



City of Johnston

Newsletter

JUNE 2006

City Council & Mayor

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GREEN DAYS EVENTS SCHEDULED

Johnston's Green Days is scheduled for June 15th-18th. Visit the Green Days web site for a complete listing of activities, www.johnstongreendays.org. Please note, there is still time to sign up for the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament! Registration for Youth and Adult teams is available on the Green Days website or by contacting Michael Finch at 278-0552 or mfinch@johnston.k12.ia.us.

As in the past, Pioneer Parkway and a portion of Greendale Road will be closed from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for the Green Days parade on Saturday, June 17th. This year, bicycle races have been added to the schedule and will be held on Pioneer Parkway the afternoon of Saturday, June 17th. Following the parade, Pioneer Parkway will be closed from NW 62nd Avenue to Corporate Drive until 6:00 p.m. for the bicycle races. The race committee will work with businesses affected by the closure to enable access between races.

Also, the Mayor's Youth Council is hosting the first-ever MYC Music Collective. Eight area bands will be playing in the Simpson Barn, just behind the Johnston Public Library. This live show will be held on Saturday, June 17th beginning at 6 p.m. The event is free for all area youth.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

The Building Department would like to remind Johnston residents that pools **capable** of containing water to a depth of (18) eighteen-inches or more require a permit for both the pool and a (6) six-foot enclosing fence. An audible alarm is also required on any door/gate that accesses the pool area. In some instances, a home alarm system can be used.

In past years, a large number of temporary pools have been erected, causing many residents to express their concern for public safety. Johnston Building Inspectors are actively enforcing pool regulations. For questions, please contact Dave Leonard, Building Inspector at 727-7779 or dleonard@ci.johnston.ia.us.

CITY COUNCIL VOTES TO CONSIDER A CONTRACT FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION

At the May 15th City Council meeting, the City Council decided to work toward a consolidated residential solid waste program. This decision means that all residents of Johnston will eventually use the same garbage hauler. At the May 15th meeting, the City Council further directed staff to negotiate a contract with Artistic Waste Services, Inc. for the consolidated service.

To make this decision, the City Council first considered four proposals from companies currently providing residential solid waste collection and disposal services in Johnston. Of the submitted proposals, basic service charges were reduced from current prices ranging from \$11.50—\$18.00/month, down to \$6.26—\$8.69/month, depending on the level of service required (with extra charges for yard or bulky waste and appliance collections).

At the May 15th City Council meeting, the Council reviewed the proposals to determine if they:

- Obtained a favorable price for our residents
- Reduced the number of collection vehicles on the streets each week
- Scheduled collection on one day, preferably the same day as recycling.

Currently, residents contract with any one of four solid waste collection services. A consolidated program limits hauling traffic on streets to only one day per week, and in most cases on the same day as recycling. This reduces the amount of truck traffic on every street and better maintains the appearance of neighborhoods by limiting the number of days per week that garbage bins sit at curbside.

The Artistic Waste proposal provided the most competitive price for basic trash collection. They were also highly recommended by communities that use them for solid waste collection and they currently serve Johnston residents through the Curb It! recycling program. The City Council will consider the contract at their June 5th meeting. More details about the program will be distributed if the contract is approved by the City Council.

EXPRESS BUS SERVICE COMING TO JOHNSTON

As a part of a new regional transit initiative, express bus service will be available to Johnston residents. The service will include two morning and evening routes between Johnston and downtown Des Moines. Park and Ride locations will be designated for residents that do not live within walking distance of the route.

More information regarding the routes and updates are available on the City's web site, www.cityofjohnston.com or by calling 278-2344.

DOMESTIC ANIMAL REGULATIONS TO BE DISCUSSED

The Planning & Zoning Commission will be reviewing the number and types of animals that will be allowed in residents' homes on Monday, June 12th, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 6221 Merle Hay Road. Current ordinances allow up to three dogs to be kept at a residence and provide regulations regarding vicious dogs.

This meeting will expand the discussion to the total number of cats and other pets that can be kept within one residence. The Commission will also discuss whether naturally wild animals should be limited or prohibited, and if venomous or poisonous snakes, reptiles or insects should be addressed in a City ordinance. The public is encouraged to attend and share their comments. Written comments may be submitted to switmer@ci.johnston.ia.us or City Hall, 6221 Merle Hay Road, P.O. Box 410, Johnston, IA 50131.

FISHING RESTRICTIONS

The pond in Pointe Vista Park was recently stocked with grass carp. These fish feed on vegetation in the pond and help to keep it from becoming overgrown with aquatic weeds. The Park staff is requesting citizens to refrain from fishing in this pond until the population has had a chance to develop.

SPRING CLEAN UP

The Public Works Department is sponsoring a second Spring Clean Up June 1st-3rd. Items must be brought to the Public Works Building, 6400 NW Beaver Dr. Call 278-0822 or visit the City's web site, www.cityofjohnston.com for information about drop-off and restricted items.

