

JOHNSTON *Living Weekly*

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 A BIG GREEN UMBRELLA MEDIA PUBLICATION

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

KITES ON THE GREEN THIS WEEKEND

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Johnston Commons Park near the library and get set for a day filled with free, family-friendly activities and fun at the Kites on the Green festival. New activities and performances have been added this year, including a magic show and balloon animals with Jonathan May, stilt walking and mesmerizing sway pole performances by Laura Ernst with Kinetic Entertainment, two obstacle bounce houses and many more fun, free activities for your family.

Festivities begin with opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. Performances scheduled are: 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., No-Knots Stunt Team; 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Fire and Ice Team; 1 p.m., Magic Show with Jonathan May; and 3:30-5 p.m., live music by Kick. Closing ceremonies are at 5 p.m. Enjoy Star Wars characters by Korriban Squad of Iowa from 10:30 a.m. to noon; Face Painting west of the library, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Spin Art, west of the library, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Balloon Animals with Jonathan May, north of the library, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Running of the Bols at the Performance Field at



11:30 a.m., 12:45 p.m., and 4:45 p.m.; and visit with police officers and firefighters west of the library from 3-5 p.m.

All-day events include Giant Show Kite demonstrations, inflatable obstacle course, tours of the 1902 Simpson House, Iowa National Guard members with vehicles, Laura Ernst with Kinetic Entertainment

KITES, ON BACK

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

WED. HIGH 72 | LOW 59
Cloudy with a couple showers



THURS. HIGH 72 | LOW 46
Breezy with rain and t-storms



FRI. HIGH 70 | LOW 51
Mostly sunny; less humid



SAT. HIGH 70 | LOW 49
Mostly cloudy; showers



SUN. HIGH 72 | LOW 54
Plenty of sunshine



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

I LOVE HIGH-TECH... WHEN IT WORKS

I marvel at today's technological advances. Who would have imagined that Al Gore could have invented this thing called the Internet? And only Dick Tracy could have thought we would have phones on our wrist watches. Mark my word, our cars will be flying soon. Meet George Jetson.

I love the high-tech stuff... when it works. When it doesn't work, I crave for simpler times. Here are a few cases in point.

I was at an airport restroom recently and was attempting to wash my hands, feverishly waving them under the automatic water dispenser to no avail. So, I moved over to the next sink, and that faucet worked. Then I tried to get some soap from the automatic soap dispenser above the sink. It didn't work, so I moved over to the next sink. Mission accomplished, and I chuckled to myself as I watched a line of people behind me do the exact same process. Then I wiped my wet hands on my pants because

the automatic paper towel dispenser didn't work.

Remember the days at the gas station before the pay-at-the-pump option? Not full service, mind you, but rather the process of filling up your tank, going inside and making your payment, hoping the attendant didn't charge you \$10.03 because all you had was a \$10 bill. Now we insert our card at the pump, patiently wade through 13 "press here" options, fill up our tank and then receive a message to go inside for the receipt. Ugh.

I was absolutely amazed the first time I used GPS. It was a few decades ago, and I was renting a car equipped with it, telling me where I was, where to turn and what the shortest route was. I continue to love this feature, until the GPS takes me to the wrong place due to maps apparently not being updated. Of course, an outdated Rand McNally



would not be current either, but the expectation is that modern technology will work as it should.

Today, most all of us are intrigued by artificial intelligence, or AI. Prior to us knowing much about this (even though it has been used for years), we were already struggling to sort through news stories to determine which ones were factual. The floodgate is now open, and we are all going to become even more skeptical of what we read, watch and hear. The solution seems simple: hold the tech companies to the same libel and slander standards (and penalties) that traditional media has to deal with. Don't hold your breath.

Meanwhile, be patient while you wash your hands.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
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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 to view the map of the route. ■

WORK UNDERWAY ON WATER WORKS PROJECT, CLOSING TRAIL

The trail near the Merle Hay Road bridge is closed to perform underground work in preparation for the installation of the new 48-inch feeder main that will connect the area to the Saylorville Water Treatment Plant. This project is occurring in conjunction with an expansion of the Saylorville Plant and will provide more water capacity to the western areas of the metro, including Johnston.

Des Moines Water Works is overseeing the work on behalf of Central Iowa Water Works.

The trail will be permanently closed starting May 6 west of the bridge running east through the Bombers Golf and Entertainment development until construction is completed. The public is asked to avoid the area. Large underground pits will be excavated to begin tunneling the new transmission main under the bridge.

Once work is complete, the trail will be reconstructed and reopened. Meanwhile, the north-south Interurban Trail, which runs east of Bombers and connects to the Trestle-to-Trestle Trail, remains open.

To view the detour, visit www.cityofjohnston.com/1454/Interactive-Trail-Map. ■

JOHNSTON BASKETBALL CLUB 2024 TRYOUTS

Sunday, Aug. 11

Johnston High School Gym, 6500 N.W. 100th St.

The Johnston Basketball Club (JBC) girls and boys tryouts are scheduled on Sunday, Aug. 11, at Johnston High School Gym, 6500 N.W. 100th St. Grades eligible for tryouts are first through eighth (grade they will be attending in the fall of 2024). Check the JBC website (johnstonbasketballclub.com) to register for tryouts in July. Specific times for tryouts per grade will be on the website in August. ■

KIWANIS MEETING

The Kiwanis Club of Johnston invites the public to its meeting May 7 at 11:30 a.m. at Cozy Café, Johnston. The speaker will be Jana Huegerich, territory representative for LifeServe Blood Center. She will provide a quick overview of LifeServe, what it does, its new headquarters and how people can get engaged in its life-saving mission. RSVP if you plan to attend by contacting Barb Allen, 515-577-2194, or by email, Bjallen713@gmail.com. Nonmembers are welcome. Kiwanis Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at Cozy Café and the second and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 a.m. at the Simpson Barn. ■

CITY CALENDAR

- **Monday, May 6:** City Council Work Session, 6 p.m.
- **Monday, May 6:** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Monday, May 13:** Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, May 15:** Senior Board Meeting, 5 p.m.
- **Thursday, May 16:** Library Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, May 16:** Board of Adjustment Meeting, 6:30 p.m. ■

FARMERS MARKET

Johnston Farmers Market will be held on Tuesdays from 4-7 p.m. June 4 - Sept. 24 at the Johnston Town Center just north of City Hall, 6245 Merle Hay Road. Shop for fresh produce and homemade products while being entertained by live music. www.cityofjohnston.com/farmersmarket. ■

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 mshepherdgreetings@gmail.com. ■

SPLASH PAD OPENS MAY 25

The splash pad at the Johnston Town Center, 6245 Merle Hay Road, just west of Johnston City Hall, will open Saturday, May 25, at 10 a.m. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visit www.cityofjohnston.com/1183/Splash-Pad-at-the-Town-Center for more information. ■

SOUNDS OF SUMMER AT THE YARD

The music will begin at 7 p.m. on the stage, just west of Johnston City Hall. Bring your lawn chair and blanket and enjoy the free music. More information is available by visiting www.cityofjohnston.com/1438/Sounds-of-Summer.

- **Saturday, June 8** – The Trip is a Los Angeles-based studio of musicians playing rock hits spanning multiple generations
- **Saturday, June 29** – Back in Black is America's leading AC/DC cover band based out of Dallas
- **Saturday, Aug. 24** – Mixtape is a Nashville-based 1980s rock band
- **Saturday, Sept. 28** – The Pork Tornadoes is Des Moines' No. 1 summer party band ■

MOTHER'S DAY BEND AND BRUNCH

Backpocket Pin and Pixel, 6205 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, is hosting a Mother's Day Bend and Brunch with Power Life Yoga on May 12. The class is for all levels to get warmed up for everybody's preferred meal of the day: brunch. Yoga is at 10 a.m. and brunch at 11 a.m., featuring a BYO mimosa bar as well as a buffet selection that includes sausage, eggs, bacon, assorted pastries, fruit and more. Tickets are \$30 per person and includes yoga, a drink of your choice and brunch buffet. For more information, visit <https://fb.me/e/1vPoCi4rN> ■

FAMILY FEST

The Johnston Town Center, 6245 Merle Hay Road, has plenty of fun in store for you during Family Fest, Saturday, June 1, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come check out the alpacas; enjoy dance performances, circus arts and aerial arts performances; paint a bath bomb; and enjoy spin art, the splash pad and much more. Visit www.cityofjohnston.com/1437/Family-Fest to view the schedule of activities and performances. ■

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. ■

CHECK OUT AUTO-RENEWAL NOW AVAILABLE AT JPL

Go ahead — cross “renew library books” off your to-do list. Johnston Public Library materials checked out on your account will now renew automatically. This means one less thing for you to do. No need to click renew in your library account, just enjoy more time with the library items you’ve selected. Eligible items will renew up to two times.

Materials will not be auto-renewed if there is a hold on the item, the item has already been renewed two times; your account is blocked due to fines or fees; items are part of Hot Picks collection, book club books, or interlibrary loan items; or library items are part of Stream and Download content (eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, Kanopy Streaming Video and ComicsPlus).

If you wish to renew an item prior to its automatic renewal, simply renew it via your library account online, call 515-278-5233, or stop by a service desk. Manual renewals will extend the borrowing period from the date of renewal.

Auto-renewal notices will be sent via text or email depending on how your account is set up. Library notices from the catalog will send you a list of items that need to be returned as well as those that have been renewed for you.

For more information about auto-renewal or other Johnston Public Library services or materials, email info@johnstonlibrary.org or call 515-278-5233. ■

JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. Almost 600 families are being served per month, so the need is high. In particular need at this time are personal care items, including toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner and soap. Due to lack of storage, only summer clothing is being accepted. However, winter coats are always accepted.

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. ■

JOHNSTON SUMMER SERIES

Formerly the Summer Yoga Series, this Summer Series has expanded with a broader range of activities as well as a vendor fair, all in support of the Johnston Partnership Food Pantry. The series will highlight and promote not only women-owned businesses, but many different local Johnston owned businesses. For more information and to register, visit www.johnstonsummerseries.com.

- **June 11, 6-7 p.m.**, Enneagram 101, at Erin Lego Coaching
- **June 25, 6-7 p.m.**, Fun Family Fitness, at The BAR Performance Gym;
- **July 9, 6-7 p.m.**, Social Drumming, at Adventures in Social Development
- **July 21, Vendor Fair**, 2-5 p.m.
- **Aug. 6, Aug. 20, Sept. 3, Sept. 17, TBD** ■

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TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**Lollipops & Posies****CENTRAL IOWA WIND ENSEMBLE
PRESENTS 'LOLLIPOPS & POSIES'**

Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m.

Franklin Events Center, 4801 Franklin Ave., Des Moines

Step into a world of musical brilliance and artistic triumph with the Central Iowa Wind Ensemble's grand season finale concert, "Lollipops and Posies." Get ready to be mesmerized by an enchanting afternoon filled with captivating melodies, exhilarating performances, and a celebration of talent that will leave you in awe. The concert features the iconic band piece "Lincolnshire Posy" by Percy Grainger and a selection of familiar popular themes from movies and Broadway. Admission is free but tickets are required and are available at www.ciwe.org.

ANKENY ART FESTIVAL

May 11

Uptown Ankeny, Third Street and Walnut Street, Ankenywww.ankenyartcenter.org/artfestival2024

Join the Ankeny Art Center for a fun-filled day of art, demonstrations, shopping, food, live music and more.

**MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST BUFFET
AND BAKE SALE**

Sunday, May 12, 8 a.m. until noon

West Des Moines Elks Lodge, 2060 N.W. 94th St., Clive

Enjoy a delicious Mother's Day breakfast which includes biscuits and gravy, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage patties, cheesy potatoes, and "all you can eat" pancakes (including blueberry and chocolate chip pancakes), orange juice, milk and coffee for \$10 — children younger than 10 \$5. Enjoy a bloody mary or mimosa for \$3.50. Proceeds support the Elks' Hoop Shoot Program, other youth activities and veteran activities.

GREENBELT MUSIC FESTIVAL

May 17-18

Horizon Events Center, 2100 N.W. 100th St., Clive
horizoneventscenter.com

This music festival returns to the Horizon Events Center with double-digit musical acts to fill your weekend, starting Friday at 3 p.m. and going till Saturday at 11 p.m. Kids 12 and younger enter for free.

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.

VALLEY JUNCTION ARTS FESTIVAL

May 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

100-200 Blocks of Fifth Street, West Des Moineswww.valleyjunction.com/valley-junction-events/valley-junction-arts-festival

Live entertainment, art activities and artists' demonstrations. Refreshments will be available from several food vendors on the street, and several Valley Junction stores will be open during the festival. ■

RECIPE

SWEET SOLUTIONS TO CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO

(Family Features) From fajitas and tacos to everything in between, fueling your Cinco de Mayo fiesta starts with delicious food that brings everyone to the table. Traditional dishes and new twists on classics can be equally satisfying whether you're feeding your nearest and dearest or hosting the entire neighborhood.

Start with these vegan apple and black bean fajitas for a plant-forward spin on a popular dish that features sauteed apples, peppers, zucchini, jicama, onion and jalapeno. The craveable texture and crunch of Envy Apples – a leading apple variety available at Whole Foods and other major grocery stores – shine both in the mixture of sauteed produce and sliced raw into sticks for a crunchy finish with added sweetness. Plus, their flesh remains whiter longer, even after slicing, so this dish looks as good as it tastes. ■

VEGAN APPLE AND BLACK BEAN FAJITAS

Ingredients:

- 1 bell pepper, sliced, seeds removed
- 1 zucchini, sliced
- 1 small jicama, sliced
- 3 Envy Apples, sliced
- 1 yellow onion, sliced
- 1 jalapeno, sliced, seeds removed
- 1 teaspoon garlic
- 1teaspoon ground cumin
- 2 sprigs fresh oregano
- 1 teaspoon chili pepper (optional)
- salt, to taste (optional)
- pepper, to taste (optional)
- 1 cup cooked black beans
- 1 lime
- 3 sprigs fresh cilantro
- 4 small flour tortillas

Directions

In skillet over high heat, saute



bell pepper, zucchini, jicama and half the apple slices. Set aside.

In same hot skillet, saute onions, jalapenos and garlic until lightly caramelized. Combine with sauteed apple mixture. Season with cumin and oregano. Add chili

powder and salt and pepper, to taste, if desired.

Add cooked black beans to saute mixture. Top with squeeze of lime. Garnish with cilantro and remaining raw apple slices.

Serve with tortillas.

SEEN IN JOHNSTON



LIONS CLUB PANCAKE BREAKFAST: The Johnston Lions Club breakfast was April 20 at the Johnston Middle School. Pictured are Bud Lemke, who has been first in line at 7 a.m. for many years; Mike Wakeman, flipping pancakes; and Lions Club members David Coates and John Rains. The Lions say thank you to the Johnston community for supporting their pancake breakfast. More than 550 folks attended this fun event. ■

KITES, FROM FRONT

stilt walking and sway pole performances, food trucks north of the Johnston Commons playground, an information tent with T-shirts and kites and more, candy drop at the show kite field, sidewalk chalk west of the library and east of the

barn, free kite kits to make and fly, recycling relay and coloring sheet activity by Green Iowa AmeriCorps, home safety tips from Polk County Health, and free mini trees from the Climate Change Committee.

More information can be found by visiting www.cityofjohnston.com/kitesonthegreen. ■

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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.

GOLF CLUBS FOR SALE: Adult and kid's sets. Photos and descriptions can be viewed by accessing the Des Moines Craig's List on the internet. Enter GOLF JOHNSTON and INTEREST! in the search box and reply to any sets that interest you.

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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