

# JOHNSTON Living Weekly

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## IGNIT AND CITY OF JOHNSTON BREAK GROUND ON COMPLEX

Ignit Sports and Fitness, in collaboration with the City of Johnston, broke ground on its entertainment, sports and wellness complex on Sept. 19. The complex is located immediately north of Interstate 80/35 on Merle Hay Road in Johnston.

"This complex is an extremely exciting project, both for Ignit and for the greater Des Moines area," said Chad O'Meara, co-founder of Ignit. "The facilities will be an exciting venue and gathering place for our community. Plus, it will attract local, regional and national events right here to Iowa, which is exactly in line with the City of Johnston's plans to reinvigorate the Merle Hay Corridor."

Chad O'Meara, Johnston Mayor Paula Dierenfeld and Parks and Recreation Director John Schmitz gave short remarks at the



Ignit Sports and Fitness, in collaboration with the City of Johnston, broke ground on its entertainment, sports and wellness complex on Sept. 19. Participating were Ignit and City officials, Chad O'Meara (co-founder of Ignit), Tom Cope, Jim Evans, Suresh Reddy, Mayor Paula Dierenfeld and Brian Burkhardt.

groundbreaking.

The sports and wellness complex will have more than 250,000 square feet of indoor space, as well as the following indoor and outdoor

amenities:

- Competition-level track and courts for basketball, volleyball,

**IGNIT, CONTINUED ON BACK**

### JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**TUES. HIGH 88 | LOW 63**

Periods of sun; breezy



**WED. HIGH 76 | LOW 52**

Mostly cloudy; showers



**THURS. HIGH 72 | LOW 47**

Sunny and nice



**FRI. HIGH 56 | LOW 39**

Sunny and breezy



**SAT. HIGH 59 | LOW 39**

Plenty of sun



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# DOLLARS AND SENSORS

My youngest daughter was on a trip to Kansas City and called to tell me her car was having trouble starting and that the check engine light was on. If she was in town, I would direct her to take it to one of my favorite mechanic shops and get the problems resolved. But she wasn't, and my mechanical aptitude is of minimum value. My advice: If the check engine light isn't flashing, and if you can get it started, drive it home so we can get it in the shop.

Fortunately, she has a friend in the auto mechanics world, and he was able to help her out. Ultimately, it was a sensor of some sort that we bought for \$100 and he swapped out. Problem solved. At least I think so. The truth is that I don't have any idea what that sensor did or what putting a new one in fixed, but the car starts and

the check engine light is off.

This process made me think of the discussions I have heard between young car guys and old car guys. The old guys yearn for the days when engines were simple and a car could be worked on without hooking up a computer to it to explain what is wrong. The young guys love the technology and seem to crave for more. I just want my car to run properly, but we must all admit that we have become accustomed to the modern "power" gadgets we now take for granted.

Power steering. Power brakes. Power windows. Power locks. Those are givens today.

So are automatic transmissions, all-wheel drive, cruise control,



back-up cameras and Bluetooth connections.

Then there are the truly amazing features like adaptive cruise control, parking assist, head-up displays, driver drowsiness detection, gesture and voice controls, autonomous driving, blind spot warnings, heat and massage functions and ambient lighting. If you don't know what these are, you will soon, along with many more.

Just expect to continually replace more of those \$100 sensor things.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■



## Shane Goodman

President and Publisher  
Big Green Umbrella Media  
shane@dmcityview.com  
515-953-4822, ext. 305

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## News contact

Tammy Pearson  
515-953-4822, ext. 302  
tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com



## Advertising contact

Andrea Hodapp  
515-953-4822, ext. 322  
andrea@iowalivingmagazines.com

# SUPPORT YOUR LIBRARY AT ART IN THE BARN

Mark your calendars — the 11th annual Art in the Barn fundraising event is happening on Friday, Oct. 20, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Simpson Barn, just west of Johnston Public Library. Peruse and purchase work from more than 20 local artists and enjoy appetizers, wine, boutique beer, and live music included with the \$20 ticket price. Tickets for Art in the Barn are on sale now at the library or online at [johnstonlibrary.com/art-in-the-barn](http://johnstonlibrary.com/art-in-the-barn) and will be available for purchase at the door on the night of the event. Come for the art, come for the entertainment or come to catch up with your neighbors.

If you can't make it to Art in the Barn but are still interested in supporting the library, please consider donating to the Johnston Public Library Foundation. The mission of the Johnston Public Library Foundation is "to enhance and improve the Johnston Public Library." Board members — our neighbors, business and community leaders — work to generate community support for collection development, programs and technology and building initiatives that are beyond the means of the library's operating budget.

In 2023, the Library Foundation invested funds to support children's Summer Reading programming, new outdoor patio furniture at JPL, an outdoor musical garden, and branded book bag prizes for the year-long Ultimate Reading Challenge for Adults. Your generous gifts have made these projects possible.

More information about Art in the Barn is available online at [johnstonlibrary.com/art-in-the-barn](http://johnstonlibrary.com/art-in-the-barn) or by calling Johnston Public Library at 515-278-5233. We hope to see you on Friday, Oct. 20, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Support your library, enjoy local art, and have some local fun. ■



## KIWANIS OF JOHNSTON LUNCH MEETING

**Tuesday, Oct. 3, 11:30 a.m.**

**Cozy Café, Johnston**

The speaker at the Kiwanis Club's meeting will be John Morrissey, chairman, president and volunteer coordinator for the all-volunteer run visual arts gallery in downtown Des Moines.

Polk County Heritage Gallery is a sustainable, nonprofit gallery.

Celebrating its 43rd year in 2023, the Polk County Heritage Gallery has a rich history of providing opportunities to Iowa artists. Housed in the 1908 Beaux Arts Post Office, now part of the Polk County Administrative Building, the Gallery is home to three competitive juried exhibits per year — in addition to a variety of shows by local artists.

The Gallery is 100% sustainable and fueled by hundreds of volunteer hours every year. Supporters work to keep the doors open, manage exhibitions, and hang work. They spent more than 1,300 volunteer hours in the Gallery and 150 estimated volunteer hours managing submissions and hanging shows.

The gallery sponsors opportunities year-around for Iowa artists to feature their work, including two juried exhibits, typically in the spring and fall. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook for updates about upcoming shows and submission opportunities.

If planning to attend the Kiwanis meeting, RSVP to Barb Allen at 515-577-2194 or [bjallen713@gmail.com](mailto:bjallen713@gmail.com). Non-members are always welcome. Kiwanis of Johnston meets on the first Tuesday each month at Cozy Café at 11:30 a.m. and on the second and third Tuesdays at Crown Point Community Center at 7 a.m. ■

## DEWEY PARK IMPROVEMENTS PUBLIC MEETING

**Tuesday, Oct. 3, 5:30 p.m.**

**Dewey Park Southwest Shelter**

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 5:30 p.m. to review the final plans for the playground and to discuss additional future improvements to Dewey Park. Your input is invaluable in shaping the future of the city's community space. An overview of the timeline for implementing the playground and future improvement projects will be provided. ■

## BELGIAN WAFFLES FUNDRAISER

**Saturday, Nov. 4, 8-11 a.m.**  
**Johnston High School Commons**

Enjoy an all-you-can-eat Belgian waffles breakfast with sausage links, flavored syrups, butter, non-dairy whipped topping, coffee and juice sponsored by the Johnston Band Parent Association. Cost is \$10 per person in advance and \$12 per person at the door. Kids younger than 5 eat free. Tickets are available at the Johnston Fareway on the mornings of Oct. 21 and Oct. 28 or online. Scan the QR code for the link. ■



## LIONS CLUB TRUNK OR TREAT

**Oct. 30, 5-7 p.m.**  
**Johnston Lions Club, 6501 Merle Hay Road**

Join the Lions Club for a family-friendly trick-or-treating event. Stop by to see the kid-themed trunks and get some sweet treats from community partners. ■



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## HISTORY OF JOHNSTON PROGRAMS

**Sundays, Oct. 15 and Nov. 12, 1:30-2:30 p.m.**

**Johnston Public Library, 6700 Merle Hay Road**

Johnston Station Historical Society and Johnston Public Library have partnered on a History of Johnston program that will include a series of presentations at the Johnston Public Library.

On Sunday, Oct. 15, 1:30-2:30 p.m., learn about Johnston in the 20th century. Topics will include: Hyperion Field and Motor Club, Camp Dodge, the Inter-Urban and school consolidation presented by AJ Simpson; Henry Wallace and Pioneer Hi-Bred, presented by Tom Leffler; Ben Dewey and the Johnston Lions Club, presented by Mary Jane Paez; the incorporation of Johnston by John Brown; Saylorville Dam by AJ Simpson; and Green Meadows by Mary Jane Paez.

On Sunday, Nov. 12, 1:30-2:30 p.m. hear the story of the city, from the start of the city, presented by John Brown, to growing pains by Don Coates, to the growth and accomplishments of the City by Mayor Paula Dierenfeld. ■

## JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP'S CURRENT NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. 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.

This week, and every third week of the month, they collect for the Friday Food bag program that serves food insecure students at all nine Johnston schools. They are currently doing about 200 bags per week. Their needs are: Ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, granola bars, individual shelf stable milk, individual peanut butter and fruit cups. ■



# SEEN IN JOHNSTON

THE 2023 JOHNSTON HIGH SCHOOL'S ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK KICK OFF TO HOMECOMING WAS HELD AT JHS STADIUM SEPT. 17.



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## EVENTS IN THE AREA

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### WAUKTOBERFEST

**Saturday, Oct. 7, 4:30-11 p.m.**  
**Downtown Triangle in Waukee**

Grab your lederhosen or dirndl and get ready for the second annual Wauktoberfest, a German-style celebration, in Waukee. The celebration is a fundraiser sponsored by the Waukee Area Historical Society (WAHS).

This year's event features German beer and a variety of food, including a German-style menu. Musicians from the Czech It Out band will kick things off with polka music starting at 4:30 p.m. The music continues with the Polka Police at 5:30 p.m. The headlining band, Suede, takes the stage at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Children ages 5 and younger get in free. To learn more about the Waukee Area Historical Society or Wauktoberfest, visit <https://waukeehistory.org/wauktoberfest/>.

### 2023 MADISON COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

**Oct. 14-15, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

The Madison County Covered Bridge Festival features family fun, including parade and tours of the namesake bridges. Vendors, demonstrations, kids zone, live entertainment, car show, quilt show, Madison County Historical Complex tours, and much more are sure to please crowds. Festival admission is \$3 or two for \$5 and free for children younger than 11.

The craft booths display hand-made goods made by local artists: pottery, quilts, doll clothes, paintings, drawings, photographs, jewelry, woodcrafts, fiber arts and more. Organizers are expecting 150 vendors and demonstrators.

Most booths, as well as the food, live music and entertainment, will be at the Madison County Courthouse Square in Winterset with about 20 vendors inside the Winterset Livery.

Demonstrations and old-time activities include

antique tractor rides, a Civil War fashion show, sheep-shearing, wool spinning, a corn box for kids to play in and marble shooting.

Passport to the Past activities offered at the Madison County Historical Complex at 915 S. Second Ave. will include penny candy sales, horse and wagon rides, old-fashioned school lessons, a Civil War reenactment, blacksmith demonstrations and more.

Visitors can also enjoy an old-fashioned spelling bee and an antique car show Sunday only off the square.

A festival highlight is the annual Antique Vehicle and Covered Bridge Festival Parade, which begins at the high school at 3 p.m. on Sunday and heads north on Eighth Avenue until turning east on Court and continuing to the other side of town on Court and Washington streets.

For the kids, the event boasts inflatables and a carnival. A face painter will be available on E. Court Street with free face painting from 9 a.m. to noon on both Saturday and Sunday.

Enjoy one of the bus tours of the bridges offered by the Winterset Rotary Club Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon. The price is \$15 per person, and the tour is approximately two hours long. With a knowledgeable guide full of covered bridge history and lore, you'll visit the Roseman, Hogback and Cutler-Donahoe bridges and the North River Schoolhouse.

Tickets for the tours can be purchased at the Rotary booth on the festival grounds, near The Cellar coffee shop on First Avenue. Tours depart from First Avenue and Washington Street, near the George Stout public art project. It's a great way to see the bridges without navigating festival traffic and gravel roads.

Musical entertainment at this year's festival includes The Wild Woods Band, the James Biehn Band, The Bird Hunters and more. See the complete entertainment schedule online, <https://www.madisoncounty.com/covered-bridge-festival-2>. ■

## RECIPE

# BRING BACK FAMILY BONDING THIS FALL

*(Family Features)* Busy fall schedules often leave little time for the things that matter most — sharing special moments with those you love. This year, as time seems to speed up during another school year, making family bonding a priority in your household can start with a few simple tricks.

## SCHEDULE FAMILY NIGHTS

Desiring evenings spent with your nearest and dearest and actually making them happen are two separate things entirely. It's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season with days that feel too long and evenings that are often too short. Putting dedicated family nights on the calendar is a good way to avoid last-minute commitments that take away from important bonding time. Incorporate some favorite activities, whether your loved ones are board game enthusiasts or movie buffs, to give everyone something exciting to look forward to.

## ENCOURAGE EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

Beyond those special moments at home, there are plenty of ways to connect with your kiddos. Encouraging them to participate in extracurriculars, like sports, band, theater, dance, choir or other activities, provides a great way to enjoy something together as you watch your children branch out and try new things. If they happen to try an activity you used to (or still do) participate in, it's an easy way to make a unique connection by sharing your own memories, offering helpful tips or even passing down old equipment like sports gear or an instrument. ■

## HAM AND SWISS SLIDERS

**Total time: 25 minutes**

**Servings: 4-6**

- 1 stick butter
- 1 package (12 rolls) King's Hawaiian Original Hawaiian Sweet Rolls
- 1 pound shaved deli ham
- 1 pound thinly sliced Swiss cheese

### Directions:

Heat oven to 350 F. Melt butter and set aside.

Cut entire pack of rolls in half horizontally, keeping all top and bottom halves intact.

In 9-by-13-inch pan, place bottom halves of rolls and cover with ham and cheese.



Cover ham and cheese stacks with top halves of rolls. Drizzle butter mixture over tops of rolls.

Bake, uncovered, 15-20 minutes. Separate rolls for serving.



# SEEN IN JOHNSTON



**GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEIGHBORHOOD19 AT BRIO:** A groundbreaking was held for Neighborhood19 at Brio, 6901 Peckham St., Johnston, on Tuesday, Sept. 26. The development will include a few stand-alone homes and eight duplex condos. So far, 16 of the 19 are sold. In the background is Wesley Life - Brio Senior Living community. Brio of Johnston is a WesleyLife Community for Healthy Living. ■

## YOGA BY THE LAKE

The public is invited to more Yoga by the Lake this fall. Relax and unwind on Saturday mornings at the Terra Lake Amphitheater, 6300 Pioneer Parkway. Enjoy this free hour of outdoor yoga from 8-9 a.m. City recreation is partnering with IGNIT to offer each session taught by certified yoga instructor Rocio Valea. Dates are Oct. 7 and Oct. 14. ■

### IGNIT, FROM FRONT

pickleball and futsal.

- Turfed, lit fields for outdoor sports.
- Sand volleyball courts.
- Outside pickleball courts.
- Walking and cycling paths that tie to regional park trails.
- Connected to a city park/playground, food truck alley and an entertainment plaza.

There are also plans to include a hotel, a golf range, and additional

entertainment, restaurants and shops to create a beautiful campus feel.

“This state-of-the-art complex will support a wide variety of prominent national, regional and statewide events,” said Brian O’Meara, co-founder of Ignit. “The Ignit business model is designed for inclusion, and we encourage everyone from the community to find a way to enjoy and participate.”

The sports and wellness complex project is expected to be completed in late 2024. ■

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FOR SALE:** Small antiques, old school desk, glassware, old projector, 70-year-old bike, Duncan table/hutch, porcelain dolls, antique 3-wheel horse, tricycle. Call 515-249-8664.

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

**FOR SALE:** 2006 Chevrolet Silverado truck 4x4, V8, crew cab, 148,000 miles, great condition. Call 641-757-0731

**FOR SALE:** GE electric glass top oven range. Double oven, air fry, conv. bake, warming burner, self & steam clean, 8 months old. \$90. Call 515-745-5002.

**FOR SALE:** Softball/Baseball Pitching/Hitting net. \$20. Call/Text 515-238-3198.

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

**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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