

Festive FALL!

Look inside for a full schedule
of Halloween fun and more
from all around central Iowa



Can't-miss events

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Family shows

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Turkeys and lights

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Fall fun for all

By Erin Huiatt

This month's issue is filled with fun events going on for Halloween and Thanksgiving. There also some exciting announcements from the Des Moines Children's Museum.

Events and activities are really gearing up in central Iowa. Make sure you have bookmarked or downloaded our free app so you can keep track of events and activities going on in your area. Our event calendar includes date night ideas, kids' activities, moms' night out and much more.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Halloween and stays safe while trick-or-treating in our communities! ■



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Before heading to any event or activity, please double check times and locations. We try hard to keep everything accurate, but things do change without notice.

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Des Moines Performing Arts: Wellmark Family Series 2017-18

Have you ever wanted to take your younger ones to a show, but been kind of hesitant? The Wellmark Family Series is your perfect opportunity. These shows are specifically geared and focused on your little ones and are the perfect way to introduce theater to them.

“Phantoms of the Orchestra: Des Moines Symphony Family Concert”

Oct. 29 at 1 p.m.

Every Halloween the “Phantoms of the Orchestra” return to haunt the concert hall. The maestro and his terrified assistant must use the power of the baton to control this ghoulish orchestra of the undead and lead them in concert. The story of the sorcerer’s apprentice is brought vividly to life in this eye-catching family pops concert program. Conductor Joseph Giunta and the Des Moines Symphony will collaborate with Magic Circle Mime Company to bring “Phantoms of the Orchestra” to life on the stage. For additional fun, children are encouraged to dress up in costume and come to the Discovery party that starts at noon.

“Mr. Popper’s Penguins”

Jan. 13 at 1 p.m.

Painter and decorator by day, Mr. Popper spends his time dreaming of Antarctic adventures. He is astounded when a packing crate arrives on his doorstep and a penguin waddles out. With original songs and performing penguin puppets, this delightful, action-packed musical adaptation of Richard and Florence Atwater’s popular book is the perfect family treat.



“Air Play”

Feb. 17 at 1 p.m.

Ride the wind and dream with “Air Play,” a modern spectacle that brings to life the very air we breathe. Flying umbrellas, larger-than-life balloons, giant kites floating over the audience, and the biggest snow globe you’ve ever seen will make you gasp in wonder and laugh until it hurts. “Air Play” is a circus-style adventure of two siblings journeying through a surreal land of air, transforming the ordinary into objects of uncommon beauty. Fabrics dance in the wind, balloons have a mind of their own, confetti turns into the night sky, and an enormous canopy of hovering silk forever alters their future.

“SHH! We Have a Plan”

March 24 at 1 p.m.

Based on the delightful Chris Haughton book of the same title, this show follows the journey of some madcap characters, each of whom has a plan. They all want to capture a beautiful bird perched high in a tree. Sounds simple, but the quest becomes an obsession and the obsession becomes the absurd. Where will it all end? Join us as we follow the characters’ exploits, meet an elusive and magical little birdie and discover that perhaps freedom and kindness are more important than getting what you want at any cost.

“Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic”

April 14 at 1 p.m.

“Feathers of Fire: A Persian Epic” is a visually breathtaking cinematic shadow play for all ages, created by Hamid Rahmanian, a 2014 Guggenheim fellowship-winning filmmaker/visual artist. The play unfolds an action-packed magical tale of star-crossed lovers from the 10th-century Persian epic Shahnameh (The Book of Kings) — Zaul and Rudabeh, who



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Family Series

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triumph at the end against all odds. Rahmanian's graphics, derived from the visual tradition of the region, will be rendered as puppets, costumes, masks, scenography and digital animation, all of which will come to life in a "live animation" shadow casting technique perfected by shadow master Larry Reed on a cinema-size screen. The play also features an original score by the acclaimed musical team Loga Ramin Torkian and Azam Ali.

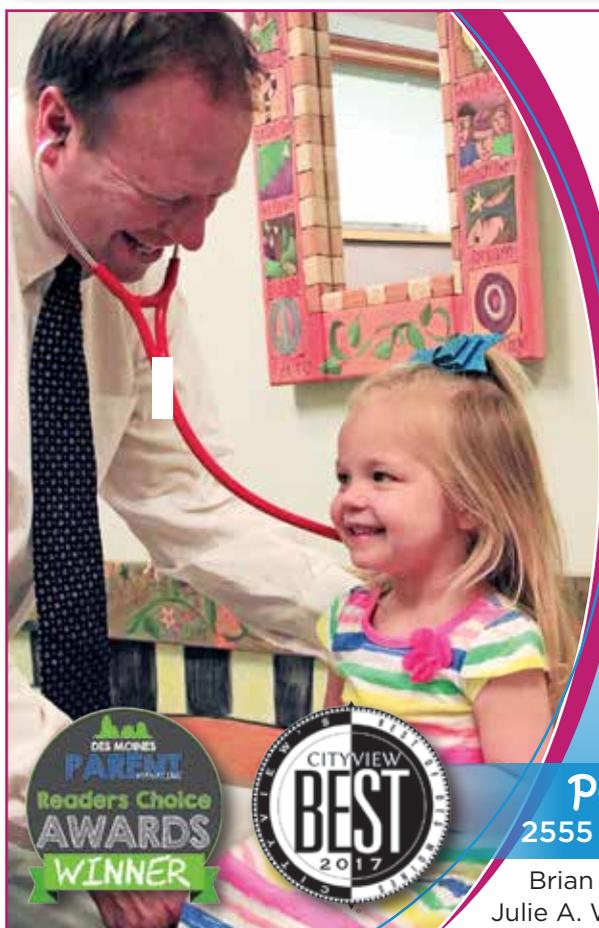
"Tetris"
May 12 at 1 p.m.

Inspired by the game Tetris, the dancers dance with the walls and the hall. This extremely physical dance quartet explores how we connect with one another, building a private language to communicate, and then invite others to enter into our world. The village will come alive. It is for the ones who can't sit still, for the ones who like to climb the walls, and those who can imagine further than they can see.

Before each show, a Discovery party is held at the Des Moines Civic Center. These parties are one hour long and include art activities, demonstrations, and other fun things to enhance the performance your little one will be seeing.

Ticket prices are \$12 each. You can purchase a four-show season ticket package for \$40. ■

 *Link to original post:*
<https://desmoinesparent.com/des-moines-performing-arts-wellmark-family-series-2017-18/>

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Small Business Saturday 2017

Small Business Saturday is Nov. 25. I love that this day has become so well-known and supported. American Express designated that the first Saturday after Thanksgiving would be Small Business Saturday a few years ago. They did this as the United States was experiencing a recession. The goal of Small Business Saturday is to shop local and support small businesses.

One thing to remember when you are shopping local, you may be paying a bit more, but you are supporting your community. You also find a lot more unique items and creativity compared to big box stores.

I will admit that I tend to fall for the great deals that big brand names offer instead of buying locally. This holiday season I am setting a goal for myself. I will purchase at least one to two items locally. Everyone else should set themselves a goal to help support small businesses and the local community.

Here is a list of some small businesses and areas to shop at this holiday season.

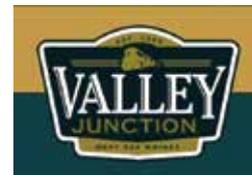
HISTORIC EAST VILLAGE

The East Village is a great place to start. Not only are there several shops such as Allspice for the culinary person, East Village Spa for the one that needs some pampering, Raygun for some fun T-shirts, but there are also great places to eat while you shop. There is also Jett and Monkey's Dog Shoppe for the furry critter on your list. Check out <http://eastvillagedesmoines.com> for the complete list of shops, places to eat and events that may be going on this holiday season.



HISTORIC VALLEY JUNCTION

Valley Junction is full of antiques, gifts, collectibles, jewelry, services and specialty stores. You can purchase a bottle of wine from Wines of Iowa, or some unique gifts at Hinge. Not only are there several shops, but there are also great places to wine and dine. To learn more about what Historic Valley Junction has to offer visit www.valleyjunction.com



SHOPS AT ROOSEVELT

The Shops on Roosevelt are located right off of 42nd Street near Roosevelt High School. There are several local specialty shops including The Cheese Shop, the WORN Store, Bella Salon and Day Spa, The Juice Company, La Mie and more. A lot of these places you can purchase gift certificates or make your own little gift basket using items from one or several of these stores.

INGERSOLL

The Ingersoll area is also a wonderful place to shop. They have some awesome restaurants and bakeries, such as Creme Cupcake, which make it even better. Badowers may be the perfect shop for the man in your life and Tandem Brick Gallery has some gifts and home decor. Moberg Gallery is a great place to check out for the artwork lover. To learn more about what the Ingersoll area has to offer visit www.desmoineswestsidechamber.org.



UPTOWN ANKENY

Uptown Ankeny has been working hard to create fun events, entertainment and revitalize this fun, unique area of town. There are some fun, local shops you should check out including Tweedle Dee's, Strawberry Patch, Carmen's Flowers and more. Make sure to grab a pizza at the Leaning Tower of Pizza and cold brew from local brewery FireTrucker Brewery while you are there. Learn more about Uptown Ankeny at www.uptownankeny.org.



LEGIT LOCAL MARKET

This year a bunch of local business owners and crafters are gathering together to host the Legit Local Market at Lotus Moments and Events in Des Moines. This event will include vendors such as Finding Iowa, Local Chic, Redo, Betty's Barkery and more. There will be music, cash bar, fun and shopping of course. Another great way to celebrate Small Business Saturday in Des Moines. Learn more about this fun event at www.legitlocalmarket.com.



ETSY

Are you not really in the mood to get off your couch and get caught up in all of the people shopping? You can still support small businesses online. I love Etsy. I have purchased several things off Etsy as gifts and for myself. You can find about anything on Etsy and you can also have things customized if you like.

Why is it important to buy local?

When you buy local you are doing four important things:

1. Supporting entrepreneurship
2. Building a strong community
3. Helping create local jobs in the community
4. Keeping money in the local economy

Spend your Black Friday cuddled up at home digesting that wonderful turkey feast and go out to shop Saturday and Sunday to help your local community. ■



Link to original post: <https://desmoinesparent.com/small-business-saturday-2017/>



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Ultimate guide to indoor birthday parties

If you have a birthday to celebrate this winter, we have you covered. Here is a list of some great options to celebrate an indoor birthday party.

Animals

Animal Rescue League: Animal-filled fun, face painting, plush toy for each guest.

Blank Park Zoo: Party room, ice cream, two interactions with animals.

Arts and Crafts

Build-A-Bear: Create a stuffed animal and play games.

Glazed Expressions: Paint pottery with friends.

JoAnne Fabrics (Ankeny Location): Crafts and treat decorating.

Michaels Craft Stores: Crafts and fun for everyone.

Baking

Creme Cupcake: Decorate cupcakes and eat cake.

Botanical Gardens

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden: Take a tour through the Botanical Garden.

Reiman Gardens: Party amongst the flowers and butterflies.

Bowling

Val Lanes: Bowling fun for the kids.

Warrior Lanes: Bowling, party room, and fun.



Games

Chuck E. Cheese: Games, pizza, entertainment.

Game on Iowa: A huge bus of games comes to you.

Game Truck: Video game parties.

The Old School Arcade: Play some fun, old school arcade games.

Glow Golf: Glow in the dark mini-golf.

Gymnastics, tumbling, climbing and dancing

Apex Athletics: Games, trampoline, obstacle course and more.

Chow's Gymnastics: Party room, structured gymnastics instruction.

Climb Iowa: Climbing, party room and more.

Grace Ballet: Princesses, dancing, games, cakes and more.

Infinity Gymnastics: parties, open gym

Lifetime Fitness: Member or not, lots of fun themes to choose from.

Sapphire Gymnastics: Cake, ice cream, games and activities.

Triad Gymnastics: Fun gymnastic activities.

Uplift Fitness Studio: Dancing and fun. Or you can rent studio space and do your own thing.

Jumping and playground

Backyard Adventures: Play sets, party room.

Get Air Des Moines: Jump, pizza, goodie bags and more.

Monkey Joe's: Inflatables, pizza.

The Playground for Kids: Inflatables, party room, pizza.

Pump It Up: Inflatables, party room, food.

Rainbow of Iowa: Play sets, play houses, basketball goals, party room.

Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park: Jumping on trampolines, pizza.



Local community centers

Giovannetti Shelter - Urbandale

Grimes Community Center

Raccoon River Park Nature Lodge - WDM

Windsor Heights Community Center

Movies

Century Jordan Creek Movie Theatre:

Watch your favorite movie. Check out their packages.

Flix Brewhouse: Take the kids to a fun family movie and have some yummy pizza.

Musical fun

Pied Piper Studios: Musical celebrations that are designed for children ages 1-5 years of age.

Songs and Signs, LLC: Songs, finger play, parachute and more.

Science and experiments

Mad Science of Iowa: Science, interactive shows.

The Science Center: Party room, hands-on activities, admission into Science Center.

Skating

Skate North: Roller skating, pizza, games.

Skate West: Roller skating, pizza, pop and more.

Metro Ice Sports: Ice skating time, pizza and soft drink.

Des Moines Buccaneers: Hockey, ice skating, Zamboni ride and more.

Sports

Ohana Sports Complex: Food, drink and inflatables

Dojo's Family Martial Arts: Play games, break boards and act like your favorite superhero.



Sleepy Hollow Sports Park: May not be indoors, but perfect birthday activity to enjoy during the winter months. Ski or snowboard, snow tubing, pizza and drinks.

Superheroes and princesses

Fairytale Friends: Princess parties that come to you. Games, activities, magic and memories.

Little Princess Parties: Welcome a princess into your home.

Party With A Hero: Invite your favorite superhero to celebrate with you.

Shear Madness: Diva and superhero parties with karaoke machine and more.

Stacey's: Have a princess party with hair, nails and makeup done. Fun crafts too.

Swimming fun

Adventureland Inn: Pools, hotel suite, pizza.

Ramada Tropics Resort: Waterpark, hotel room, pizza.

Urbandale Swimming Pool: Themed party packages. Options include decorations, cake, drinks, and pizza from Northern Lights for your group. ■

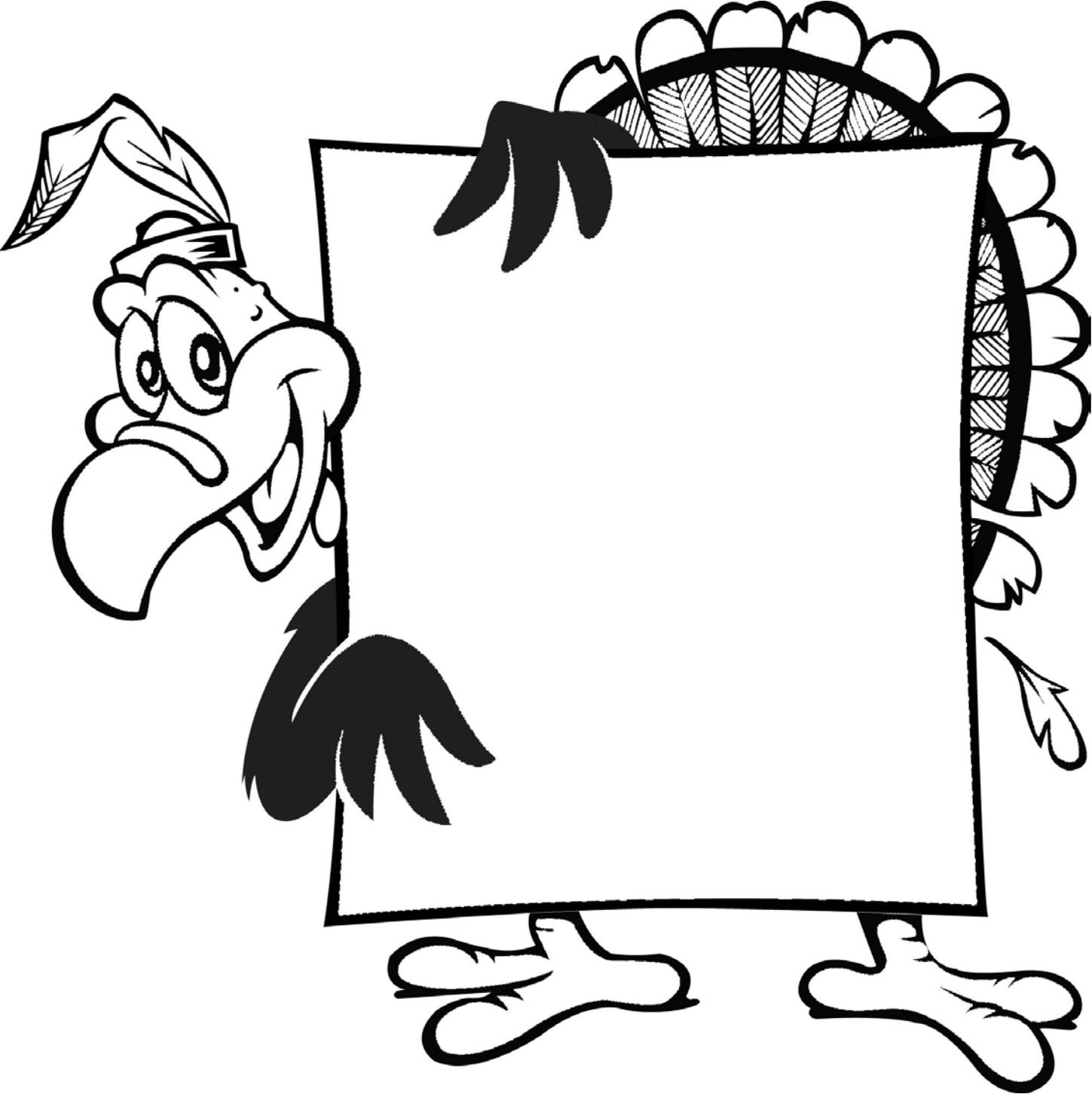


Link to original post: <https://desmoinesparent.com/indoor-birthday-party-ideas>



Thankful turkey

Color in the turkey then list what you are thankful for!



Winter Warmth Drive: Fill The Truck 2017

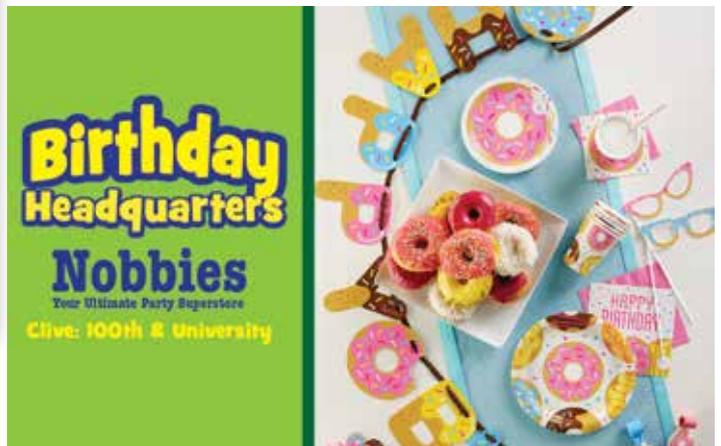
Mark your calendars for this year's Winter Warmth Drive: Fill The Truck event.

For 10 years, the Winter Warmth Drive has brought students together from around central Iowa for the largest youth-run community service projects. In the past 10 years, students have helped collect 44,000 winter items that include coats, hats, gloves, blankets, scarves, snow boots and pants. All these items are then given to local agencies that work directly with the homeless or near homeless and other schools around the metro. These items are provided to students who come from families that are not able to provide the proper winter attire.

This year's Fill The Truck event will occur on Wednesday, Nov. 1 and Thursday, Nov. 2. People can drop off their items at all local Chick-fil-A's, except for the Jordan Creek Mall location. There will be trucks at each location except the Ankeny Chick-fil-A, but people are more than welcome to still drop off donations.

When you donate your items you will receive a gift card for a free menu item at Chick-fil-A. The card is per total donation, not item.

Help the Winter Warmth Drive collect 12,000 items this year. ■



➔ <https://desmoinesparent.com/winter-warmth-drive-fill-the-truck-2017> 

Can't-miss events around Des Moines



Saturday Story & Sketch

Saturday, Oct. 28, 9-10:30 a.m. at Des Moines Performing Arts, 313 Walnut St.

The last Saturday Story & Sketch of the season. Enjoy a spooky tales theme where books such as "Room on the Broom" and "Monster Goose" will be read. Enjoy a fun activity too. Learn more at www.desmoinesperformingarts.org.

Mysteries of the Castle

Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Salisbury House and Gardens

It will be a spooktacular family-friendly Halloween party. Come dressed in costume and enjoy interactive and craft activities, science experiments and much more. For more details, visit www.salisburyhouse.org.



Spooky Science

Saturday, Oct. 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Science Center of Iowa

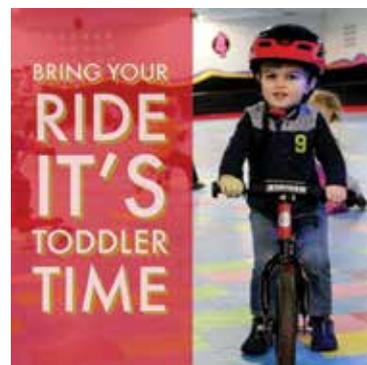
Celebrate Halloween with experiments, potions and visual illusions. Trick or treat your way throughout the building. Wear your costume and receive \$1 off general admission. For more details, visit sciowa.org/spookyscience.



Pumpkin Walk

Sunday, Oct. 29, 2- 5 p.m. in Historic Valley Junction

Celebrate Halloween while walking around to each shop and collect candy. There will also be children's activities, hayrack rides and free pumpkins. For more details, visit www.valleyjunction.com.



Toddler ride and skate

Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Skate North Incrediroll

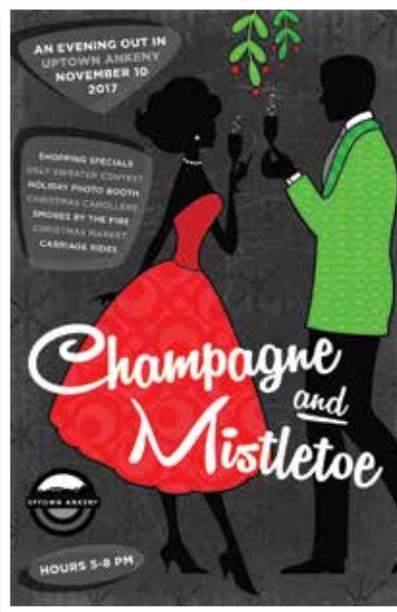
Every Wednesday enjoy Bring Your Ride, It's Toddler Time; 10-11 a.m. and Tiny Tots Skate; 11-11:30 a.m. Bring Your Ride, It's Toddler Time is \$2 admission, and you are invited to bring a push toy, bike, etc. Tiny Tots Skate is \$4 and includes skate rental and a skate mate to help your little one roll around the skating rink. Parents can be out on the floor and walk with their kids. For more details, visit <http://skatenorthdsm.com>.



“A Little House Christmas”

Nov. 3-26 at the Des Moines Community Playhouse

Do not miss this classic holiday show perfect for the entire family. Purchase tickets at www.dmplayhouse.com.

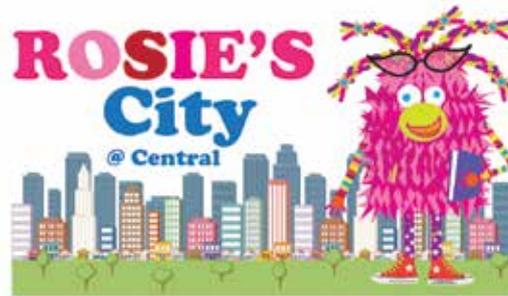


Champagne & Mistletoe Friday, Nov. 10, 5-8 p.m. in Uptown Ankeny

Enjoy a date night and kick off the holiday season by having roasted nuts, kettle corn, carolers, carriage rides, bonfire with s'mores, Christmas karaoke, ugly sweater contest and a kissing booth. To learn more, visit www.uptownankeny.org.

Rosie's City unveiling Sunday, Nov. 5, 2-4 p.m. at the Central Library

This new youth area will feature new stations and toys that promote literacy and fun. There will be stories, games and activities, snacks and crafts. Rosie will be there herself. For more details, visit www.dmpl.org.



TOUR — DE LIGHTS —

Tour de Lights

Saturday, Nov. 18, 4:30-8 p.m. in Altoona

A fun event for the entire family — get a sneak preview of Jolly Holiday Lights as you run, walk, bike or skate through the displays. To learn more, visit <http://tourdelights.kintera.org>.



Disney on Ice presents Dream Big

Nov. 22-26 at Wells Fargo Arena

There are several different showtimes. Enjoy the Disney princesses and the characters from Disney's Frozen as well. To purchase tickets, visit www.iowaeventscenter.com. Keep an eye on the Des Moines Parent Facebook page for a giveaway!



For more events around Des Moines, go to www.desmoinesparent.com/event-calendar



Des Moines Children's Museum coming to Valley West Mall

The Des Moines Children's Museum will soon have walls.

The Des Moines Children's Museum will be opening their doors at the winter home for their traveling exhibits at Valley West Mall in November. On Tuesday, Oct. 30 from 6- 8 p.m. they will be outside their location at the Valley West Mall trick or treat event giving candy to trick-or-treaters and will announce their opening date.

Des Moines Children's Museum received nonprofit status in April and in May started taking the traveling exhibit "Let's Play Outside," sponsored by Des Moines Parent, all over the Des Moines Metro. It has had a wonderfully successful summer with over 2,800 people visiting the exhibits since the first event on May 12.

The Des Moines Children's Museum is excited to have an indoor location where they can offer a place for young children and their families to explore and learn through play during the colder months. They will have all four of their current exhibits, "Let's Play Outside," "Amazing Blanket Forts," "Beautiful Noise" and "Every Child Is An Artist," as well as some fun new additions. They have never been able to have all of their exhibits set up in one place before. Their two minivans and one trailer simply did not allow them to transport it all. They will also be featuring concept art by local artists to show their vision for the permanent location.

The Des Moines Children's Museum will open with limited hours, but they hope to expand quickly. If you're interested in volunteering at their temporary location, making a donation, or helping out in any way, please visit their website at www.dsmchildrensmuseum.com or email at dsmchildren@gmail.com. ■



DSM Children's Museum
COMING TO VALLEY WEST MALL



Link to original article:
<https://desmoinesparent.com/des-moines-childrens-museum-coming-to-valley-west-mall/>



Iowans for Adoption + Gingerbread Run details

By Rusty Johnson

What is a family? What is a family to the over about 4,000 kids growing up in foster care who are legally ready for adoption? I can say for certain these are questions I asked when being raised in one of my 20-some placements before turning 18.

Things changed for me when I was placed in Carolyn Brickley's foster home, a single lady who stands 4'8 in heels. I was entering sixth grade and was definitely a troubled child. Although I lived with Carolyn, my biological mother was my hero. I now read past DHS caseworker notes from my file and realize living with my mom was never a possibility. But, this didn't stop me from making it my mission. It's funny how God works, puts people in your life and connects puzzle pieces when you don't even know you're in a puzzle. During a visit with my mom (while sitting around a conference table with a social worker present), my biological mom gave me a saxophone on one condition: I would promise to become Kenny G. My mom had already called my foster mom, Carolyn, and asked her to give me music lessons. Ms. Brickley was pretty good at music since she was the elementary music teacher.

Throughout my other moves, over 30 life-saving surgeries, graduating high school, going

onto college and then graduate school, it was music that brought Carolyn and I back together. After returning from doing shows in Shanghai, China, I spotted Carolyn in the audience while giving an address to my Alma Mater, North Mahaska High School. I walked down to her music room and we sat, we talked, and we cried.

Over 10 years after our chat and this past July 28 on my 37th birthday, I was legally adopted by Carolyn and she was adopted by me. Recently Carolyn brought out her trumpet, me my saxophone, and we played together for the first time.

We played for an organization called "Iowans for Adoption." I couldn't think of a better organization to support. Iowans for Adoption is a non-profit dedicated to raising scholarships for Iowans to adopt.

Carolyn and I are also excited to be at The Gingerbread Run, an upcoming fundraiser for Iowans for Adoption. All funds raised will be used to assist families in Iowa wanting to adopt children in need of families (like I was). I encourage all Iowans: individuals, couples, families, kids and all to join us at the Gingerbread Run. Not only will you meet so many others of like minds, but also you will help ensure we're giving our kiddos a shot with



Iowans for Adoption
A TRUE STORY +
GINGERBREAD RUN DETAILS



Link to original article:
<https://desmoinesparent.com/iowans-for-adoption-a-true-story-gingerbread-run-details/>



a family and at a life.

Date: Saturday, Nov. 4

When: 10 a.m.

Where: Ankeny DMACC, Building #3W

From the bottom of my heart, I say "thank you" and look forward to seeing you there. ■

Beggars' Night in central Iowa 2017

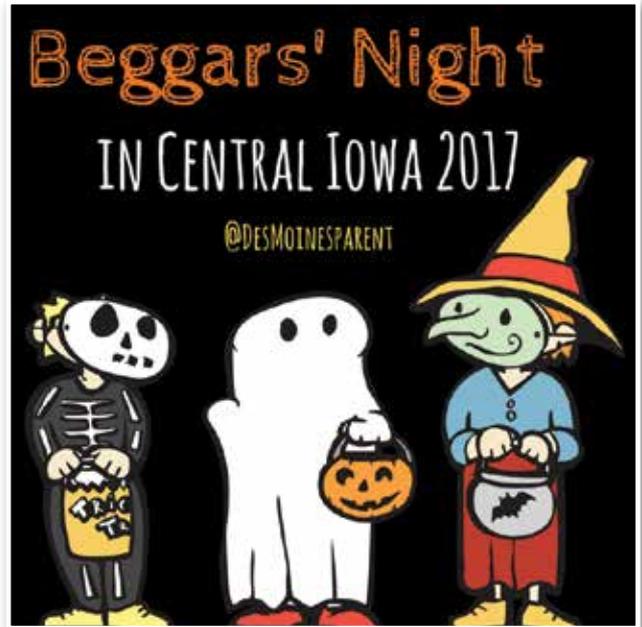
Below is a list of community Beggars' Nights across central Iowa. Get dressed up and gather your best knock, knock jokes for an evening of fun and treats.

COMMUNITIES

- Adel: Tuesday, Oct. 31, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Altoona: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Ames: Tuesday, Oct. 31, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Ankeny: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Bondurant: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Carlisle: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Clive: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Des Moines: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Grimes: Tuesday, Oct. 31, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Indianola: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Johnston: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Norwalk: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Pleasant Hill: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Urbandale: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Waukee: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- West Des Moines: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Winterset: Tuesday, Oct. 31, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Windsor Heights: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.

STORES/LIBRARIES

- Valley West Mall: Family Night: Monday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Trick or Treat at the Clive Public Library: Tuesday, Oct. 31, During library hours. ■



Link to original article:
<https://desmoinesparent.com/beggars-night-in-central-iowa-2017/>



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Des Moines Community Playhouse: family shows 2017-18

As the colder temperatures draw near, you may be on the search for some fun family activities. The Des Moines Community Playhouse has a great line up scheduled for central Iowa this season. This is a great way to introduce theater to your young children in a small and intimate setting. Visiting the Des Moines Community Playhouse for a date night is also a great idea. All of these dates and times are included in our event calendar also.

“A Little House Christmas”

Presented by Nationwide

Nov. 3-20

7 p.m. Fridays; 1 and 4 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays

Ma, Pa, Mary and Laura

Ingalls gather the whole family

together at their home in

Kansas to celebrate the holidays. When a natural disaster strikes, it seems

like Santa won't be able to make it. But Christmas is a time for miracles,

and Laura and Mary are determined to help ensure Ma and Pa don't have

a gift-less holiday. Based on the Little House series of books by Laura

Ingalls Wilder, “A Little House Christmas” is a perfect way for families to

kick off the holiday season.



“Disney’s The Little Mermaid”

Dec. 1-24

7 p.m. Friday; 1 and 5 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday

Ariel may have fins, but she

wants nothing more than to

leave her kingdom under the sea. After saving Prince Eric from a storm

at sea, she knows she's in love and her father will never understand. But

when Ariel makes a deal with Ursula, the evil sea witch, to experience

the life she's dreamed of, things go terribly wrong. Make “The Little

Mermaid” part of your family's world this holiday season.



Elephant and Piggie's:

“We Are in a Play!”

Presented by Nationwide

Jan. 5-21

7 p.m. Fridays; 1 and 4 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays

From the pages of Mo Willem's

beloved books comes a musical

adventure that will have families

rolling with laughter. Gerald,



an elephant, and Piggie, a pig, are “bestus” friends. Gerald worries about their friendship, but Piggie is completely confident, especially because they're invited to a party. Through singing and dancing, the pair learns important lessons about the meaning of friendship — and what to wear to a fancy pool party.

“Misery”

Jan. 26 – Feb. 11

7:30 p.m. Wednesday through

Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday

A horrible automobile accident

nearly claims best-selling author

Paul Sheldon's life. Luckily,

his biggest fan, Annie, is there

to save him and nurse him.

It doesn't take long, however,

for Paul to realize he is living a nightmare. Completely at Annie's

psychopathic mercy, he's unsure if he'll make it out alive after all. Based

on the book by Stephen King, “Misery” will have audiences on the edges

of their seats.



“Miss Nelson is Missing!”

Feb. 23 - March 11

7 p.m. Fridays; 1 and 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays

Miss Nelson’s class is the worst in the whole school. Why? She’s just too nice. One day, Miss Nelson doesn’t show up and the evil substitute teacher Viola Swamp takes her place.

Under Swamp’s tyranny, the students begin to see the error of their ways. Based on the book by Harry G. Allard Jr. and James Marshall.



“Ragtime”

April 6-29
7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday

At the dawn of a new century, everything is changing and anything is possible. Three families — embodied by an upper-class wife, a Jewish immigrant, and a Harlem musician — cross paths and their lives intertwine in pursuit of the American Dream. After a tragedy, people discover they have more in common than anyone thought. Based on the best-selling book by E.L. Doctorow with a Tony Award-winning score, “Ragtime” is a powerful and inspiring portrait of America, and musical theater storytelling at its finest. ■



Link to original post:
<https://desmoinesparent.com/des-moines-community-playhouse-family-shows-2017-18/>



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Thanksgiving fun in central Iowa 2017

All of the fun Halloween festivities have ended. Don't worry though, there are some fun Thanksgiving traditions and events happening in Des Moines this year. Check them out below. Are we missing your event? Feel free to contact me and we will get it added.

Make sure to check our free event calendar for an entire list.

"A LITTLE HOUSE CHRISTMAS"

Des Moines Community Playhouse

Nov. 3-26

Get in the holiday spirit by attending a classic show at the Des Moines Community Playhouse. Plan to see it the weekend after Thanksgiving, too. Visit www.dmpplayhouse.com to see showtimes and purchase tickets.

TURKEY TIME PARTY

Warrior Lanes

Nov. 12

Noon to 2 p.m.

Join Warrior Lanes for another popular family glow bowling party. The lanes are \$55 for up to five bowlers. This includes two hours of glow bowling, shoe rental, a large one-topping pizza and a pitcher of pop. This is a family-friendly, alcohol-free event with mom-approved music and a tolerable noise level. Deadline to reserve your lane is 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 10. Payment is non-refundable. To reserve your spot visit <http://warriorlanes.com>.

LIVING HISTORY FARMS RACE

Living History Farms

Nov. 18

9 a.m.

Participate in the 39th annual Living History Farms Race, put on by Fitness Sports. Run through farmland, creeks, dodge animals and claw your way to the top of gullies. Make sure you stay for the "Outdoors in November" post-race lunch, door prizes and awards ceremony. You get dirty and have tons of fun. To learn more visit www.lhf.org/events-and-programs/living-history-farms-race.



DISNEY ON ICE PRESENTS DREAM BIG

Nov. 22-26

The Disney cast will be making an appearance at the Iowa Events Center. Do not miss seeing your favorite characters including Anna, Elsa, Olaf and more. Visit www.iowaeventscenter.com for times and to purchase tickets.

FESTIVAL OF TREES AND LIGHTS

Veteran's Memorial Community Choice Credit Union

Nov. 22-26

Nov. 22, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Nov. 23, 1 to 7 p.m.

Nov. 24, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Nov. 25, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Nov. 26, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Festival of Trees and Lights is a five-day public event that is the main fundraiser for Blank Children's Hospital. This event features beautifully decorated trees, entertainment, children's activities, food, shopping and more. \$5 admission; Children 2 years and younger are free. To learn more, visit www.unitypoint.org/blankchildrens/about-festival-of-trees.

JOLLY HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Adventureland

Nov. 24 - Dec. 30; Closed Dec. 24 and 25

5:30-10 p.m.

Celebrate more than 20 years of holiday lights at Adventureland. Bundle up the family and enjoy a 2.5-mile ride through more than 100 magical light displays. All admission fees go directly to Make-A-Wish Iowa. Admission is \$20 per car. To learn more, visit <http://iowa.wish.org>.



DES MOINES TURKEY TROT

Downtown Des Moines

Nov. 23

9 a.m.

Experience Downtown Des Moines on Thanksgiving Day before indulging in your Thanksgiving Day feast. Runners will start their Thanksgiving run near the Des Moines Courthouse. From there both 5K and 5 mile runners will make their way across the Des Moines River and through the center of the Historic East Village. To register, visit www.desmoines turkeytrot.com.

DES MOINES HUNGRY TURKEY RUN

Riverfront Des Moines

Nov. 25

9 a.m.

Sign up to run a half marathon or 5K. Have children? They can sign up for the Kids Dash. Bundle up and bring the entire family out for a fun-filled morning. To register, visit <http://dsmhungryturkeyrun.com>. ■



Link to original post: <https://desmoinesparent.com/thanksgiving-fun-in-central-iowa-2017/>



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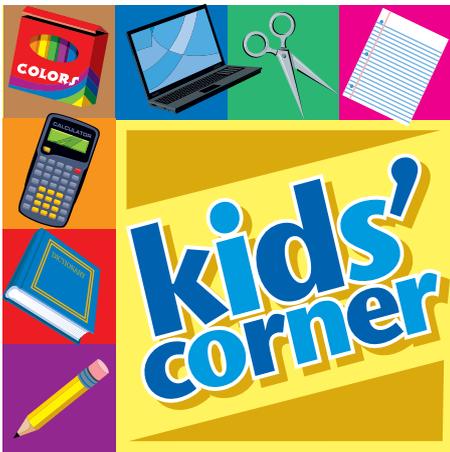
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Check out our Facebook page for upcoming activities!



Peanut Butter Word Find

Find the hidden words in the puzzle.

BREAD	JELLY	SALTY
CHUNKY	LUNCH	SHELL
CREAMY	NUT	SMOOTH
JAM	PEANUT	SNACK

X W O L S C H T E T G U
 Q X D A R Z X T Z U J A
 Q L L E H S I C O N F L
 C T A Y K N U H C O I V
 Y M Q J O L C P O O M K
 Y T W H E N W W M Q K S
 X U U A U L U J M Q B H
 M N Z L D R L M S A P K
 U A U Z S Z C Y N M J D
 A E A X S C T C A C E E
 A P B R E A D V C P D V
 V W V I U V S U K H V L

THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1874:** A CARTOON IN HARPER'S WEEKLY DEPICTS AN ELEPHANT AS A SYMBOL OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY FOR ONE OF THE FIRST TIMES.
- **1989:** L. DOUGLAS WILDER BECOMES THE FIRST ELECTED BLACK GOVERNOR IN THE U.S.
- **2000:** THE OUTCOME OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WOULDN'T BE KNOWN FOR MORE THAN A MONTH BECAUSE OF DISPUTED VOTES.

THESE ARE SOMETIMES CALLED "GROUND NUTS" OR "GROUND PEAS" BECAUSE THEY GROW UNDERGROUND.

ANSWER: PEANUTS

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

A P N U T E R U B T E T

ANSWER: Peanut butter



LEGUME

a seed, pod or other edible part of a leguminous plant

How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Creamy
SPANISH: Cremoso
ITALIAN: Cremoso
FRENCH: Crèmeux
GERMAN: Rahmig

Did You Know?

IT TAKES ABOUT 540 PEANUTS TO MAKE ONE 12-OUNCE JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: PEANUT BUTTER ON KNIFE

Pioneer Columbus Community Center: Imagination Playschool

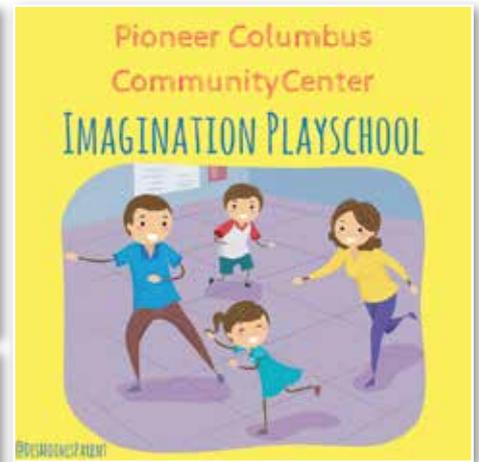
The colder temperatures are settling in Iowa and parents are planning for indoor activities. One of our favorite places to run, play and burn off energy during the winter months is Imagination Playschool at the Pioneer Columbus Community Center.

November through March, the Imagination Playschool will be open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Imagination Playschool allows children 7 years and younger to make friends, run, climb and play on all kinds of equipment including a climbing tower, imagination playground, big wheels, play houses, tumbling mats and gymnastics. This is also a great place for parents and caretakers to meet others. On Friday only, a bounce house will be available to play on.

Admission into Imagination Playschool is \$1.50.

Pioneer Columbus Center is located at 2100 S.E. Fifth St., Des Moines. ■



Link to original story:
<https://desmoinesparent.com/pioneer-columbus-community-center-imagination-playschool>




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HOLIDAY MARKET

Friday & Saturday, December 1 & 2, 2017 9am-5pm

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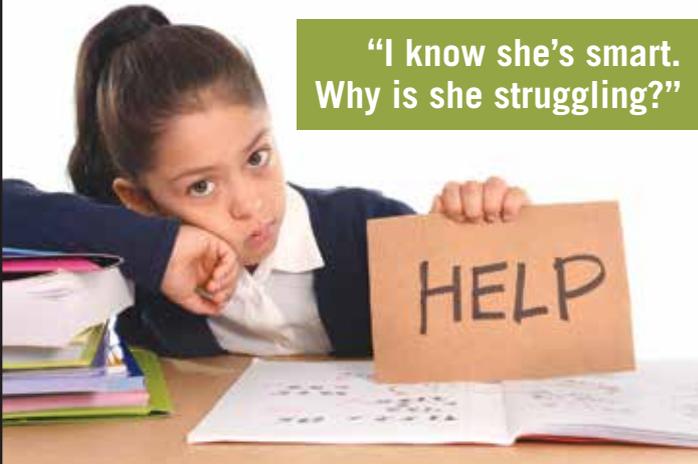
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Trunk or treat 2017

If you have younger children, you may be looking for some other options besides Beggars' Night. Below is a list of some Trunk or Treats at local churches and businesses.

Homemakers

Thursday, Oct. 26
5 to 7 p.m.

Put your Halloween costumes on and bring the whole family to the ninth annual Homemakers Trick or Treat Night. Your kids will love showing off their costumes and filling their bags with fun toys, treats and goodies — and parents will appreciate the cozy, indoor atmosphere you won't find anywhere else. So, gather your pirates, superheroes and princesses to stop by Homemakers for the free Trick or Treat extravaganza. For more details, visit www.homemakers.com/trick-or-treat.

Urbandale Police Department

Thursday, Oct. 26
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
3740 86th St., Urbandale

Calling all the little ghouls and goblins. This free community event will allow the children of the community a safe and fun trick or treating experience. Come enjoy costumes, goodies, popcorn, cookies and cider. Goodies will be provided by the Urbandale Police Department and local businesses.

They will also be holding a food drive to benefit the Urbandale Food Bank. Donations of unopened, unexpired food (fresh, canned or packaged) would be helpful. For more details, visit www.facebook.com/events/113055609441226.

Urban Dream Trunk or Treat

Saturday, Oct. 28
6 to 8 p.m.
1426 Sixth Ave., Des Moines

Candy, cars, kids (and some adults) in costumes, and a cookout for the community. The annual trunk-or-treat is a time to celebrate with young people, families and neighbors. More than 30 festively decorated cars will fill the St. Vincent DePaul's parking lot and volunteers will give out candy to all the trunk-or-treaters from the neighborhood. All guests will also receive a hot dog basket meal. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/133152984088887.

Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool

Sunday, Oct. 29
5 to 6:30 p.m.
602 S. 14th St., Adel

A safe, fun Halloween alternative for families. Bring your children to Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool. If you would like to decorate your car trunk for the event, sign up at the Family Life bulletin board located in the fellowship hall. The candy passed out may contain nuts. To learn more, visit www.facebook.com/events/344045726047059/.



Lutheran Church of Hope

Sunday, Oct. 29
2 to 4 p.m.
West Des Moines location

Get your little ones dressed in their friendly Halloween costumes and experience the fun of fall with an annual trunk 'n' treat. Children in grade 6 and under are invited to trick-or-treat in the Hope WDM parking lot in a safe, free and family-friendly environment. Photo opportunities will add to the fun, too. For more details, visit www.lutheranchurchofhope.org/west-des-moines/trunk-n-treat.

West Des Moines Christian Church

Sunday, Oct. 29
2:30 to 4 p.m.
4501 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines

There will be a mini-hayrack ride, bounce house, fun fall games and snacks. For more details, visit www.wdmcc.org.

Northside Trunk or Treat

Tuesday, Oct. 31
5:30 to 7 p.m.
501 Holcomb Ave., Des Moines

They are teaming up with Union Park Baptist, DM Vineyard, NHS staff, and local businesses to provide a fun community event for Northside Elementary Schools. Save the date to bring your lovely little ones. Candy, games, costumes and fun. ■



Link to original article:
<https://desmoinesparent.com/trunk-treat-2017/>





Don't forget to check your list!

Central Iowa

FALL BUCKET LIST

- Visit your favorite Pumpkin Patch (Center Grove, Howell's, Pumpkin Ranch)
- Make a scarecrow.
- Make s'mores over an open fire.
- Take a family hike and take in all the Fall colors. Jester Park is a great place!
- Bake a fun pumpkin treat.
- Rake up leaves into a pile and jump in it.
- Carve and paint pumpkins.
- Drink apple cider.
- Roast pumpkin seeds.
- Go to Night Eyes at the Blank Park Zoo.
- Pick apples at your favorite apple orchard.
- Visit a haunted house.
- Attend the Beaverdale Fall Festival.
- Get lost in a corn maze.
- Go trick or treating.
- Make and eat caramel apples.
- Cheer on your favorite football team.
- Make chili.
- Parents: Make sure you get your Pumpkin Spice Latte.
- Watch your favorite Halloween movie. Hocus Pocus? Casper?
- Gather leaves and create leaf art.
- Make a "Thankful for" list.
- Visit Living History Farms for their Family Halloween Party.
- Do some fun Turkey crafts for Thanksgiving.
- Go on a hay ride.

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