

Windsor Feasting
magazine

december 2013

50324

Holiday feasting

RESIDENTS SHARE THEIR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS-TIME RECIPES AND TRADITIONS

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Nothing says Christmas like Spamwiches

My mother was the youngest in her family, as was my father in his. I, too, was the youngest in my family. It's not all it's cracked up to be.

Holiday memories for my older siblings consist of time at our grandparents' or our aunts' and uncles' homes, spending time with cousins and enjoying the season — playing games, watching football and eating everything in sight. My brothers and sister continue to share those recollections each time we all get together. And, of course, they ask me if I remember. And, of course, I don't. I was 2 years old, for Pete's sake.

By the time I was old enough to recall the holidays, the extended family traditions were over. My grandparents had passed on by then, and my much older cousins were out of their homes and on their own. So growing up as the youngest, I missed out on much of these family times. Ironically, my wife, Jolene, was raised in a similar way.

So what do you do when you don't have traditions to recall? You make them up, and that's exactly what we have done.

On Christmas Eve, Jolene cooks up what has become a tradition for us — Spamwiches. Yes, a sandwich consisting of the famous Hormel Foods canned meat. And, yes, I thought what you are thinking, but they are actually quite good. Diced up with cheese and baked on hamburger buns in the oven, this specialty with roots dating back to 1937 has become a nice complement to the potato and broccoli cheese soups we have before Santa shows up. Throw in a bottle or two of sparkling grape juice, and you have the Goodman Family Christmas Eve meal. And you thought we didn't know how to celebrate.

In fairness to my wife, who works diligently preparing the holiday meals, we also fill our bellies with the traditional ham on Christmas day with all the fixings, but this just doesn't seem to stick out in my memory like the Spamwiches do.

Give it a try, and enjoy the holiday season! And, as always, thanks for reading. ■



Shane Goodman
Publisher



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FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
Sunday, December 15
at 8:30 am and 10:45 am services
Windsor Brass will perform Christmas carols at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Tuesday, December 24
Communion Service with Children's Story Time at 4 pm
Candlelight Communion Services at 7 pm and 11 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE
Wednesday, December 25 at 10 am



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Darren Tromblay
Editor
515-953-4822 ext. 304
darren@dmcityview.com



Debra Prentice
Advertising
515-577-9136
debra@iowalivingmagazines.com



Holiday feasting

**RESIDENTS SHARE THEIR
FAVORITE CHRISTMAS-TIME
RECIPES AND TRADITIONS**

By Michael Swanger

'T is the season for decorating, shopping and last, but not least, eating.

What is it about the holidays that bring out the inspired chef, cook or baker in us? Is it the nostalgia of sharing an age-old, secret family recipe for such a special occasion? Is it the joy of discovering new tasty treats with which to wow family, friends and neighbors? Or is it the simple fact that some foods taste better this time of year?

Perhaps it is for those reasons, if not more, that food bonds us during the holidays.

For most people, fond memories of the holidays often include their favorite seasonal foods. Scent can be a powerful memory trigger and the smell of cookies baking, for example, might remind someone of spending time at their grandmother's house during the holidays when they were a small child.

Though a myriad of holiday recipes are available through magazines, cookbooks or websites, for everything from appetizers, salads and soups, to side dishes and entrees, it seems as though desserts are among the most popular recipes to be shared this time of the year. Whether it be quick breads and coffee cakes, cookies and candies or cakes and pies, there is no shortage of options to



Photo by Michael Swanger

Baking, you might say, is in Gloria Olson's blood, and she says there is no sweeter time to enjoy traditional family recipes than the holidays.

satisfy a sweet tooth.

In the 1950s, bread baking was a part of almost every American kitchen. As more women entered the work force, yeast-bread baking at home declined, but quick breads and coffee cakes remain popular with working mothers (and fathers) because they are easy to make while juggling a hectic schedule.

Cookies, meanwhile, are synonymous with “Mom” and “home.” They are fun and easy to make and a great way to pass on the tradition of baking to children by allowing them to help make or decorate them.

Cakes, whether you bake them from scratch or prefer to start with a cake mix, are also relatively easy to make as long as you follow the instructions. The same can be said about pies, especially with the proliferation of prepared pie crust. You can buy refrigerated pie dough, frozen pie shells and prepared crumb crusts in every flavor and color, or you can make pie crust from scratch, like your grandmother did.

In the end, no matter how you prepare them, the holidays are always sweeter with desserts. So with that in mind, we asked a few local residents to share with us some of their favorite holiday recipes and the stories behind them. Here’s hoping they inspire you to share your favorite foods and recipes with family and friends this holiday season.

Carrying on tradition

Baking, you might say, is in Gloria Olson’s blood, and she says there is no sweeter time to enjoy traditional family recipes than the holidays.

“I’m very Scandinavian, and I come from a long line of traditional Swedish bakers,” says the 44-year-old Windsor Heights woman. “Holiday time is really the only time of year when special baked goods are made.”

The Minnesota native carries on the family tradition set forth by her great-grandmother, Vendla, of baking spritz cookies during the Christmas season. She says the tradition dates back

decades ago to when her great-grandmother immigrated from Sweden to the United States and settled in Duluth, Minn., where she would entertain kids from the local elementary school every Christmas season with decorations and baked goods.

“My great-grandmother lived three blocks from the elementary school, and the week before they got out for Christmas vacation they would tour her house and look at the tree and everyone got one of her special Christmas cookies. She did that for at least 30 years,” says Olson.

One of her great-grandmother’s most beloved recipes is for

“For me, baking cookies at Christmas is filled with years of memories...”

— Gloria Olson

her spritz cookies. Olson bakes and shares them with family and friends during the holidays.

“Simpler is better in my book, and that’s especially true with her spritz cookies. I could eat a whole batch myself, or just the cookie dough,” says Olson, who inherited her great-grandmother’s dough press to make them.

Other traditional Swedish treats that rank among her favorites include sandbakken and krumkakke cookies.

“When I was a child, the sandbakken’s were my favorites. I called them ‘sand buckets’ because I couldn’t pronounce the name,” says Olson. “My mom still makes the krumkakkes, and she



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uses a special flat iron to make them.”

Olson says that her great-grandmother would store the cookies in decorative tins for the holidays.

“We still have all of them. She would line them with wax paper, and they would store easily for three weeks. These days, people use Tupperware to store cookies, and they get too soft,” she says.

Like many women who grew up watching their mothers and grandmothers bake during the holidays, the art of baking is a rite of passage.

“When you were a kid you were only allowed to do certain things, but other things you weren’t because the adults took extra pride in making them for family and friends. It was a big deal. You had to earn your way to help make more complex things,” she says.

Now that she is an accomplished baker in her own right, Olson appreciates the skills she acquired from her relatives and reflects fondly upon that time in her life.

“For me, baking cookies at Christmas is filled with years of memories of watching my grandmothers and mother bake and learning from them,” she says. “They would start baking in early December, and they would make 34 varieties of cookies. The house would smell like a bakery. You never forget that smell.”

Vendla’s Spritz Cookies

1 cup butter
2/3 cup sugar
3 beaten egg yolks
1 teaspoon flavoring (almond or vanilla)
2-1/2 cups flour

Instructions: Cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Add yolks and flavoring. Gently add flour. Do not over-mix. Put in cookie press, color as needed. Bake at 400 degrees for 7 to 10 minutes.

Old fashioned sour cream pound cake

6 eggs, separated

2 teaspoons vanilla
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 cup sour cream
3 cups sifted flour
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt

Instructions: Cream sugar and butter and add yolks one at a time. Blend in vanilla, lemon juice and sour cream. Add dry ingredients. In separate bowl beat egg whites to stiff peaks. Fold into dry ingredients. Pour into greased and floured tube pan. Bake at 300 degrees for 90 minutes.

‘Go-to recipes’ for the holidays

Like many working mothers and wives, Becky Karkovice enjoys decorating, shopping and baking for the holidays as much as her busy work schedule allows. It’s not always easy to find time to bake her favorite holiday treats, but she makes the extra effort each year to do so because she knows how much joy it brings to her family and friends.

“It wouldn’t be the holidays if we didn’t have fresh baked cookies, brownies or fudge. That’s a tradition at our house,” she says. “There are certain treats that taste better this time of year.”

Among them, Karkovice says, are two of her “go-to recipes” which she uses because they not only are family favorites, but because they are relatively easy to make and they are meaningful to her. They include “Fantasy Fudge” and “Grandma’s Graham Cracker Brownies.” She also shares them with friends and neighbors at Christmastime.

“These are my go-to recipes for my Christmas treat plates that I give out to neighbors and friends. They have special meaning to me since my dad spent many Christmases making this fudge recipe and the graham cracker brownies were made by my husband’s grandmother, and both continue to be family favorites. I feel like I’m honoring their memories in my own simple way and carrying on a tradition,” she says.

Fantasy Fudge

3 cups sugar



Photo by Michael Swanger

Becky Karkovice relies on her “go-to” recipes during the holidays because they are easy to make and are meaningful to her.

3/4 cup margarine
2/3 cup evaporated milk
One 12-oz. package semi-sweet chocolate chips
One 7-oz. jar Kraft marshmallow creme
1 cup chopped nuts
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Instructions: Combine sugar, margarine and milk in heavy 2-1/2 quart saucepan. Bring to full rolling boil, stirring constantly. Continue boiling 5 minutes over medium heat, stirring. Remove from heat, stir in chocolate until melted. Add marshmallow creme, nuts and vanilla, beat until blended. Pour into greased 13-inch by 9-inch backing pan. Let cool and cut into 1-inch squares.

Grandma’s Graham Cracker Brownies

1 package graham crackers
1 can Eagle brand sweetened condensed milk
One 6 oz. package of chocolate chips
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Instructions: Roll graham crackers to a fine texture, put in mixing bowl. Melt other ingredients and stir until all is moist and blended well. Pour in a well-greased 8-inch by 8-inch or 9-inch by 9-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes. Cool. Then cut into serving pieces and roll each piece in powdered sugar. Make sure to cover all sides of the brownie. ■



Chelsea Sapp, Dean Boots and Quinlynn Desomber at the Polar Express Event at the Windsor Heights Community Center in Windsor Heights on Dec. 6.



Judy Atwood and Red Atwood at the Polar Express Event at the Windsor Heights Community Center in the Windsor Heights on Dec. 6.



Nora Turner and Janelle Turner at the Polar Express Event at the Windsor Heights Community Center in Windsor Heights on Dec. 6.



Judy Haver, Liz George and Gavin Adams at the Polar Express Event at the Windsor Heights Community Center in Windsor Heights on Dec. 6.



See more photos online at www.iowalivingmagazines.com



My family and I wish you a

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year!

Thank you for your support in this past election. I am honored to represent Windsor Heights and I look forward to working for you in the new year.

Sincerely,

Mayor Diana Willits

Dwillits@windsorheights.org

11 Years of Service in the Community. Thank You.

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Friday, Dec. 20

- Rock the River, request favorite songs with live DJ, \$3.50-\$6, 8-11 p.m., Brenton Skating Plaza.
- RHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball vs. DM North, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- RHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball vs. DM North, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- VHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball at Urbandale, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- VHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball at Urbandale, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.



Saturday, Dec. 21

- First day of winter
- RHS JV Wrestling at West Central Valley, 10 a.m.
- RHS V Wrestling at Carroll, 10 a.m.
- VHS V Wrestling at Waterloo West, 10 a.m.
- VHS V Boys Basketball at Omaha, 5 p.m.
- Child of Bethlehem Musical Celebration, free vocal and orchestral concert celebrating the Child of Bethlehem, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m., Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School, 5625 Franklin Ave.

Monday Dec. 23

- No School- DMPS
- No School- WDMPS

Tuesday, Dec. 24

- Christmas Eve
- No School - DMPS
- No School - WDMPS
- City Offices Closed
- Birthday Party for Jesus, enjoy hands-on activities, 3 p.m., Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School, 5625 Franklin Ave.



Wednesday, Dec. 25

- Christmas Day
- No School - DMPS
- No School - WDMPS
- City Offices Closed

Thursday, Dec. 26

- Kwanzaa
- No School - DMPS
- No School - WDMPS

Friday Dec. 27

- No School - DMPS
- No School - WDMPS
- Rock the River, request favorite songs with live DJ, \$3.50-\$6, 8-11 p.m., Brenton Skating Plaza.

Monday, Dec. 30

- No School - DMPS
- No School - WDMPS

Tuesday, Dec. 31

- New Year's Eve
- No School - DMPS
- No School - WDMPS

Wednesday, Jan. 1

- New Year's Day
- No School - DMPS
- No School - WDMPS

Friday, Jan. 3

- Rock the River, request favorite songs with live DJ, \$3.50-\$6, 8-11 p.m., Brenton Skating Plaza.
- RHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball vs. DM Lincoln, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- RHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball vs. DM Lincoln, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.



Saturday, Jan. 4

- RHS V Wrestling at DM Lincoln, 9:30 a.m.
- VHS JV Wrestling at DM North, 9 a.m.
- VHS 9/10 Boys Basketball at Ames, 10/11:30 a.m.
- VHS JV Girls Basketball at Ames, 11:30 a.m.
- VHS V Girls/Boys Basketball at Ames, 1/3 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 6

- RHS JV/V Boys Swimming at Indianola, 5:30 p.m.
- RHS JV Boys Basketball at DM Lincoln, 7 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Bowling at Waukee, 3 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Wrestling at Waukee, 5:30 p.m.
- VHS 9/JV Boys Basketball at Urbandale, 7/8 p.m.



Tuesday, Jan. 7

- Council Meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall.
- DMPS Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Bowling at Dowling, 3:30 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Wrestling vs. DM Lincoln, 6:30/7:30 p.m.
- VHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball vs. Ankeny, 4:45/6:15 p.m.
- VHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball vs. Ankeny, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- VHS V Boys Swimming at Waukee, 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

- Foundations, \$2.50/person supper, stay to learn how/why God interacts with people today as in ancient days, activities for all ages, K-12 and adult, 5-7 p.m., Mt. Olive Lutheran Church & School, 5625 Franklin Ave.

Thursday, Jan. 9

- RHS JV/V Bowling at Ankeny, 3:45 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Boys Swimming vs. DM east, 5:30 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Wrestling vs. Marshalltown, 6:30/7:30 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Bowling at DM East, 3:45 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Boys Swimming at Dowling, 5:30 p.m.
- VHS 9 Boys Basketball vs. Urbandale, 7 p.m.



Friday, Jan. 10

- Rock the River, request favorite songs with live DJ, \$3.50-\$6, 8-11 p.m., Brenton Skating Plaza.
- RHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball vs. Fort Dodge, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- RHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball vs. Fort Dodge, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- VHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball vs.

- DM Hoover, 4:45/6:15 p.m.
- VHS 9/JV/V Boys Basketball vs. DM Hoover, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 11

- RHS Show Choir Concert, 7 p.m. Auditorium.
- RHS V Wrestling at BGM, 10 a.m.
- RHS V Boys Swimming at Johnston, 11 a.m.
- VHS JV Boys Basketball vs. DM North, 10 a.m.
- VHS JV Wrestling at Ankeny, 10 a.m.
- VHS V Wrestling at Ames, 10 a.m.
- VHS JV/V Boys Swimming vs. Cedar Rapids Washington, 12:30 p.m.
- VHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball at Cedar Rapids Xavier, 1/2:30 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 13

- Opening Night Legislative Reception, meet Iowa Legislators discover Iowa's culture, register online, 5-7 p.m., State of Iowa Historical Museum.
- RHS JV/V Bowling vs. Johnston, 3:30 p.m.
- RHS JV Boys Basketball at DM East, 7 p.m.
- WDMPS Board Meeting, 7 p.m., VHS Media Center.
- VHS 9/JV Boys Basketball at SEP, 7/8 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 14

- RHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball at

- Ottumwa, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- RHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball at Ottumwa, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Boys Swimming at DM Lincoln, 5:30 p.m.
- VHS 8 Boys Basketball vs. Fort Dodge, 4:30 p.m.
- VHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball at Mason City, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- VHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball at Mason City, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.



Wednesday, Jan. 15

- Foundations, \$2.50/person supper, stay to learn how/why God interacts with people today as in ancient days, activities for all ages, K-12 and

adult, 5-7 p.m., Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School, 5625 Franklin Ave.

Thursday, Jan. 16

- RHS JV/V Bowling vs. DM Hoover, 3:30 p.m.
- RHS JV/V Wrestling Meet, 6:30/7:30 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Bowling vs. Johnston, 3:45 p.m.
- VHS 8 Boys Basketball at Indianola, 4:30 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Boys Swimming vs. Johnston, 5:30 p.m.
- VHS JV/V Wrestling at Dowling, 6:30/7:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 17

- Rock the River, request favorite songs with live DJ, \$3.50-\$6, 8-11 p.m., Brenton Skating Plaza.
- RHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball vs. DM Hoover, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- RHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball vs. DM Hoover, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- VHS 9/JV/V Girls Basketball at Ankeny Centennial, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.
- VHS 9/10/V Boys Basketball at Ankeny Centennial, 4:45/6:15/7:45 p.m.


View events and happenings from this community and others at www.iowalivingmagazines.com



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Emily Johnson, Sophie Johnson, Todd Johnson and Brock Johnson at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Grace Donahue, Pat Donahue and Jackson Donahue at the Polar Express Event at the Windsor Heights Community Center in Windsor Heights on Dec. 6.



Madison Ward, Abigail Ward and Amanda Ward at the Polar Express Event at the Windsor Heights Community Center in Windsor Heights on Dec. 6.



Sarah Braverman and Roberta Schulte at the Polar Express Event at the Windsor Heights Community Center in Windsor Heights on Dec. 6.

See more photos online at www.iowalivingmagazines.com



Windsor Presbyterian Church will hold a variety of season services for Christmas.

Joy to the world

Windsor Presbyterian hosts Christmas services

By Michael Swanger

Among the events and holidays celebrated by Christian churches throughout the year, Christmas is one of the most observed and celebrated and Windsor Presbyterian Church is no exception, as it will host several seasonal services that stretch beyond the New Year.

Last year, the church hosted its first-ever “Blue Christmas Service,” which returns Dec. 21 at 5 p.m. It not only recognizes the longest day of the calendar year, but it allows parishioners and the public to pause and reflect upon the previous year as well as the upcoming year.

“It’s a contrast to the glitz and glamour of the holiday shopping season. It benefits anyone who has endured hardships during the year like loneliness, death or divorce. Sometimes it can be hard to put on a happy face during the Christmas season and a lot of times our expectations of Christmas don’t measure up,” says the Rev. Shamaine Chambers King, now in her sixth year as pastor at Windsor Presbyterian. “Even though it’s a lovely season there’s also pain for a lot of people, and this night allows them to be contemplative and to enjoy music and to pray and sit and to think about the next year. I think it’s a good thing.”

On Dec. 24, the church will

host its annual Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m. The family-oriented event includes singing, storytelling and communion.

Windsor Presbyterian Church
6301 University Ave.
277-8379
http://windsorpc.org/Home_Page.html
Sunday services: 10:30 a.m.

“We tell the story of Christmas,” says King. “We sing songs and light candles, and at the end of the service we sing ‘Joy to the World’ to go out on a joyful tone and gather in our fellowship hall for hot chocolate.”

Christmas carols and the meaning behind them is the theme for services on Dec. 29 at 10:30 a.m. when the congregation and church choir celebrates the music of the season.

Finally, the church hosts an “Epiphany Service” on Jan. 6 in which it recognizes the 12th day of Christmas with a dinner at 5:30 p.m. followed by a brief time of worship. Attendees also can participate in “Star Words,” in which everyone receives a word to live by for 2014.

“It’s a lovely time of year to be at church,” says King. ■



DECEMBER 2013 City of Windsor Heights

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CHRISTMAS TREE & WINTER YARD WASTE COLLECTION: DECEMBER 30 – JANUARY 10

The holidays often include bringing in the new and disposing of the old. As you are shuffling things around, make sure to get your Christmas tree to the curb in time for collection.

Christmas trees, just like yard waste, are collected from the curb and recycled into compost. Trees are picked-up on your regular garbage day between December 30 and January 10 and they must have a *Compost It!* sticker attached. Stickers are sold at participating grocery and hardware stores for \$1.20. Please remove all decorations.

This is also the last time any remaining yard debris is collected before spring. Use a *Compost It!* cart or bags or attach *Compost It!* stickers to generic bags to ensure your yard waste is picked up.

For more information about yard waste collection, visit Metro Waste Authority at www.WhereItShouldGo.com or call 515-244-0021.



2014 PET LICENSE REGISTRATION

The time to register your pets for 2014 is coming up. All pet owners must register their animals January 1 through March 31. Please bring a copy of your pet's current rabies certificate with you. The fee for fixed animals is \$10 and un-fixed is \$20. City Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8am–5pm. We take cash and checks; credit cards will incur an additional \$1 charge. The 2014 Pet License Application is available on the Windsor Heights website: www.windsorheights.org.



DEER DONATION PROGRAM HAS MADE 800,000 MEALS

A popular deer donation program is starting up in Iowa again. The state Department of Natural Resources says the program, *Help Us Stop Hunger*, involves hunters bringing in a whole deer that will be processed into packages of ground meat. The Food Bank of Iowa coordinates the distribution of the meat to local food pantries. Jim Coffey, who coordinates the program, says hunters simultaneously reduce the deer herd and provide needed protein to the food bank. Iowa hunters have donated more than 56,000 deer to the program since it began. More than 5,200 deer were donated last year, resulting in 800,000 meals. Windsor Heights has donated about 1,000 lbs. over the last 3 years!



NO DART SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY OR NEW YEAR'S DAY

DART will not operate bus service on Wednesday, December 25, 2013, in observation of Christmas Day or Wednesday, January 1, 2014, in observation of New Year's Day. DART reminds riders to plan their trips accordingly.

WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

With winter upon us, the City of Windsor Heights would like to remind residents of the ordinances that pertain to snow and ice. If you have any questions or concerns about the City's snow ordinance, please do not hesitate to call City Hall at 279-3662.

What are the rules regarding parking a vehicle on the street during the winter?

City code states that it is unlawful to park on any street during the time of any snowfall and within the 24 hours following the end of the any snow event (60.10.10). Any vehicle parked on the street during a snowfall or within 24 hours after a snowfall faces the possibility of receiving a \$25 parking ticket and/or impoundment. It is important to remember the times when you cannot be parked on the street and that the snow ordinance automatically goes into effect when snow begins to accumulate. This allows for timely removal of snow from the streets and is needed to maintain the safety of our main thoroughfares to get emergency response apparatus to residential areas expeditiously.

What about my sidewalks during or after it snows?

It is the responsibility of the abutting property owners to remove snow and ice accumulations promptly from sidewalks. If the property owner does not remove snow and/or ice accumulations within a reasonable time, the City may do so and ultimately assess the costs against the property owner for collection in the same manner as property tax. For purposes of enforcement, a reasonable time period is generally 48 hours after the snow or ice accumulations end. While the City realizes it can be frustrating to finish clearing your driveway and then have the plow come by, the snow removal policy adopted by the City Council indicates that snow placed in driveways by City plows is the responsibility of the property owner to remove. Snow from a private driveway may not be placed on or pushed across a City street.

10/60 MEETING

Come and join Mayor Willits and City Administrator Fiegenschuh for their first official 10/60 meeting. This new concept, which originated through ICMA (International City Managers Association) allows the public to ask up to 10 questions in 60 minutes. Mayor Willits hopes to make this a monthly or quarterly event for the public. The first 10/60 meeting will be held Thursday January 23, 2014 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the Windsor Heights Community and Events Center. Refreshments will be provided.

COMING SOON! ART IN THE HEIGHTS – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Save the date because you won't want to miss a chance to shop amidst the area's best artists. There will be plenty to choose from in a wide range of prices for your valentine or your own personal collection. Keep an eye out for more information as it gets closer. If you would like to volunteer or help with planning, please call Tracy Levine at 645-6821.

DIANA WILLITS, MAYOR • TONY TIMM, COUNCIL MEMBER • DAVE JENISON, COUNCIL MEMBER
CHARLENE BUTZ, COUNCIL MEMBER • BETTY GLOVER, COUNCIL MEMBER • DAVE BURGESS, COUNCIL MEMBER

Cranberry cheesecake

Holiday dessert delights with texture and taste

By Kris Ellis Tracy

This cheesecake is full of Christmas flavors and is a dramatic ending to the big dinner.

I love the smooth textures, and the sweet tartness of the cranberries. The filling is borrowed from Rose Levy Beranbaum's "The Cake Bible." We like black walnuts in the crust, but pecans are wonderful too. Likewise, the brandy in the cranberry topping is optional. ■



Cranberry cheesecake

Crust:

1 sleeve graham crackers, crushed
1/3 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup toasted walnuts
4 Tablespoons butter, melted

3 large eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 Tablespoons lemon juice
3 cups sour cream
1/4 teaspoon salt

Topping:

3 cups of cranberries
1 cup sugar
1 cup water
1/4 cup of brandy
1 whole orange

Filling:

Two 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened
1 cup sugar
1 Tablespoon corn starch

Directions:

In a food processor, crush the walnuts and graham crackers. Add the sugar and cinnamon. Transfer all into a medium bowl, drizzle in the melted butter. Mix until the crumbs look like damp sand. Line a spring form pan with parchment paper. Lightly butter the paper so it stays in place on the bottom of the pan. Pour the crumb mixture in the bottom of the pan and press lightly to make an even layer.

To mix the filling, use the whisk attachment on your mixer. Starting with the cream cheese and sugar, whisk until blended. Add the corn starch and salt. Blend and then add the eggs one at a time until the filling is smooth and no clumps show. Add the lemon juice and vanilla and mix again. Mix in the sour cream until it is a light creamy color and smooth texture.

Pour the filling into the spring form pan you have prepared with the crumb crust. In a large, deep baking pan (like a turkey roaster) center the spring form pan. Carefully pour hot water around the outside of the spring form pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. DO NOT open the oven, but turn it off and allow the cheesecake to stay in the oven for an additional hour. At the end of that hour, set the cheesecake on the counter top for one hour longer. Then the cheesecake should be refrigerated.

For the topping, put the cranberries, water, sugar and brandy into a heavy saucepan. Using a vegetable peeler, remove the colored part of the orange rind and julienne into tiny strips. Mince the peel into fine pieces. Peel and slice the rest of the orange and add it and the peel to the saucepan. Cover and bring the mixture to a boil slowly. Stir the mixture from time to time. After 15 minutes, most of the cranberries will have burst and the mixture will look like loose jelly. Pour into a covered container and refrigerate several hours. The mixture will thicken as it cools. Spoon onto cheesecake to serve. Serves 16.



Kris Tracy is originally from Iowa and lives in Highlands Ranch, Colo.



Photo by Lucas McMillan

Steve Peterson and Chamber of Commerce event items

Volunteer space

Peterson offers space for Chamber's supplies

By Lucas McMillan

Steve Peterson moved with his family to the Windsor Heights area in 1979. He's been in the neighborhood ever since, and he has seen the community and its businesses grow greatly in the 34 years since he's arrived.

"I love the area," he says. "It's close to everything, and it has great public services like the fire department and police."

His deep roots in the area made him an ideal fit to join the Windsor Heights Chamber of Commerce, which he did in 2011. Peterson, who studied journalism just up the street at Drake University and who works at DuPont Pioneer, wanted to help give back to the community he's lived in for most of his life.

Shortly after joining, Peterson became the vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, a voluntary position in which he helps come up with new ideas for engaging the local business community. He's also responsible for helping plan Chamber events, like an annual chili cook-off dinner held every March, a community Fourth of July parade, bingo games at the community center and a golf outing in September. He's also planning an event for Windsor Heights business owners to meet their local state legislators in January over coffee at the 3E Conference Center. With all of the

events the Chamber helps organize, a need for extra equipment storage quickly arose. The Chamber asked for volunteers, and Peterson gladly offered up his garage space.

"The City didn't have a place to store any of this stuff," he says. "I've got plenty of room, and when they need something I just open my garage door and off it goes."

Of the events Peterson has helped organize, he says he's perhaps proudest of the Windsor Heights Chamber Scholarship, a cash award given to three local elementary school students from a pool of nearly 200 applicants from five elementary schools. The awards were given based on illustrations from the applicants showing what they wanted to be when they grow up.

"It was a spectacular event," Peterson says. "It was so rewarding to see the students' work."

With the Chamber of Commerce's continued growth (more than 50 people have already joined its new young professional organization, WHYPro), Peterson's garage likely won't last much longer as the group's storage space. However, he encourages area businesses both big and small to consider joining.

"It's such a tremendous organization," says Peterson. "I would encourage any business to join." ■

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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Q. How can I keep my family healthy this winter?

A. Keeping your household free from germs can be difficult during the cold and flu season. Here are a few reminders to help keep everyone in your family healthy and happy all winter long!

1. Wash your hands as often as possible using warm water and soap or alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
2. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If your child is sick, keep him or her home from school to prevent spreading germs to other children.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing and/or sneezing. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.
4. Clean and disinfect hard surfaces – such as door handles, counter/table tops, mobile electronic devices and toys – which can easily become contaminated with germs.
5. If you haven't done so already, get the flu vaccine. The vaccine is generally recommended for everyone age six months and older. If you have questions about the vaccine for you or your child, contact your health care provider for more information.

You can give her a Merrier Christmas!



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insurance

By Matt Cale

Safety tips for a bright season

Precautions to use when hanging lights

By Matt Cale, State Farm agent

Very few traditions are as unique to the holiday season as the practice of decorating our homes and yards with twinkling lights and festive decorations. While they definitely add to the magic of the season, some of our favorite holiday traditions also increase our risks for holiday fires and injuries. Luckily, there are steps you can take to ensure a safe, bright and happy holiday season.



Give your holiday story a happy ending with these simple reminders.

- Consider buying LED-type lights, which use less power and burn cooler than traditional incandescent lights. Always follow the manufacturer's use and care instructions that accompany your decorations.

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration and extension cord before use; discard any damaged items. Cracked sockets, bare or frayed wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or fire. Determine how many outlets are available and where they are located. Avoid overloading outlets, which can overheat and also cause a fire. Never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights together. Do not pinch cords in windows or doors, or under heavy furniture, which can damage the cord's insulation.

- When decorating outside always use a ground fault circuit interrupter protected outlet outdoors. Make sure all decorations and extension cords are marked for outdoor use. Exercise caution when decorating near overhead power lines. Use a wooden or

fiberglass ladder instead of metal. Outdoor extension cords and lights should be kept clear of standing water and snow throughout the season.

- Christmas trees are an important holiday tradition for many families. If purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree will stay green longer and is less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. Heated rooms dry out live trees rapidly. Place the tree at least three feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces and space heaters. Be sure to keep the stand filled with water. For artificial trees, look for the label "fire resistant," indicating that the tree is more resistant to burning. Decorate your tree, live or artificial, with non-combustible or flame resistant materials. Never use burning candles on or near your tree.

Whether your house is the most festive on the block or you prefer a more low-key decorating style, make safety an important part of your decorating tradition. Don't let your holiday story end with a decorating disaster.

Have a safe and happy holiday season from Matt Cale State Farm. ■

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

Meet Missy Barrie

Teaching critical thinking to students

By Rainey Cook

When not traveling for fun, drinking coffee with family and friends or trying new things like going to local auctions or international fairs downtown, you can find Missy Barrie inspiring the minds of high school students at the Iowa Christian Academy.

She teaches world and American history and government. Soon her students will be covering WWI, the Civil War and touring the Iowa History Museum. Some of her students will study Supreme Court cases, yet others will pose as advertising agency employees and design a movie poster.

The critical thinking she encourages is one of the things she likes best about her career. Her students have now moved from memorizing historical dates to discussing both sides of critical historical events.

"We work on knowing different viewpoints and not just what, but why," she says. "Then I ask them what they think."

The biblical aspect of her teaching is just as interesting to her and her students. They talk at great length about how history plays out in their faith and how Bible stories affect our lives now.

"I love watching them change and grow up," says Barrie. "They go from bubbly and loud to thinking more and forming their own ideas."

In her first year teaching at the Iowa Christian Academy, Barrie



Missy Barrie teaches world and American history and government at Iowa Christian Academy.

has many positive things to say, but mostly she prides the administration for allowing her to teach the way she wants. She treasures she can focus on her students and not paperwork. The smaller class size of 15 is a wonderful advantage for her, the students and even the parents.

"I really get to know my students," she says. "They are becoming individuals and come into their own way of thinking."

It's easy for Barrie to make history fun, and it's easy for her students to learn to become critical thinkers from her.

Originally from Winterset, Barrie moved away from Iowa for several years. Now that she's back and loving her teaching position she wonders what took her so long to return here. ■

What do you like best about your teacher?



Cal Carlson:
"She makes history really fun and easy to understand."



Mackenzie Waechter:
"She has fun activities and makes history interesting."



Eli Harvey:
"She lets us interact in classroom discussions and makes us think critically."



Aly Wynne:
"She's always so helpful and there for us whenever we need her."



Mary Ann Dillenburg has her Colonial home on Jefferson ready to celebrate Christmas with her family.

Cozy living

Mary Ann Dillenburg is ready for holidays

By Rainey Cook

This steadfast 1963 Colonial home on Jefferson is elegantly decorated for the Christmas season inside and out.

Mary Ann Dillenburg and her family have spent many years celebrating together in this home. With six children, 22 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, it gets harder each year to get everyone together in one living room to enjoy the season.

Dillenburg's Christmas tree is beautifully decorated and placed by the warmth of the fireplace. The mantel displays her nutcracker collection. The end table shows off her handmade colored glass nativity. The two chairs in front of the fireplace are a perfect place to warm up with hot tea. She has once again set the scene for a Colonial Christmas.

The Dillenburg family moved here from Minnesota and purchased this home in 1965. It was just two years old at the time and surrounded by corn fields and Walnut Creek — places where her children played, hunted and explored.

A perfect new home for a large family then, Dillenburg still loves the practicality of her home. She remodeled the kitchen 14 years ago and made the back porch a three-season porch, which is her

favorite place in the home to relax and watch sporadic wildlife.

"It's been very interesting watching Windsor Heights change over the years," says Dillenburg.

She has an appreciation for the containment of the city. She enjoys going to the grocery store and always running into people she knows. She likes that Colby Park puts on entertainment for the city. Added to her long list of gratitude for Windsor Heights is the mere fact that the ambulance is quick, fire department is dependable, police are accountable and the city council is full of good people.

"It's nice to have the neighborhood plowed of snow before you even wake up," she says.

The neighborhood Dillenburg lives in is also full of good people. Most neighbors have lived in their homes as long as she has.

"People are neighborly and respectful," she smiles.

When not at home, Dillenburg still loves to travel to visit family. And not long ago, she still had it in her to cast a fishing pole. She spent her 80th birthday fishing off Padre Island. Although you couldn't tell it by looking at her delicate demeanor, Dillenburg has taught most of her granddaughters how to hook a worm. ■

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Bottom Row:

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legal briefs

By Madina L. Nguyen

New Year's resolutions

It's a good time to get legal matters organized

By Madina L. Nguyen, attorney, Abendroth and Russell Law Firm

With the holiday season winding down and 2014 upon us, it's time to make your New Year's resolutions. Our firm can't help you stick to your diet or finally clean out the garage, but we can offer these suggestions:

Update your estate plan

Putting your legal affairs in order is important. It reduces the burdens on family and loved ones in the event of poor health or death. It can save time and expense. And it allows you to have control over how your assets pass. Every person should have three basic estate planning documents: a last will and testament, a durable financial power of attorney and a living will/health care power of attorney.

A will directs the distribution of your assets upon your death. Through the power of attorney, you give another person the ability to make financial decisions for you should you become incapacitated. If you are too ill to speak for yourself, you can express your wishes and have your voice heard through a living will. This advance directive lets you detail your preferences for your medical care.

Make a list of key contacts

When you update your estate planning documents, you should also make a master list of important information. If you die or become incapacitated, your family will spend a great deal of time figuring out what assets you own and whom they should contact. List your accountant, insurance representative, business manager, bank



or banker and attorney. Make sure you have the correct contact information for each advisor listed.

Review the title to your home

You should review how you hold title to your home. When you purchased your house, the seller executed a deed. The deed contained important vesting information — the names on the title and the legal relationship between those titleholders.

If you are married, you probably want to ensure that both spouses are on title to the house. This may not be the case if the parties were married after one bought the house or if it is a second marriage. You also probably want to ensure that, if one titleholder were to die, the house would pass to the survivor. A simple review of who holds title and how title is held can prevent expensive and time-consuming problems later.

These are three quick resolutions that can save time and expense in the future. Happy 2014! ■

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

Wrap up the gift of the Chamber

Give yourself a present for 2014

By Sherry Borzo, executive director, Windsor Heights Chamber of Commerce

It's hard to believe we're closing up 2013. We had a stellar year full of successes as a Chamber. We launched a Young Professionals Group, started a Business Brainstorm Group, held the successful Annual Golf Outing with more than 80 golfers, hosted bi-monthly lunches, plus facilitated networking and legislative events.

Our first Shop Where You Roost event was a big success. We had approximately 200 children who participated in the "What Do You Want to Be?" art contest, handing out three top cash prizes and more than a dozen honorable mentions. Many of those children and their families streamed through the doors of the Roost event to shop at the dozen vendor tables that were ready to talk about their products and services. That's the wrap up.

Now to move forward. We'll

continue with all these events in 2014, but we're also planning on more exciting events and networking for next year as well. Look for something spicy in March.

I urge you to gift yourself a Windsor Heights Chamber membership for 2014. If you are a business, you will help build your organization with the many opportunities that membership provides, and you'll send the message to your neighbors that you care about the people and place where you do business. Look for more membership details for next year, but feel free to go to our website and sign up now or ask questions. Our membership drive begins the first week of January 2014.

Coming events:

Windsor Heights Legislative Coffee, Jan. 25, 9 - 10:30 a.m., 3E Conference Room, 953 73rd St. ■

out & about

Submit photos to darren@dmcityview.com



Diana Holdefer, Peggy Stettler and Mary Erickson at the Polar Express Event at the Windsor Heights Community Center in Windsor Heights on Dec. 6.

Abendroth and Russell adds two associates

Abendroth and Russell Law Firm is pleased to announce the addition of two new associate attorneys, Laurie Heron and Madina L. Nguyen.

Heron concentrates her practice in the areas of litigation and ethics defense. She received her B.A. from Eastern Illinois University in 2009 and her law degree, with high honors, from Drake Law School in 2012. In law school, Heron served as managing editor of the Drake Law Review and as captain of her moot court team. She also completed an internship with the Iowa Public Appellate Defender's Office. Following her graduation from Drake University School of Law in 2012, Heron served as a law clerk to the Honorable Bruce B. Zager of the Iowa Supreme Court, assisting in drafting and editing Supreme Court opinions. Heron is a published writer, including placing a short story with a "Chicken Soup for the Soul" anthology. She has served on several non-profit and community boards, and currently serves as a hearing officer for the Ames Human Relations Commission.

Nguyen practices primarily in the areas of estate planning, probate and real estate transactions. Nguyen was born and raised in Des Moines. She received her B.B.A. in finance from the University of Iowa in 2010 and her law degree from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in 2013. In law school, Nguyen assisted and served several non-profit boards, including the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and Public Service Board. She is a 2012 Minnesota Justice Foundation Outstanding Service Law Student Award recipient. ■



Laurie Heron



Madina Nguyen

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Trina Elam and Martha Holden at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Charlie Timm and Tony Timm at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Barb Hawbaker, Channon Timm and Sophia Timm at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Judie Erickson and Dan Erickson at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Miles Lorentzen and Santa at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Annabelle Lorentzen and Claudia Lorentzen at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Noelle Erickson and Hanne Helweg at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Megan Berntson and Brienne Tuttle at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Austin Barmann and David Glidden at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Scott Mailey and Betty Glover at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.



Colton Cunningham and Mike Glover at the Breakfast with Santa in Windsor Heights at the Windsor Heights Community Center on Dec. 7.

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