

# JOHNSTON Living Weekly

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## THE SIMPSON HOUSE AND BARN JOHNSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

*Submitted by the Johnston (Station)  
Historical Society*

In 1994, a group of Johnston residents formed a society dedicated to preserving history. The more they preserved, the more they found that needed to be preserved. They also found they needed to find a place to preserve that history.

On April 18, 2001, the Johnston (Station) Historical Society embarked on a new project to create a museum for Johnston's history and to create a community events facility in a historic setting. The Simpson family donated a century-old six-bedroom farmhouse, a barn that was built in 1936 and a windmill. The Society found the donated structures had to be moved from their original site on N.W. 86th Street and an agreement needed to be made with the City of Johnston to accept the structures on park land. It took more than a year to prepare the structures for the move, to do fundraising, to create architectural



The original barn

and structural plans, and to get all the approvals and paperwork needed to accomplish their goals.

On June 25, 2002, the Society made history by moving the house and barn loft two miles from their original site. Work soon started on excavation, pouring walls for the house basement and barn ground

level, backfilling and berming, installing supporting beams and columns, installing water and sewer systems, creating the wooden deck to the west of the loft and creating the base for the brick patio to the east of the loft.

**HISTORY, CONTINUED ON BACK**

### JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**TUES. HIGH 81 | LOW 65**

Partly sunny with a t-storm



**WED. HIGH 75 | LOW 62**

Cloudy and cooler but humid



**THURS. HIGH 84 | LOW 67**

Partly cloudy; humid



**FRI. HIGH 87 | LOW 59**

Sunny; humid and breezy



**SAT. HIGH 80 | LOW 59**

Mostly sunny and pleasant



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE BUTTER COW?

With the Iowa State Fair is Aug. 10-20, it's time to focus our thoughts and energy on one thing — the butter cow. Yes, the butter cow. Six hundred pounds of low-moisture, pure-cream butter. This iconic sculpture was first created in 1911 and has been a mainstay at the Iowa State Fair almost every year since. If you are an Iowan, you probably know more about the butter cow than you want to admit. If you are not from Iowa, you probably wonder what in the world a butter cow is. Either way, you may appreciate these “little known facts.” The answers are posted at the end of the survey.

## 1. How long can the butter from the butter cow be reused?

- a. Up to a year
- b. Up to five years
- c. Up to 10 years
- d. Up to 12 years

## 2. Is the butter cow made of

## solid butter?

- a. Yes
- b. No

## 3. How many toast slices could be buttered with butter used to sculpt the butter cow?

- a. 4,200
- b. 8,500
- c. 14,500
- d. 19,200

## 4. A sculpture was made of Gov. Branstad out of something other than butter. What was it?

- a. Solid gold
- b. Colby cheese
- c. Mustache hair
- d. Wood

## 5. Who was the first Iowa State Fair butter sculptor?

- a. Norma Duffy
- b. Leonardo da Vinci
- c. John K. Daniels
- d. Sarah Pratt



## 6. Butter sculpting was suspended at the Iowa State Fair — and nationally — when?

- a. During World War I
- b. During World War II
- c. During the extreme heat of 1973
- d. During the COVID-19 pandemic

## 7. Older butter is better for sculpting, true or false?

- a. True
- b. False

*Answers: 1 = c; 2 = b; 3 = d; 4 = b; 5 = c; 6 = b; 7 = a*

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

## Shane Goodman

President and  
Publisher

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JOHNSTON  
*Living Weekly*

A publication of Big Green Umbrella Media, Inc.  
8101 Birchwood Court, Suite, D, Johnston, IA 50131  
www.iowalivingmagazines.com



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# MAYOR'S RUN FOR THE TRAILS

Saturday, Aug. 12 is the Mayor's Run for the Trails + Kids Fun Run at Terra Park. The 5K walk and Kids Fun Run race start at 8 a.m. followed by the 5K run at 8:15 a.m. The race is chip-timed and prizes will be awarded to the top runners in each age group. For more information and to register, visit [www.cityofjohnston.com/Mayors5kRun](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/Mayors5kRun). ■



## JCSF GOLF OUTING

Johnston Community School Foundation's 24th annual Golf Outing will be held Friday, Sept. 8 at Jester Park Golf Course, 11949 N.W. 118th Ave., Granger. Check-in opens at 8 a.m., and shotgun start is at 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided at 1 p.m.

Proceeds from the golf outing support the work of the Johnston Community School Foundation. The mission of the foundation is to raise funds to provide grants for our educators in support of our students and schools and to promote educational excellence in the Johnston Community School District. Help is needed to grow funds to fulfill classroom grants in the 2023-24 school year. Register online by Aug. 28 at [www.wearejohnston.com/register-golf-outing](http://www.wearejohnston.com/register-golf-outing) or email [aprilwilson@jcsfoundation.org](mailto:aprilwilson@jcsfoundation.org). ■

## JOHNSTON BASKETBALL CLUB 2023 TRYOUTS

Tryouts of the Johnston Basketball Club (girls and boys) will be Sunday, Aug. 20, at the Johnston High School Gym, 6500 N.W. 100th St. Youth entering grades first through eighth in fall 2023 may participate. Check the JBC website ([johnstonbasketballclub.com](http://johnstonbasketballclub.com)) to register for tryouts. Specific times for tryouts per grade will be on the website in August. ■

## JOHNSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

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

Have Medicare questions? Join a SHIP Senior Medicare Patrol Counselor from the State of Iowa at JPL's Welcome to Medicare event on Saturday, Aug. 19 at 10:30 a.m. to learn how to effectively navigate Medicare, including Medicare A, B, C, and D, supplemental insurance, and everything you need to know to avoid Medicare fraud. Please register for this free event.

Spend some time watching the stars and planets with the whole family at the Amazing Stargazing event on Friday, Aug. 25 from 8-10:30 p.m. The evening will start out with a presentation from the DSM Astronomical Society as they orient us to what we'll be looking at in the night sky, how objects move in space, and why what we can see in the sky changes month to month and hour by hour. Then we'll head outside to view the moon, Saturn and Neptune, and the Andromeda Galaxy with telescopes. Registration is appreciated for this free, all-ages program. ■

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## JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP'S CURRENT NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. Currently, the organization is in most need of toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body soap, dish soap, laundry detergent, shampoo and deodorant. 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. ■

## SUMMER SERIES YOGA

Summer Series Yoga is held Tuesdays, Aug. 8 and 22, and Sept. 5 and 12, from 6-7 p.m. at The Lawn, 5870 Merle Hay Road. The event is free. A suggested \$5 donation goes directly to the food pantry. ■

## CITY MEETINGS

- **Monday, Aug. 14:** Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Thursday, Aug. 17:** Library Board meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, Aug. 17:** Board of Adjustment meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Monday, Aug. 21:** City Council Work Session, 6 p.m.
- **Monday, Aug. 21:** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. ■

# FARMERS MARKET

The Farmers Market is held Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m. through through Sept. 26 on the north side of Johnston City Hall, 6245 Merle Hay Road. Shop for fresh produce and homemade products while being entertained by live music. For more information, visit [www.cityofjohnston.com/farmersmarket](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/farmersmarket). ■

## PIE AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Join the faith communities of Johnston for relaxing music by band Asphalt and Stained Glass on Sunday, Aug. 27, 2-4 p.m. at the Simpson Barn, 6169 Northglenn Drive, Johnston. Tickets available at <https://givebutter.com/Y1vtFc>. ■



## MONTHLY MOVIES AFTER THE FARMERS MARKET

A movie will be shown once a month following the Farmers Market on the north side of Johnston City Hall, 6245 Merle Hay Road. Movies begin at dusk, around 8:30 p.m. Bring your lawn chair and blanket and enjoy the free show. Dates and movies are:

- **Tuesday, Aug. 15** – “The Mario Bros.”
- **Tuesday, Sept. 26** – “American Underdog” ■

## MONTHLY MUSIC AFTER THE FARMERS MARKET

Live music will be featured once a month following the Farmers Market on the north side of Johnston City Hall, 6245 Merle Hay Road. Concerts start at 7:30 p.m. on the stage just west of Johnston City Hall. Bring your lawn chair and blanket and enjoy the free music. Dates and entertainment are:

- **Tuesday, Sept. 12** – The Sons of Gladys Kravitz ■

## THE YARD SUMMER CONCERT

The Yard Summer Concert Series, presented by The Cork 50131, brings musical acts from across the United States, including Nashville and Los Angeles, to the Yard, 6245 Merle Hay Road, Johnston. All three concerts will begin at 7 p.m. Mark your calendars and enjoy the free show. Concerts are:

- **Saturday, Aug. 26** – TBA ■

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## FUNERAL NOTICES

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

### FRANK S. SEVERINO, SR.

Frank S. Severino, Sr. died on Saturday, July 29, 2023, peacefully at his home. A memorial mass was held Friday, Aug. 4, at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Urbandale.

Frank S. Severino, Sr. was born June 26, 1941, in Des Moines to Charles and Gilda Severino. He attended St. Anthony's Catholic Grade School, Dowling Catholic High School and graduated from Drake University. He was a captain in the United States Air Force stationed at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. On June 20, 1964, Frank married Margaret Hagie. They lived in Urbandale for many years.

Frank held several positions throughout his work career including with the Health Policy Corporation of Iowa, but what he enjoyed the most were his years spent at the Iowa State Capitol as a multi-client lobbyist. Frank actively volunteered on several campaigns as a strategist. Frank served on the Urbandale Planning and Zoning Commission and the Dowling Catholic High School Board.

Frank enjoyed attending his children's and grandchildren's extracurricular activities, monthly gatherings with his childhood classmates at Noah's Ark, and authentic Italian cooking. He had a generous heart and was devoted to praying the rosary daily and attending mass.

Frank is survived by his wife of 59 years, Margaret; children, all of Des Moines, Susan Fenton (Scotney), Frank, Jr., and Melissa Linder (Steve); grandchildren Ben Severino, Katie Severino, Sam Linder (Gabby), Will Linder, Sarah Linder and John Fenton; sisters, Rose Marie Schneider Hunter and Joy Lepere (Victor); brothers-in-law Ted West and John Hagie (Barb); and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Gilda Severino; parents-in-law, Ray Hagie and June Hagie; sister-in-law Kathryn West; brothers-in-law Raymond Schneider and Fred Hunter.

Memorial donations may be directed to Dowling Catholic High School or Saint Pius X Catholic Church. ■



### QUENTIN 'TOM' HART

Quentin "Tom" Hart, 73, died July 30, 2023. Tom was born Oct. 29, 1949, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to Quentin and Mary Jane (Shaeffer) Hart. He served in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1970 where he did two tours in Vietnam with a rank of E5 sergeant. His main profession after leaving the army was a machinist where his work ethic, attention to detail and high standards served him well through his career. He enjoyed playing board games with his children and grandchildren and fixing things around the house and yard. Tom fought a courageous battle with cancer.

Tom is survived by his loving wife, Faith Hart; daughters, Catherine Douglas and Mary Jane Mehre; son-in-law Wayne Mehre; grandchildren, Sydney Mehre, Jordyn Mehre and Darrell Douglas Jr.; and sister, Linda Greenawalt.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Quentin and Mary Jane Hart; sister, Bonnie Buell; and his son-in-law, Darrell Douglas.

Family will have a private graveside service at Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Adel at a later date. Memorial contributions can be directed to the ARL and Wounded Warrior Projects. Condolences may be expressed at [www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com](http://www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com). ■



## EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO  
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM

The Iowa State Fair

**IOWA STATE FAIR****Aug. 10-20****Iowa State Fairgrounds,  
3000 E. Grand Ave, Des Moines**

The Iowa State Fair hosts a variety of musical acts. From pop, country, boy bands to rock, the state fair will have any music fan's taste covered. In addition, enjoy all the activities to be had and the myriad of food offerings, including 64 new food items this year. For a full schedule, visit [www.iowastatefair.org/entertainment/fair-schedule](http://www.iowastatefair.org/entertainment/fair-schedule).

**WORLD FOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL****Aug. 25-27****Western Gateway Park, 1205 Locust St., Des Moines**

Enjoy a weekend of international cuisine, live music and performances. For a full schedule, visit [www.dsmpartnership.com/worldfoodandmusicfestival](http://www.dsmpartnership.com/worldfoodandmusicfestival).

**FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS****Friday, Aug. 25, and Friday, Sept. 8, 5:30-8 p.m.****Campbell Park, 12385 Woodlands Parkway, Clive**

The Clive Parks and Recreation's popular Food Truck Friday events feature local music, food trucks, and beverages in a family-friendly setting. Campbell Park is now a cashless facility. Entertainment on Aug. 25 is Randy Burk and the Prisoners. On Sept. 8, entertainment is Brian Herrin Trio.

**INGERSOLL LIVE****Aug. 26, 3-10 p.m.****2800 block on Ingersoll Avenue**

Ingersoll Live is a family-friendly block party with three stages of live music and entertainment plus local vendors, food trucks, art and family activities. For more information, visit [www.theavenuesdsm.com](http://www.theavenuesdsm.com).

**CELEBRATE WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY****Saturday, Aug. 26, noon to 2 p.m.****McDonalds Woods Park, Norwalk (rain location,  
Norwalk Easter Public Library)**

Celebrate 103 years of women winning the right to vote. Women and daughters, bring your favorite poem, speech or drawing that depicts how you feel about our struggles, success. If willing to help with food, supplies and/or set up, call 515-631-9153.

**THE WATER RIDE****Saturday, Aug. 26****Confluence Brewing Company**

Start at Confluence Brewing Company and enjoy the Des Moines trails. Join in riding for a cause and help raise awareness and funds to support water and education projects in Ghana, Africa. Show up around 11 a.m. to sign in or register and get your Water Ride gear. Start riding your bicycle at noon from Confluence with riders throughout the community. Over the past 10 years, the money raised through various Water Ride events has helped fund three wells and the creation of TMP Academy, a primary school in Ghana. All proceeds from this event go directly to ensuring all students of TMP Academy have access to education when finances would otherwise be a barrier they are unable to get around. TMP Academy currently educates over 150 kids. To date, more than \$45,000 has been raised. Official 2023 Water Ride stops are Confluence Brewing Co., 515 Brewing and Peace Tree Brewing DSM. The event link is [www.facebook.com/events/278203251215477/?active\\_tab=discussion](https://www.facebook.com/events/278203251215477/?active_tab=discussion). ■



## RECIPE

# BREAKING BETTER-FOR-YOU BREAD

*(Family Features)* For many looking to make healthy dietary changes, weight loss is a primary concern. Because the Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend 45-65% of daily calories come from carbohydrates, an eating plan like the ketogenic diet (or keto, for short), which involves consuming a low amount of carbs and replacing them with healthy fats, can be a popular choice for achieving weight loss goals.

Replacing carb intake with fat can put your body in a metabolic state called ketosis, which makes you more efficient at burning fat for energy. The keto diet can also help reduce blood sugar and insulin levels and lower risk for certain diseases.

Those following the keto eating plan typically significantly reduce or avoid consuming bread, pasta, rice and baked goods, which are all traditionally high in carbohydrates. However, Toufayan Bakeries introduced a line of keto-friendly wraps, pitas and flatbreads that are high in fiber and protein while containing no sugar and being lower in carbs than traditional bread.

Try serving these satisfyingly light solutions as the base ingredients in this Keto Enchilada Quesadilla recipe from chef George Duran. ■

## KETO ENCHILADA QUESADILLA

*Recipe courtesy of chef George Duran*

**Yield: 1 quesadilla**

- Rotisserie chicken, pulled and chopped
- enchilada sauce
- olive oil
- Toufayan Bakeries Keto Wraps
- Tex-Mex cheese, grated
- jarred or fresh jalapenos, thinly sliced
- cilantro, chopped
- salsa, for serving

### Directions:

In bowl, mix pulled chicken and enchilada sauce until fully covered. Set aside.

Spray or brush olive on both sides of keto wrap and place on nonstick pan or skillet over medium heat. Once wrap is heated on one side, flip and heavily



top entire wrap with grated cheese. Allow cheese to melt then disperse chicken mixture, sliced jalapenos and chopped cilantro on half of wrap. Fold wrap over ingredients and cook until quesadilla is golden brown on both sides.

Cut into three triangles and serve with salsa.



The Simpson house and barn turning onto N.W. 70th Ave. from N.W. 86th Street on June 25, 2002.

## HISTORY, FROM FRONT

In June 2003, the concrete floor of the barn was poured along with the house basement floor and cellar steps. Interior walls were created and utilities were installed. With more fundraising, more grant writing, in-kind labor and cost reductions and donations from contractors, Community Service support, and many volunteers from Pioneer Hi-Bred, the Johnston community, high school seniors, the Johnston Park Board, the Mayor's Youth Council, and inmates from Newton and Mitchellville prisons, and thousands of hours by Society members, the work was completed.

The barn was finished with restrooms, kitchen, heating and air conditioning on the ground level. The upper patio was completed incorporating inscribed bricks from donors who supported this effort. The bricks are 1902 bricks that were salvaged from the foundation of the house at the 86th Street site. A new steel roof was installed, and a cultured stone façade covered the poured concrete walls.

On Jan. 3, 2005, the Johnston (Station) Historical Society presented the City of Johnston with this gift to the community.

The house was finished within a year and is now a museum with numerous rooms full of stories and artifacts pertaining to the history of Johnston. Anyone who has lived, labored or learned in Johnston is a part of its history.

All of this has been made possible through the generosity of donors — people and businesses that have given time, money and resources to this project. The Society had a vision to give this barn as a legacy to the community and to preserve our history before it was lost forever. ■



The barn is now a community events center. The house is a historical museum.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**MULTI-HOUSE GARAGE SALE:** 6438 and 6434 NW 93rd St. Johnston, Friday and Saturday August 11th/12th 8:00am - 4:00pm. Lots of baby/toddler clothes and shoes, men's/women's clothes, maternity clothes, household items, books, picture frames, kids' toys.

**BISHOP DRUMM GUILD GARAGE SALE:** 10:30 am to 12:30 pm every Thursday until September 28. Located on the campus at 5837 Winwood Dr. Johnston, behind McAuley Terr. Bag sale on clothes, big mark down on Christmas. Lots of décor, puzzles, small tables, lamps, and other household items.

**FOR SALE:** 2 tents — a 3-man and a 4-man Eddie Bauer. 3 adult sleeping bags — 2 heavy weight and 1 medium weight. Large dry bags. Coleman 2-burner camping stove. Best Offer. ALSO 13 1/2-foot WE-NO-NAH single-person canoe. Phone 515-480-8299.

**FOR SALE:** 1981 Ford F100 Truck. Blue/white Ran when I shut it off two years ago. For someone who wants to repair/restore. \$500 or make an offer to take it away. Call 515-238-3198.

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