

URBANDALE
Living Weekly

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 A BIG GREEN UMBRELLA MEDIA PUBLICATION

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URBANDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

The month of April is an exciting time for libraries across the country for celebrating National Library Week, and Urbandale Public Library is no exception. The theme for this year's National Library Week (April 3-9) is "Connect with Your Library," which promotes the idea that libraries are places to get connected to technology by using broadband, computers and other resources. Libraries also offer opportunities to connect with media, programs, ideas and classes, in addition to books. Most importantly, libraries also connect communities to each other.

In honor of National Library Week, the library continues its Food for Fines by accepting donations of non-perishable food and hygiene products as payment



for overdue fees through April 10. These items are then distributed by the Urbandale Food Pantry to members of the community. The

3-day book sale is April 8-10. To continue to foster connections

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LIBRARY, CONTINUED ON BACK

URBANDALE WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 40 | LOW 27
Morning flurries, cloudy



SATURDAY HIGH 52 | LOW 32
Mostly sunny and warmer



SUNDAY HIGH 59 | LOW 42
Breezy in the morning



MONDAY HIGH 60 | LOW 41
Afternoon showers



TUESDAY HIGH 62 | LOW 52
Showers and thunderstorms



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

CEMENTED IN MY BRAIN

As a teenager, I worked after school at a concrete statuary in my hometown of Algona. My boss was Dennis Meyer, who now owns and operates a statuary here in central Iowa called Created in Johnston and is a close friend.

On my way to work one day, while running late, I passed a school bus that was slowing down. The school bus driver finished his route and then stopped by the statuary to talk with Dennis' father and business partner, Amos, who, as I learned later, had also driven a school bus at one point in his life. The conversation we soon had was not pleasant, but it was a life-changer for me. Amos made it clear, in no uncertain terms, that I would no longer be employed there if he ever heard of me passing a school bus again. I tried to awkwardly explain that the bus had not stopped yet, but that didn't matter. The conversation was stern and short.

After Amos left, Dennis softened the blow a bit, but he

was also firm in his delivery. He told me he didn't expect me to ever be late and that I should plan my time better. But if I am running late, he said, don't ever pass a school bus that is slowing down or stopped. Ever.

I don't know who that school bus driver was, but I appreciate how he handled the situation. He could have reported me to the police. He could have called my parents. He could have personally chewed me out. But he knew that the wrath of the Meyers would be penalty enough. And it was.

I grew up in town, so I didn't ride the school bus. As a result, I didn't understand the issues and hazards bus drivers had to deal with then or today. Now, as a father of three daughters who all rode the bus, I know what kind of an impact a driver can have on an anxious and apprehensive youngster. My adult children still



speak fondly of their bus drivers.

I shared this memory with Dennis in recent years, and he offered his trademark ear-to-ear smile and said, "I hope you learned something." I did. Ever since that day as a teenager, when I see a school bus, I slow down way sooner than I need to, and I stop and patiently wait, offering a friendly wave and a smile to the driver and the kids.

Driving a school bus is not easy work, and drivers are getting more and more difficult to find. The last thing they need are impatient drivers of any age zipping by them. The Meyers — the concrete statuary owners — made that clear. It is cemented in my brain now.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading.

Shane Goodman

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Publisher

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VIEW THE LUNAR ECLIPSE ON MAY 15

A total lunar eclipse is coming up on the evening on May 15. While eclipses occur about twice a year, they are often difficult to view. Some occur while in daylight here, and only people living in another part of the world can see them. Others start very late at night, making them challenging to get up for.

The timing for this one makes it just about as easy as a lunar eclipse can be. Its “umbra stage” will begin soon after dark at 9:28 p.m. as the earth’s shadow begins covering the moon. During the next hour, the shadow will cover the moon completely and become total at 10:29 p.m. The moon will remain visible, but takes on a dim reddish color. At 11:52 p.m., it will begin moving out from the shadow and become fully visible again at 12:58 a.m.

This eclipse will be low in the sky, so, around many homes, viewing will be obscured by trees and houses. Urbandale resident Jim Stearns expects it to be visible from 9:30 p.m. onward from the parking lot of his church, New Hope Assembly of God, 4425 70th St., Urbandale, and he will have a telescope set up tracking the moon.

He invites residents who don’t have a good view from home, but would still like to see it, to bring folding chairs and converse with their friends and neighbors while watching it go through its stages. He will provide a closeup view with his telescope.

Parking is available in the lot east of the church. The parking lot south of the main building is reserved for viewing. This event is weather dependent and will be held only if it’s a clear evening. If clouds obscure the viewing, it will not be held. ■



Jim Stearns’ photos of a previous lunar eclipse show the Earth’s shadow obscuring the moon and the red tint the moon has when it is in the shadow.

UHS SPORTS SCHEDULES

Friday, April 8

4:15 p.m. **Tennis:** Boys JV @ Norwalk

4:15 p.m. **Tennis:** Boys Varsity @ Norwalk

Saturday, April 9

TBD **Soccer:** Girls Varsity Invitational @ Council Bluffs

10 a.m. **Soccer:** Boys Varsity Invitational @ Urbandale Frerichs Field

10 a.m. **Track:** Boys JV/Varsity Invitational @ Valley

Monday, April 11

12 p.m. **Tennis:** Boys Varsity Metro Conf Meet @ Ballard

2 p.m. **Golf:** Girls Varsity Invitational @ Urbandale Golf & Country Club

4:30 p.m. **Track:** Boys JV Invitational @ Valley

5:30 p.m. **Soccer:** Girls JV1 vs. Des Moines Lincoln

7 p.m. **Soccer:** Girls Varsity vs. Des Moines Lincoln

THIS SPOT IS AVAILABLE.

Contact Jolene Goodman at jolene@iowalivingmagazines.com

CITY LOWERS THE TAX LEVY

Moody’s Investors Service on Tuesday, March 29, affirmed the City of Urbandale’s Aa1 bond rating. Economic growth continues to drive revenue, leading to stable financial operations with healthy reserves. Urbandale is also lowering the tax levy for the upcoming fiscal year.

“This excellent rating is one factor that helps the City of Urbandale decrease the tax levy for our residents this coming year,” said Nicci Lamb, director of finance. “A strong bond rating allows us to borrow money at lower interest rates — and the less interest Urbandale pays, the more money we can save Urbandale taxpayers.”

Urbandale’s tax levy will be lowered 10 cents from last year’s amount to a new total of \$10.01. This lowered levy will go into effect for the 2022-2023 fiscal year which begins on July 1, 2022.

“The City of Urbandale appreciates the affirmation by Moody’s of Urbandale’s fiscal stability in issuing these strong ratings,” said Mayor Bob Andeweg. “It underscores the long-term commitment of the City Council and staff for strong fiscal discipline and operational excellence, and it allows us to continue providing high quality

TAX, CONTINUED ON BACK

FUNERAL NOTICES

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com and run for free.

MARGARET JEAN MORRISSEY

Margaret Jean Morrissey, 91, of Urbandale, died on March 31, 2022, at Perry Lutheran Home under the care of St. Croix Hospice. She attended rural schools and graduated from Lovilia High School in 1948. She moved to Des Moines and worked for Farmers Insurance Group for 38 years.



She is survived by sisters Mary (Jim) Roan and Geri Clark, and sisters-in-law Ann Morrissey and Alverta Morrissey; and other relatives. A funeral mass was held at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 3663 66th St., Urbandale. ■

DANIEL JOSEPH WILHARBER

Daniel Joseph Wilharber, 67, died March 31, 2022, after a brief illness. Private interment will be held at Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines, and a celebration of his life will be planned for a later date in Davenport, where he grew up. He graduated from Davenport Assumption High School in 1973. On Aug. 3, 1974, he married Lynn Stange in Davenport. They had three sons, Randy, Brad and Brian. They lived in Davenport until 1986 before moving to Ottumwa, where they raised their boys and lived until 2015. Upon his retirement, Dan and Lynn relocated to Urbandale.



Dan was a longtime employee of UPS. Upon his retirement from UPS, he worked for Wacker Chemical in Eddyville until his second retirement in 2014. Dan was a member of the Elks and the Knight of Columbus. He was a coach in the Ottumwa Youth Football League and served on the board of the Ottumwa Youth Basketball League. He was also a coach with the Ottumwa Babe Ruth Baseball League. He was an avid Iowa Hawkeyes fan and served on the board of SE IA I-Club for many years.

Dan is survived by his wife, Lynn; sons, Randy (Meredith) Wilharber, Bradley Wilharber and Brian Wilharber; and many other relatives. Online condolences are welcome at www.IlesCares.com. ■

ROBERT EUGENE PEERS

Robert Eugene Peers, 83, of Urbandale, died Sunday, March 27, 2022. A visitation will be held Saturday, April 9, from 9:30-11 a.m. at McLaren’s Resthaven Chapel, 801 19th St., West Des Moines, followed by a memorial service at 11 a.m. Condolences can be shared at www.mclarensresthavenchapel.com. ■

FINAL LENTEN FISH FRY

The Knights of Columbus Council 11643 is hosting its final Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry on April 8, 4:30-6:30 p.m., at St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church, 4600 Meredith Drive, in the parish hall. Note the change in the serving time. Dine-in and limited carry out will be available. Menu includes fish, baked potato, mashed potato, french fries, green beans, corn, coleslaw, mac and cheese, coffee, water and lemonade. Cost is, adults \$13, children under 12 \$5. The Women's Association will have desserts to choose from for a freewill donation. ■



BUY IT, FIX IT, LOVE IT: HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN PROGRAM OFFERED

Neighborhood Finance Corporation, a local nonprofit organization that provides unique home loans to facilitate neighborhood revitalization, is now providing lending in specific areas of Urbandale. A forgivable loan of up to \$10,000 can be used to help pay for property repairs and improvements on the home you purchase or on a current home. The loan is forgivable if you stay in the home for five years, and it is paired with a repayable loan. The loans have no income restrictions but the home must be located in one of the lending areas. Eligible homebuyers may also receive a Neighborhood Reinvest deferred loan of \$10,500 and subsidy (forgivable loan) of up to \$2,500 to assist with down payment and/or closing costs on a purchase transaction. For more information, visit neighborhoodfinance.org. ■

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

Indoor and outdoor programs are provided by the Parks & Recreation Department throughout the spring and summer and can be found online at www.urbandale.org/spring or call the Parks & Recreation Office at 515-278-3963. ■

THE GREAT EGG HUNT APRIL 16

The GREAT egg hunt for ages 10 and younger is on Saturday, April 16, at 10 a.m. in Walker Johnston Regional Park. Don't be late, eggs and prizes are found quickly. No registration is necessary. ■

SPRING CLEANUP INFORMATION

The annual no-charge curbside cleanup will be held on various dates in May. The event allows residents to dispose of almost anything, and it's hard to know what crews will encounter curbside. The city normally rents large trucks and equipment and employs temporary workers to help collect all the items — but due to supply chain issues, the City is making some changes to the event. For information about dates and times, as well as what can and cannot be put on the curb, visit www.urbandale.org/942/Spring-Clean-Up. ■

TRIDUUM AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

St. Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church, 4600 Meredith Drive, offers Triduum and Easter Sunday services: Holy Thursday Mass, 7 p.m.; Holy Thursday Adoration, 8-10 p.m.; Good Friday Service, 8 p.m.; and Easter Sunday Masses at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. ■

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**POETRY & PHOTOGRAPHY
PRESENTATION**

Saturday, April 9, 5 p.m.

Beaverdale Books, 2629 Beaver Ave., Des Moines

In celebration of Poetry Month, Beaverdale Books will feature a special event with Dr. Paul Brooke. Brooke is a professor of English at Grand View University in Des Moines, where he teaches a variety of writing, literature and photography courses. He has won numerous awards for his poetry. His presentation will be moderated by fellow poet Kyle McCord.

**DINNER DETECTIVE
MURDER MYSTERY**

Saturday, April 16, 6 p.m.

Embassy Suites Downtown, 101 E. Locust St., Des Moines

The award-winning comedic murder mystery dinner show is coming to Des Moines. Unlike other murder mystery shows with elaborate costumes and dialogue, the Dinner Detective's interactive shows are set in the present day. Performers blend into the audience, and you won't know who is in the show until it's time to solve the murder. Look for clues, be interrogated by detectives and compete for prizes awarded to the Top Sleuth. Guests are not required to participate in the show but are encouraged to do so. The evening includes a four-course plated meal, coffee and tea, cash bar and prizes. Guests must be at least 15 years old to attend. Get tickets at www.eventbrite.com.

**'OF GRAVITY AND LIGHT'**

Friday, April 22 at 7 p.m.

Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines

Join Ballet Des Moines for the world premiere of composer Beau Kenyon's contemporary ballet, "Of Gravity and Light." Be entranced through eight innovative movements combining sound, imagery and movement exploring the wonder of space. As Ballet Des Moines' year-long resident and director of education and outreach, Kenyon interprets the science of space through music and dance, inviting the disciplines of science and art to converge. "Of Gravity and Light" will feature choreography by Ballet Des Moines Artistic Director Tom Mattingly, video installation by artist Yu-Wen Wu and live music directed by conductor Tim McMillin. Tickets available at www.dmpa.org.

**DES MOINES BUCCANEERS
HOME SCHEDULE**

Buccaneer Arena, Urbandale

- Saturday, April 9 vs. Fargo Force, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, April 16 vs. Sioux City Musketeers, 6 p.m.
- Friday, April 22 vs. Waterloo Black Hawks, 7 p.m.

For more information, visit www.bucshockey.com. ■

RECIPE

EASTER DIP GOODNESS



(Culinary.net) Easter is about coming together with loved ones, enjoying beautiful spring weather and eating your family's favorite foods. The kids will be playing, adults will be chatting and all will be patiently waiting for the table to be set.

If you're visiting and making memories with family and friends you haven't seen in a while, there are few things better than diving into a marvelous Easter spread.

While eyeing the table, you notice all the colors popping off the dishes. Fruits and veggies make the feast come to life, but a warm Easter dip paired with rolls for dipping is a perfect way to start the festivities.

These Easter Bunny Rolls with Spinach Dip are as eye-catching as they are delicious. Not only will the kids love its shape, but the layers of taste will wow your Easter crowd.

This dish is made for a crowd, served warm and full of cheesy goodness. You can watch as your family dips into the spinach and one-by-one, before you know it, the rolls will have disappeared and the dip will be devoured. ■

EASTER BUNNY ROLLS WITH SPINACH DIP

Serves: 24

16 ounces frozen spinach, thawed
8 ounces cream cheese
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1/4 teaspoon chili powder
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
2 crescent roll tubes (8 ounces each)

Directions:

Heat oven to 375 F.

In skillet, over medium heat, cook spinach, cream cheese and garlic 3-4 minutes until cream cheese is melted. Stir in mayonnaise, salt, onion powder, chili powder, pepper and Italian seasoning. Stir in Parmesan cheese and 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese. Cook until cheese is melted. Keep skillet on burner over low heat.

Remove dough from tubes. Leaving dough intact, roll and stretch into 18-inch ropes. Cut each rope into 12 pieces for 24 total.

On baking sheet with parchment paper, form bunny head by placing one piece of dough in middle then surrounding it with six more pieces. Use 13 pieces to form round body. Use remaining pieces to form ears on top of head.

Scoop hot spinach dip into center. Spoon small portions on each ear. Sprinkle ears and belly with remaining mozzarella cheese.

Bake 18 minutes, or until crescent dough is golden brown and thoroughly cooked. ■

TALK WITH OFFICIALS

Talk with Officials is a forum for the business community to connect with elected officials representing Urbandale at the State, County, City and School District. The events are open to the general public and held on the last Saturday of each respective month. The next event is Saturday, April 30, 10:30 a.m. to noon. Registration is required. Check for updates on whether or not the event will be virtual.

For more information and registration, visit www.uniquelyurbandale.com or email Tiffany Menke, tmenke@urbandalechamber.com. ■

LIBRARY, FROM FRONT

between community members through literature, Mayor Andreweg announced this year's All Urbandale Reads title, "This Tender Land" by William Kent Krueger, at the City Council meeting on April 5. Krueger has a popular mystery series set in the north woods of Minnesota with a protagonist of mixed heritage — part Irish and part Ojibwe. His work has received a number of awards, and his last nine novels were all New York Times bestsellers. A companion novel to the 2013 Edgar Award-winning "Ordinary Grace," "This Tender Land" explores a wide range of themes, including coming of age, forgiveness and hope. Community discussions will be held on Thursday, Aug. 4 at 6 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 1 p.m. with

an accompanying program to be revealed later this year. Borrow one of the library's copies and join the community conversation.

April is also National Poetry Month, and the library will host Poet Laureate of Iowa Debra Marquart on Tuesday, April 26 at 6 p.m. for an evening of music, poetry and storytelling. Marquart will share new poetry as well as work from her latest book, "The Night We Landed on the Moon." This program is funded by Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities and is free and open to the public. If you are a person with a disability who requires special assistance, call 515-278-3945 in advance. ■



Debra Marquart

TAX, FROM INSIDE

services at a reasonable rate."

Aa1 is immediately below the rating of AAA as one of the highest possible bond ratings that Moody's can give an organization. This rating

allows the City of Urbandale to manage timely debt strategies and will lead to more investment into the improvement of the community. Moody's Investors Service is a global provider of credit ratings, research and risk analysis. ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Heavyweight Ashley dining table: Dark distressed wood and bronze, seats 8, 4 matching chairs and 2 bench seats. **London brand queen-size sleeper sofa:** Upholstered fabric. **Jacoby lawn furniture:** 2 chairs, 2 side tables, purchased from Home Depot, powder-coated steel, slatted back and seat w/ red, white and blue pattern on beige cushions. Call 515-478-4594. Please leave a message.

LOOKING TO BUY: Vinyl Records. Will pay cash for your 60s, 70s and 80s rock as well as jazz and blues. Please call Brian at 515-326-5033.

FOR SALE: Three wheel double baby/toddler Stroller. \$35. Call or text for photos. 515-238-3198.

FOR SALE: 2005 Saturn Relay FWD. Gold with Gold leather interior. Fully loaded/Quad seating/Multi Disk CD player/DVD. 213,000 miles. Asking \$750. Call 515-238-3198. Located 5 miles from Grimes.

BABY BED FOR SALE: Has changing table on one end, 5 drawers for storage. Well Built. Needs a home to put it to use. Call 515-238-3198.

BUNK BEDS FOR SALE: Twin bottom/single top. Really nice. \$200 takes them away to a usable home. Text or call 515-238-3198 and I can return photos for viewing.

WANTED: Broken appliances & A.C.'s, 10 years old & under, repair hopefuls. Call 515-238-3343.

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LIST 50 WORDS OR LESS FOR FREE.

JOKE OF THE WEEK



A horse walks into a bar. The bartender says "hey." The horse replies "sure."