



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **JOHNSTON CITY ADMINISTRATOR RECEIVES RECOGNITION**

**JOHNSTON, Iowa** – Johnston City Administrator Jim Sanders was recently awarded City Manager of the Year at the Iowa League of Cities annual conference. Each year, this award honors city administrators whose work represents the best possible application of management principles and whose creative contributions to professional local government management increase public awareness of the value of professional leadership in our communities.

“The leadership and professionalism Jim has bestowed are second to none,” said Mayor Paula Dierenfeld. “During his time as City Administrator, he has brought practices and policies forward that have helped our community grow in the right direction. This award is well-deserved and we thank Jim for embodying the characteristics of a true leader. Jim Sanders, you make Johnston proud.”

Since becoming the City Administrator, Johnston’s population has grown from 6,131 to 24,064 during Jim’s 24 years of service. He is involved in local and state organizations to help the Johnston community while enhancing our City’s professionalism.

Jim has been involved in many projects and growth opportunities. He is most proud of the following:

- The sanitary and storm sewer installation included upgraded water mains and streets to the residents east of Merle Hay Road and south of NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.
- Terra Park is a 200-acre park featuring an eight-acre fishing lake surrounded by a great lawn for concerts and games. There are opportunities for large gatherings with the amphitheater, picnic pavilion, smaller shelters, a fishing pier, and trails. The park also features handicap-accessible play structures and numerous native plantings. The fishing pier opened in September 2017.
- The new City Hall and Johnston Town Center. The Town Center is a public-private initiative to encourage the redevelopment of Merle Hay Road at NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The central green space, known as *The Yard*, will feature concerts, movies and provide additional green space for residents to enjoy. The two commercial buildings will begin taking shape this fall.

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