

2020 CHAMBER MEMBERS

American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage
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Blue Grass American Legion & Auxiliary Post 711
Burt Clinic of Chiropractic
Burt Storage
Calvary United Methodist Church
Casey's
Central Petroleum Co
Cheyenne Camping Center
City of Walcott
Deck Supply Services
Dick-n-Sons Lumber & Flower Shop
Dollar General
Edward Jones
G&R Integration Services
Gramma's Kitchen/Checkered Flag
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JoAnn's Helping Hands
Koehler Electric
Lambda Phi Sorority
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MidAmerican Energy Company
Midfield Pattern Corp
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Needham Excavating
Night Owl Wireless
North Scott Press
Nu Zeta Sorority
Ossian, Inc.
Sandy's Hair Fair
Scott County Library System
Slaby's Bar and Grill
Travels by Brenda
Voelkers Plumbing Inc
Walcott American Legion & Auxiliary
Walcott Athletics Board
Walcott Collision Services
Walcott Community Club
Walcott Day
Walcott Family Pet Clinic
Walcott Historical Society
Walcott Lions Club
Walcott Manor Apartments
Walcott Mutual Insurance Assn.
Walcott Trust & Savings Bank
Walcott Women

Chamber members may submit articles by the 15th of each month to be included in the next chamber newsletter. Articles written may be edited or reduced as space provides.

Contact: walcottchamber@gmail.com
WALCOTT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
P.O. Box 388
Walcott, IA 52773

For Chamber information or meeting times and dates contact walcottchamber@gmail.com

Walcott CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWSLETTER

Volume 21 | Issue 4 | April 2020

Saturday, May 2



Walcott City-Wide Garage Sale

Walcott American Legion Auxiliary Vendor Sale

Scott County Library Book Sale



City of Walcott Clean-Up Day



See details inside this issue!

Due to the temporary public access restrictions to City buildings, payments will only be accepted by US mail, drop box located outside of City Hall, or online via electronic checks and credit cards at www.cityofwalcott.com. The fees for online payments have been temporarily suspended until April 30. Also, the pet license renewal deadline has been extended until May 29, 2020. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding during this time.

Council Meetings

April 6 & April 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Walcott Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, May 2 from 2 to 5 p.m.

212 W. Lincoln St. (Public Works Building)

The City of Walcott will be hosting a Spring Clean-up Day for all residents of Walcott on May 2. Dumpsters will be available at the Public Works Department from 2 to 5 p.m. All household waste will be accepted. NO electronic waste or household hazardous waste. Business waste will not be accepted. Tires, appliances, and bulky items will also be accepted at no charge. If you have any questions regarding acceptable items, please contact the Public Works Department at 284-6571 x11.

Hydrant Flushing

The Walcott Public Works Department will be flushing hydrants during the month of April. Hydrant flushing is done to clear water main pipes of excess minerals and sediments and to make sure fire hydrants are working properly.

Residents may notice water discoloration and temporary decreased water pressure. This is a temporary situation resulting from flushing sediment out of the pipes. Should you experience cloudy or discolored water, run the cold water until it becomes clear before drinking, bathing, or doing laundry. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this maintenance activity. Call Public Works at 284-6571 x11 if you have any questions.

Walcott Summer Youth Recreation Program

June 15 – July 24, Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

Ages 5 – 14

\$70/Resident

\$196.45/Non-Residents

“Signs, Signs, Everywhere A Sign”

Residents are reminded that signs: rummage sales, garage sales, advertising, etc. – cannot be posted on public or utility right-of-ways (including utility poles), or on the property of another without the property owner’s permission. Right-of-way includes the area between the sidewalk and street. Illegal signs removed by city staff can be picked up at City Hall.

Park Reservations

Spring is here and that means the ball diamonds, shelters, and gazebos will be filling up fast! City Hall is now taking reservations for 2020. Reservation forms for park shelters and gazebos must be completed and remitted to the City Clerk’s office with a nonrefundable fee of \$35. If you have questions or would like to reserve a ball diamond, please contact City Hall at 284-6571 x10. Unreserved facilities will still be available to be enjoyed by the general public on a first come, first served basis.

United States Census 2020

The U.S. constitution requires a population count every 10 years. The information from the census will be used to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and fire departments. Counting everyone in Walcott is vital to the City receiving its share of federal funds. The count of Iowa’s population will also determine how many seats the state will be allocated in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The census will collect basic information about the people living in your household. When completing the census, you should count everyone who is living in your household on April 1, 2020. Your census responses will be kept confidential as required by federal law.

You will receive your census notice in mid-March. This notice will be an invitation to respond online or by phone. For those that don’t respond, reminders will be sent to you. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that haven’t responded to the census.

Please respond promptly to your census notice to help Walcott get a complete population count. The impact on our future depends on your participation!



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From the Walcott Chamber

Submitted by Linda Titus, Chamber Treasurer and Newsletter Coordinator

As you probably already know, most events that were scheduled for April have been cancelled or postponed. Just for your information, I have included cancellations which were reported or brought to my attention.

It certainly has been quite a ride, hasn't it? We all have been vacillating on how we feel...let the virus take its course and save the economy or shut down the country and save as many lives as we can. There doesn't seem to be any right answer. I know that each and every one of us has been affected in some way or another, but I hope and pray our local businesses can ride out the storm and pick up the pieces when this has passed.

On a positive note, the chamber dues have been trickling in and we have picked up another new member since last issue. The newsletter is important to our community. Currently there are funds to keep it going, thanks to the support of our Chamber members. I also want to mention that I received a thank you note and donation check in the

mail from Carol Snay. Thank you, Carol, your thoughtfulness is so appreciated.

I have sent out notices to those members who have not yet paid dues and I will send out one more notice with a deadline of April 15. If I do not receive your dues by then, your business name will not be included in the listing on the cover of the newsletter. We don't want to lose any of our valuable members, so please if you haven't paid yet, send your dues by April 15. Dues are \$45 for non-profit or one-person business and \$75 for all others. Mail dues to Walcott Chamber, PO Box 388, Walcott, IA 52773.

Do you have an article you would like published in the newsletter? Would you like to run an ad for your business? Send your articles and ads to walcottchamber@gmail.com by the 15th of the month.

Welcome New Chamber Member
Needham Excavating

Have an article to submit to the Walcott Chamber of Commerce Newsletter?
Does your organization have an event to post in the newsletter? Want to Advertise your business?
Please email to: walcottchamber@gmail.com or mail to
Walcott Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 388, Walcott, IA 52773
PLEASE NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR MAY ISSUE IS APRIL 15!

Walcott City-Wide Garage Sale, Saturday, May 2 8am - 2pm Rain or Shine

Maps available after 1pm Friday, May 1 at Casey's, Burt Clinic of Chiropractic and on the Walcott Community Wide Garage Sale Facebook page.

Sponsored by Nu Zeta Sorority, Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi, a non-profit community service organization.



NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS OF SALE _____ #OF FAMILIES _____

MAIN ITEMS TO BE LISTED ON FLYER: (Example: furniture, girls' clothes 6X-14, tools) _____

To be included on the flyers and the map, please mail this form with \$10 by **SATURDAY, APRIL 25** to:

Nu Zeta Sorority, c/o Kayla Sweeney, 440 E. Memorial Road, Walcott, IA 52773

Please call Kayla (563-343-4781) with any questions. Thank you for your participation and support.

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AMERICAN LEGION AND AUXILIARY



WALCOTT POST 548

Pork Medallion Supper

Friday, April 24, 5 - 8 pm

Donation of \$11 in advance, \$12 at the door. Children's chicken nugget meal \$4, homemade desserts \$1.50. Tickets available from any Walcott Legion member. Raffles and 50/50.

WALCOTT LEGION AUXILIARY

Vendor Show Saturday, May 2

The Auxiliary will be hosting a Vendor Show coinciding with the City Wide Garage Sale. Anyone interested in participating, call Linda at 563-449-2117 or Mary at 563-284-6556.

BLUE GRASS POST 711

Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale

Saturday, April 4, 6:30-10 am

Adults \$7, Children Age 4-12 \$3.50, 3 and under eat free. All you can eat. Serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, sausage, potatoes, omelets, cinnamon rolls, toast, juice, milk, and coffee.

Scott County Library

Friends of the Walcott Library Book Sale

Saturday, May 2 • 9 am – 1 pm

Donations of books, magazines, DVDs and CDs will be accepted beginning Monday, April 20 and continue through Friday, May 1 during library hours. Please do not place donations in the library book drop. The Friends appreciate all donations but ask that you find other locations to donate encyclopedias or videocassettes. Donations of these items are not being accepted. Thank you for your cooperation. All proceeds benefit the Walcott Library.

Book Returns

All locations and book returns of the Scott County Library System are closed until further notice. Due dates on checked out items have been extended until May 18. Please do not return your materials because we do not have staff to process these transactions. Don't forget that we have extensive online resources and digital collections of eBooks, eAudiobooks, magazines and music available from our website at scottcountylibrary.org



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Maysville Notes

The Maysville Spring 2020 Cleanup date is scheduled for Monday, April 13. As a reminder, tires will not be picked up. Also, electronic waste, appliances and household hazardous materials will not be accepted.

Save More for Retirement with These 5 Tips

Submitted by Catherine Dittmer, Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor

You are busy with your career, maybe buying a home, having kids, saving for college — even starting a business. It is the stuff of life — and retirement often takes a backseat to all of those immediate financial priorities. Suddenly, you are hitting your 40s or 50s, and you realize you have fallen behind on planning for your future.

So how can you catch up? Debra Greenberg, director, Retirement and Personal Wealth Solutions, Bank of America, has the following five suggestions — each of which can help you get closer to your retirement goals. “Do not get discouraged,” Greenberg says. “Even seemingly small amounts can add up over the years, and taking action now increases the likelihood you will be better prepared to meet any unexpected challenges that come your way.”

1. Max out your tax-advantaged accounts.

401(k): Be sure you are getting your full company match, if one is offered, so that you are not leaving money on the table. Do not forget: An annual “catch-up” contribution of \$6,000 is allowed after age 50.

Roth IRA or Traditional IRA: Want to save more? Consider an IRA. If you are married and not working, you may be able to contribute \$6,000 to a spousal IRA. Additional catch-up contributions of \$1,000 are allowed after age 50.

Health Savings Account: If you have a high-deductible health plan, an HSA can be used for qualified medical expenses now, and after age 65 you may be able to pay Medicare premiums with tax-free distributions.

2. Pay off costly debt.

Paying off high-interest credit card debt should be a priority. Doing so will give you more money to direct toward your retirement. Says Greenberg, “A financial advisor can help you figure out how to manage competing financial needs while still saving for retirement.”

3. Work longer.

If you work past age 65 — or consult as you phase into retirement — “that can potentially give your assets more time to grow before you start drawing upon them,” Greenberg notes.

Working longer can also help you to defer your Social Security payments. Each year you delay taking Social Security after age 62, your monthly benefits grow by about 8%, until age 70.

4. Downsize.

By downsizing or moving somewhere less expensive, you could reap the benefits of:

- **The equity** you might have accumulated in your home
- **Reduced living costs** (like transportation, housing, maintenance bills)
- **A smaller mortgage** — or if you can buy a new place outright, eliminating a mortgage completely
- **A tax advantage** if you relocate to a town with lower property taxes — or to one of the seven states with no personal income tax

5. Invest for growth.

Many people tend to shift to more conservative investments as they near retirement; others simply have a conservative investing bias. But today’s longer life expectancies mean that your money has to work harder and last longer. “Talk to an advisor about adjusting your asset allocation to pursue more growth, without losing sight of your risk tolerance,” Greenberg says.

Investing involves risk. There is always the potential of losing money when you invest in securities. Asset allocation, diversification and rebalancing do not ensure a profit or protect against loss in declining markets. Merrill, its affiliates, and financial advisors do not provide legal, tax or accounting advice. You should consult your legal and/or tax advisors before making any financial decisions.

Hidden Kitchen Hazards

Submitted by Nancy Arp of Walcott Mutual Insurance Assn.

House fires continue to take a searing toll on homeowners, with more than 350,000 house fires per year causing as many as 2,510 civilian fire deaths, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

Many homeowners are already aware of the safety risks found in homes, from mold, burning candles, and leaking pipes. Severe risk for fire damage occurs when something comes into contact with a flame. There may be some surprising household items on the following list:

Non-dairy creamers - This “staple” is considered the more dangerous than just unhealthy. The artificial flavorings, like

sodium aluminosilicate, when exposed to an open flame can cause ignition.

Hand sanitizer - Due to the alcohol, common sanitizers can cause 2nd and 3rd degree burns if they are around an open flame. Don’t carry them in your purse if you smoke.

Flour and powdered spices - Flour allows flames to travel fast and far due to its large surface area. Keep away from your stovetop while cooking.

Oranges - While you wouldn’t think they are flammable, the juice contained within the fruit allows an open flame to ignite quickly. Keep away from candles, stovetop flames and lighters.



Who would have known a home is prone to so many fire risks that could be avoided? If something does happen, call an ambulance immediately, then the fire department to extinguish flames.

Contact your insurance company to help with damage and fire damage restoration and to prevent the smoke and soot damage.

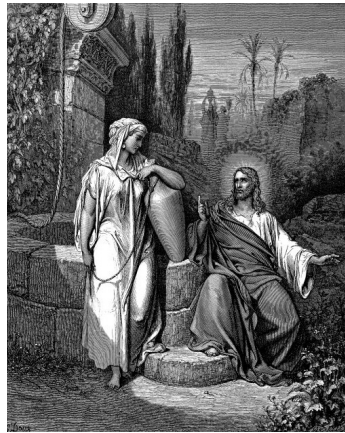
Calvary Methodist Church

Submitted by Pastor Al Coffin



¹⁹ "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." (John 4:19-20, NIV)

She was in her own place. Everything about the day, the place, the time, the weather, the task before her, everything, was completely familiar to her. Her life was hard, and her relationships were difficult. She had become resigned to occupying the outskirts of her own community. Never on the inside where everyone else seemed so happy, but this was her home, and she had made a kind of peace with it. For many years there had been nothing new under this same old sun.



Except the man. He was different. He was obviously a Jew, and started their conversation by leaping outside the lines of the irredeemable sameness of her life. Speaking to her. Asking her for a drink. Interacting with her like only someone who knew her well was supposed to do, but no one who knew her well was Jewish, or this nice.

So, she spoke with this strange Jewish man. He was in her place, so she explained how things were here. How people had always acted; the rules by which everyone she had ever known conducted themselves. It was a challenge, because she knew what she knew.

And Jesus confirmed how things had always been, but also that her first impression was correct; he was different, and how things had always been was not how things would be, starting now.

We are taking a hard look at ourselves this Lenten Season, trying to reflect deep inside to see who we have been, how that has led to who we are, and who we might become moving forward. Like the woman at the well that day, we also feel pretty sure how things will work out. We extend the lines through our past to predict our futures. It ought to work well, except for the man. He's still different, still coloring our lives outside the lines, stretching everything we've always known into fantastic, wonderful, new shapes, declaring that everything we've ever done can lead us, through him, to something we never expected.

Believe. Easter is coming. Let's keep our eyes front, focusing on what will be. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

See you on the road,
Pastor Al

Calvary United Methodist Church COVID19 Suspension of Activities

The leadership of Calvary United Methodist Church met in the social hall on March 16 to discuss how we will respond as a church body to these unprecedented times. Our primary concern is, as always, to love God with everything we have and everything we are, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Here's how we plan to do that.

All "in-person" church services and activities are cancelled through March 31. As that date gets closer we'll reassess with current guidance from Bishop Haller and Civil Authorities.

We will come up with some way for as many of us as possible to worship together online during this time. It shouldn't be too difficult, but it will LOOK different. More fireside chat than full on worship service, but we will still be doing many of the things that we do to show how much we love God and others of God's children.

We're also working on ways that the church leadership can continue to coordinate our separate activities so we can stay in touch and keep the church ready and active, although in new ways. This is going to call for all of us to learn quickly, to interact patiently, and to try new things fearlessly. We can do ALL that, because the same Spirit of God that guided this Body of Christ to be a blessing in this community during the Blizzard of 1985 guides us still.

Life has changed for a season, but we have not. Our continuing mission remains: to love God and neighbor, to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Social distance does not SEPARATE us. We are all in this together.

Calvary Preschool Update

Calvary Preschool continues to accept enrollments for the fall semester for 3-5 year olds. Contact the Preschool at 284-6122.

Walcott Lion's Club

Now accepting 2020 Scholarship Applications

For application forms and more information contact:

Jacob Puck 940-4036 ~ puckjl@hotmail.com

or Brenda Warner 284-6111/563-210-4112.

Application deadline is April 15.



April meal cancelled.

God is Bigger *Submitted by Linda Titus*

It is difficult to focus on anything. I am sure you know what I am talking about. The virus has been the source of great anxiety, stress and fear. I find myself pacing with the “what ifs” swimming in my head and in anticipation for the day we can get back to normal. Although, I also contemplate the thought that there may never be a “normal” that we are familiar with. With the TV news on continual feed (sometimes on mute) for recent updates and press conferences, concentration and focus on anything else is nearly impossible.

The other day I woke feeling exhausted after little sleep and my anxiety was at a higher level than previous days. After days of being on the phone with family and friends, encouraging them with prayer and reading from the Bible, I found myself drained and empty, needing encouragement and prayer myself. I realized that this is a 2-way thing, and I made some calls. Thankfully with the prayers of others I was quickly filled with the hope and peace needed to carry on.

I turned the volume back on the TV and a certain Cardinal Dolan was being interviewed. I listened intently as he told the listeners to “fear not” and reminded believers that the Bible has 365 scriptures telling us to “fear not” — one for every day of the year!

Shortly after, I listened to a woman preacher. I didn’t get her name, but she told the listeners, “God is much bigger than any virus. He is our provider, our protector, our shelter”. This reminded me of

Psalms 46: 1-3

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; ³Though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling.
NKJV

In retrospect, my mind went back to the crisis we had during the 9-1-1 terrorist attacks. It was different. The American people really pulled together...all ages, not just those in certain age groups. We could attend church, meet and pray together, hug each other, cry together. We got through it and we were stronger. Remember all those bumper stickers, signs and banners that read “God Bless America”?

But this attack, a virus, has forced us to isolate, separate, and be closed off from one another. We cannot pull together physically. However, we have cell phones, computers, internet, social media, email. Let’s pull together electronically and empower each other, encourage each other, pray for each other and wipe this thing off the planet!

It is extremely important to heed what the Coronavirus Task Force is telling Americans to do in order to make it go away. This is not the time to be rebellious and defiant. It is the time to be humble and get down on our knees. Here is another bible reading to share with you. This one was very popular during the 9-1-1 crisis and is very powerful.

2 Chronicles 7: 14

If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

We need to remove the wedge which divides us as a nation and believe that the same God that our Founding Fathers believed in can deliver us from another crisis. As a community, we need to pull together (electronically) and once this virus is behind us, we can rebuild our community and our nation.

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DO THE FIVE
Help stop coronavirus

- 1 HANDS** Wash them often
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- 3 FACE** Don't touch it
- 4 FEET** Stay more than 3ft (1m) apart
- 5 FEEL** sick? Stay home

Walcott Historical Society Presents “A Salute to Our Veterans”

The Walcott Historical Society will present “A Salute to Our Veterans” exhibit opening in May.

We are looking for items to display such as uniforms, photos, letters or other items from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, and WWII. If you have items, please consider donating or placing them on loan for this exhibit. We would also love to document your memories and/or stories from any of those war eras.

It is the mission of the Walcott Historical Society to collect, preserve and display the rich heritage of our communities. If you have an interest in our Scott County history, we would love to have you join us. Please contact Karen Puck at 284-6438 or Carol Coe at 284-6089 for more information.

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