone feeling the holiday spirit."

The men and women of the Waukee American Legion Post 737 held two clothing drives in December. Forty-one tubs and totes of lightly used and new clothing items were collected and given to adults and children who live in a low-income apartment complex in Des Moines.

The group bought more than 500 winter items: hats, gloves, socks, scarves, mittens. They delivered the items to a church that goes out every Saturday to four Des Moines homeless shelters, Reggie Bell, service officer for Waukee American Legion Post 737, said.

Bell recognized the help of Tom and Nancy Nichols, Attivo Trail (Waukee), Minburn Legion Post 99, Mary Jane and Beverly Gorman, Bob Aplin, John Parcel, Mary Woodard and Michael Thilges. ■



TIPS and tricks to prepare for that spring move

Planning a move in the spring can feel overwhelming, but getting organized early can make it much easier. Start by creating a timeline to map out important dates, like when to book movers, pack and transfer utilities. A clear plan keeps things running smoothly and avoids last-minute stress.

Spring is also the perfect time to declutter. Take advantage of the season to sort through your belongings and let go of anything you don't need. Whether you donate, sell or toss items, having less to pack saves you time, energy and money.

Since spring is a busy season for moving, book your movers or rental truck as early as possible. While you're at it, stock up on supplies like boxes, packing tape and markers. Having everything ready to go will make the process much simpler. Be sure to label each box with what's inside and which room it belongs to; it will make unpacking a breeze.

Spring weather can be unpredictable, so be prepared for rain by using plastic covers to protect your belongings. Don't forget to update your address with banks, doctors and other services, and set up mail forwarding to avoid any hiccups.

With a bit of planning and organization, your spring move can be a smooth and stress-free experience, leaving you ready to settle into your new home. ■



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

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WINTER WARMTH: your library, your resource, your sanctuary

As winter weather makes outdoor activities less inviting, prioritizing warmth and safety becomes essential. The Waukee Public Library is here to help, offering a range of services designed to keep you cozy and connected. Whether you need a new book, educational resources, or simply a warm place to relax, we've got you covered.

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.

Click & Collect: Your library at your fingertips

Minimize your time in the cold by taking advantage of the Library's Click & Collect service. With the Waukee Public Library mobile app, you can easily manage your checkouts, reserve items, and even participate in reading challenges — all from the comfort of your home. Download the app by searching "Waukee Public Library" in your app store and enjoy a seamless library experience.

How to use the service

- Place holds: Use the app to place holds on books, movies or any other library materials.
 - Get notified: When your items are ready, you'll receive a notification.
 - Pick up: Head to the south-side drop-off area of the library, and, when you arrive, press "I'm here!" in the app.
 - Drive up: Staff will bring your checked-out items directly to your car, ensuring a warm and quick handoff.

Storytime online

For families with young children, the Waukee Public Library offers a wonderful opportunity to enjoy storytime online. This resource is perfect for children ages 0 to 5 years old and their caregivers. Watch recordings of songs, rhymes and stories online, so you can create your own storytime anytime, no matter the weather.

Home delivery and additional services

The library offers home delivery for Waukee residents physically unable to visit due to illness, disability and special circumstances. Must reside within Waukee city limits.

Online resources for staying warm at home

The library's digital resources let you stay engaged and entertained without leaving home. Whether it's audiobooks, eBooks, or online learning, there's something for everyone. Check out our full catalog of digital resources available through our website or mobile app.

Your warm winter refuge: A warming center

The Waukee Public Library isn't just for books — it's also a designated warming center. If you need a safe, comfortable space to take a break



from the cold, come visit us. We offer cozy seating, free Wi-Fi, and a welcoming environment for anyone in need of warmth during the winter months. The warming center is available during regular library hours.

To discover more about the Waukee Public Library's warming services, Click & Collect, Storytime Online, and all the ways you can stay connected, visit waukeepubliclibrary.org or contact us at askme@waukee.org or 515-978-7944. The library is here to keep you warm, safe and engaged this winter season.

UPCOMING CLOSURES:

- Friday, Jan. 24, open at 1:30 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 17

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

Kids

Elementary Craft Lab (grades K-5), Friday, Feb. 21, 4 p.m. Design, create and make. Craft Lab is an open-ended art space exploring a different craft technique each month. This month, enjoy making cardboard cacti. Registration is required.

Teens

Teen Cake Decorating (grades 6-12), Monday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m. Join us in learning a tasty new skill. Practice frosting techniques as you learn to decorate your own miniature cake. Registration is required.

Adults

Painting Party, Friday, Feb. 7, 4 p.m. Embrace your inner artist with the help of an instructor from Painting with a Twist. Together, we'll walk through each step of creating an amazing acrylic painting. This hands-on art workshop is perfect for both beginners and advanced artists. All supplies will be provided. For adults ages 18 and older. Registration is required.

Multi-Age

Food Drive, Feb. 15 - March 15. Spread the love this spring by donating non-perishable food items. The library will collect donations for Waukee Area Christian Services. You can drop off needed items at the library's front desk during regular open hours. ■

Say, "Yes!" to Drinking Less

More than 2 drinks a day
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When you say "no thanks" to heavy drinking, you reduce your risk of alcohol-related health problems such as heart disease, liver disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and depression.

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cut back
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to get started.



PLANNING for children's financial futures

The last year has been challenging, especially for parents of school-aged children. There is a lot of stress involved in providing for your family. If you and your spouse both pass away, what will happen to the money you leave to your children? It is sometimes difficult for parents to plan for their children's financial futures, especially if the parents are no longer alive. But all it takes is one accident involving you and your spouse for these issues to impact your family.



If your children are minors when they inherit money, the court will create a conservatorship. This is a legal entity established to manage the money. A conservator will be appointed by the court, and that person will be in charge of the money.

A conservator may use the funds for the benefit of your children, but almost all expenditures require prior court approval. The conservator must make annual reports to the court of income and expenses. The conservator must post a bond. The bond, court costs, and attorney's fees are all expenses that will be paid from the money you left your children.

Regardless of your children's financial maturity, a conservatorship ends when the child turns 18. The teenager is free to spend the money as they wish, without court oversight.

A better alternative for most is to create a trust in their last will and testament. Both a trust and a conservatorship hold the money for the wards' benefit, so the money is preserved for your children. A trustee and a conservator have similar roles — they are duty-bound to manage the money wisely and preserve it for the child's benefit. However, the trust in your will can waive the bonding requirement, the court oversight and annual reporting. You can nominate a family member or trusted friend to manage your assets instead of allowing a court-appointed conservator.

The trust also allows you to decide when to terminate the trust. While a conservatorship terminates at age 18, your testamentary trust can terminate at any age you choose. Many parents want their children to have full access to the assets at a later age.

A simple will that contains a child trust is an easy and inexpensive way to prevent problems in the future. ■

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

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COZY, comforting recipes to take on the cold

(Family Features) If blustery conditions are giving you the blues, come inside from the cold for a winter warmup in the comfort of your own kitchen. Cold-weather favorites that are baked, roasted or slow cooked are usually equal parts easy, delicious and filling, making them perfect solutions for chilly, snowy days.

Add a bit of comfort to your weeknight menu with this Loaded Chicken Bake that's ready in about half an hour. A short list of ingredients and allowing your oven to do most of the work for you mean it's ideal for saving time (and money at the grocery store) while still satisfying winter appetites.

Serving as the hearty base is READ German Potato Salad, made with thinly sliced potatoes and bacon in a traditional sweet-piquant dressing. While it's delicious when served chilled, heated or at room temperature on its own, it can also be the star of the show in family meals.

Find more favorite wintertime recipes by visiting READSalads.com and AuntNellies.com. ■

Loaded chicken bake

Recipe courtesy of Hungry In LA

Prep time: 20 minutes | **Cook time:** 15 minutes

Servings: 8

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) READ German Potato Salad
- 4 cups shredded rotisserie chicken or other cooked chicken
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon finely ground black pepper
- 3/4 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup crumbled, cooked bacon
- French fried onions (optional), plus additional for serving (optional), divided

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 375 F.
- Lightly coat 9-by-13-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
- Spread German potato salad evenly in dish. Top evenly with chicken.
- In small bowl, stir heavy cream, salt and pepper. Pour mixture over chicken.
- Sprinkle with cheese, bacon and onions, if desired.
- Bake 15 minutes, or until casserole is bubbly. Let stand 10 minutes.
- Top with additional onions, if desired.





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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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

Be sure to check for cancelations.

Upcoming in Waukee Living magazine:

Grandparents who enjoy living near their grandchildren: Share why you enjoy living near your grandchildren and how you spend time together. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com by Feb. 1 to be included in the February issue.



Women's Social

Saturday, Feb. 8, 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.

FamilyFest

Saturday, Jan. 18, 9 a.m. to noon
Lutheran Church of Hope-Waukee,
305 N.E. Dartmoor Drive

Join Waukee Parks & Recreation for the annual FamilyFest. This family-friendly event will help kids burn off some energy. Check out Waukee area businesses, play games and jump on inflatables. Everything is free.

2025 Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner

Thursday, Jan. 30, 5-8 p.m.
Vibrant Music Hall, 2938 Grand Prairie Parkway, Waukee

Join the Waukee chamber in celebrating the Waukee area business community. The Triangle Awards and Citizen of the Year Award will be presented. Social hour begins at 5 with a plated dinner served at 6 p.m. The program is 6:30-7:30 p.m. followed by time to socialize. Cost is \$105 for individual or \$1,000 for a table of 10. Registration link is available at <https://members.waukeechamber.com/events/calendar/2025-01-01>.



Vibrant Music Hall


2938 Grand Prairie Parkway, Waukee
www.vibrantmusichall.com

- Feb. 7: Wallows at 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 8: R&B Only at 7:45 p.m.
- Feb. 14: Flatland Cavalry at 8 p.m.
- Feb. 25: The Price is Right Live at 7:30 p.m.

Vendor Markets

Feb. 15, March 15, April 19,
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Outlets of Des Moines, 801 Bass Pro Drive N.W., Suite 315, Altoona


Each show has a variety of vendors from Avon, Living Oils, Small Town Laser, Unicorn Clouds, MJ's Hometown Honey, 3D by LouAnn, Tupperware, Tastefully Simple, Good Vibrations Gems & Crystals, plus others. Come check out the vendors and buy local. If interested in being a vendor, email k2marketplacemagic@gmail.com for information.




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DMPA Concert Series

Various dates, 7 p.m.
Temple Theater, 1011 Locust St.,
Des Moines

Des Moines Performing Arts (DMPA) is excited to announce a new concert series. “Made in the Midwest” highlights the artistry of local musicians in the intimate Temple Theater. Celebrating the talents of independent artists from across our region, guests will enjoy a unique experience where the musicians take center stage in a venue known for its unparalleled acoustic quality.

The series will kick off with five artists just announced.

- Feb. 14: Brad & Kate, pop/folk
- Feb. 15: The Finesse, soul/pop
- March 21: Matt Woods, roots/blues
- April 25: Allegra Hernandez, rock
- May 9: Abbie Sawyer, folk/American

The Finesse and Abbie Sawyer will be performing songs from their latest album releases, giving audiences the chance to hear their new music live for the first time. Tickets are on sale now starting at \$20/show. You can purchase tickets by visiting DMPA.org, calling 515-246-2300, or stopping by the Civic Center Ticket Office at 221 Walnut St. You can also purchase tickets night of at the Temple Theater Ticket Office, 1011 Locust St., starting two hours before a performance.



Des Moines Community Orchestra concerts

The Des Moines Community Orchestra has announced its concert dates for the 2024/2025 concert season. Admission is free. Concerts start at 2 p.m. with pre-concert talks at 1 p.m. For more information, visit desmoinescommunityorchestra.org. Concerts are:

- Sunday, Feb. 23, Winter Concert and Past Audience Favorites, Sheslow Auditorium.
- Sunday, May 11, Spring Concert, Carl’s Favorite Finales, Sheslow Auditorium.

2025 DIG Symposium

FFA Enrichment Center on the DMACC campus in Ankeny
March 1

The 2025 Dig Into Gardening (DIG) Symposium is coming up. Cost is \$85 per person. The symposium will provide attendees research-based gardening and horticulture techniques and best practices, all centered on the theme of “Gardening for Change.” This day-long event is open to the public and presented in partnership with the Polk County Master Gardeners and Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach in Polk County. The DIG Symposium will feature keynote addresses, breakout sessions, and an expansive exhibitor hall. A broad range of experts, including local Master Gardener volunteers, ISU specialists and educators, and other local professionals, will be on hand to offer insight and expertise. Lunch is provided. To learn more about the symposium or to become an exhibitor, visit <https://polkcountymastergardeners.org/DIG-Symposium>.

Playhouse classes offered

Various dates
The Des Moines Playhouse,
831 42nd St., Des Moines

The Des Moines Playhouse offers classes year-round for ages 4 through adult. New this winter is an audition workshop for teens and adults. Registration is now open for spring break and spring classes and summer camps. Scholarships are available through the Jeanne Hopson Angel Fund. For class descriptions, registrations and more information, visit dmplayhouse.com/education/classes-and-camps.

The Audition Workshop Series for ages 14 through adult will be led by Playhouse Artistic Director Katy Merriman. Held each Saturday in February, sessions will focus on song selection, cold reads, dance auditions with “Waitress” choreographer Kent Zimmerman, and a master class with area directors. Students can sign up for one, two, three or all four sessions.

Spring classes, starting March 2, are focused on musical theatre for pre-K through grade 7.

Spring break finds students in grades 5-8 learning “Seussical Kids,” a 35-minute version of the popular Broadway musical, with performances at the end of the week. Students in grades 3-4 will rehearse and perform a play while younger students will use favorite books to create scenes to share.

For more information on Playhouse educational offerings, contact Robin Spahr, Playhouse education director, at rspahr@dmplayhouse.com, 515-974-5365. ■

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ISBA announces essay winners

The Iowa State Bar Association (ISBA) and the Iowa State Bar Foundation announce the winners of the Sesquicentennial Celebration Essay Contest. Held in honor of the ISBA's 150th anniversary, this contest provided Iowa high school students with a unique platform to explore the impact of law on their lives, communities, and the history of the state of Iowa.

Sponsored by the Iowa State Bar Foundation, the essay contest invited students from all 14 judicial districts across the state to select and write about a law-related person, place, event or document connected to the ISBA's century-and-a-half legacy. From profiling local attorneys and law firms to reflecting on landmark Iowa Supreme Court decisions, students delivered insightful and thought-provoking perspectives.

Iowa Judicial District 5 winners:

• **First Prize (\$1,000): Haylie Zinkula, Teacher Sponsor Aaron Savage (Waukee Northwest High School);** Natalia Zimmerman, Teacher Sponsor Mike Cormack (Southwest Valley High School); Edie Lang, Teacher Sponsor Kathryn Cooper (Ankeny Centennial High School)

• **Second Prize (\$500): Pete Gunkel, Teacher Sponsor Luke Peterson (Waukee Timberline High School);** Ella Waske, Teacher Sponsor Daniel Showalter (Mount Ayr Community Schools); Aravind Balaji, Teacher Sponsor Cheryl Smith (Johnston High School)

Each essay was evaluated by a panel of judges on criteria such as originality, mastery of the topic, quality of writing and critical thinking. The blind judging process ensured impartiality and fairness, with students competing within their respective judicial districts.

For more information about the ISBA Sesquicentennial Celebration Essay Contest or to read excerpts from the winning essays, visit www.iowabar.org/essay. ■

SMITH'S dream car

His first Porsche helped build his determination.

Dave Smith had a dream to buy a Porsche as his first car.

"Growing up, I loved cars, especially Porsches. Never drove in one but loved the way they looked," he says.

Even his Matchbox cars were mostly Porsches. He was fascinated by how things worked.

"I was always disassembling everything I got my hands on," he says.

When he was 10, Smith got a job as a paperboy and started saving his money. As the youngest of four, he grew up in a suburb near Columbus, Ohio, and his dad worked in sales at Sears for 40 years.

"Upon turning 16, I began searching for one," Smith says. "My father would go with me and encourage me to look at something more reliable. He didn't understand. He would look them over good and tell me, 'Oh, you don't want this one,' and shatter all my hopes."

In the summer of 1983, his parents went out of town to visit friends. The Trading Times arrived, and he saw a photo of a Porsche.

"This is it," he thought.

His sister drove him to see the lime green 1972 Porsche 914 convertible, and he purchased it for \$1,000. It was all his savings.

He drove home and parked in his dad's parking spot in the garage to surprise his parents.

"Looks like you got yourself something there. Looks like it will need quite a bit of work," his dad said calmly.

The Porsche wouldn't start. The outside of the car didn't have any visual damage because it had been painted and patched, but there was rust on the floorboards and throughout. The doors were hard to open because the frame had been bent.

Smith spent his junior and senior years working in the garage fixing it and worked part-time jobs to pay for parts.

When he was getting ready for college, he needed a dependable car. He sold the Porsche for \$500, but then it stalled in the street. Feeling guilty, Smith took the car back and donated it to the Salvation Army.

"My college daily driver was a 1974 Pontiac Catalina, not much of a looker, but very reliable," he says.

When Smith's oldest son was 5, his dad visited. Smith asked him why he hadn't been upset that he spent all his money on the Porsche.

"When his friends were worried about what



Dave Smith bought his first car, a lime green 1972 Porsche 914 convertible, in 1983.



Dave Smith currently drives a 2020 Toyota Highlander Limited AWD. Photo by Deborah Mikelson

their teenagers were doing, he never worried about me. He knew exactly where I was," Smith jokes.

"All I had to do was open the garage door, and you would be under your car. Dave, I would have paid you \$1,000 just to stay safe at home," his dad had told him.

"Our parents were much wiser than we thought," Smith says.

Thirty years after he bought his first Porsche, he bought his second. He was excited to take his dad for a drive.

"It quickly lost its luster," Smith says.

He sold it after it began collecting dust in the garage.

Smith and his wife, Debbie, moved to Waukee two years ago to be near family. He currently drives a black 2020 Toyota Highlander Limited AWD SUV, which he acquired after his son and daughter "took over" his previous vehicles.

"I've become good at picking reliable cars," he laughs. ■

OUT & ABOUT



Dan Knust and Danae Edwards, Sugar Creek Golf Course, receive their Residents' Choice certificate in the category Favorite Golf Course.



Megan and Joel Pinkerton, The KEE, receive the Residents' Choice certificate in the category Favorite Bar.



Anne Warmouth, Waukee Hardware & Rent-It Center, receives the Residents' Choice certificate in the category Favorite Home Improvement Retail Store.



Travis Gaule, Edward Jones, receives the Residents' Choice certificate in the category Favorite Financial Planner.



Nick Lenters, Old Station Craft Meats, receives the Residents' Choice certificate in the category Favorite Place to Purchase a Gift for a Man.



Kirstin Belkien, The Kissed Peach, Integrative Aesthetics & Wellness, receives the Residents' Choice certificate in the category Favorite Cosmetic Services.



Evan Breuer, Executive Outdoor Solutions, receives the Residents' Choice certificate in the category Favorite Landscaping Company.



Waukee Chamber Ambassadors at the Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party.



Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Slap Soda - Hot Pretzels & Treats, 165 S.E. Laurel St., on Dec. 10.



Aly Davis and Terry Snyder at the ribbon cutting for Slap Soda.



Vicki Davis and Jessica Taylor-Fink at the ribbon cutting for Slap Soda.



Rhett Oselette, Martha Munro and Mike Bartos at the ribbon cutting for Slap Soda.

RIBBON Cutting

Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Unleashed Pets, 970 S.E. Brick Drive, on Nov. 12.



Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Unleashed Pets, 970 S.E. Brick Drive, on Nov. 12.



Zach Vander Ploeg and Jane Angstman



Rob Schultz and Shelby Schultz



Chrissy Cassill and Jacob Auge



Shelby Schultz, Kerri-Ann Harrison and Alexis Burns



Kelly Troxel, Vicki Davis, Aly Davis and Mike Bartos



Mayor Courtney Clarke and Jennifer Brown



Mike Bartos and Aly Davis



Don Frazer and Kelly Troxel

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