

Show your LOVE LOCALLY



Treat your sweetheart without leaving town

JCity merchants stocked for Valentine's Day

BY TIM HASTINGS AND BEN JOHNSON
Johnston City merchants have everything from roses to steak dinners prepped for Valentine's Day.

"We have cute little things like a sign that says 'Be my Valentine,'" said Margaret Morris who co-owns Down Home Comforts at 910 W. Broadway. "You can put that in a basket with some chocolates and a card, and there you go."

The store will have fresh flower bouquets ranging in price from \$35 to \$60. They also have bath balms, soaking salts, and other soothing bath products to round out a custom gift basket.

To ensure availability, Morris encourages ordering fresh flowers by February 2. Down Home Comforts will be open all day, February 13-14; however, Valentine delivery is not available.

(Continued on p. 2)

Paul & Gloria Moore
Captured from a single frame of a home movie, this grainy photograph is the only one Paul and Gloria (Cravens) Moore have from their elopement **63 years** ago. Read about their unusual wedding on page 2.



The Sauerbrunns
Dean and Jackie Sauerbrunn (pictured with son Bruce) of rural Johnston City celebrated **67 years** of marriage, January 4, 2024. Their story may appear in a future issue of the Arrow.

A dozen ways to say 'I love you' in JCity

Someone has said, "True love spares no expense," but let's be honest. In real life, most couples have budget limitations and time constraints for romantic adventures. Who says "a night out on the town" can't be right here in our hometown? Save time, money, AND support local business. The Arrow News staff compiled a list of a dozen ways to celebrate Valentine's Day (or have a fun date anytime) without leaving the city limits.

1. Take a romantic stroll around Arrowhead Lake; enjoy a picnic lunch. Yes, we know it's February, but this is Southern Illinois, and unseasonably warm days are not uncommon.
2. Share a banana split at the DQ, or preorder heart-shaped Dilly Bars by February 12.

(more on page 2)



Life-Long Love



Mabel & Curtis Hayes
Curtis and Mabel (Ditch) Hayes met in 7th grade in 1963. Their friendship led to a **50+ year** marriage. Read more of their story on page 2.



JCPD prevent juvenile from jumping off I-57 overpass

"No police training . . . prepares officers for this scenario," wrote Chief J.D. Barter in a letter of commendation for two local officers who saved the life of a female juvenile runaway. On January 4 at approximately 1720 hours (5:20 pm), Johnston City police officers Derek Verschueren and David Loucks received a call concerning individual, who had recently been discharged from a mental facility. A second dispatch reported a female on the I-57 overpass on West Broadway, who was watching the vehicles passing under the overpass. Upon arrival, the officers observed the girl standing outside the guardrail and identified

her as the juvenile runaway. Verschueren began a conversation with the youth as Officer Loucks approached her from behind. Just as she was starting to jump, Loucks grabbed her in a bear hug and pulled her back over the railing.

At the January 9th City Council meeting, Chief Barter awarded Vershueren and Loucks with Lifesaving Awards. The two officers are the second pair to receive this honor in the past two months. In December, Frank Miller and Nick McLaughlin were commended for rescuing a couple from a burning house.

When winter storms hit

City says patience is key to snow removal

BY TIM HASTINGS
Johnston City Public Works Director Brett Runyon contends that patience goes a long way in helping workers remove snow and ice from city streets.

"The biggest thing I can ask the public is to be patient," Runyon said three days before a mid-January snow.

"We're all out there with the same goal, and that's to provide safe travel for emergency vehicles," Runyon stated. "We want the public to be able to get to work and we want the children to be able to get to school. For that to happen we need the public to be patient with us and

give us plenty of time and space to get our job done."

Parking off the street is especially helpful according to Runyon. "That allows us to clear the whole street without having to weave in and out of traffic."

Johnston City Street Department Superintendent Dustin King, and city employees Keith Travelstead and Kevin Miller put snowplows and salt spreaders on two bright red city trucks January 12, to prepare for the anticipated snow.

King said the crew works around the clock, if necessary, to remove snow: "Two of us will work through the

(Continued on page 3)



Life-Long Love Stories



School photos of Mabel Ditch and Curtis Hayes, who married after becoming best friends.

First friends, then more...

Inseparable friends become husband, wife

Curtis and Mabel (Ditch) Hayes met in 1963, on the first day of 7th grade at Johnston City's Washington School. Mabel rode an early bus from northeast of town and Curt and his twin sister rode an early bus from Stiritz. The couple recalls having plenty of time before school to get to know each other. The two soon became friends. Friends led to good friends, and within a couple of years, Curt and Mabel became best friends. Although each dated other people in high school, they remained inseparable friends. After high school, the pair developed a routine of talking every day, even arranging class schedules at SIU to allow for daily interaction. In

1972, the pair determined the relationship had grown to something more than a friendship, and the couple became engaged. The Hayes' married in 1973, one week after graduation from SIU Carbondale. Last summer, family and friends joined in celebration of the couple's golden wedding anniversary, fittingly at Andresen's Event Center.

Mabel quips: "What keeps a relationship that solid over all those years? An unshakable faith, a loving extended family and church family, supportive friends, good food, and a king-sized bed." She adds, "God has blessed us many times over in the past 61 years."

Beatnik vet, green-haired girl in '59 Chevy sneak off to begin a 63-year marriage

Gloria Cravens, a young, naïve cosmetology student, was wearing another boy's engagement ring when Paul Moore proposed to her on their third date. "I was ignorant," she says. She had fallen in love with Paul's shiny, black '59 Chevy convertible with a red interior. She and Paul enjoyed riding around the Marion square with the top down—even on the weekend when a hair-dye mishap had turned her hair a bright mint green.

Upon Paul's discharge after two years in the Army, he grew a beard and let his hair grow long. In Gloria's words, he had become a "beatnik." Gloria was only 17 when they met. He told her and her parents that he was 23. (Two months after they married, she learned he was really 27.)

When Gloria's best friend found out about their engagement, she invited Gloria and Paul to the small Baptist Church she attended in New Burnside. She



Paul and Gloria Moore of Johnston City in the middle years of their long marriage

told Gloria that her pastor was willing to marry them. On a Sunday afternoon in July of 1961, Paul picked Gloria up in his convertible and they drove a half-hour to New Burnside. None of Gloria's family knew of their plans.

As her girlfriend played the bridal march on the piano, Gloria came down the aisle and joined Paul standing beside the preacher. The only witnesses to the ceremony were Gloria's friend and the pastor's son.

Afterward, the newlyweds drove back to Johnston City. Paul dropped Gloria off at her parents' house,

as if it had been an ordinary date. The couple kept the marriage a secret for a month, until Gloria's mom found the wedding ring in Gloria's purse.

Gloria went on to finish her cosmetology program and opened a beauty shop in Johnston City. Paul got a job at Olin Corporation (now General Dynamics) and worked there 40 years until retirement when his son Greg took over his position. The Moores, who live near Stiritz, have two children and four grandchildren. On July 9, they will celebrate their 63rd anniversary.



Paul & Gloria today, together nearly 63 years

What Love Looks Like

BY GAYLON & DAWN STEWART

"Three things will last forever—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:13, NLT)

In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul writes about the importance of love. In verse two he states, "If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing." (NLT) To know and

finds no joy in unrighteousness but rejoices in truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (CSB) These are guidelines, given to the body of Christ, detailing what love should look like. It is time that we take inventory of our lives. Does this description of love match what we, the

Gaylon & Dawn Stewart are pastors of Heritage Fellowship (Church of God of Prophecy), 301 W. 12th St.



understand all the secrets of God and have faith to move mountains seems like everything anyone would want. However, in the kingdom of God, these things are secondary to what should be the simplest of all acts—loving others. In Matthew 22:37-39, Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind. He tells us that the second greatest command, to love your neighbor as yourself, is just as important. These scriptures highlight the value God places on His servants showing love to everyone.

Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians goes on to explain the characteristics of love. Verses 5-7 say love, "is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not irritable, and does not keep record of wrongs. Love

body of Christ, are showing the world around us? There are many who are lost and living daily in despair with no hope. Hope comes in the form of Christ's love shown to them through His children. Jesus gave His life in the greatest act of love ever conceived. Our job as followers of Christ is to show His love to everyone around us. We can only do that if we are truly submitted to Him and living our lives according to His Word. When we are in that place, the love of Christ can flow through us to those around us. We encourage you to read 1 Corinthians 13. Allow God to search your heart and help it match the characteristics described within the chapter. Then, watch how His love will pour through you to impact every life you touch.

12 Local Date Ideas

(CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

- Enjoy lunch (and a dessert) at Blondie's. While you're there, pick up a scented candle or herbal tea to add to an afternoon delight.
- Find a hidden treasure together at Manna Mission. (See #5, if you find vintage clothing reminiscent of your teenage years.)
- Are you high school sweethearts? Get your picture taken in front of Johnston City's historic high school columns at Andresen's. For added fun, dress up in the style of your school years (see #4)
- Love a mystery? Find your favorite writer at the library and read to one another.
- How about playing around—as in a round of golf at Stardust? (See #1 concerning weather). Check facebook.com/StardustGolfCourse for winter day openings and tee times.
- Can't travel to Cancun this year? Go south of the border and have a fun dinner at El Jalisco. Go on the 14th and take advantage of their Valentine's Day specials. Bank the money you save for your next honeymoon or summer vacation.
- Catch live music and dinner on the patio, weekends at T-Moe's. (This one will have to wait for warmer weather.) Check their marquee or Facebook for info.
- Warm the hearts of others. Volunteer together at a local organization helping those who are less fortunate (First United Methodist Food Pantry, Manna Mission, First Christian Church Clothes Closet/Food Pantry, or JCity Center/Take Action Today Community Resource Center).
- Add touch of class to a "cheap date." Pack tablecloth, napkins, china, silverware, candles, flowers, and music, and head to one of our fine fast-food establishments: McDonalds, DQ, or Subway. Have fun setting the table and ordering off the menu. For extra fun, ask a friend to be your server.
- Rent a rom-com at the Red Box outside Dollar General. Pick up a pizza at T-Moe's or Casey's on the way home for a romantic "night-in" dinner and a movie.

Local merchants' options for Valentine's Day (CONT. FROM P. 1)

Andresen's Café on East Broadway will set a romantic mood with candlelight, roses, music, and a Valentine's dinner for two, 4:00-8:00 pm, February 14. Priced at \$52.95 per couple, the dinner includes a 12-ounce New York strip steak, baked potato, combination salad, red velvet cake and drink. For reservations call 618-983-8497 or stop by the café.

T-Moe's Italian Restaurant and El Jalisco Mexican Restaurant also offer Valentine's dining options. February 14 specials at El Jalisco include a Burrito Real meal for \$8.99, and discounts on

desserts as well as lime and flavored pitchers.

Blondie's Bakery on Broadway will be well-stocked with cupcakes, cookies, and other Valentine's Day treats.

Dairy Queen takes pre-orders for heart-shaped Dilly Bars and ice cream cakes just for sweethearts.

Dollar General on West Broadway carries fresh flowers, candy, and fruit. Assistant Manager Beth Richardson states, "We have lots of candy boxes and stuffed animals galore." The store promises pre-inflated helium balloons on Valentine's Day. Rich-

ardson offers some recommendations for Valentine's Day gifts for kids as well as adults: "Kids: I would recommend little gift bags and a stuffed animal." For adults she suggests flowers, chocolates, and a balloon.

The Food Shop at 913 Grand has fresh fruit and desserts. Next door, Bandy Drugs offers Russell Stover chocolates and a broad selection of greeting cards at prices to fit anyone's budget.

With all these options to "love locally" why drive to another town for your Valentine treats and sweets?



Johnston City Public Works Director Brett Runyon checks on salt and one of the city's snow plows three days prior to a mid-January snow. (Tim Hastings Photo)

Snow Removal (from p. 1)

night for 12 hours, and two of us will work through the day for 12 hours." According to King, the crew also has use of a backhoe and skid steer.

Runyon assessed the

city's salt supply in mid-January at about 300 tons of salt at a cost of \$110 per ton. "It does get expensive," Runyon shared. "One truck can spread close to five tons of salt per hour."

Runyon added that the state clears snow and ice on Illinois Route 37 (Grand Avenue) and helps with cleaning Broadway between Grand and I-57.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

16th President of the United States
Feb. 12, 1809 - April 15, 1865



"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."
— Proverbs 19:17, ESV

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Christ & Community First

Broadway & Monroe (609 Monroe)
618-983-5254 | jcitychurch.com
Randy Carney, pastor



Sunday School 9:30 | Morning Worship 10:30 | Wed. Night 7:00

FEBRUARY 2024

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Seasonal & Special Events

FEB. 6 & 13
Kids Art Class, JCity Center, 4:00-5:15 pm (grades 3-5)

FEB. 12 - Lincoln's Birthday

FEB. 14 - Valentine's Day

FEB. 16
School's out at 11:30 am

FEB. 19 - Presidents' Day
NO SCHOOL

Family Puzzle Tournament @ Public Library, 6:00 pm. Registration required. Up to 5 per team. 500-piece puzzle. Prizes & snacks.

FEB. 24
Fire Dept. Annual Chili Dinner, 11am-5pm, \$10 per serving (chili, hot dog, dessert & drink)

Weekly Events

MONDAYS
SIMI (Southern Illinois Men of Integrity), 7 pm. Call 618-952-1272 for details.

THURSDAYS
Food pantry open, First Christian Church, 505 E. Broadway, 3-5 pm

Celebrate Recovery, J.C. United Pentecostal Church, 6:30 pm

SATURDAYS

Free drive-thru meal for the community, JCity Church, 609 Monroe, 5:30-6:00 pm

Monthly Events

1ST TUESDAY
Business Leaders Mtg. 9:00 am, Andresen's, 618-534-0303 or 618-922-8089

1ST THURSDAY
Ministerial Alliance Mtg., 6:00 pm, JCity Center, 504 E. Broadway, 618-952-1272

1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS
Lions Club, 6:00 pm, JCity Church, 618-922-8005

2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS
City Council Mtg., 5:00 pm, Scout Cabin, 618-983-6651

3RD MONDAY
Planning Commission Mtg., 4:00 pm, JCity Church, 618-983-6651

3RD THURSDAY
Commodity Distribution/Food Pantry, First United Methodist Church, 400 W. Broadway, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

School Board Mtg., 7:00 pm, Unit Office, 1113 Grand Ave., 618-983-8021

For more details and calendar updates, see Facebook.com/JCityCenter



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|---|--|
| <p>Family Worship Center
400 W. 13th St.
Johnston City, IL.
(618) 952-1280
Pastors Brad & Kelly Dexter</p> <p>First Baptist Church
401 E. 7th St.
Johnston City, IL 62951
(618) 983-6455
Larry Stevens, pastor</p> <p>*First Christian Church
505 E. Broadway Blvd.
Johnston City, IL 62951
618-983-6474
Adam King, pastor</p> <p>*First United Methodist Church
400 W. Broadway
Johnston City, IL 62951
618-983-5150
Sherry Cisneros, pastor</p> | <p>Gospel Mission Church
1100 Peterson Ave.
Johnston City, IL 62951</p> <p>*Heritage Fellowship
(Church of God of Prophecy)
308 W. 12th St.
Johnston City, IL 62951
Pastors Gaylon & Dawn Stewart</p> <p>*JCity Church
(Free Will Baptist)
609 Monroe
Johnston City, IL 62951
618-983-5254
Dr. Randy Carney, pastor</p> <p>Johnston City United Pentecostal Church
1101 W. 10th
Johnston City, IL 62951
618-983-5938
Brandon Abernathy, pastor</p> |
|---|--|
- *St. Paul's Catholic Church**
1103 Washington Ave.
Johnston City, IL 62951
618-983-5073
Father Brian Barker

***Stiritz United Methodist Church**
Sherry Cisneros, pastor

***Washington Ave. Baptist Church**
9th and Washington
Johnston City, IL 62951
Barry Robertson, pastor
618-694-2995

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- Education COACHES**
- Asst. Middle School Girls' Basketball
 - 5th and 6th Grade Girls' Basketball
- Please send a letter of application, resume, and proof of meeting the requirements in the IHSA by-law 2.070 "Qualifications of Coaches" to Mr. William Brayfield, SIJHSAA Athletic Director, Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, 1113 Grand Ave., Johnston City, IL 62951.
- DISTRICT CROSSING GUARD** Submit letter of interest, resume, and two professional references to Mrs. Kathy Clark, Superintendent, Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, 1113 Grand Avenue, Johnston City, IL 62951.
- SCHOOL BUS MONITORS AND DRIVERS** Illinois Central School Bus is hiring school bus monitors and drivers. Contact Illinois Central Bus Garage at 618-800-6402.
- Food Service**
KITCHEN HELP Chartwells is now hiring. Please call 618-983-6404 for more information or to apply.
FULL TIME GRILL COOK T-Moe's Pizza. Apply in person, 1011 W Broadway, 618-983-3333
- Retail**
SALES ASSOCIATE, J.D. Streett (ZX, 709 Grand) is seeking a self-motivated, energetic Sales Associate (SA) to efficiently operate their shift and be a team player.

JCity Arrow News, Published monthly by JCity Center for Hope and Renewal, Inc.
504 E. Broadway Blvd., Johnston City, IL 62951, 618-952-1272, jcitycenter@gmail.com, www.jcitycenter

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To submit news items, story ideas, events, employment/volunteer opportunities, donations, please call 618-952-1272 or email jcitycenter@gmail.com. All items for publication must pertain to events, individuals, or jobs located within Johnston City, Illinois.

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JOHNSTON CITY FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS
100 W. BROADWAY BLVD.
JOHNSTON CITY, IL 62951

JOHNSTON CITY BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS ARE STILL ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FULL TIME PATROLMAN FOR THE JOHNSTON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Applicants must be a high school graduate or G.E.D. equivalent, and at least 21 years of age at time of written examination. Copies of the following documents must be submitted with completed application: high school diploma, or its equivalent, Military discharge Form DD-214, if applicable, a certified copy of your birth certificate, a valid driver's license, and a valid F.O.I.D. card. Great start off pay, insurance with 50% paid premium, vacation, sick, and personal days. Application packets may be picked up at City Hall, 100 W Broadway, Johnston City, IL 62951 (618) 983-6651 at any time and must be returned by Friday, February the 9th by 4:00 pm. Test date will be Saturday, February 17th, 2024. Johnston City is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

JOHNSTON CITY BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS, Chairman Danny Russell, Danny Brymer, and Chuck Crabtree.



Roy Rogers: Man behind the camera at JCHS ballgames for 38 years

BY JIMMY DEAN

This story commences in high school when a young JCHS student starts helping then Coach Mark Hof-fard. The story picks back up in 1986, when the first of many long bus rides, snow-storms, and loud gymnasiums ensues. Fast forward 38 years, and the saga continues as Johnston City citizen Roy Rogers can still be found on the sidelines and perched atop gymnasiums throughout southern Illinois filming Johnston City High School football and basketball games.

In gathering information for this article without tipping Roy off, I asked him a few questions one evening before a game.

Roy cannot remember missing any games during this record-breaking streak of filming. Two games stand out in his mind. Once, during a home football game against Massac County, a fight broke out on the field and the stands emptied. The second memorable game happened just a few years ago when a massive snowstorm shut down Interstate 57, leaving Roy

stranded for seven hours near the weigh scales. The team bus avoided the shut-down, taking Route 51 as an alternate way home after a tournament game at Egyptian.

If anyone has a servant's heart, it's Roy. The active alumnus has lugged his gear up and down the highways and in and out of gyms, not for pay, but simply because he likes what he does. He gets no reimbursement for his filming. In all his years of doing this, he has received only a few Johnston City Indian polo shirts. Not that he is complaining; Roy is not the type.

Roy is true volunteer, a man behind the scenes. For many, many years he was a member of the Johnston City Volunteer Fire Department (no pay). He still sets up the sound systems for



Perched in his usual spot, volunteer cameraman Roy Rogers records video of a JCHS basketball game.



JCHS Dance team performing in the hip-hop category.

JCHS shines as host of IDTA Dance Competition

BY TEE PEE TALK

Johnston City, Illinois, embraced the rhythm and grace of dance as it proudly hosted its first-ever Illinois Drill Team Association (IDTA) competition. The event brought together 15 schools from across the state, turning the city into a vibrant hub of talent and creativity.

Dance enthusiasts and supporters gathered to

witness the diverse performances that spanned various genres. The competition showcased a rich tapestry of dance styles, including flags, poms, solo acts, lyrical performances, and the energetic beats of hip-hop.

The participating schools brought their A-game, infusing the competition with passion and skill.

Johnston City served as

the perfect backdrop for this celebration of artistic expression, fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among the performers and attendees alike. Coach Mikaila Moore's organizational prowess ensured that the competition went as smoothly as possible. Her efforts not only made the event a success, but also made it possible to set the stage for future editions.

Both the JCHS and the WMS dance teams will take the floor again at State. The 2024 IDTA State Finals will be held on February 10 at The Bank of Springfield Center.



Jimmy Dean is a former mayor of Johnston City, and currently serves on the school board. He is a freelance writer for several area papers and has agreed to share his skills with *Arrow News*.

the city's Memorial Day services (no pay). When I was mayor, Roy served my administration as Emergency Service Director, aka civil defense director (again no pay).

See what I mean?

I've also known Roy to plow someone's driveway just to help out, deliver food to people, and perform other good deeds. If anyone ever offered him money, he would just shake his head and say, "That's okay."

Had Roy known that I was writing this column, he would have probably said, "No, I don't want anything written about me." That's just the way Roy is.

Nestled high atop a press box, or in the catacombs of a gymnasium, Roy remains unnoticed by a lot of folks. But, believe me, Roy, you are appreciated by many.



JCity Trivia Contest answers, winners

1. JCHS was State Basketball Champion in 1929.
2. Les Lannom costarred with David Jansen in "Harry O."
3. Jack Batts, the famous artist and violin maker, had a workshop downtown.
4. Andresen's opened in 1927.
5. Lake Creek Masonic Lodge is the older than the town.
6. Beatle Paul Harrison's niece and nephew attended JCHS.
7. Zephyr, Shell, Phillips 66, and Texaco brands of gasoline were sold at the old 4-way stop.
8. The JCHS Math Team has won the most state championships.
9. Murman and Wilson Funeral Home was originally a hospital.
10. Johnston City's I-57 exit is at mile marker 59.

Contest Winners

- 1st place - Kim Grant
2nd place - William H. Wilson
3rd place - Barb Buckner

TEE PEE TALK

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9th and Washington
Johnston City, IL 62951

Barry Robertson, pastor
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