

# JOHNSTON Living Weekly

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## JOHNSTON'S PATCH IS DRAKES' BEAUTIFUL BULLDOG

### SUBMITTED PRESS RELEASE

Thousands of people gathered at the Knapp Center on Drake University's campus to celebrate the crowning of Patch as the winner of the 44th Annual Beautiful Bulldog Contest. The 2-year-old winning bulldog delighted the judges when she strutted down the runway in her custom jean jacket featuring a Drake University patch sewn into the fabric. A rescue dog that found her forever-home when she was 7-months old, Patch was one of nine rescued dogs competing for the top spot.

Patch lives in Johnston with her owners, Jennifer Hinton and Joel Kornder. In addition to owning an English bulldog, Hinton has a special connection to Drake where she serves as assistant director of Transfer Admission.

"I heard about the contest when I moved to Des Moines this past



summer, and I knew I had to enter Patch," said Hinton. "She is the epitome of the bulldog breed, and we're so proud of her all the time, but especially today. We're grateful for all the support we've received and this opportunity to show everyone how special Patch is."

The crowd went wild when Patch jumped... well, really, walked...

through a literal hoop to earn her crown as The Most Beautiful Bulldog — a trick Hinton said they worked on for months prior to the competition. Patch also had dozens of loyal fans in the audience sporting "Vote for Patch" shirts that Hinton had made for her friends and family.

**PATCH, CONTINUED ON BACK**

### JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**TUES. HIGH 62 | LOW 36**  
Mostly sunny and breezy



**WED. HIGH 69 | LOW 45**  
Mostly sunny and mild



**THURS. HIGH 69 | LOW 53**  
Mostly sunny and pleasant



**FRI. HIGH 67 | LOW 53**  
Clearing and breezy



**SAT. HIGH 72 | LOW 56**  
Breezy with periods of sun



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# NO MOW MAY?

In our capital city a few weeks ago, Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie signed off on a “No Mow May” proclamation, asking Des Moines residents to refrain from cutting their grass to help pollinators thrive by preserving native wildflowers and grasses.

To be clear, a proclamation is not a law but merely a suggestion. In other words, this “suggestion” will be encouraged but not enforced. It apparently is a suggestion for private property owners only, though, as there will be no change to the city’s mowing and maintenance schedule in May.

The proclamation sounds nice, and although I am not a fan of bee stings, I do understand the value of bees and the need for better pollination to preserve certain flowers. Even so, if bees give you anxiety, you should know that a recent study found homes that didn’t mow for a month had five times more bees compared to yards that were mowed. And, aside from the bees, there are few other things you should consider, too,

as noted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Grass will grow at least 12 inches during the month of May. Most mowers are not equipped to cut grass that tall. Experts say you should only remove one-third of the total leaf blade in a single mowing to avoid damage to your grass. That math doesn’t work.

Assuming you will mow in June, you should be prepared for some serious grass clipping clean-up. If left on the grass, those clippings will smother and kill most everything underneath and will leave bare spots in your lawn.

All of us living outside of Des Moines should check the weed ordinance for our city or homeowners’ association, or we risk getting fined.

I have to admit, like many of you, I appreciate a well-maintained lawn. I also admit, like many of you, I typically break my New



Year’s Resolutions and Lenten promises after only a few days. I also happen to like Frank Cownie, and I appreciate his efforts (although I am going to check his lawn, just to keep him honest).

As such, I am opting for an alternative to No Mow May, which may more appropriately be called, Mow Less May. Some studies show that mowing every two weeks, and raising your mower blade as high as possible, can still significantly increase the bee population. I can manage my lawn in a way that supports pollinators with more flowers and avoid irritating my neighbors while keeping my obsessive-compulsive behaviors somewhat under control.

And, with any luck, I might make it seven days.

Thanks for reading, and have a great week. ■

**Shane Goodman**

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# KITES ON THE GREEN

The 10th annual Kites on the Green festival, a family-fun event, will be held in the green space near the Johnston Public Library on May 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 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 Bols/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 Bols/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. ■

# TREES FOR KIDS PLANTING EVENT

Join the Johnston Parks Department and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Saturday, May 9 at 9 a.m., for a Trees for Kids planting event. The planting will take place at Johnston Commons Park, 6700 Merle Hay Road. The trees will be planted as part of the Johnston Commons Park Improvement Project and will be planted around the new shelter/restroom. Please bring your own gloves, and closed-toed shoes are required.

The Trees for Kids program aims to educate children, teenagers and young adults about the importance of trees and their myriad benefits, as well as to offer hands-on planting and maintenance experience. The program requires youth involvement in planting, mulching, and initial watering. A demonstration on proper planting, mulching and watering will be provided at the beginning of the event. ■

# MAYOR'S BIKE RIDE

Join Mayor Paula Dierenfeld for the annual Mayor's Bike Ride, a fun ride on Johnston's trails on Saturday, May 13. Interested participants can begin gathering at 11:30 a.m. in the parking lot just east of City Hall. Bicycle riders will depart around noon. The ride begins at City Hall, located at 6221 Merle Hay Road, and will end at the large shelter at Terra Park with a free lunch for participants. ■

# BINGO FUNDRAISER

Dragon Scholarship Fund will host DSF Bingo on May 4, Star Wars Day, at Johnston High School. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and games start at 6 p.m. Concessions will be available and costumes are welcome. Five dollar bingo cards are good for all 10 games. ■

**2023 MEMORIAL DAY**

**OBSERVANCE**

**MONDAY, MAY 29<sup>th</sup>**

MUSEUM LOCATED AT CAMP DODGE

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## VIETNAM LIVING HISTORY EVENT

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum will host a Vietnam Living History event featuring displays of Vietnam gear and equipment, a CH-47 helicopter flyover, Vietnam War-era military vehicles, military police patrol boat, and museum tours. The event is June 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and June 4, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the museum, located at 7015 N.W. 70th Ave., Johnston. ■

## 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. ■

## JOHNSTON LIBRARY

6700 Merle Hay Road • 515-278-5233 • [www.johnstonlibrary.com](http://www.johnstonlibrary.com)

### KIDS AND FAMILY EVENTS

Have some little people in your life? Check out Terrific Tuesday programming in May. Terrific Tuesday programs are from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Youth Services area of JPL and do not require registration.

Magnet Play happens on Tuesday, May 9, and gives kids the chance to explore the power of magnets with hands-on play.

Tuesday, May 16 is for Play-Doh Power. A variety of Play-Doh, tools and mats will be available during this program as well as information for parents on the benefits of using Play-Doh during regular play time.

Rhythm and Rhymes finishes out Terrific Tuesday programming on May 23. Rhythm and Rhymes is a passive, musical play time for children and their caregivers to explore sounds through instruments, toys and other materials.

### ADULT EVENTS

Searching for employment or learning a new skill can be a job itself. It's OK to ask for help. Johnston Public Library's Help Desk program provides training and support for teens and adults as they face new learning, employment, or technology-related challenges. JPL Help Desk staff can provide guidance with tech-related tasks, job search and resume help, and can connect individuals to resources. Help Desk appointments are educational in nature and individuals should have a clear goal in mind of what they would like to learn during their session. Call JPL at 515-278-5233x3 for more information and to schedule an appointment.

Feeling crafty? Get your craft on with us at the JPL Craft Workshop for Adults on Saturday, May 20 at 10:30 a.m. This month, Lori and Riddhi will be showing you how to create pressed botanical prints that have a beautiful vintage Victorian aesthetic. Registration is required for this free, in-person crafting class. Adults, leave the kids at home for this one; this crafting time is just for you.

### SUMMER READING FOR EVERYONE

Join JPL from May 30 to July 31 for a summer filled with fun. The Summer Discovery Library Program is for everyone: there is no age limit, no cost and no sign-up. Participants can win prizes by reading or listening to books and participating in activities and events. Reading and activity logs for all ages will be available for pick up beginning May 30 or can be downloaded and printed from our website. For more information about the Summer Discovery Library Program please visit [johnstonlibrary.com](http://johnstonlibrary.com).

For more information or to register for events, call 515-278-5233 or visit us online at [www.johnstonlibrary.com](http://www.johnstonlibrary.com). ■

## FUNERAL NOTICES

*Funeral notices can be emailed to [tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com)*

### HELEN LOUISE BILLINGS

Helen Louise Billings of Johnston died April 23, 2023, at Bishop Drumm Care Center. She was born on July 23, 1927, and grew up in Ava, Missouri. She was active in band, chorus and mixed doubles tennis. She sang for funerals at the Clinkingbeard Funeral Home.

Helen earned a two-year degree, majoring in music, at William Woods College in Fulton, Missouri. She taught in Doniphan, Missouri, then at Park Avenue school in Des Moines. She married Joe Billings on April 22, 1955. They had two sons, David and Steve. They moved to Johnston in 1961.

Helen taught third grade in Johnston for 30 years, many years at Lawson Elementary. She was one of two teachers inducted into the inaugural class of the Johnston Schools Hall of Fame.

She attended countless ball games and track meets to watch her sons as they attended school at Johnston. She

also loved watching her grandchildren, Alex and Jayme, compete in horse shows. Helen joined Joe on his vacation travels. They spent many winters in Phoenix following her retirement.

She found great enjoyment and satisfaction as a mother, grandmother and teacher, but working in their yard cultivating beautiful flowers and plants was her passion.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Joe Billings; brother, Sam Wiggins; sister, Mary Clinkingbeard; and son, David Billings. Survivors include her son, Steve Billings (Shellie) of rural Dallas Center; grandson, Alex Billings of Pella; and granddaughter, Jayme Ruhnke (Nick) of Laurel.

Memorial gifts to the Johnston Public Library Foundation are welcomed.

A private burial service will be held at a future date. ■



### EDWARD CLAUDE WEIR

Edward Claude Weir was born in Portsmouth on July 12, 1932. He died Saturday, April 15, 2023, at the Taylor Hospice House in Des Moines at the age of 90.

After he was orphaned at the age of 11, he was sent to Father Flanagan's Boys Town in Omaha, Nebraska. There he sang in choirs, including one hand-selected to travel with Father Flanagan all over the country. A photo of Father Flanagan and the choir, including Ed, still hangs at Boys Town. Eventually, he was sent to foster homes until taken in by a farm family in Stuart. Ed finished high school at Dowling Catholic High School in Des Moines. He then enlisted in the U. S. Navy and served his country during the Korean Conflict. After the Navy, he married Joy. They were married 54 years and had six children.

He owned a painting company and volunteered for the Johnston Fire Department for years. He belonged to the Lions Club and American Legion. He and Joy were active in their churches in Johnston and Grand River.

Those relatives who preceded Ed in death were his parents; loving wife Joy Fay Weir; sisters, Wrennie Doud, Roberta J. Weir and Beverly Carey, as well as his brother, Chuck Tedesco.

He is survived by daughters Sheryl (Jay) Coleman, Jana (Jody) Arment, Donella (Jim) Wright, and Debra (Chris) McComb; his son, Edward "Sonny" Weir; grandchildren Andrew (Elyse) Wright, Jason Arment, Alexandra Wright, Jocelyn (Joshua) Holmberg, Joshua Arment, Chelsea (Robert) Koenigsdorf, Christopher McComb, Cole Weir, Caitlyn (Jordan) Larsen; great-grandchildren: Faye, Nell, Jaxson, Celeste, Stella, Laurel and Olivia; sisters, Vonda Johnson and Mary (Jack) Lonsdale.

Services were at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Grand River April 29. Interment was at the Oak Hill Cemetery near Grand River. Memorial contributions may be made to Boys Town. Online condolences may be made to the family at [www.kalefuneralhome.com](http://www.kalefuneralhome.com). ■





## EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO  
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**

221 Walnut Street Des Moines

- **May 11:** Capital City Pride Speaker Series: Rutger Goehart
- **May 12-21:** "A Bright New Boise" by Iowa Stage Theatre Company
- **May 13-14:** DM Symphony - Giunta Conducts Rachminoff
- **May 16-21:** "TINA: The Tina Turner Musical"

**GREENBELT MUSIC FESTIVAL**Horizon Events Center, 2100 N.W. 100th St., Clive  
**May 19-20**

The annual music festival in Clive just off the Greenbelt Trail will feature headliners Jameson Rodgers and The Infamous Stringdusters to kick off warm weather returning to the state.

**CELEBRASIAN**Western Gateway Park,  
1205 Locust St., Des Moines  
**May 26-27**

Celebrate the largest Asian American event in Iowa as this festival will bring a wealth of Asian history, food, performances and other activities to Downtown that will allow all to experience everything that Asian culture has to offer.



CelebAsian, photo by Meena Photography and Kelly Chamberlain

**BIG GROVE VINYL MARKET**Big Grove Brewery and Tap Room,  
555 17th St., Des Moines**May 22**

From noon to 5 p.m., records vendors will be on hand selling all genres of vinyl records along with CDs and cassette tapes. Admission is free. Current vendor list includes Bog's Vinyl, ZZZ Records, Red Roosters Records, Vinyl Cup, Tim's Music Shop, Rochester Records and No Skip Records.

**IOWA STATE THEATRE COMPANY**Stoner Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines  
[www.iowastage.org](http://www.iowastage.org)**May 12-21:** "A Bright New Boise"**ALSO COMING UP!**

- **May 7:** Festival Cinco De Mayo. Starting at noon be prepare to celebrate Mexican heritage with food, artwork, live music and activities the whole family can enjoy. 137 Fifth St., West Des Moines; [www.valleyjunction.com/event/festival-cinco-de-mayo](http://www.valleyjunction.com/event/festival-cinco-de-mayo)
- **May 11-14:** The Spring Garden Festival will include drinks, live music food and of course plants on display for all those ready for a bloom filled weekend at Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden 909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines; [www.dmbotanicalgarden.com/events](http://www.dmbotanicalgarden.com/events)
- **May 12:** 15th Annual Blue Ribbon Bacon Festival. Hard to get more Iowa than this. Beer, bacon and beautiful weather at the Iowa State Fairgrounds 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines; [www.blueribbonbaconfestival.com](http://www.blueribbonbaconfestival.com)
- **May 13:** Grind for Life Contest Series will be hosted at the Lauridsen Skatepark. This will be the first time the event has made its way to Des Moines since its inception in 2004, you can register for the event at [www.theboardr.com/events/3886/Grind\\_for\\_Life\\_Series\\_at\\_Des\\_Moines](http://www.theboardr.com/events/3886/Grind_for_Life_Series_at_Des_Moines) ■

## RECIPE

# MAKE FAMILY MEALS SPECIAL WITH A FRESH, HOMEMADE DISH

*(Family Features)* Nothing makes family time special quite like a homemade meal, especially one made with locally sourced ingredients that are as fresh and flavorful as they are thoughtfully prepared.

Whether your gatherings with loved ones take place in the family kitchen, on the patio or at a picnic area, this Asparagus, Bacon and Egg Salad makes for a perfect brunch or appetizer that leans on local ingredients like Michigan asparagus, which takes just about three days to get from the field to your table. Grown by more than 100 family farmers, it can be found in your local store at 1-4 days old, compared to 10-20 days old for imported asparagus.

Local means fresh, which makes for an especially delicious meal, but it also means sustainability. Because the Michigan asparagus season relies on the weather and uses rainwater instead of irrigation, it makes for a sustainable product that's environmentally friendly.

As a nutrient-dense, low-calorie vegetable with no fat, no cholesterol and little sodium, it's also easy to prepare – just don't overcook it. Look for thicker spears at the store, as they tend to have greater texture and more flavor and tenderness because the fiber is less concentrated. ■

## ASPARAGUS, BACON AND EGG SALAD

### Ingredients:

- 6 bacon slices
- 1 pound fresh Michigan asparagus, ends trimmed
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 tablespoons champagne vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 hard-boiled eggs, peeled and quartered
- 2/3 cup halved cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup sliced green onion

### Directions:

In skillet, cook bacon until crisp. Remove from pan. Set aside.

Cut asparagus into four pieces. Add asparagus to same skillet used to cook bacon. Cook until fork tender, about 4 minutes, depending on thickness of asparagus.

While asparagus cooks, prepare dressing. Whisk oil,



vinegar, honey, mustard, salt and pepper. Set aside.

Chop bacon.

Remove asparagus from pan and place on platter. Top with chopped bacon, eggs, tomatoes and green onion. Pour dressing over top.

## 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](http://bit.ly/DSFgolfouting2023). ■



## COME MEET THE LION SCOUTS PACK 244

Those interesting in learning more about Cub Scouts are invited to this event on Saturday, May 13, 3-5 p.m. at Beaver Creek Elementary Pavilion. Meet the Lion Scout Den from Beaver Creek, learn about Cub Scouts and future events, and have fun. The event will include a Mother's Day Gift Workshop for children kindergarten and younger to decorate a provided flower pot with a flower for free. For more information, visit Facebook: CubScoutPack244Johnston. ■

## PATCH, FROM FRONT

The contest, which helps kick off Drake Relays week by choosing the official Relays' mascot, drew 29 English bulldog contestants from

six states including Iowa, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota. Patch will now serve a year-long reign as the Drake Relays mascot and the Most Beautiful Bulldog. ■

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**FOR SALE:** Fit Quest exercise bike (black, steel frame), recumbent and upright, tension dial and arm work out cables, extra wide seat plus back support, fixed seat handles as well, no-chain magnetic style, about 1 year old time with distance, speed and calories trackers. \$100. Call Marilyn at 515-478-4594.

**FOR SALE:** Two bird feeders. Each set of bird feeders contains two feeders, one baffle and a stand. Price is \$20 each. No delivery. Buyer must pick up at our Johnston home. Call 515-360-6223 or email [clarence.stennes@gmail.com](mailto:clarence.stennes@gmail.com).

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

**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.

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