

JOHNSTON Living Weekly

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SEEN IN JOHNSTON



The groundbreaking for Bombers Golf and Entertainment District, 5055 Merle Hay Road just north of I-80, was held on April 11. This entertainment district is proposed to include a three-level, 75,000-square-foot family entertainment center that is expected to offer climate-controlled hitting bays overlooking a 270-yard driving range, more than 100 state-of-the-art arcade games, bowling lanes, ax-throwing, billiards, putting courses and pickleball, as well as restaurants, bars, conference and event center space, and a live music venue. Above, Mayor Paula Dierenfeld, City Council members and City staff members participate in the groundbreaking ceremony. ■

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

TUES. HIGH 66 | LOW 52

Sunny; breezy in the p.m.

**WED. HIGH 72 | LOW 51**

Cloudy, breezy in the a.m.

**THURS. HIGH 60 | LOW 38**

A shower and a t-storm

**FRI. HIGH 52 | LOW 33**

Cool with clouds and sun

**SAT. HIGH 47 | LOW 31**

Breezy with sun, then clouds



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

THE BANDIT'S 1977 TRANS AM

I was streaming Netflix the other night and came across the classic 1977 movie, “Smokey and the Bandit.” I was only 9 when it was released, and Mom wouldn’t let me see it in the theaters. I surely saw a TV version years later, but I had to watch the full version recently — and I am glad I did. While viewing, I smiled ear to ear when seeing the 1977 Pontiac Trans Am. Black and gold. T-tops. Painted eagle on the hood. And, of course, a CB radio. I began to wonder if any vehicle from film or TV was more iconic than that Trans Am. With that in mind, here are a few of my other favorites.

The DeLorean DMC-12 time machine from “Back to the Future” had most all of us in complete awe in the 1980s. This rear-engine, two-passenger sports car was manufactured by DeLorean Motor Company for the American market from 1981 until 1983. The gull-wing doors were the real eye-catchers. “Roads? Where we’re going, we don’t need roads.” Agreed.

A quick view of the Ecto 1 will get you saying “Ghostbusters”

faster than the streams of a proton pack weapon. The Ecto-1 is a 1959 Cadillac Miller-Meteor Sentinel ambulance conversion used in the 1984 film. If you saw one today, you would be impressed. But, who you gonna call?

The 1968 comedy film “The Love Bug” was the first in a series made by Walt Disney Productions. “Herbie” was the talking 1963 Volkswagen Beetle featured in the films. I loved it, and Mom did, too, as she let me see one of the later films of this series in the theater.

Maybe the most recognizable TV car is the 1955 Lincoln Futura Concept Car — the Batmobile. This superhero vehicle was featured in the live-action series, “Batman.” The 120 episodes aired on ABC from 1966 to 1968. Like some of you, I had a plastic toy version of the car — and the Bat Cave.

The definition of cool, though, belongs to the 1975 car in “Starsky & Hutch.” Starsky’s two-door Ford



Gran Torino was bright red with a large white vector stripe on each side. It was nicknamed the “Striped Tomato” by Hutch in an episode, and, as such, many fans referred to the car by that nickname, too. I remember one of these knock-offs — with the stripe and all — cruising around my hometown during that era. Definitely cool.

Another iconic car from TV is the orange 1969 Dodge Charger in “The Dukes of Hazzard,” which aired on CBS from 1979 to 1985. The General Lee is known for its signature horn, police chases and long jumps. Most viewers remember the doors being welded shut, requiring the Dukes to climb in and out through the windows.

What iconic cars from film or TV did I miss from your era? Shoot me a note and fill me in.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

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JOHNSTON
Living Weekly

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TREE GRANT HELPS CITY SAVE ON ENERGY COSTS

On Monday, April 3, MidAmerican Energy presented a \$3,000 grant check to Johnston City leaders for the company's "Trees Please!" energy efficiency program.

"The funding will support the City of Johnston's plan to add shade along the Green Meadows Greenbelt Trail," said Parks and Recreation Director John Schmitz. "This area was affected by the tornado and derecho in 2020, so adding tree canopy back to it is critical. Trees are vital to our community because they help protect stormwater runoff, provide wind barriers and shade, and supply much-needed oxygen. Tree planting will occur in May or June of 2023 with approximately 20 trees planted."

MidAmerican's "Trees Please!" program helps fund tree planting projects in common areas such as publicly owned properties, schools and community spaces.

Trees can help improve energy efficiency when part of the energy-efficient landscape design. When properly placed, the right kinds of trees can provide shade to buildings in the summer. In winter, the right kinds of evergreen trees or shrubs can serve as natural windbreaks. Planting trees also improves air quality, helps protect and nourish soil and beautifies communities.

The City of Johnston is one of 55 Iowa cities and community organizations receiving "Trees Please!" grants. MidAmerican selected grant recipients based on each project's merits, its community benefits, and the applicant's ability to obtain matching funds.

For more information about the "Trees Please!" program, go to MidAmerican Energy's "Trees, Please!" web page at MidAmericanEnergy.com/trees-please or call 800-434-4017. ■

LIONS CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On Saturday, April 22, the Johnston Lions Club hosts its annual Pancake Breakfast. The location this year is the Johnston Middle School cafeteria at 6501 N.W. 62nd Ave. Hours are 7-11 a.m. The menu features delicious pancakes including gluten-free pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. Tickets are \$8 at the door and kids 5 and younger eat for free. Proceeds will benefit the Lions Club service projects. ■

GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER

The Dragon Scholarship Fund Golf Outing Fundraiser four-person best shot will be Monday, June 19 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start at Jester Park Golf Course. Proceeds support Johnston seniors in their post high school education. Cost, which includes 18 hole green fees and cart, are \$400 per foursome and \$200 per twosome. Register and pay by June 5 at bit.ly/DSFgolfouting2023. ■



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EARTH DAY COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING

Join the Johnston Parks Department for a community tree planting on Saturday, April 22 at 9 a.m. at Dewey Park, 5225 N.W. 64th Place, to celebrate Earth and Arbor Day. Bring your own gloves and wear closed-toed shoes. Meet at the park shelter. ■

JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP'S CURRENT NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides personal hygiene products to those in need. Currently, the organization is in most need of dried beans (northern, black lentils, etc.), shampoo, lotion, laundry and dish soap. 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. ■

SIMPSON HOUSE MUSEUM TOURS

The Johnston (Station) Historical Society (JSHS) Simpson House Museum will be open for tours of its exhibits from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 6, during the Johnston Commons Kites on the Green event. The Simpson House Museum is at 6161 Northglenn Drive in Johnston, next to the Johnston library. ■

CULTURE DAY

Culture Day will be held Saturday, April 29. This is the second Culture Day hosted by Johnston CORE students. Some of you may have attended last year. It was a day of joy, diversity and community. To support students in hosting Culture Day, you can make a donation or buy your ticket at johnston-core.square.site. RSVP at facebook.com/events/s/johnston-culture-day/1316799972516325. Sign up for a student or community performance at docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjkXBqet5i2BtH_bxXfZ-hX9ubUQD9W2cLP2dDVexDZGQU2g/viewform. Performances from adult community members and community members outside of Johnston are welcomed. ■

JHS PRESENTS 'FROZEN'

Johnston High School will present Disney's "Frozen" April 20-22. Shows are 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday with a sensory friendly show at 2 p.m. Saturday at the high school, 6500 N.W. 100th St. Tickets are available online at www.vancoevents.com/us/events/landing?eid=29167&. ■

OPEN HOUSE FOR CITYWIDE TRAFFIC STUDY

The City of Johnston will hold a public open house Wednesday, April 26, from 5:30-7 p.m., for the Johnston Citywide Traffic Study. The event will be at City Hall, 6221 Merle Hay Road. This project includes the evaluation of traffic congestion with a focus on the safety and operations of intersections and streets across the city. This study will consist of gathering public input on traffic conditions, an analysis of existing and future conditions, recommendations for areas of improvement (including potential policy changes) and developing an implementation plan for inclusion in the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

This meeting aims to share the public survey results and existing conditions from the traffic modeling with the public. The public input process has closed. The results will be shared with city staff and officials, residents and stakeholders showing trends and locations of traffic congestion concerns along with sharing the existing operational conditions and crash history trends by location.

For more information, contact Molly Long, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, at 515-254-1393, or Matt Greiner, City of Johnston Public Works Department, at 515-278-0822. ■

FUNERAL NOTICES

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

DEBRA JEAN MCILHON

Debra Jean McIlhon died Monday, April 10, at Kavanagh Hospice House following a sudden hemorrhagic stroke 13 days prior. Her daughter, Molly, and son-in-law, Tony, were by her side as she took her last breaths.

Debbie was the youngest child of Robert and Doris Blitsch, born in Cedar Falls on June 9, 1953. She graduated from Cedar Falls High School in 1971. She was a fun and popular gal and was nominated to the Homecoming Court her senior year.

After graduation, Debbie worked as a secretary for Curb Master and later the City of Cedar Falls. She was proud of the work she did and enjoyed her time working for the City.

She married Joe McIlhon on Dec. 16, 1978. They had two children, Molly and Joseph.

Debbie converted to Catholicism in 1980. Her faith became an integral part of who she was.

Debbie is survived by her daughter, Molly (Tony) Fiddelke, granddaughters Margaret Fiddelke and Sydney McIlhon, brother Bob (Linda) Blitsch, sister Joann (Rex) Rockey and many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Doris Blitsch; her guardians, John and Beulah Rockey; son, Joseph; husband, Joe; and nephew, Andrew Ulrich.

Memorial contributions can be directed to her family for her granddaughters' education and activities.

A funeral mass of Christian burial was Friday, April 14, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Beaverdale. Interment was at Glendale immediately following. ■



JACK MENDRYS

Jack Mendrys, 76, of Johnston, died Friday, April 7, 2023, after a short battle with lung cancer. Born on Nov. 22, 1946, to John and Hildegard Mendrys, Jack grew up in Westchester, Illinois, and attended Proviso West High School. He graduated from Drake University with degrees in business administration and education. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon and made lifelong friends and brothers. He remained active as chapter advisor for many years.

He started his career teaching science, math and history at St. Pius and St. Theresa schools in the Des Moines area. He then found his passion selling and restoring antiques in 1975. He owned and operated two Valley Junction businesses, Century Shoppe, Ltd and Shull's Furniture Restoration. Upon retirement, he continued to work in Johnston at Four Corners Feed and the Hy-Vee meat counter. Jack made friends wherever he went and worked.

Jack married Connie Taylor in 1969 and raised three daughters.

Jack is survived by his wife, Connie; his daughters, Jennifer (Brian) of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, Melanie of Prairie Village, Kansas, and Allison (Kent) of Highlands Ranch, Colorado; and his five grandchildren, Kate, Quinn, Meredith, Nora and Jack.

Memorial contributions may be made to Living History Farms to support scholarships for summer camp or a charity of your choice.

A celebration of his life will be Friday, May 5 (come anytime from 3-6 p.m.), in the building he owned and operated his businesses for 40 years, which is now St. Kilda Collective in Valley Junction, 333 Fifth St., West Des Moines. ■



EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**SENIOR LIFE CONFERENCE**

April 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Doors open at 8 a.m.

**MidAmerican Energy RecPlex,
6500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines**

The Central Iowa Senior Educational Network (CISEN) presents its seventh annual Senior Life Conference. Registration fee of \$10 includes lunch, breakout sessions, a variety of exhibitors, medical screenings, door prizes and more. Pre-register to confirm lunch at www.centraliowasenior.com/ conference. Pay online or cash at the door. Go online at www.centraliowasenior.com to see the full schedule of events as well as the large variety of topics for breakout sessions.

CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALES**Friday and Saturday, May 5-6
Grimes**

Those who have been eagerly awaiting the garage sale season, prepare to find treasures throughout the community.

**THE VALLEY JUNCTION
FARMERS MARKET AND
MUSIC IN THE JUNCTION****Thursdays May 4 - Sept. 28, 4-8:30 p.m.****Historic Valley Junction,
100-300 blocks of Fifth Street and Railroad
Park**

The Valley Junction Farmers Market is home to more than 80 weekly vendors selling fresh produce, baked goods, plants and flowers, arts and crafts, and prepared foods. Join your friends and neighbors and enjoy special performances events are scheduled throughout the season. Music starts at 6 p.m. May 4 features The Unfortunate Sons. Others in May are: May 11, Molly Nova and the Hawks; May 18, Black Diamond Loons; May 25, Dick Danger Band.



Kites on the Green

KITES ON THE GREEN

May 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Johnston Commons

The 10th annual Kites on the Green festival, a family-fun event will be held in the green space near the Johnston Public Library. Enjoy giant show kite displays, kite fighting, free kite building, kite racing, live music, an inflatable obstacle course and sidewalk chalk art and more. Also, learn about stormwater best management practices.

Schedule:

- 10 a.m.:** Opening ceremonies
- 10:30 a.m.:** No-Knots Stunt Team performance
- 11 a.m.:** Live music by Gladys's Lite Band
- 11:30 a.m.:** Running of the Bol's/Kite Battles
- 12:30 p.m.:** Live music by Gladys's Lite Band
- 1 p.m.:** Stunt Kite Demonstrations
- 1 p.m.:** Running of the Bol's/Kite Battles
- 3 p.m.:** Stunt Kite Demonstrations
- 3:30 p.m.:** No-Knots Stunt Team performance
- 5 p.m.:** Closing ceremonies.

All day: tours of the 1902 Simpson House, Giant Show Kite demonstrations, free kite kits to make and fly, inflatable obstacle course, an Iowa National Guard Climbing Wall, meet and greet with police and fire personnel, food trucks and a candy drop. ■

RECIPE

A FULL, FRESH MENU FIT FOR A BRUNCH FEAST

Birthdays, holidays or just casual Saturdays are all perfect excuses to enjoy brunch with your favorite people. Bringing everyone together with quiches, pastries, appetizers, desserts and more offers an easy way to kick back and relax on a warm weekend morning.

Serving up exquisite flavor doesn't have to mean spending hours in the kitchen. You can bring the cheer and favorite tastes with simple appetizers that are equal measures delicious and visually appealing.

These Savory Cheese Balls are easy to make and perfect for get-togethers and brunch celebrations. Texture and color are the name of the game with this recipe, and the result is a beautiful array of red, gold and green, all on one plate. ■

SAVORY CHEESE BALLS

Servings: 6-12

- 2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons caraway seeds
- 1 teaspoon poppy seeds
- 2 cloves garlic, minced, divided
- 1/4 cup parsley, chopped
- 2 teaspoons thyme leaves, chopped
- 1 teaspoon rosemary, chopped
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries, chopped
- 2 tablespoons pecans, chopped
- crackers (optional)
- fruit (optional)
- vegetables (optional)

Directions:

Cut each cream cheese block into three squares. Roll each square into ball.

In small bowl, combine caraway seeds, poppy seeds and half the garlic.



In second small bowl, combine parsley, thyme, rosemary and remaining garlic.

In third small bowl, combine cranberries and pecans.

Roll two cheese balls in seed mixture, two in herb mixture and two in cranberry mixture.

Cut each ball in half and serve with crackers, fruit or vegetables, if desired.

JOKE OF THE WEEK



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between a hippo and a
zippo?*

*One's pretty heavy and the
other's a little lighter!*

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SEEN IN JOHNSTON



Johnston Chamber held a ribbon cutting April 12 for Essential Personnel, 5460 Merle Hay Road, Johnston.

'THE POPPET SHOW' FEATURING BARBERSHOP CHORUS

The Harmony Delegation Barbershop chorus will be holding its 76th anniversary spring performance on April 29 at 3 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 8250 N.W. 62nd Ave., in Johnston. This year's spring show is a parody of "The Muppet Show" they call "The Poppet Show." Skits and music will be a zany spectacle of actors and choir members for a fun-filled afternoon of Barbershop music. Tickets are \$20/adult, \$15/student (through college), 5 and younger free. They can be purchased online at harmonydelegation.com or at the door. ■

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

FOR SALE: Nice bunk beds. Solid built. \$175. Call or text 515-238-3198 and I can send photos.

FOR SALE: Softball/Baseball Pitching/Hitting net. \$25. Call/Text 515-238-3198.

FOR SALE: Older China Cabinet for sale. Antique and in great usable shape. \$50.00. Call or text 515-238-3198 and I can send photos.

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

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