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Ossian, Inc.
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Sandy's Hair Fair
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Travels by Brenda
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Walcott American Legion Post 548
Walcott Collision Services
Walcott Community Club
Walcott Family Pet Clinic
Walcott Historical Society
Walcott Lions Club
Walcott Manor Apartments
Walcott Mutual Insurance Assn.
Walcott Women

Chamber members may submit articles by the 20th 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 9 | September 2020



Business Spotlight for September

O'Brien Family McDonald's

The business spotlight for our September issue of the Chamber Newsletter is that familiar icon with the “golden arches” at the I-80 interchange—the O'Brien Family McDonald's restaurant. The O'Brien family acquired the existing restaurant in 2016. Kevin O'Brien is a second-generation owner/operator. His parents, Bill and Dorothy O'Brien built the first McDonald's in Iowa City on Riverside Drive in 1958.



The Walcott store employs 40 people, but the family organization operates 23 restaurants in Iowa, employing over 1,300 people. They considerate it an honor to have the opportunity to serve communities across the state—from Walcott to Carroll, Muscatine to Story City, Cedar Rapids to Ames.

The restaurant that serves the world's most favorite French fries is open for drive-thru and carry-out orders from 5 am to midnight. It is open every day except Christmas Day. The family and its employees value and serve our local community as well as serving a diverse variety of customers traveling on I-80.

The O'Brien Family McDonald's takes pride in their values:

- We place the customer experience at the center of everything we do.
- We demonstrate honesty and integrity through our actions.
- We treat everyone with respect, compassion, and fairness.
- We create awesome team environments by building positive, helping relationships.
- We learn from our successes and our shortfalls to BEAT YESTERDAY!

The organization loves the loyalty and pride of the people of Walcott and are thrilled to be a part of the attraction of the area known for the *World's Largest Truck Stop*. They are proud to be a part of the community as a favorite restaurant, an employer and as a member of the Walcott Chamber of Commerce. The O'Brien Family McDonald's invites you to *“Like us on Facebook and stay current with special promotions, events and job opportunities!”*

Walcott City Hall | www.cityofwalcott.com

Council Meetings – September 8 and 21 at 6 pm

Thank You!

The City of Walcott would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who pitched in after the storm on Monday, August 10 to clean up the tremendous debris. The citizens of Walcott rushed to assist their neighbors and city staff during the massive clean-up efforts. It is with grateful hearts that we are reminded what it is like to live in a small, family-style community.

Splash Pad

The Splash Pad continues to be open daily from 10:00 am to 8 pm, weather permitting. How does it work? The area is equipped with a sensor (on the north side of the concrete) which is activated by stepping on it. When the sensor is stepped on, the Splash Pad turns on. Then, after a set period of time, the Splash Pad will automatically shut off and remain off, unless it is activated again by another tap on the sensor.

Hydrant Flushing

The Walcott Public Works Department will flush hydrants during the month of September. Customers may notice decreased water pressure or discoloration of water. This is a temporary situation resulting from flushing sediment out of the pipes. Should you experience cloudy or discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes then run the cold water for a few minutes for the water to clear up. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this maintenance activity.



Walcott Public Works Department

Submitted by Paul Stagg, Director of Public Works

In a time when all one needs to do is turn on the television to be reminded of all that is wrong in the world, you only had to be present in Walcott last week to witness all that is right. Like many other communities, we sustained substantial tree damage throughout town from the high winds experienced in last Monday's storm, but driving through town today one week later, you really have to look for the remnants of evidence.

As soon as the storm passed Public Works focused efforts on clearing blocked streets for first responders. By the time we had all the streets passable, there was already

a massive cleanup effort taking place across town, so much so that the city loader was redirected to the compost facility to try to keep up with the loads coming in.

As I spent most of the first two days of cleanup operating the loader at the brush pile, I noticed a few things. I saw Kirk Koberg in the biggest John Deere tractor I have ever seen bringing whole trees down that had not sat on the ground long enough to be cut up. With each trip he would stay for a few minutes to help me catch up pushing the pile together.

continued at top of page 3.



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Needham Excavating's semi was bringing in loads of brush and Rich Golinghorst was making repeat trips with a tractor pulling a modified dumping hayrack trailer. I also saw Austin Burt and several other people that I did not know making round trips with dump trailers so quick that it was obvious there were crews on the other end waiting to load them when they returned. Pickups were making trip after trip until it was apparent that they were not just cleaning up their house, they were cleaning up their neighborhood.

I saw people empty their truck or trailer, then walk over to the one next to them and help pull the load off with a smile on their face. I received word at one point that the ballparks were cleaned up, including the large trees that had

fallen, by the efforts of volunteers and Tim Hamann with his skid steer. I saw people that I had never seen before picking up sticks in the various parks and piling them at the curb. Cleanup efforts continue in Walcott and will for some time, but to everyone that rolled up their sleeves and cleaned up this wonderful community last week, I humbly thank you. I was blown away by the effort (pun intended) and reminded of what is right in the world—**people helping people.**



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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
OCTOBER ISSUE IS
SEPTEMBER 20!**

Tell your friends and neighbors

that the Walcott Chamber Newsletter is published monthly and can be found on the first of each month at the following locations:

- B & D Automotive**
- Burt Clinic of Chiropractic**
- Casey's General Store**
- CBI Bank & Trust**
- Dollar General**
- Sandy's Hair Fair**
- Walcott Mutual Insurance**

Get Your Newsletter in the Mail

Some people find it risky to go out with COVID-19 cases rising. Would you like to receive your newsletter in the mail rather than going out to pick one up? If you would like to receive your newsletter by USPS, send a check for \$3.00 to cover the cost of the postage and envelope and we will send you the October through December 2020 issues by mail. Please include your correct mailing address and phone number. You can renew if you wish in December for the 2021 year for \$12.00 (\$1.00 per issue).

Make checks payable to and mail to:

**Walcott Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 388
Walcott, IA 52773**



AMERICAN LEGION

\$667,931 To Help Children of Fallen and Disabled Veterans

Many national youth programs were suspended or curtailed in 2020 due to the pandemic, but the American Legion Legacy Scholarship program didn't miss a beat. Thirty-five children of US military personnel who lost their lives or became 50 percent disabled or greater while on duty since 9/11 received more than \$667,000 in college funds in 2020, the fourth-highest amount in the program's 17-year history.



**THE AMERICAN LEGION
LEGACY RUN**

The marquee fundraising event for the Legacy Scholarship is the annual motorcycle Legacy Run. Due to the pandemic, the American Legion Legacy Run is being conducted virtually in 2020. Riders are urged to put in the miles in their local area, contribute to the scholarship fund and learn about fundraising rewards online. Legion.org/riders/legacyrun/donation

Source:

Media, *American Legion Magazine, Volume 189, No. 3, September 2020, pp. 10*

Calvary United Methodist Church

Submitted by Pastor Joy Mitchell



O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. – Psalm 139

In the aftermath of the Derecho, I come to you with great Thanksgiving. I thank my God that he is ever present with us, and that he knows our every need. I am grateful that he knows when I'm afraid, and when I'm joyful. I am grateful that he meets me in my sorrow and grief, and celebrates with me in my joy. I'm grateful that God brings those around to comfort when I need it, and calls me to comfort another when they need it as well. This is all done by the mighty love of God.

Have you noticed the presence of our good Lord lately? Perhaps you have experienced a surprising sense of protection in the midst of the damage all around. Perhaps you, like

me, have found gratitude in the once simple things of electricity, cell phone service, wi-fi, and even running water. As cleanup continues here in Walcott and beyond, as we see and hear news reports from this storm, I know that businesses, cities, and neighborhoods have been devastated. There are many opportunities to serve the mighty Lord, and learn about him.

If you aren't familiar with this God I speak of, or if you want to know more about him, please contact me at Calvary Church. I'd love to visit with you.

May the presence of the Lord, who loves you unconditionally, bring you peace on this very day.

How Smart is Your Home?

Submitted by Nancy Arp, Walcott Mutual Insurance Assn.

Today, nearly everything in your home can be connected to the internet and automatically controlled remotely from anywhere with an internet connection using a mobile phone, laptop, or tablet. Door locks, thermostats, cameras, lights and even appliances such as refrigerators can be monitored from anywhere.

Smart home technology does not require a huge up-front investment. You can incorporate new components as you go, but don't be surprised if you get hooked. Each addition enhances your security, safety, convenience, and energy savings.

Several factors comprise the "Smart Home." This technology provides convenience which can simplify complex tasks or automate them entirely. Also, temperature and lighting can be automatically adjusted or controlled depending on the outside temperature or the time of day. The smart home can track your energy usage and improve efficiency in heating and cooling your home. Security can be constantly monitored from anywhere giving you peace of mind when away from home.

Home technology brings benefits and risks.

The "Smart Home" offers many conveniences and cost savings, but there are still challenges that remain. Attacks from hackers attempting to access your smart home's internet-enabled devices are becoming more prevalent. Measures to reduce these attacks include using strong passwords and encryption when available. Also, be sure you are only connected to a secure and trusted network.

Building a more secure smart home starts with your Wi-Fi router. It's the foundational item that connects all your connected devices and makes them operable. Consider your Wi-Fi router the "front door" to your smart home.



Like any front door, it should be solid and equipped with strong locks, in case cyber criminal come knocking.

Once you move to a secure router, it's a good idea to research the smart devices you might want. Privacy and security are important.

More "smart" devices are coming out all the time and will angle for a place in your home. They can make your life more convenient and more secure. Just

remember to be smart and careful about the devices you choose.

"Smart Home" Ideas

- ▶ **Installing a smart water leak and moisture device** allows you to set up alerts on your phone for high moisture in your home or water leaks before they cause major damage. It is an easy way to proactively protect your home from leaking plumbing, frozen pipes, or other costly water damage.
- ▶ **Secure your home** and belongings with cameras, motion and door sensors. Monitor all these activities from your mobile device and even tie your system into local authorities.
- ▶ **Monitor fire protection** by installing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide protectors for life safety. Help keep an eye on your kids, pets and aging parents.
- ▶ **Waste less energy** by using smart thermostats and smart lighting to automatically turn lights off in areas of the house not being used.
- ▶ **Make the entryway of your house "Smart."** Answer your door from anywhere and speak to visitors through the doorbell system by talking into your smart phone. Also, record video of unwanted or unwelcome intruders for police.

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The Treasure in Friends

Submitted by Linda Titus

I've been thinking about my friends lately and how much they mean to me. There were times in my life when I was lonely and had no friends; no one to talk to or tell my troubles to or no one to share my joy. I feel so fortunate to be a friend as well as to have friends. Thinking about each one brings to light how completely different they are from each other and ages spanning from young to very old. It is truly a diverse group. My sisters, the girls I grew up with and fought with and share so many memories with are also close friends with a shared history.

I consider friends as blessings from God. When the Lord brings a new friend into my life it is so exciting, but I still cherish a good old friend. This reminds me of a song that we sang in rounds in Girl Scouts: "Make new friends but keep the old...one is silver, and the other is gold."

As I thought about them, I saw their faces come into my mind. I saw their wonderful qualities and characteristics and the joy and the enriching gifts they have contributed to my life. I feel so connected to them. As I thought about them, I said a pray of thanks for these people in my life. Sometimes it is difficult to get to talk to or visit with them in person, especially these days. Some work so hard, some live far away, some have obligations, and some have families to take care of. But when we do connect it is so wonderful.

While deep meditation about friends, an old hymn came to my mind written by Joseph Scriven in 1855. It is about my dearest friend ever. These are the first three verses.

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake
thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield
thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Being around good friends can bring peace, a sense of comfort and a desire to

be around them more. It can be that way with Jesus, too. We invest time and effort in friendships, but a relationship with Jesus involves an investment too. And it takes time and effort.

You talk to your friends, but do you talk to Jesus? When you have something on your mind, do you "take it to the Lord in prayer" as the song urges us to do? Praying is talking to Him, like talking to a good friend. He also talks to us through God's Word, the Bible. Jesus tells His followers in John 15:13-5, "*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.*" His faithful loving friendship was shown when He gave His life up on a cross. With His innocent blood, He paid for our sins and gave us the greatest gift of all...the gift of salvation and everlasting life.

Make Jesus your friend. He knocks at the door, but you must open it for Him. "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*" (Revelations 3:20) Give Him your friendship; give Him your life. I guarantee that He will make it to the top of the list of your friends.



Walcott Manor Apartments



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Maysville Notes

Kelly Johnson, the meter reader for the town, has given notice of resignation. Maysville Town Council is looking for a replacement for this position. If interested in working with the town's water system on a minimal basis, please contact Mayor David Sindt at 563-508-6595 or Kelly Johnson at 563-271-0068

The pile for tree debris behind the Community Building is no longer available for public use.

Financial Focus

Avoid These Estate Planning Mistakes

Submitted by Trevor Fennelly, AAMS®, CRPS®, Financial Advisor

You save and invest to meet a variety of goals during your lifetime: college for your children, long vacations, a comfortable retirement, and so on. But you probably also want to leave something behind – to your loved ones and, possibly, to the charitable organizations you support. To do so, you'll need to develop a comprehensive estate plan, but to make that plan work, you must avoid some common mistakes.

Here are a few of these pitfalls you'll want to avoid:

- ▶ *Not writing a will* – If you were to die “intestate” – without a last will and testament – the state in which you live would determine how your property was distributed. And the state's decisions may not match what you had in mind at all. Furthermore, a will is where you would name guardians for your minor children.
- ▶ *Not going beyond a will* – While a will is an essential component of estate planning, it's often not enough. You may need to create other documents, such as a living trust, which, among other benefits, enables your estate to avoid probate, a time-consuming and public process that can lead to disputes among your heirs and others. And a living trust lets you place highly specific conditions on how and when you want your assets distributed. You might also consider other legal documents, including a power of attorney, which

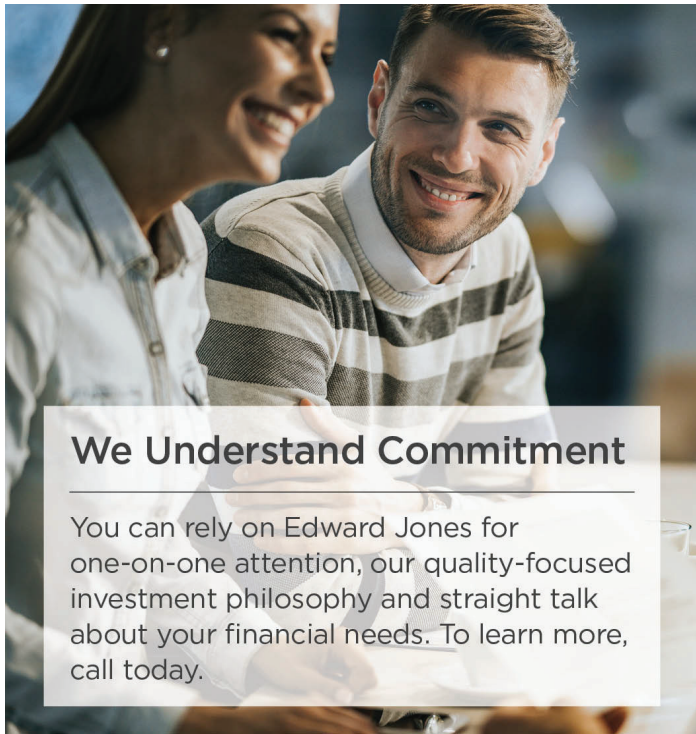
allows you to appoint a person or organization to handle your affairs if you can't do so yourself, and a health care directive, which lets you name someone to make health care decisions on your behalf, should you become physically or mentally incapacitated.

- ▶ *Choosing the wrong executor* – An executor is responsible for distributing property to your beneficiaries and paying off any debts and taxes your estate may owe, among other tasks. Because the role of executor is so important, you need to choose someone who is reliable, competent and trustworthy. It's certainly possible to find such an individual in your own family, but many people choose someone who is either conflicted, too busy or simply not up to the task. If you have doubts about picking a good executor, you may want to turn to a trust company. The costs likely will be higher than if you chose a family member, but the results may be much better.
- ▶ *Not naming proper beneficiaries* – Many of your assets – 401(k), IRA, life insurance and so on – require you to name a beneficiary. These beneficiary designations are powerful, often superseding the instructions in your will. If circumstances change in your life, such as new children, or divorce or remarriage, you may well want to change beneficiaries. It's easy to do – but it's also easy to overlook.
- ▶ *Not updating ownership of assets* – A change in your family situation or changes in the laws governing income and estate taxes could require you to update ownership designations of financial assets.

And here's perhaps the biggest mistake of all: not understanding what's in your estate plan. You need to work closely with your tax, legal and financial professionals to create a plan you fully comprehend and can communicate effectively to your loved ones. Surprises are often pleasant in many areas of life – but estate planning is not one of them. Contact Trevor Fennelly at 563-391-2094 to help you navigate through your situation.

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



We Understand Commitment

You can rely on Edward Jones for one-on-one attention, our quality-focused investment philosophy and straight talk about your financial needs. To learn more, call today.



Trevor M Fennelly, AAMS®, CRPS®

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Walcott Community Club

The Walcott Community Club will host a meal of Fried Pork Chops at 7 pm on September 3 at the Lampliter Inn. There will be a To-Go option available. The September meal is sponsored by County Line Excavating. Any questions, call 563-284-2221 or email walcottcommunityclub@gmail.com.



Walcott Legion Auxiliary

3rd Annual Mum Sale

Saturday, September 19

at the Legion Post

8:00 am until 2:00 pm

or when sold out

1 for \$15.00 or 2 for \$25.00



As always, the money raised from this fundraiser will be returned to the community through various Auxiliary projects.

2020-2021 Auxiliary Membership

Membership dues are \$25.00 and can now be mailed to:

Walcott American Legion Auxiliary
c/o Elaine Arp, Membership Chairman
PO Box 505
Walcott, Iowa 52773

We are always looking for new members who are interested in supporting our Veterans as well as being part of our community projects. We encourage visitors to come to a meeting and see if our group would be a good fit for you! Our meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month. If you have any questions feel free to call Mary Golinghorst, President, at 563-284-6556 or Elaine Arp, Membership Chairman at 563-284-5090.



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