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Windsor Heights **Living** magazine

august 2013

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welcome

By Shane Goodman, shane@dmcityview.com

Your opinion counts

I would like to thank all of you who took the time to read my column last month about the future of this magazine and contacted your city administrator, mayor and city council representatives to express your opinion about their decision to no longer publish the city newsletter here. Many of you have done so, and we have found that for every



person who takes the time to write, another 50 are thinking the same but don't comment. With that in mind, the public sentiment clearly shows the desire to have the city newsletter in this magazine. We hope the council agrees. As I stated last month, having the revenue from the newsletter was an integral part of our decision to launch this magazine. Without it, we simply can't operate as we are today.

I failed to mention in my column last month that this decision came about as a result of a 3-2 vote. Dianna Willits and Dave Jenison voted to continue to publish the newsletter in

Windsor Heights Living. Charlene Butz, Dave Burgess and Betty Glover voted to discontinue. We thank those who clearly recognize the work that has been involved to help Windsor Heights gain its own identity, its own ZIP code, its own logo, its own slogan, its own chamber of commerce and its own community publication. Moving backwards on any of those would be truly unfortunate.

We were told that the council will reconsider its decision and has this item on the agenda for its next meeting, which will be Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. at city hall. If you haven't voiced your opinion yet but would like to, we certainly encourage you to attend the meeting or contact your city council person, Mayor Jerry Sullivan or City Administrator Jeff Fiegenschuh.

As always, thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
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What's NEW in SCHOOL

NEW ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, CLASSROOMS AWAIT STUDENTS

By Michael Swanger

For students, no doubt, it may seem like yesterday when the previous school year ended as their summer vacation flew by like the breeze. But they are not the only ones who may feel that way.

Talk to some of the administrators of the three schools located in Windsor Heights, as we did for our annual "Back to School" issue, and they will likely tell you that their summer vacations were cut short as they spent time familiarizing themselves with new jobs, or learning new curriculum, or staying busy with building updates.

School begins Aug. 22 at Windsor Elementary and Cowles Montessori schools, both of which are served by the Des Moines Independent Community School District. Classes resume on Aug. 20 at Clive Elementary School, which is part of the West Des Moines Community School District. The following is a preview of what is new at each school for the upcoming academic year.

Windsor Elementary School

What a difference a year has made for Scott Nichols.

On Aug. 9, 2012, Nichols was named principal at Windsor Elementary School, a mere two weeks before the start of the last school year. This time around, he says he has more



Photo by Michael Swanger

Windsor Elementary School Principal Scott Nichols and teacher Sarah Johnson are among those who have been busy preparing for fall classes this summer.

time to prepare for the upcoming school year, but still has no time to waste regarding his duties in assisting staff and students at Windsor throughout the school year.

One of the many tasks facing Nichols this year is the ongoing work with teachers to form data teams and to assist teachers with solutions on how to better educate their students. The principal says he will meet weekly with teachers to analyze district test scores and teaching methods.

"It means we will have to be a little creative with our schedules this year, but it's something new this year and a work in progress," he says. "We're trying to personalize it so we can determine what works for us at Windsor. The more minds involved, the better."

Nichols says Windsor will employ two part-time instructional coaches to assist teachers in their professional development in the teaching of math and reading. He says he plans to

be involved with the program, though not on a daily basis.

"This school is not about me; it's about the teachers and them sharing their knowledge with students," says Nichols. "We'll implement the program in about the third week of school after everyone gets settled into the new year."

Settling into new roles will be a theme at Windsor this year as Nichols says that a number of teachers changed roles and that the school will welcome a handful of new teachers from within the district. Among the staff new to the building are guidance counselor John Hickling, who previously worked at McKinley Elementary; third grade teacher Amy Nichol from Edmunds Elementary School; music teacher Lauren Wilson from Garton Elementary; and Justin Ballard who will serve as a fifth grade teacher and non-released dean after having worked at Morris Elementary. The school will also welcome a



Photo by Michael Swengel

School begins Aug. 22 at Windsor Elementary, which is served by the Des Moines Independent Community School District.



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new PTA president, Melody Fischbacher.

Nichols says he is eager to see teachers excel in their new roles, including those who changed jobs during the summer but are returning to Windsor.

"I told teachers last year that if they wanted to try something new to go ahead and do so. I want the staff to be happy. When teachers are happy, they do a better job, and the kids like it, too," he says.

The principal says there are no changes in curriculum, other than a few minor adjustments made last year in math and reading, which will allow teachers to make adaptations as needed this year.

"You always want to go with the current best practices," he says.

He also wants students and parents to understand the value of early dismissals each Wednesday at 1:50 p.m. for professional development for staff. (Of note, the first day of school is on a Thursday, but classes will dismiss early on that day, too, at 1:50 p.m.) He says the first Wednesday of each month will be devoted to learning about the district, followed the next week by building directives in which teachers will discuss learning strategies. Teachers will also be allowed one Wednesday per month to catch up on their own classroom work.

"We want to empower teachers to take a look at things differently and to see what else is out there when it comes to teaching methods," Nichols says. "It's not just them; administrators will be doing the same thing."

Finding new and better ways to educate approximately 420 students at Windsor, many of whom are English Language Learners (ELL) and speak more than 30 foreign languages at the school, is a never-ending process, says Nichols. It's also one of the many things he enjoys about his job as principal there.

"I love the sense of community at Windsor. A lot of that is brought on by our staff," he says. "We have a nice mix of veteran and new teachers of all ages. We also have an ELL population of about 40 to 45 percent, which makes it so much fun because they bring a broad range of cultures to Windsor and you can learn so much from those kids. It's fun to see the light bulbs go off in their minds on a daily basis."

Cowles Montessori

From welcoming a new principal, to enjoying newly expanded classroom space, students at Cowles Montessori will notice a few changes this upcoming school year when classes resume on Aug. 22.

Gregory Grylls, who has worked in the Des Moines school district for 14 years, was hired in February to be the new principal at Cowles. He has worked as an administrator for



Classes resume on Aug. 20 at Clive Elementary School, which is part of the West Des Moines Community School District.

six years, most recently as a school improvement leader.

"I'm very excited to be principal at Cowles," says Grylls. "I couldn't be more happy. I think it's a fantastic school."

Students and parents will get the opportunity to meet Grylls on Aug. 21 when the school hosts an open house from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Grylls says he is happy to talk to anyone who is willing to listen to his plans for the school this year as well as his belief in the Montessori method of teaching for students ages 3 years old through eighth grade.



Gregory Grylls

"It's something I strongly believe in, which is why I have aligned myself with the Montessori method, which teaches students of multiple ages together. It lends itself to being student-centered so that you can differentiate the instruction with each student to a greater degree," he says. "It's about students and their self motivation and not putting limits on their education."

Grylls says he expects approximately 425 students to enroll by choice at Cowles this school year. When they return, they will notice six newly expanded classrooms on the second floor that were previously occupied by the Focus Program served by the Des Moines school district.

"We shared that space with them,

but now that they have relocated to Hoyt Middle School we're expanding the classrooms upstairs to their original size. With our expanding student numbers, we need the space," says Grylls.

The school has also hired an additional teacher, a trend that Grylls expects to continue for the next few years. It has also created a new website (www.cowles.dmschools.org) to better inform parents and students and to attract potential students.

"I'm excited to have the entire building and to making the school become more efficient and aligning itself more with the common core of Montessori schools," says Grylls. "I hope to integrate more professional development during the school year to help us achieve that."

Clive Elementary

Clive Elementary School Principal Brandon Pierce says only a few changes await students and staff this fall.

Like other schools in the West Des Moines School District, Clive Elementary will implement a new reading curriculum entitled "Benchmark Literacy." It will also welcome five new classroom teachers.

"I'm excited for the new reading program and for the new staff coming onboard," he says.

Pierce says Clive is also part of a group of schools that received a grant from the United Way to assist students and their families in the development of their English vocabulary. Though the program targets any student and family in need of assistance, it primarily is geared to help those in which English is a second language.

"It's a great program for anyone who needs it," says Pierce. ■

what's in your garage?



Dan Harrington painted his flag-themed Stingray himself.

'73 Corvette Stingray

Harrington had special plans for vintage car

By Rebecca Bowen

When Dan Harrington got married in 1975, the only car he owned was a 1973 Corvette. Even as he got older and began to collect and race cars competitively, the '73 Corvette kept a special place in his heart.

In 1992, Harrington was cruising the pages of a Thrifty Nickel paper on the East Coast, where he and his wife are originally from, and saw a 1973 Corvette Stingray for sale for \$5,800. He jumped at the opportunity and immediately bought it. He owned five Corvettes at the time, but he had something special in mind for the Stingray.

Harrington, who now works at Cottman Transmission and Total Auto Care, completely took the car apart down to its frame. He was a member of a local Corvette club at the time, and his friends in the group couldn't understand why he was stripping down a car that seemed to work just fine.

"It was a good-looking car and it drove nice," Harrington says. "They said, 'Why in the hell would you take apart a perfectly good car?' I just figured it would take less work to rebuild a car that wasn't already broke."

However, the rebuilding project took two and half years to complete. Harrington began by acid dipping the frame of the car and

repainting it. He then restored every part of the car down to its nuts, bolts and washers.

"I had already restored two Corvettes, and I wanted to make this one a custom racer," he says. "Forty-four hundred hours later, I got it done."

However, one of the toughest issues Harrington faced with the car came after he finished restoring it. He and his wife would sketch out paint schemes for the car and hand them to each other every night while they watched TV, wadding up and throwing away sketches they didn't like. Finally they settled on an American flag-themed paint scheme, and Harrington painted the car himself on July 4, 1994.

During the course of its second life as a restored race car, Harrington's '73 Stingray has won 60 award show trophies, been displayed at the National Corvette started a nationally-televised drag race in Atlanta. However, Harrington stopped entering it in shows about five years ago and now only shows it about once a year at special local events like Fourth of July celebrations and at the VA Hospital.

"It's a great car," he says. "Even though it's from 1973 and I bought it in '92, I just hop in and it fires right up." ■

Contact Darren Tromblay at 953-4822 ext. 304 or darren@dmcityview.com to recommend someone for an upcoming issue of What's In Your Garage?

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Friday, Aug. 16

- Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, visit www.iowastatefair.org for more info.
- VHS 9 Boys Golf Meet, 10 a.m.



Saturday, Aug. 17

- Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, visit www.iowastatefair.org for more info.

Sunday, Aug. 18

- Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, visit www.iowastatefair.org for more info.

Monday, Aug. 19

- City Council Meeting, 6 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Boys Golf at Indianola, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 20

- First Day of School - WDMPS
- DMPS Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Raw and Refined: A Community Dinner, celebrate Des Moines Raw Food Week, \$35, register online, 6-8 p.m., Windsor Heights Community and Events Center.



Wednesday, Aug. 21

- Iowa Cubs game vs. Memphis Cardinals at home, 6:30 p.m.
- Do You Really Have the Guts to Be Healthy?, Nancy Lee Bently, \$10 adv/\$15 at door, 6-7:30 p.m., Windsor Heights Community and Events Center.
- RHS JV/V Boys Golf at Grandview, 1 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 22

- First Day of School - DMPS
- Iowa Cubs game vs. Memphis Cardinals at home, 6:30 p.m.
- RHS JV Boys Golf at Grandview, 9 a.m.

Friday, Aug. 23

- Iowa Cubs game vs. Memphis Cardinals at home, fireworks, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 24

- Iowa Cubs game vs. Memphis Cardinals at home, 7 p.m.



Sunday, Aug. 25

- Iowa Cubs game vs. Memphis Cardinals at home, 1 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 26

- Iowa Cubs game vs. Omaha Royals at home, 6:30 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Boys Golf vs. Indianola, 3:30 p.m.



Tuesday, Aug. 27

- Iowa Cubs game vs. Omaha Royals at home, 6:30 p.m.
- Do Business Windsor Heights, brainstorm and share ideas to help other business owners succeed, 5:30 p.m., Jimmy's Big Ten, 1238 8th St.
- RHS V Volleyball at DCG, 4:30 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Girls Swimming vs. SEP, 5:30 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Girls Swimming Meet, 5:30 p.m.



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Wednesday, Aug. 28

- Iowa Cubs game vs. Omaha Royals at home, 6:30 p.m.
- Planning & Zoning Meeting, 4:30 p.m., City Hall.
- VHS JV/V Boys Golf at Johnston, 10 a.m.



Thursday, Aug. 29

- Iowa Cubs game vs. Omaha Royals at home, 6:30 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Boys Golf at DM Hoover, 3:30 p.m.
- RHS 10 Football at DM Hoover, 6 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Boys Golf vs. Marshalltown, 3:30 p.m.
- VHS 9 Football at Waukee, 4:45 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 30

- RHS 9/V Football vs. DM Hoover, 5/7:30 p.m.
- VHS 10/V Football vs. Waukee, 4:45/7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 31

- RHS V Volleyball at Bondurant, 8:30 a.m.
- RHS JV Volleyball at Dowling, 8:30 a.m.
- VHS V Volleyball at Bondurant, 8:30 a.m.

- VHS JV Volleyball at Dowling, 9 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 2

- Labor Day
- No School - DMPS
- No School - WDMPS

Tuesday, Sept. 3

- DMPS Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Auditions for RHS Fall Musical, 2:45- 6:30 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Girls Swimming at DM Hoover, 5:30 p.m.
- RHS 9/JV/V Volleyball at DM Hoover, 6/7:30 p.m.
- VHS 9 Boys Golf at SEP, 3:30 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Boys Golf at Dowling, 3:30 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Girls Swimming at Marshalltown, 5:30 p.m.
- VHS 9/10/JV/V Volleyball vs. Marshalltown, 4:45/5:45/7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 4

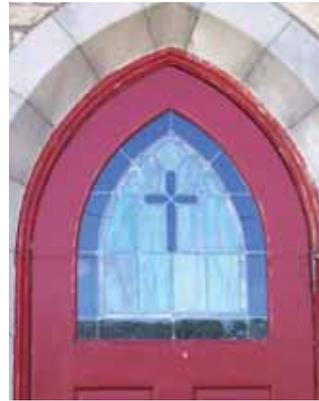
- Auditions for RHS Fall Musical, 2:45- 6:30 p.m.
- RHS V Boys Golf Tournament, 9:30 a.m.



Thursday, Sept. 5

- RHS 10 Football vs. Indianola, 6 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Girls Swimming vs. Dowling, 5:30 p.m.

- VHS JV Boys Golf at Ankeny, 9 a.m.
- VHS JV/V Girls/Boys Cross Country, 4:30 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Girls Swimming at DM Lincoln, 5:30 p.m.
- VHS 9 Football vs. Dowling, 6 p.m.



Friday, Sept. 6

- RHS 9/V Football at Indianola, 4:45/7:30 p.m.
- VHS 10/V Football at Dowling, 4:45/7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 7

- VHS V Volleyball Invitational, 8:30 a.m.

Monday, Sept. 9

- VHS 9 Football vs. Dowling, 4:30 p.m.
- VHS 8 Football vs. SEP, 4:30 p.m.
- VHS 8 Volleyball vs. Indianola, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 10

- Chamber Board Meeting, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Bankers Trust.

- RHS V Boys Golf at Ottumwa, 1 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Girls Swimming vs. Indianola, 5:30 p.m.
- RHS 9/JV/V Volleyball vs. Indianola, 6/7:30 p.m.
- VHS 8 C Football at Ames, 4:30 p.m.
- VHS 8 AB Football vs. Ames, 4:30 p.m.
- VHS 8 Volleyball vs. Indianola, 4:30 p.m.
- VHS 8 Football at SEP, 5 p.m.
- VHS 9/10/JV/V Volleyball at SEP, 4:45/5:45/7:30 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Girls Swimming at SEP, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 12

- WHYPRO After Work Social, 6-7 p.m., 515 Brewing Co.
- RHS V Boys Golf vs. DM North, 3:30 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Girls/Boys Cross Country at Marshalltown, 4:30 p.m.
- RHS 10 Football at DM Lincoln, 6 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Boys Golf vs. Johnston, 2 p.m.
- VHS 8 Girls/Boys Cross Country at Marshalltown, 4 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Girls/Boys Cross Country at Marshalltown, 4:30 p.m.
- VHS 8 Volleyball vs. Ankeny, 4:30 p.m.
- VHS 9 Football at SEP, 6 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 13

- RHS 9/V Football vs. DM Lincoln, 5/7:30 p.m.
- VHS 10/V Football vs. SEP, 4:45/7:30 p.m.



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faith

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Windsor United Methodist Church sponsors Cub Scout Pack 38 and Boy Scout Troop 46.

Moral compass

Church sponsors Cub Scout and Boy Scouts

By Rebecca Bowen

The Boy Scouts of America has been a storied tradition in America for more than 100 years, planting its roots in a small YMCA office in New York in 1910.

One of the early founders, President Theodore Roosevelt, believed that faith was an important part of a young person's life and that "children benefit from the moral compass provided by religious tradition." According to the Boy Scouts of America's website, the organization "acknowledges that faith can become an important part of a child's identity."

For the past 50 years, Windsor United Methodist has been a proud sponsor of Cub Scout Pack 38 and Boy Scout Troop 46. The church's mission from the beginning has been dedicated to providing a year-round program for boys and young adults to build character to create a foundation for the rest of their lives. The church website also lists the goals of the troop to "train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and to develop physical and mental fitness."

Cub Scout Pack 38 is a program designed for boys 7 to 10 years old, and Boy Scout Troop 46 houses members from ages 11

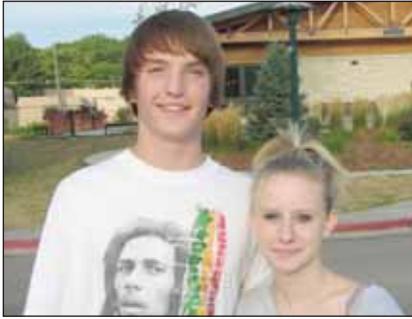
through 18. One of the primary goals of the Boy Scouts of America organization is to make a difference in the lives of young boys and prepare youth for success as they grow and leave their impact.

Spread the Word

Have an upcoming event or church news you would like to announce? Send information to darren@dmcityview.com.

In the upcoming months, the Boy Scouts will work toward a number of different badges and skills with their troop. On Saturday, Aug. 24, the Scouts will enhance their fishing skills while working all day toward their fishing merit badge. The boys will have their first campout of the fall season at the Grinnell Troop and Pack outing taking place in September.

For more information on Cub Pack 38, contact Cubmaster T.J. Ballard at 515-681-8242. Older youth should contact Boy Scout Troop 46 leader, Scoutmaster Dave Kair at 515-255-4839. Troop 46 meets at Windsor United Methodist each Monday from 7-8.30 p.m. The church is located at 6222 University Ave. ■



Keegan Raasch and Reba Thompson at Movies in the park on Aug. 2.



Cooper and Nikki Thompson at Movies in the park on Aug. 2.



Cooper and Nikki Thompson at Movies in the park on Aug. 2.



Tiffany Fahy and Sarah Skoglund at Movies in the park on Aug. 2.



Gavin and Sara Elloit at Movies in the park on Aug. 2.



Becky Moredock and Pam Christiansen at Movies in the park on Aug. 2.



Landon Martin, Laura Bottelson and John Schemmel at Movies in the park on Aug. 2.



Margaux Cabbage, Brennan Amos, Amiya Amos, Madilyn Amos and Casey Amos at Movies in the park on Aug. 2.



Jessica Maldonado of the Greater Des Moines Partnership and Matt Cale attended the WHYPro power lunch July 24.



Haleigh Medved and Hope Wood attended the WHYPro power lunch July 24.



Diana Willits and Courtney Willits attended the WHYPro power lunch July 24.



Ryan Gilbert and Allison Carlson attended the WHYPro power lunch July 24.

See more photos online at www.iowalivingmagazines.com

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Meet Julie Elwell

Instructor uses special themes with preschoolers

By Rainey Cook

There is so much to learn when you are 4 or 5 years old. All the numbers, letters, shapes and colors are expected of these tiny tots before they even enter kindergarten. Not to mention the social and behavioral aspects they need to understand.

Although, have you spoken with a preschooler lately? They may still draw their "J" backwards, but the real world knowledge a lot of them have is really quite amazing. They may not sit still for much longer than a snack, but their questions are articulate, their answers comical and their basic conversation skills are down-right captivating.

Julie Elwell has been teaching these precocious preschoolers for five years at Grace Kids Care Center.

"I love their imaginations," she says. "It's crazy how much they really do know about the real world at their age."

To teach the goals of academia, socializing and behaviors, Elwell uses various themes throughout the year. For the camping theme, she and her students made s'mores. They spoke about cooking outside and sleeping in a tent. Although very smart children, none of them knew what a canteen was.

Appropriately, in August, one of Elwell's themes is the Iowa State Fair. They will discuss who you would go with, what you



Photos by Rainey Cook

Julie Elwell teaches preschool at Grace Kids Care Center.

would see and, of course, what food you would eat. In past year's she's even set up a concession stand with tickets for her preschoolers to practice buying food.

The summer months at Grace Kids Care Center are really about having fun. During their picnic theme, they get to go the park across the street and have a picnic. Another outing includes a trip to a movie theater, popcorn included. An annual favorite is the trip to the Blank Park Zoo.

"The kids just love the petting zoo," Elwell says.

When not teaching, Elwell loves photography, camping and fishing.

"I just went to the Omaha Zoo and took all kinds of pictures for my preschoolers," she says.

Having just graduated from Iowa State University in May with a degree in elementary education, Elwell is well on her way to enjoying her chosen career. ■

What do you like best about your teacher?



Jessica Kelso:
"Having lunch with her."



Ada Seiberling:
"I like giving her hugs."



Will Clayton:
"Her reading books to us."



Tyler Karlzen:
"She sometimes does races with us."

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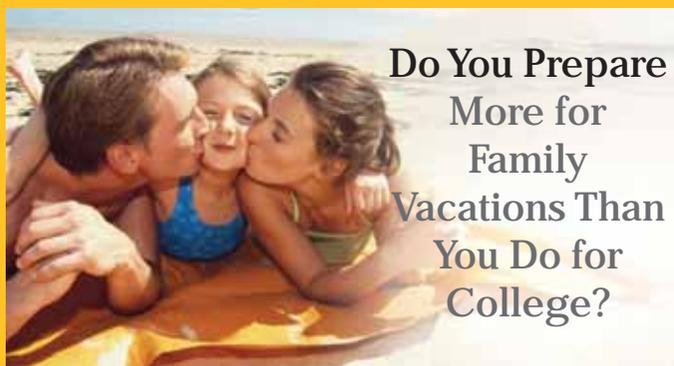


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insurance

By Matt Cale

Do you really need life insurance?

It's just not for married couples with children

By Matt Cale, State Farm agent

Life insurance isn't just for married couples with children. The need for life insurance is much broader.

"Anybody who would experience a financial loss or an emotional loss after a death will need some type of life insurance," says Marvin Feldman, president and CEO of the Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education.

Who is it for?

Having dependents of any kind necessitates life insurance. Here are examples:

Unmarried couples. Unmarried individuals may have a significant other who relies on their support. Life insurance can help provide for them.

Stay-at-home spouses. Life insurance isn't just for breadwinners. It can help cover the cost of replacing the services of stay-at-home parents.

Single parents. These individuals are typically the sole source of support for their children. Life insurance can help provide for children financially should their parent die.

Singles. Single individuals could be responsible for aging parents or may have significant debt.

"Life insurance helps make sure those debts are paid," Feldman says.

Retirees. Insurance can help replace income from part-time work, Social Security benefits, pensions or other employer benefits. It helps spouses continue living as they're accustomed.

Empty nesters. Older adults

may have custody of a grandchild or provide support for other family members. Life insurance may help this care to continue.

Business owners. Life insurance has many benefits for business owners, such as helping protect family members from taking on a person's professional debt, or providing funds for survivors to buy out the deceased's interest.

What can it cover?

Beyond paying for final expenses, loved ones can put these death benefits toward paying off debt, financing an education, settling estate taxes, contributing to charity, creating an inheritance, replacing income or replacing employer benefits.

Are there additional benefits?

Some policies also offer living benefits. Whole policies and universal life policies accumulate value that can be tapped as retirement income or used to help cover unexpected expenses. Universal life policies also may have riders allowing chronically ill policyholders to withdraw the face amount during their lifetimes to help cover long-term care costs or to prepare loved ones financially before passing. Decide which type of policy suits your needs.

Unpaid loans and withdrawals will reduce the guaranteed death benefit and policy cash value. Loans also accrue interest.

See more at: <http://learningcenter.statefarm.com/insurance/life/do-you-really-need-life-insurance/#sthash.mUXAnuOm.dpuf>

Information provided by Matt Cale, State Farm Insurance, 6733 University Ave., Windsor Heights, 280-9000.

Creating a trust for your children

Money will be managed for their benefit

By Ross Barnett, attorney, Abendroth and Russell Law Firm

The start of the school year focuses our attention on children. If you and your spouse both pass away, what will happen to the money you leave to your children?

It is sometimes difficult for parents to plan for their children's financial futures, especially imagining that the parents are no longer alive. After all, it is rare for children to lose both parents. But all it takes is one accident involving you and your spouse for these issues to impact your family.

In Iowa, children younger than 18 are considered legally incompetent. If your children are minors when they inherit money, the court will create a conservatorship. This is a legal entity established to manage the money. A conservator will be appointed by the court and that person will be in charge of the money.

A conservator may use the funds for the benefit of your children, but almost all expenditures require prior court approval. In addition, the conservator must make annual reports to the court of the income and expenses. Often, the conservator must post a bond. The bond, court costs and attorney's fees are all expenses that will be paid from the money you left to your children.

Regardless of your children's financial maturity, a conservatorship ends when the ward turns 18. No longer subject to oversight by the conservator or the court, the teenager can spend the money any way he or she chooses.

A better alternative for most parents is to create a trust in



their last will and testament. Both a trust and a conservatorship hold the money for the wards' benefit, so the money is preserved for your children. A trustee and a conservator have similar roles — they are duty-bound to manage the money wisely and preserve it for the benefit of your children. However, the trust in your will can waive the bonding requirement and the court oversight and annual reporting. You can nominate a family member or trusted friend to manage your assets instead of allowing the court to appoint a conservator.

Perhaps most importantly, the trust terminates when you decide. While a conservatorship terminates at age 18, your testamentary trust can terminate at any age you choose. Many parents want their children to have full access to the assets at age 22, 25, or later.

A simple will that contains a child trust is an easy and inexpensive way to prevent problems in the future. ■

EXPERIENCED ATTORNEYS

SINCE 1987



Top Row:

Joe Wallace, Thomas Sherzan

Bottom Row:

Mark Abendroth, Dave Russell, Ross Barnett, Chris Low

- ▶ Wills and Trusts
- ▶ Estate Planning
- ▶ Probate
- ▶ Powers of Attorney
- ▶ Real Estate Transactions
- ▶ Small Business Representation



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Information provided by Ross Barnett, attorney for Abendroth and Russell Law Firm, 2560 73rd St., Urbandale, 278-0623, www.ARPCLaw.com.



Beth Raasch and Steve Peterson at the Windsor Heights Chamber Lunch on July 15.



Matt Kneifl and Michael Libbie at the Windsor heights Chamber Lunch on July 15.



Erika McNish and George Hanusa at the Windsor Heights Chamber Lunch on July 15.



David Swartz and Dave Moench at the Windsor Heights Chamber Lunch on July 15.



Tony and Marshal Gelina have modernized their 1957 Colby brick ranch home.

Model remodel

Tony and Marshal Gelina bring house up to date

By Rainey Cook

Once upon a time, this 1957 walk-out Colby ranch home had a very, well... 1957 look and feel to it. The entry way was a slender hallway to which you could reach each boxy room. The walls were meticulously high, which provided a uniform home. Each room had its use.

Then Tony and Marsha Gelina moved in. With four school-aged kids, this home provided every parent's dream — a safe neighborhood, great schools and convenient proximity to events, culture and fun. Now, with grown children out of the house, the couple is well on their way to reaching 30 years in their lovely Windsor Heights home.

Not a boxy '50s ranch anymore, this home more resembles the look and feel of a downtown loft. It's spacious, warm and modern. The entry way wall is gone. The main kitchen wall is also gone, opening up the living room, dining room and kitchen.

The kitchen boasts a wonderful wall of cherry cupboards. What was once just a wall now is a display of space-saving cupboards that aren't as deep as standard cupboards but make up the lack of depth in numbers.

They've also added an absolutely wonderful solarium that looks out to their backyard. This

amazing room is detailed with intelligent trim that invokes a Frank Lloyd Wright den. The windows on all three walls give the view of the tops of all area trees. Off to the east is a uniquely shaped deck with seating for just a few as the sun sets.

The two upstairs bedrooms are now the large master bedroom. The office near the dining room is perfectly tucked away, yet roomy. All hardwood floors are original.

"There is a certain ambiance to these homes," says Marsha. "I think the fact that the homes around here are all brick and the many mature trees makes for a more-than-comfortable neighborhood."

On their block going east are all two-story homes. Going west are all those brick homes she speaks of.

The couple also loves the front yard.

"That soft maple tree in front is just perfect," says Tony. Coupled with many hostas, pots of annuals, iris and perennials, it really is a beautiful setting. The winding sidewalk up to the lone decorative chair accented with plush pillow is very inviting.

"This is not an in-and-out neighborhood," says Tony. "Most people who live here have been here for 20 to 30 years." ■

See more photos online at www.iowalivingmagazines.com

Windsor Heights has Business Brainstorm Group

What is “Do Business Windsor Heights” about?

By Betty Ridout, president, Windsor Heights Chamber

These are the kinds of comments you can expect to hear in a strong, supportive brainstorm business group: “I understand exactly what you’re saying!” “I find what you’re talking about interesting because I’ve had that happen before, and here is what I did.” “Let me share with you what I did to fix that.”

With the generous sponsorship of the Windsor Heights Chamber, Do Business Windsor Heights is well on its way to creating a powerful group for business professionals and owners.

What is a business brainstorm group? Business professionals gather with others in a trusted collective to foster relationships, share solutions to challenges, energize their plans and focus on growing their businesses. Sherry Borzo, our executive director and owner of her own business, leads up this group. She explains what business brainstorm groups have meant for her in the past.

“I worked with a small band of women business owners and learned tons about marketing, pricing and generating real ideas for the future,” she said. “They were encouraging, knew what I was talking about and why I was excited. We formed lasting friendships that organically led to getting business as well as strengthening my skills.”

We’ve launched Do Business with great success. Our first several meetings generated terrific interest and support from business owners, city staff and city council representatives. Now we’re going to roll up our sleeves and do some



soul-searching and mind-bending thinking. This team-building with a trusted team of like-minded professionals who just “get it” are the folks you know and trust to provide feedback as you work to build your business. Currently the group is accepting members and is in “open season” for participation.

How to join. Look for Do Business Windsor Heights events on the Windsor Heights Chamber website calendar. It meets the last Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. and has recently moved the venue to Jimmy’s Big Ten on Eighth Street in West Des Moines. It also sends out reminders via the Chamber newsletter and can be found on Meetup.com where members can post their business information, as well as leave comments and questions.

The Do Business brainstorm group is just one more way that the Windsor Heights Chamber is stepping up to provide value for our members. Check out this opportunity. The next brainstorming meet up is Aug. 27, 5:30 p.m. at Jimmy’s Big Ten. ■

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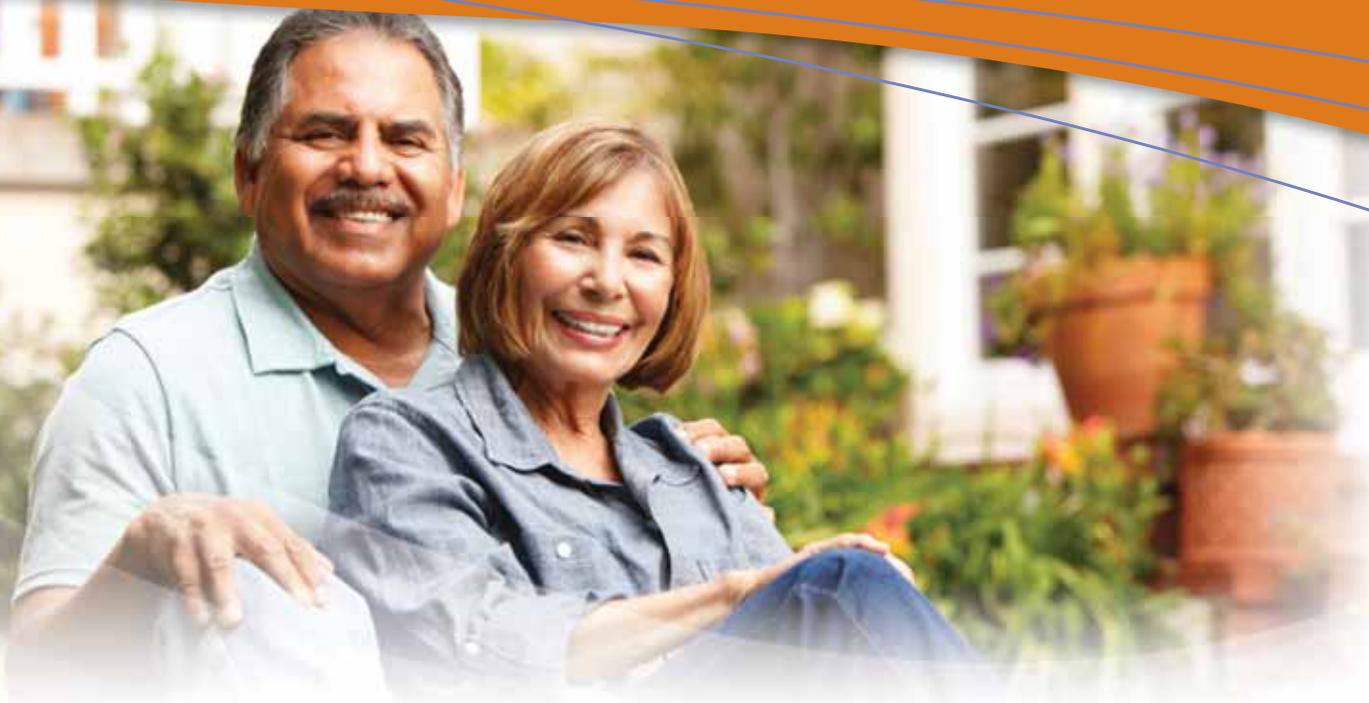
A: When selecting a backpack for your child some of the most important factors influencing your decision may include price, color, style and durability. However, it is important that you also keep your child's health in mind when making the decision to purchase this necessary school supply. Here are some tips for selecting the right backpack and using it properly:

- Choose a backpack with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back.
- Make sure the backpack is sturdy and durable, but not so heavy to add extra weight.
- Always use both shoulder straps when carrying a backpack. Failing to do so may result in injury to muscles and joints, pain in the shoulders, neck and back or problems with posture.
- Pack the backpack as light as possible and distribute the weight evenly. The backpack should weigh less than 20 percent of your child's body weight.



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