



City of Johnston Newsletter

June 2007

Mayor and City Council

Brian Laurenzo, Mayor
laurenzo.brian@dorsey.com
699-3286

Gerd Clabaugh
gerdclabaugh@msn.com
210-2900

Mary Davis
marymdavis@att.net
270-2308

Paula Dierenfeld
pdierenfeld@mchsi.com
252-8888

John Temple
templelaw@mchsi.com
270-0611

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

Green Days Events Scheduled June 14th-17th

Green Days will host the 12th annual Field to Food Run. Runners begin the 5K run in the fields of Pioneer Hi-Bred International and finish with a meal at the Johnston Public Library. The run is Friday, June 15th at 6:00 p.m.

The Johnston Firefighters Association will host a pancake breakfast Saturday morning, June 16th, from 7-10 a.m. at the fire station. All proceeds will support fire prevention and public awareness. The Johnston Police Department will be on hand to increase child safety, from 12-3 p.m., in front of the Johnston Public Library. Officers will register children in the Kid Pix identification program and inspect child safety seats.

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 16th. Pioneer Parkway will remain closed from NW 62nd Avenue to Corporate Drive until 6:00 p.m. for bicycle races.

The Mayor's Youth Council will again host the MYC Jam. Six area bands will perform in the Simpson Barn, just behind the Johnston Public Library. The live show starts at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 16th. The event is free for all area youth. **More info and a complete list of Green Days activities online at www.johnstongreendays.org.**

Lions Club Makes Donation

The Johnston Lions Club recently donated a check for \$2,700 to the City of Johnston to go towards city beautification. The donation was made possible by the proceeds the Lions Club received from running the Johnston Farmers Market. These funds will be used to sponsor the Residential Tree Program next year. With the popularity of the tree program, these funds should allow the City to increase the number of trees available for purchase to residents.

Farmers' Market Returns

The Johnston Farmer's Market opened another season on May 29th. The Farmers' Market is scheduled to run every Tuesday afternoon from 3:00-7:00 p.m. through October 2nd. It is held in the City Hall Parking Lot at 6221 Merle Hay Road in Johnston. This year the market will play host to more than 30 area vendors, BBQ, a portrait artist and story-time with a local author. The weekly event is hosted by the Johnston Lions. For more information, contact Judy Anderson at 278-0939 or andrsnjudy@mchsi.com.

JOHNSTON EARNS TREE CITY USA DISTINCTION, 14 YEARS RUNNING

The Johnston Tree Board is pleased to announce that the City of Johnston has been named a 2006 Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. This is the fourteenth consecutive year Johnston has earned the distinction. Additionally, for the twelfth year Johnston has achieved a Growth Award for demonstrating progress in its community forestry program. 124 Iowa communities qualified as a 2006 Tree City USA, but only 31 were recognized with Growth Awards. In appreciation of their service, the City would like to thank last year's Tree Board members and all the volunteers who worked to enhance Johnston's urban forest. (Image courtesy of arborday.org)



TREE CITY USA

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 and fund regional quality of life amenities. The source of funds for the initiative is a one-penny local option sales tax. Funds collected would be expended as follows:

- 33% would be used for mandated property tax reduction. Projected to be as much as \$586,947 in Johnston. This would lower the Johnston property tax rate by \$0.7529 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation.
- 33% would go to communities for property tax relief—another projected \$586,947. The Johnston City Council has decided they would apply these funds to additional property tax reduction. This would equate to another \$0.7529 property tax rate reduction.
- 34% would fund a three-county regional effort to provide resources for recreational trails, scientific, arts, cultural and historical organizations, regional quality of life facilities and additional property tax relief. Additional property tax reduction for Johnston could total \$95,307.

Estimates indicate Johnston could receive a combined total of \$1,269,201 per year of property tax reduction, relief and regional equalization funds. If all funds are applied to property tax reduction, a residence with an assessed valuation of \$100,000 could experience property tax savings of \$74.89. A business with an assessed valuation of \$100,000 could experience property tax savings of \$162.81.

Note: The numbers used are conservative estimates if the Project Destiny initiative is successful in all participating communities. The estimates are based on January 1, 2005 valuations. Actual numbers will vary based on participating communities and amount of sales tax collected. More information is available online at www.yestodestiny.com.

New "Call Before you Dig" Service: Dial 811

Professional contractors and Do-It-Yourself homeowners can now dial 811 for underground utility locations. The Common Ground Alliance launched the nationwide 811 number May 1st. The Alliance advises all contractors and homeowners to call 811 at least 48-hours before any dig jobs—even planting trees and shrubs. One call can help maintain utility service and keep excavators safe. Iowa One Call will remain directly available by calling 1-800-292-8989. More info online at www.call811.com.

City Projects Construction Update

Work is progressing as scheduled on NW 70th Avenue. The improvement project will result in a four-lane roadway with left-turn lanes at major intersections all the way from the Beaver Creek Bridge to Northglenn Drive. Traffic will be reduced to one-lane and minor detours will be utilized during the project, but access to Pioneer and Camp Dodge facilities will be continually maintained.

Crews will be working through the summer to extend sanitary sewer from the intersection of NW 86th Street and NW 70th Avenue north along NW 86th Street approximately 3,600 lineal feet. Traffic access along NW 86th Street will be maintained during the project, but could be restricted at times during construction. More info for ongoing City projects is available online at www.cityofjohnston.com.

Swimming Pool Safety

The Building Department would like to remind Johnston residents that pools capable of holding water of 24-inches or more in depth require permits. The pool must be enclosed by a 6-foot non-climbable fence and gates must be equipped with an acceptable locking device. Temporary pools are also regulated by these guidelines. For more information, contact Doug Sandvig at 727-7767 or dsandvig@ci.johnston.ia.us.

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

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JUNE 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

JUNE 2007		COMMUNITY CALENDAR	
4th	6 p.m.	City Council Worksession	City Hall
4th	7 p.m.	City Council Meeting	City Hall
11th	7 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission	City Hall
17th		Father's Day—Library Closed	
18th	6 p.m.	City Council Worksession	City Hall
18th	7 p.m.	City Council Meeting	City Hall
19th	5:30 p.m.	Tree Board	Crown Point
19th	7 p.m.	Park Board	Crown Point
21st	5:30 p.m.	Library Board of Trustees	Library
21st	6:30 p.m.	Board of Adjustment	City Hall
25th	7 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission	City Hall

Notice Anything Different About June's Utility Bills?

Beginning June of 2007, all utility customers in the City of Johnston will receive a full-page monthly bill, with an enclosed return envelope. The City will also use the full-page bill for announcements and updates important to Johnston residents. Please return payment in the envelope provided. Utility payments can also be deducted from your checking account - contact Marci Santi at 727-7772 or msanti@ci.johnston.ia.us.

Mayor's Youth Council Positions Available

The Johnston Mayor's Youth Council has openings for the 2007-2008 school year. The Youth Council is made up of 10-15 Johnston Youth in the 6th-12th grades. Youth Council members gain experience in leadership and planning, meet public officials and act as a voice for the young people of Johnston. Applications are available online at www.cityofjohnston.com/docs/. Please contact Lucas Casey at 727-7781 or lc Casey@ci.johnston.ia.us if you are interested in applying. Application deadline is June 29th.

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

June 26th - 8 a.m. - Breakfast at Hy-Vee cafeteria.
 3:30 p.m. - Board Meeting at Hy-Vee cafeteria