

# JOHNSTON Living Weekly

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## SEEN IN JOHNSTON

JOHNSTON CHAMBER JUMPSTART WAS HELD AT HILTON GARDEN INN ON MARCH 21.



Annie Mielke and Christy Cline



Chris Jones and Jenni Buchanan



Steve Doughty and Kevin McGuire



Dennis Vogel and Michele Forbes



Kit Mihalik and Andre McKay



Paula Bierle and Jamie Lewton

### JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

**WED. HIGH 56 | LOW 33**  
Partly cloudy; breezy



**THURS. HIGH 65 | LOW 38**  
Sunny and pleasant



**FRI. HIGH 70 | LOW 45**  
Plenty of sunshine



**SAT. HIGH 69 | LOW 46**  
Times of clouds and sun



**SUN. HIGH 65 | LOW 46**  
Times of clouds and sun



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# MATCH GAME 2024

A few years ago, I wrote a column that seemed to connect with many of you about Tupperware containers and the assortment of lids we have that don't seem to match anything. I also expressed my frustration in how to store these plastic containers and their tops. My email was full of replies of similar annoyances from many of you, with a few solutions, too.

At the Goodman home, we have worked through some of the Tupperware troubles, as my wife found a lid sorter that actually works, for the most part. As for what they pair up with, well, that's still an ongoing match game.

I don't spend a lot of time in the kitchen, but when I do, I like to be able to find things. In recent searches, I realized we have a new cupboard dilemma. It seems that our nation's obsession with carrying water around everywhere has reached a new level. A regular glass no longer will make do. Neither will a plastic bottle. Not even a portable mug. And heaven forbid someone actually drink out of a water fountain. As many of you know, we now apparently must tote

30 ounces or more of water around in massive stainless steel insulated tumblers. The brand names Yeti and Stanley have become synonymous for these trendy types of cups, and they don't come cheap. Fortunately, some knock-off brands have evolved that work just as well. Unfortunately, these things come in a variety of sizes with a variety of lid options that don't interchange. Sound familiar?

Yes, our cupboards that were full of mismatched Tupperware containers and lids are now full of mismatched stainless steel insulated tumblers and lids. Seriously, how many of these things does one family need?

It seems I am part of the problem, or at least that is what my wife tells me. I enjoy a cup of coffee in the morning on my drive to work, and I often pour it in one of those stainless steel insulated tumblers. I don't like to have those awkward lids that prevent the cup from spilling but don't prevent coffee from dripping down my chin. So



I pass on the lid, which I am told creates the initial separation. From there, I don't know where these things go. I have checked the dryer, and they are not in there with my single socks. I looked under my car seat, but all I found was some loose change and what I think was once a banana peel. I even looked in the cupboards at work, but that only resulted in finding even more of these mismatched cups and lids.

In dealing with our Tupperware container dilemma, I didn't hesitate to throw the old, crusty ones away. The mismatched lids, too. But these stainless steel insulated tumblers don't seem to wear out, and they are too expensive to simply discard. So, the collection of mismatched tumblers and lids continues to grow, and I swear I saw the Tupperware containers and those dastardly lids are smirking at me.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman  
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# SPRING CLEANUP

The Johnston Spring Cleanup event will be Monday, April 15, for those living west of 86th Street and Tuesday, April 16, for those east of 86th Street. Place your items on the curb by 6 a.m., depending upon which date is your designated trash collection day.

The Spring Cleanup allows residents to dispose of large household items on their regular trash collection day at no additional charge. All smaller items must be placed in bags or boxes. The average Johnston household pays around \$6 per year (included in your monthly utility bill) for this event, so take advantage of it. If you live in an apartment, condo or townhome with private trash collection, you may not be a part of the Spring Cleanup event. Contact your association or management to find out.

For guidance on what items can go at the curb, visit [www.WhereItShouldGo.com/springcleanup](http://www.WhereItShouldGo.com/springcleanup) or call Metro Waste Authority at 515-244-0021. For more information, visit [www.cityofjohnston.com/675/Spring-Cleanup](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/675/Spring-Cleanup). ■

# MAYOR'S BIKE RIDE

Join Mayor Paula Dierenfeld for the annual Mayor's Bike Ride on Thursday, May 9, at Terra Park, 6400 Pioneer Parkway near Corteva. Mayor Dierenfeld will provide comments around 11:30 a.m., and the ride will take off shortly after. A free lunch will be provided for riders at the large shelter at Terra Park. Visit [www.cityofjohnston.com/DocumentCenter/View/12699/2024-Mayors-Bike-Ride](http://www.cityofjohnston.com/DocumentCenter/View/12699/2024-Mayors-Bike-Ride) to view the map of the route. Stay tuned for more details. ■

# COMMUNITY GREETINGS

Johnston Community Greetings would like to welcome anyone new to Johnston with a welcome bag including discounts at local businesses and city information. Contact Missy Shepherd by phone, text or email at 515-991-5014 or [mshpherdgreetings@gmail.com](mailto:mshpherdgreetings@gmail.com). ■

# VETERANS MEAL TO BE SERVED

A Veterans Meal will be served April 6 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Camp Dodge Maintenance Armory, building 1350, 7105 N.W. 70th Ave., Johnston. A guest speaker will be featured. Menu is choice of spaghetti with meat sauce or Alfredo sauce, corn, garlic bread, relish tray and dessert. RSVP to Bre Sunken by March 29, [breannah.suntken@ijag.org](mailto:breannah.suntken@ijag.org) or 712-358-3009. ■

## ANNUAL TREE SALE

Johnston's Annual Tree Sale starts on Tuesday, April 9, at 8 a.m. Trees can be purchased online, but remember to set up your account in advance to make the buying process smoother. Each tree costs \$75, and four varieties are available: cathedral elm, tulleo black gum, American larch and swamp white oak. For more information, visit <https://www.cityofjohnston.com/1436/Tree-Sale>. ■

## KIWANIS CLUB OF JOHNSTON PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Kiwanis Club will hold a pancake breakfast on Saturday, April 6, 7:30-11 a.m. at Johnston Middle School, 6501 N.W. 62nd Ave. Tickets for this all-you-can-eat pancakes event is \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. For tickets, email [johnstonkiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:johnstonkiwanis@gmail.com). ■

## JOHNSTON LIONS CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 20, the Johnston Lions Club is hosting its annual Pancake Breakfast at the Johnston Middle School cafeteria, 6501 N.W. 62nd Ave. Hours are 7-11 a.m., and the breakfast features pancakes (including gluten-free pancakes), sausage, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. Tickets are \$8 at the door and kids 5 and younger are free. Proceeds will benefit the Lions Club service projects. ■

# MEET THE FINALISTS FOR LIBRARY DIRECTOR

The public is invited on Thursday, April 11 to meet the top three candidates for the Johnston Public Library director position. The library board will be conducting interviews with each candidate and would like you to be a part of it. Candidate presentations are a half hour each and will be from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the West Meeting Room. After each presentation, you will have the opportunity to fill out a feedback form to share your thoughts on the candidates. Your insights will greatly influence the selection process, so the library board encourages you not to miss this chance to shape the future of the Johnston Public Library. ■

# KITE-BUILDING WORKSHOP

The annual Kite-Building Workshop will be Saturday, April 13, 2-4 p.m. at the Johnston Public Library, 6700 Merle Hay Road. Prepare for Kites on the Green and make a kite to fly during the festival. Veridian Credit Union sponsors the free kite kits. ■

# 2024 MOVIES IN THE YARD

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable lineup of outdoor Movies on the Yard this summer at Johnston Town Center, 6245 Merle Hay Road. The lineup includes: Thursday, May 16: "Barbie"; Friday, June 21: "Kung Fu Panda 4"; Thursday, Aug. 15: "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3"; Thursday, Sept. 19: "Wonka." All screenings begin at dusk. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and loved ones for an evening of free entertainment. ■

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## FUNERAL NOTICES

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

### VICKI LYNN EALY

Vicki Lynn (Trede) Ealy, 77, of Johnston died March 26, 2024, at Edencrest at Beaverdale in Des Moines. A memorial service was held Friday, March 29 at New Hope United Methodist Church in Des Moines. Inurnment followed at the Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines. Online condolences may be sent to [www.caldwellparrish.com](http://www.caldwellparrish.com)

Vicki was born in Davenport on April 19, 1946. She married Philip Ealy on Jan. 19, 1982. Vicki's greatest joys were her family, music, reading, gardening and crafting. Her strength was present in everything she faced, including several moves, beating colon cancer, remodeling an 1850s farmhouse, and through her battle with Alzheimer's.

Vicki is survived by her husband, Phil; daughters Megan and Amanda; sisters Dona Hendrickson and Gayle Trede; several sisters- and brothers-in-law, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister, Sandy Jamison, and brother-in-law, Jack Hendrickson.

Memorials can be made to the Alzheimer's Association or WesleyLife. ■



### DANIEL PAUL WEES

Daniel Paul Wees, 81, of Johnston and formerly of Omaha, died March 25, 2024, at UnityPoint Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines. A funeral Mass was held April 1 at St. Pius X Catholic Church followed by interment at McDivitt Grove Cemetery in Urbandale.

Daniel was born Jan. 16, 1943, in Omaha. He married Phyllis Wolski on Nov. 9, 1963. She preceded him in death on March 1, 2019. He enjoyed creating stained-glass pieces, fishing and woodworking, but most of all, he enjoyed time with his family.

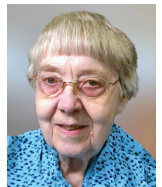
He is survived by his two sons, Jeff Wees and Doug (Susan) Wees; two grandchildren, Eli and Noah Wees; one sister, Mary Ann Wees; and his companion, Shelly Svoboda. He was preceded in death by his wife, parents and one brother, Robert Wees.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the American Cancer Society or the Animal Rescue League. ■



### SISTER JEANETTE KOPEL

Sister Jeanette Kopen (Mary Renř), CHM, 90, died at Bishop Drumm Retirement Center, Johnston, on March 26, 2024. Services will be held at Our Lady of Peace Chapel, Bishop Drumm Retirement Center, on Tuesday, April 2, 4 p.m. - Memorial Vespers. Services in Davenport at Magnificat Chapel, Humility of Mary Center, are Tuesday, April 2, with rosary at 4 p.m. and memorial vigil service at 7 p.m. ■



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[andrea@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:andrea@iowalivingmagazines.com)

### IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM

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MONDAY: CLOSED  
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SATURDAY: 10AM - 2PM

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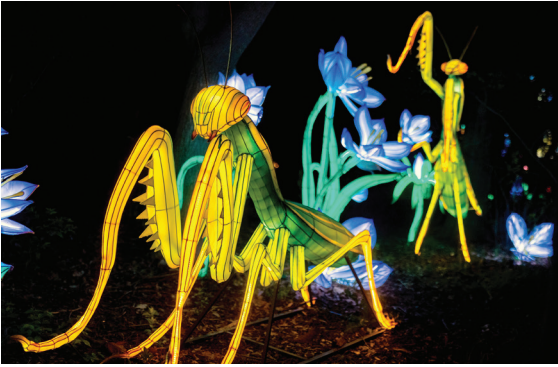


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Wild Lights Festival at Blank Park Zoo

**WILD LIGHTS FESTIVAL**

April 5 - May 27, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Blank Park Zoo, 7401 S.W. Ninth St., Des Moines

[blankparkzoo.com/events/calendar/wild-lights-festival](http://blankparkzoo.com/events/calendar/wild-lights-festival)

The Blank Park Zoo's Wild Lights Festival returns. Visitors can bear witness to more than 50 hand-crafted creations that light up the zoo. The illuminated Asian mythical creatures create plenty of photo opportunities for families.

**TORI'S ANGELS 'SPREADING OUR WINGS'**

April 11, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Stine Barn, 4000 Turnberry Drive, West Des Moines

[torisangels.org](http://torisangels.org)

The Tori's Angels Foundation has helped more than 145 kids with life-threatening medical challenges until their 19th birthday. This fundraising event includes cocktails and hors d'oeuvres; live and silent auctions including Chicago Cubs tickets /hotel/field passes package, Chiefs and Packers tickets, bourbon and wine baskets and travel packages; and an opportunity to meet some of the kids and families who have been assisted.

**MIDDLE OF THE MAP TATTOO CONVENTION**

April 12-14

Hy-Vee Hall, 730 Third St., Des Moines

[middleofthemaptattoo.com](http://middleofthemaptattoo.com)

Exhibits, seminars and entertainment, all inside one building that will put any ink enthusiast in tattoo heaven.

Awards will be presented throughout the weekend for different styles, best sleeves and more. Live musical performances are also featured.

**POETRY PALOOZA**

April 19-20

Grand View University,

1200 Grandview Ave., Des Moines

[poetryamp.org/poetry-palooza](http://poetryamp.org/poetry-palooza)

Poetry slams, panels, workshops and book launches create a palooza of poetry. This festival celebrates esteemed poets, cultivates students and emerging talent, and demonstrates the positive power of poetry.

**SPRING GALLERY NIGHT**

April 19

Historic Valley Junction,

137 Fifth St., West Des Moines

[valleyjunction.com](http://valleyjunction.com)

Spring Gallery Night in Historic Valley Junction showcases artwork by regional, national and international artists during their annual Spring Gallery Night. From original artwork, custom jewelry, ceramics, glass, furniture, folk art, fine art reproductions and much more.

**DRAKE RELAYS**

April 24-27

Drake Stadium, 2719 Forest Ave., Des Moines

[godrakebulldogs.com](http://godrakebulldogs.com)

The Drake Relays draw premier track and field athletes from around the country and some of the best in-state high school track athletes to Des Moines.

**GARY'S RIDE: BEAT BRAIN CANCER**

Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.

Rider check-in and pickup is 9-9:45 a.m.

Waukee Raccoon River Valley Trailhead,

Hickman Road and N. 10th St., Waukee

Help support local brain cancer patients and their families by making a charitable contribution toward Gary's Ride's \$45,000 goal. Registration is now open for Gary's Ride. Adult riders registered by May 6 receive the 2024 T-shirt. Register at [www.garysrideiowa.org/shop](http://www.garysrideiowa.org/shop). ■

## RECIPE

# A BETTER-FOR-YOU WAY TO BEGIN THE DAY

*(Family Features)* Starting a journey toward better health and wellness can begin the same way you can (and should) start each day: with a nutritious breakfast. A morning meal loaded with nutrient-boosting flavor provides the foundation you need not only for the day at hand, but for a sustainable long-term eating plan, as well.

Consider this Sweet Potato Breakfast Bake as a budget-friendly way to feed your family with plenty of leftovers for days to follow. Full of eggs, bell peppers and turkey sausage, it's a surefire crowd-pleaser that's also loaded with shredded sweet potatoes. According to the American Diabetes Association, sweet potatoes are a "diabetes superfood" because they're rich in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and fiber, all of which are good for overall health and may help prevent disease. ■

## SWEET POTATO BREAKFAST BAKE

*Recipe courtesy of Tessa Nguyen, RD, LDN, on behalf of the North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission*

**Prep time:** 10 minutes

**Cook time:** 15 minutes

**Servings:** 12

### Ingredients:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 cup sweet potatoes, shredded
- 1/2 cup cooked turkey sausage crumbles or cooked turkey bacon
- 1/4 cup green onions, sliced
- 1/2 cup bell pepper, diced
- 9 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

### Directions

Heat oven to 400 F. Spray 13-by-9-inch baking



dish with nonstick cooking spray.

Evenly spread sweet potatoes, sausage or bacon, green onions and bell peppers in dish. Pour eggs carefully into baking dish. Sprinkle shredded cheese and black pepper over eggs.

Bake 15 minutes.

Slice into 12 pieces and serve hot.

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# SEEN IN JOHNSTON



**SHOUTOUT TO THE CHAMPIONS:** Raising Cane's, at 86th Street and Birchwood Court, gave a shoutout to the JHS Girls State Basketball Champions. ■

## JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. This week their main needs are bar soap, toothpaste, new socks and new underwear. They are also switching the clothing closet over to spring and summer clothing if people would like to start bringing those clothes to donate. Winter items, except winter coats, will not be accepted due to limited storage space.

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.

Every third week of the month, they collect for the Friday food bag program that serves food insecure students at all nine Johnston schools. Currently they pack 220 food bags each week to go home with students. They can use fruit cups, macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, granola bars, individual shelf-stable milk and individual peanut butter. ■

## VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR KITES ON THE GREEN

Volunteers are needed to help at Johnston Kites on the Green Saturday, May 4. The kite festival includes public kite flying, professional kite flyers demonstrations, kids kite building, music and more. Lots of help is needed to make this event successful, and multiple shifts are available. Among other things, volunteers may be asked to help kids/families build kites, assist at special activities, staff information or donation booths, etc. Johnston Kites on the Green is organized by the city of Johnston and the Johnston Public Library Foundation, which can receive tax-deductible charitable contributions. Sign up for a volunteer spot at <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/815951609/false#/invitation>. ■

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**HELP WANTED:** Looking for a handyman or carpenter to tear an old fence down and rebuild in Van Meter. We have the material and have started work but would rather pay someone to do it. It is wood covered with chicken wire, attached to railroad ties. If interested please call 515-321-0301.

**FOR SALE:** Old rolltop antique desk for sale. Call 515-249-8664.

**FOR SALE:** Vertical cloth blind. Light gray color. 40" x 36" in like-new condition. Call 515-321-0301.

**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.

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

**WANTED:** Stereo & electronic radio stuff receivers speakers guitar amp etc. Any age or condition is OK. Call 515-238-3343.

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

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

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