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Homemaker Reflections

IOWA COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

March-April-May 2026

Happy Spring!

Are you seeing signs of spring? If you want a little exercise and a fun activity, check out the Spring Scavenger Hunt on the next page. Use this list as you walk with family and friends or even check with your fellow HCE members to see what they have observed!

HCE has already zoomed into spring with fundraisers, lessons, and programs for everyone. Read about all the things going on in this newsletter.

Thanks to Elaine McCann and her committee, we had a very successful Culver's Share Day to support the Scholarships for Seniors and the HCE Bookworms Project. HCE received a check for \$549.35 for the February 10 event! Yea HCE team!

Several Iowa County HCE members will attend the Southwest District meeting on April 16 in Fall River. It will be a day of learning and connecting and a fun day for all!

Hope to see you at Spring Council on April 9! We will have a fun program and recognize several members with awards!

HCE is a special organization. Read more in this newsletter about Spring Council, the Cultural Arts Show, as well as the Iowa County HCE Scholarships.

Happy Spring!

Deb Ivey, President

SPRING NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT



Can You See?



☐ A Butterfly

☐ Daffodils

☐ Bees

☐ Clouds

☐ Mud

☐ Spiders Web

☐ Bluebells

☐ Water

☐ Birds Nest

☐ Twigs

☐ Moss

☐ Dew Drops



Can You Find?

☐ Something Spikey

☐ A Seed

☐ Y Shaped Twig

☐ Green Leaf

☐ A Cool Rock

☐ Something Fuzzy

☐ Blossom

☐ Pine Cones

☐ A Red Flower

☐ Birds

☐ A Fallen Tree

☐ Seedlings



Mark Your Calendar

April 9: "Spring Council and Hootenanny", Cobb Community Bldg. 1:00 p.m.

April 16: Southwest District Meeting in Fall River, WI and Hosted by Columbia County

July 1: Iowa County HCE Article due to Update Newsletter

July 15: HCE newsletter deadline for August/September 2026

August 10: HCE /Board Meeting, ICHHS Building at 130 pm

September 2: Project Lesson - "Our History of Toys" ICHHS Building, 1:00 pm

September 15: HCE newsletter deadline for Oct-Dec. 2026

September 22-23: 2026 WAHCE State Conference, Eau Claire, WI

October 8: Project Lesson- "History of Christmas Ornaments" Hollandale Village Hall 1 pm



Culver's Event

A BIG Thank You to Culver's and the HCE leader and crew for this successful event! Culver's has been so generous to Iowa County HCE over the years. Also thank you to those of you who ate dinner and/or dessert. The \$549.35 raised from the event will be used to support our Wisconsin Bookworms project and our scholarships. Elaine McCann organized the crew: Arlene Ekstrom, Christine Gilbertson, Diana Glanville, and Jean Slapak helped. Good job!

In Memoriam

Sadly, two long-term members of Iowa County HCE passed away this year. Mary Leix died on December 25, 2025, and Donnajean "Jeannie" Lewis died on January 13, 2026. Mary, a 71-year member, served on our board for many years as a center chair and held offices in her club and the county. Jeannie Lewis, a 19-year member, supported HCE as a reporter/photographer for the local newspapers and as a club member. We thank friends of Jeannie for memorials donated to HCE in her name and the family of Mary Leix for a large donation to HCE in her memory. Ladies, we will miss you.

Scholarships

Our 2025 scholarship selections, Bailey Leix and Atley Potterton submitted their grades and are almost done with their second semester of college with \$300.00 IAHCE scholarship awards in their pockets. Congratulations to them. Very soon our committee will be choosing the two 2026 scholarship winners...stay tuned.



Notes from the Aspen Ridge House Plant Lesson by Elaine McCann

Marsha Wyatt hosted 13 members at the lesson in lovely Aspen Ridge located in Mineral Point. Most of us have one or many house plants so we were happy to ask questions about their care and Marsha had the answers. Here is an outline of a few things we learned:

- It can be a challenge to care for some of the newer, trending plants compared with our old standby, never-fail houseplants. All our plants need to have the right amount of light and water.
- Marsha showed us examples of 15 or so plants of the Hoya Genus that has over 500 species. Hoyas may have different leaf structures, variegation of color, shapes upright or trailing and may need different care. We would not have thought her examples were of the same Genus (family).
- Many of the TRENDING plants are quite expensive and when they are new may have lovely variegations of color but over time the color fades. That disappointment may be the result of the plant not getting enough light.
- Watering our plants correctly is so important. Some tips included watering varieties from the top, especially those with shallow roots. Once a week watering was a guideline depending on room humidity and the temperature. Beware of overwatering! Root rot is a very common cause of death, particularly if the plant is root bound.
- Rainwater is the best, of course. If you have city water that may have chemicals like chlorine, let the water sit for 24-48 hours in an open container before using it.
- Air plants leaf tops must be soaked in water for about 45 minutes (upside down to not let the roots or bottom of the plant get wet). Then give the plant a good shaking upside down to eliminate extra water.
- Planting in proper soil and planting in the right size or type of pot with proper drainage are important; for example, a clay pot is best for succulents so the roots can breathe.
- We enjoyed exploring the greenhouse and asking questions in this lesson; Marsha is very knowledgeable and made it great. We each were able to choose a free plant for our collections.

Also, propagation methods for several types of plants were covered. Marsha and her husband Wyatt prepared a handout that covers that topic. If you want a copy, Jeanne Lisser will have a few at the Spring Council in April.

Looking for Some Fun?

Don't forget our **Spring Council** on April 9 in Cobb at the Cobb Community Building, 501 Benson St.! We have planned a **FUN** day with **LIVELY** music (with your participation) and Bingo as entertainment. See you there!

Cultural Arts Show

Our cultural arts show will be held at Spring Council on April 9. Please bring your entries to the Health & Human Services building, room 1001 on Monday, April 6 between 9:00 and 10:30. Remember, we do have a bonus category this year. If you are unable to bring them that morning, please call Lynette at 608-553-3174 to arrange a time to meet between March 30-April 2. They will be judged on Tuesday and displayed on Thursday. There are forms on the following page that should be completed for each item you are entering in the contest. We sent the category sheets and instructions in the last newsletter.

Quilt Measurements_____