



City of Johnston Newsletter

April 2008

City Council & Mayor

Paula Dierenfeld, Mayor
PSD@nyemaster.com
252-8888

Gerd Clabaugh
gerdclabaugh@msn.com
210-2900

Bob Culbert
lbema@mchsi.com
986-1082

Jim Hibbs
jimhibbs@mchsi.com
278-5809

Jon Kallen
kallenforjohnston@yahoo.com
259-4707

Richard Tingley
r.tingley@mchsi.com
270-0311

Johnston Residential Tree Program is Back

Residents of Johnston may purchase a tree from the Tree Board for \$25, thanks in part to a donation from the Johnston Lions Club. Those interested in buying and planting a tree will be required to preorder and prepay for one of the following varieties: Black Hills Spruce, Cleveland Select Pear, Redbud, Skyline Honey Locust, or Sugar Maple. Forty of each variety will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. There is a limit of one tree per household and the tree must be planted on the homeowner's property.

Pre-orders begin on April 14, 2008 and will continue as long as supplies last. Residents must visit City Hall (6221 Merle Hay Road) between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm to preorder and prepay for their tree. Due to the past popularity of the tree program and the limited number of trees, residents are encouraged to place their order early on April 14th. No phone orders. Cash or check only (correct change if possible).

Trees will be distributed on Johnston's Arbor Day, Saturday, May 3, 2008 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Johnston Public Works Facility (6400 NW Beaver Drive). Trees not picked up by 11:00 am on May 3rd will become a donation to the Johnston Tree Board. Special thanks to the Johnston Lions Club, Johnston Tree Board and Vic Scott Landscaping.



Residential Spring Cleanup in Johnston May 12th and 13th

Looking to get rid of extra trash and bulky waste items from your spring cleaning? Johnston residents can leave items outside their trash containers and bulky items to be picked up at no additional charge - **May 12th and 13th, on their regular trash collection day.** In order to assure a safe and orderly cleanup, be sure to box, bag or bundle items placed outside the garbage container. Bulky waste includes tables, chairs, couches, loveseats, mattresses, box springs, carpet (four feet in length and bundled-less than 45 pounds), lawn furniture, gas grills (without propane tank) and hoses. All items must be placed on the curb by 6:00 a.m. the morning of collection. For additional details regarding what will be accepted during the cleanup, visit Artistic Waste's website: www.artisticwaste.com/pages/residential/spring_cleanup.jsp.

Additional Spring Cleanup Disposal Information:

- May 14-16: branches, limbs, and tree trunks (16 inches in diameter or less) will be accepted free of charge at the Public Works Facility, 6400 NW Beaver Drive, during normal business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- May 15-16: passenger vehicle tires can be disposed of at the Public Works Facility during normal business hours.

Spring cleanup does not include appliance collection. Pickup of appliances can be scheduled anytime by contacting Artistic Waste at 262-4040. Appliances must have a sticker affixed to be picked up. Stickers are \$35 and can be purchased at City Hall, Dahl's, Hy-Vee and Johnston Ace Hardware. Items typically considered appliances include refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, stoves, washers, dryers, and dishwashers.

Get Free Gunlocks from Project ChildSafe

The Johnston Police Department, in cooperation with Project ChildSafe, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and the US Department of Justice, is providing gun locks, free-of-charge, to Johnston residents in an effort to increase gun safety in homes. For those interested in free gun locks, stop by the Johnston Police Department at 6221 Merle Hay Road, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

Calling All Youth Bands!

The Johnston Mayor's Youth Council will once again sponsor the MYC JAM as a part of Johnston Green Days. The MYC is looking for youth bands, up to college-age, to be featured in the musical collective. The JAM is scheduled for Saturday, June 21st, from 7-10 p.m. at the Simpson Barn and there is no cost to attend. Bands interested in playing at the JAM should contact Lucas Casey at 727-7781 or lcasey@ci.johnston.ia.us.

Are You Money Smart?

Johnston Public Library will be participating in Iowa's second annual **Money Smart Week** by offering programs and services to support financial education and to help guard against identity theft. **AARP Tax Aide** assistance will be offered on Saturday, April 5 and April 12 from 12:00-3:00 p.m. On Sunday, April 6 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. parents/grandparents and their middle school students are invited to register for an intergenerational event entitled "**A Millionaire's Mind: Learn to Invest**" which is designed to teach 5th-8th graders the basics of investing. On Tuesday, April 8 from 6:30-7:45 p.m. the "**ABC's of Retirement Accounts**" is targeted to adults who want to learn more about saving for retirement.

On Saturday, April 12, the Library is hosting a "**Shred Day**" service from 10:30-1:30 p.m. Take precautions to keep your personal information confidential by shredding such things as old credit card receipts, credit card offers, and other records that contain personally identifiable information. Bring up to 100 pounds to the Johnston Public Library for free shredding courtesy of Document Destruction and Recycling Services. Check out www.johnstonlibrary.com for more information; to register, please call the Library at 278-5233.

Get Involved on a City Board or Commission

On June 30, 2008, a number of terms on various Johnston Boards and Commissions will expire. The City of Johnston is seeking applications from residents to fill the following anticipated vacancies:

- **Library Board of Directors** - 2 appointments (6 year terms)
- **Park Advisory Board** - 1 appointment (3 year term)
- **Tree Board** - 1 appointment (3 year term)
- **Board of Adjustment** - 1 appointment (5 year terms)
- **Comprehensive Plan Board** - 2 appointments (3 year term)
- **Planning & Zoning Commission** - 1 appointment (5 year term)
- **Senior Citizen Advisory Board** - 5 appointments (2 year terms)

For more information on the above-mentioned boards visit www.cityofjohnston.com/boards. Applications to serve on Johnston Boards and Commissions are available on the city's website or at City Hall, 6221 Merle Hay Road.

City Receives \$1,950 in Local Grant Money

The Johnston City Council accepted \$1,950 in grant funding at their March 3rd meeting. Wells Fargo awarded the Police Department \$950 to help purchase an electronic speech-to-speech translator. The translator is a handheld device that will allow officers to communicate more effectively with those who do not speak English. MidAmerican Energy Company awarded \$1,000 to the city as part of their Trees Please! program. The grant money will be used for tree replacement on the south entrance median along Merle Hay Road and throughout the Green Meadows Greenbelt area.

Melting snow and spring showers create a lot of stormwater runoff into our rivers and streams. Be aware of what chemicals you're using to wash your car, treat your lawn, etc. Visit www.iowastormwater.org for more about water quality protection.

City of Johnston
 6221 Merle Hay Road
 P.O. Box 410
 Johnston, Iowa 50131-0410

PRSRT STD
 ECR WSS
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 JOHNSTON, IA
 PERMIT NO. 54

APRIL 2008

NEWSLETTER

JOHNSTON RESIDENT

WEB SITE ADDRESS:
www.cityofjohnston.com



JOHNSTON LIBRARY
 6700 Merle Hay Road
 P.O. Box 327
 515-278-5233
 M-Th 10 am—8 pm
 F-Sat 10 am—5:30 pm
 Sunday 1 pm—5 pm

JOHNSTON POLICE
 6221 Merle Hay Road
 P.O. Box 410
 515-278-2345 (24 hours)
 911— Emergency

JOHNSTON PUBLIC WORKS
 6400 NW Beaver Drive
 515-278-0822
 515-727-8092 Fax

CROWN POINT COMMUNITY CENTER
 6300 Pioneer Parkway
 515-251-3707

JOHNSTON CITY HALL
 6221 Merle Hay Road
 P.O. Box 410
 515-278-2344 515-278-2033 Fax

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL			
7	5:30 p.m.	City Council Worksession w/JCSD School Board	City Hall
7	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting	City Hall
14	7:00 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting	City Hall
15	7:00 p.m.	Park Advisory Board Meeting	Crown Point
17	5:30 p.m.	Library Board Meeting	Library
21	6:00 p.m.	City Council Worksession	City Hall
21	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting	City Hall
28	7:00 p.m.	Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting	City Hall

Senior Citizen Activities for April

Weekly Lunch and Social

- Thursdays - 12:00 noon at Crown Point Community Center, 6300 Pioneer Pkwy
- Meal is \$3 per person - Reservations should be made the day before by calling Wilma (254-1051), Norma (276-0605), Rose (276-1959), or Shirley (276-5341)
- Cards and Social follow the noon meal
- Transportation to and from the event can be arranged

Monthly Breakfast and Board Meeting

- Tuesday April 22nd 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast at Hy-Vee Cafeteria
- Tuesday April 22nd 3:30 p.m. - Board Meeting at Hy-Vee Cafeteria

Polk County Northwest Congregate Meal Site

- Meals on Monday-Friday - 5110 Franklin Avenue in Des Moines
- Call one day in advance to reserve your meal 279-2767, donations accepted

Shopping Bus

Departs from Hy-Vee and AHEPA parking lots on first and third Wednesdays of the month on the schedule listed below. Riders will have around 2 hours to shop and eat lunch at the mall. No reservations are needed.

- April 2nd - Departs at 10:15 a.m. - Destination: Merle Hay Mall
- April 16th - Departs at 10:00 a.m. - Destination: Valley West Mall

Paratransit Bus

On-demand transportation is provided by Des Moines Area Regional Transit (DART) to qualified Johnston senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Depending on level of income, transportation may be provided at no charge. Contact Polk County at 286-3484 or DART at 283-8136 for availability and qualifications.

Spring Cleanup Scheduled for Johnston Cemeteries

The City of Johnston is planning a spring clean up at the city-owned cemeteries: Ridgedale, Valley View and Kinsey-Lawson. Cleanup efforts are scheduled to begin on Monday, April 7th. If you are involved with sites at any of these cemeteries, please remove any decorations you do not want to be thrown away. The city will not remove decorations that are a permanent part of the monument. For more information, contact the parks department at 278-0822.

One More Reminder for Property Owners in Springtime

Occasionally, when the ground thaws in the spring, the water valve, or "curb stop" in your yard may become exposed. The City of Johnston reminds residents that it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain their water valve and their water service line on their property to the corporation stop (main connection).