



City of Johnston

Newsletter

July 2007

City Council & Mayor

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Project Destiny Vote Scheduled for July 10th

Johnston residents are encouraged to vote July 10th along with residents of Polk, Dallas and Warren Counties on the Project Destiny initiative. Project Destiny is an effort by local civic, business and community leaders to provide property tax relief as well as fund regional quality of life amenities. The funding for the initiative would be a one-cent local-option sales tax. Funds collected would be expended as follows:

- **33%** would go to mandated property tax reduction.
- **33%** would go to communities for property tax relief.
- **34%** would fund a three-county regional effort for trails, scientific, arts, cultural and historic organizations, regional quality of life facilities and additional property tax relief.

The Johnston City Council has decided to use any funds received from Project Destiny for direct property tax reduction. Based on conservative estimates provided by Project Destiny, if all of the communities vote to participate and the sales tax collections meet projections, Johnston could receive \$1,269,201 per year for property tax reduction. The current property tax rate in Johnston is \$11.3057 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation. With Project Destiny estimates applied to the property tax rate, it is lowered to \$9.6776 per \$1,000. On a home with an assessed value of \$100,000, the new rate would generate \$74.89 per year in estimated property tax savings. A business with an assessed value of \$100,000 would save an estimated \$162.81 a year.

City Administrator inducted into Lincoln High School Hall of Fame

Jim Sanders was inducted into the Des Moines Lincoln High School Hall of Fame on June 16th. Sanders was recognized as a co-founder and director of the Pioneer Baseball League for children with disabilities. Sanders has directed the program since it began 30 years ago. This year, the Pioneer League has more than 60 participants. Sanders graduated from Des Moines Lincoln High School in 1978 and served ten years on the Des Moines Park Board.

Police Chief Reminds Residents to Lock Up

Johnston Police recently made an arrest related to at least 5 reported thefts. Most of these thefts occurred at night in cars and garages that were left unlocked. Police are reminding all residents to keep garage doors closed and locked at night. Any vehicles left outside should be locked and all valuables should be removed or stored out of sight. A resident has also reported a suspicious, dark-colored, four-door vehicle occupied by two males in the 8900 block of Highland Oaks Drive at 4:40 AM. The vehicle was parked near a home with an open garage door. Citizens should report any suspicious activity to police by calling 911.

Community Development Now Accepting Neighborhood Improvement Grant Applications

July 1, 2007 marks the beginning of the City's fiscal year and another year of projects for the City of Johnston's Neighborhood Improvement Program. This year, the City Council has increased annual program funding from \$7,500 to \$14,000. Additionally, the total amount of matching grant funds available per applicant has increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per fiscal year. Eligible matching funds from neighborhood recipients include monetary contributions and in-kind labor to complete the permanent improvements. Applications are reviewed by a volunteer group of Johnston citizens and city staff, with final approval by the City Council. More than 20 neighborhood projects have been funded and completed by volunteers for a total estimated value of more than \$60,000 since the program began in July, 2003. For more info or to obtain an application, please contact Deb Schiel-Larson at 727-7763 or dlarson@ci.johnston.ia.us. Application deadline is Friday, August 31, 2007.

Garbage, Recycling, and Yard Waste Reminders

Following the guidelines below will help ensure weekly collection is efficient and help keep Johnston neighborhoods clean. Remember all garbage, recycling and yard waste must be on the curb by 6:00 a.m. on your collection day.

Garbage collection: Garbage collection is normally done by an automated collection system. Trash containers should be placed at least six-feet from other structures such as mailboxes, utility poles, and other recycling bins or yard waste bags. Any boxed, bundled, or bagged trash placed outside the receptacle must have a \$1.00 sticker attached to it. Make sure all items placed in the trash receptacle are placed in bags. Keep loose items to a minimum especially on windy days.

Recycling collection: Monitor wind conditions before placing items in bin for collection. On windy days avoid placing items in the recycling bin that could blow out and become a nuisance to your neighborhood. Up to four cardboard boxes may be placed under the recycling bin each week for collection.

Yard Waste collection: Bagged yard waste must be placed in either a Kraft-style bag with a \$1.00 sticker attached to it or in "Compost-It!" bags which cost \$1.55 each. Bundled yard waste requires a \$1.00 sticker. Bags or stickers can be purchased at HyVee, Dahl's, City Hall and the Metro Waste Authority. For more info go to www.cityofjohnston.com.

Lawn Irrigation Guidelines

The city of Johnston purchases water from Des Moines Water Works (DMWW). The water available to Johnston is limited by the size of the mains carrying water from the DMWW to Johnston. As Johnston has grown, the City has invested in larger capacity mains to meet increased demands for water. Although Johnston has plenty of water capacity for domestic use (cooking, bathing, washing, etc.), there are times when water used for irrigation maximizes the capacity of the water system. In June 2006 Johnston water customers used more water for irrigation than for cooking, bathing, washing, etc.

Look to the right for guidelines on irrigation provided by Iowa State University. By following these guidelines, Johnston residents can maintain healthy lawns and delay the need for costly upgrades to the City's water system.

Appropriate water usage: 1-1.5 inches of water per week—rainfall and irrigation combined—640 gallons of water per 1,000 square feet of lawn equals one inch. Measure an inch of water by placing containers of equal height in your watering zone. When the water reaches the desired level in the containers, move to the next area.

Frequency: once a week, unless there has been an inch of rainfall already that week. Deep watering of a lawn once a week will promote the development of a good root system. Excessive watering results in wasted water, fertilizer, and may increase weed and disease problems.

Time of day: best time to water is early morning, but watering in the evening or at night can also be effective. Watering during midday hours is inefficient due to evaporation.

Mowing: keep mower deck around 2.5 – 3.0 inch to keep turf healthy and discourage weed development.

City of Johnston
 6221 Merle Hay Road
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 Johnston, Iowa 50131-0410

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JULY 2007

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 pm
 Sunday 2 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

JULY 2007	COMMUNITY CALENDAR		
2nd	6 p.m.	City Council Worksession	City Hall
2nd	7 p.m.	City Council Meeting	City Hall
4th		Offices Closed—Independence Day	
9th	7 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission	City Hall
16th	6 p.m.	City Council Worksession	City Hall
16th	7 p.m.	City Council Meeting	City Hall
17th	5:30 p.m.	Tree Board	Crown Point
17th	7 p.m.	Park Board	Crown Point
19th	5:30 p.m.	Library Board of Trustees	Library
19th	6:30 p.m.	Board of Adjustment	City Hall
23rd	7 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission	City Hall

Library to Extend Hours of Operation

Beginning July 1st, the Johnston Public Library will open its doors two additional hours per week. The Library will begin opening an hour earlier on Sundays at 1:00 p.m. The Library will also remain open for an additional half-hour on Fridays and Saturdays, closing at 5:30 p.m. For more Johnston Public Library info visit www.johnstonlibrary.com.

Be a Good Neighbor, Follow Fire Pit Regulations

Johnston's Burning Ordinance allows residents to burn untreated wood or charcoal in outdoor fireplaces and chimneys. Burning is allowed for the preparation of food or social activities. These fires should remain contained, under control, and supervised at all times. Only dry wood should be burned; high moisture content can generate a large amount of smoke and become a nuisance to neighbors. Flying embers can be a hazard, so be aware of wind speed and direction. Please contact the Fire Chief at 276-5182 with questions.

Donate to Trails in Water Bills
 You can make a monthly donation to the City Park and Trail Improvement Fund. Your desired donation amount can be added to your monthly water bill. Contact Marci Santi at 727-7772 or msanti@ci.johnston.ia.us

Senior Citizen Activities

Weekly Lunch and Social

Every Thursday, 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m., Senior Social & Cards at the Crown Point Community Center, 6300 Pioneer Parkway. Cost is \$3/person. Lunch is served at 12:00 noon with social activities to follow. Reservations must be received by Wednesday evening each week. Please contact Wilma (254-1051), Norma (276-0605), Rose (276-1959), or Shirley (276-5341) to make a reservation. If you need transportation to or from the event, please notify when making your reservation. Transportation will be organized to pick you up the day of the event.

Monthly Breakfast and Board Meeting

July 24th - 8 a.m. - Breakfast at Hy-Vee cafeteria.
 3:30 p.m. - Board Meeting at Hy-Vee cafeteria