

City of Johnston, Iowa
February 2012



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STORM WATER UTILITY PUBLIC MEETING

The Johnston City Council will be conducting a public input meeting regarding a proposed Storm Water Utility on Monday, February 13, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of Johnston City Hall, 6221 Merle Hay Road. At the meeting, City Staff will make a presentation regarding the storm water management needs and how a storm water utility can be utilized to address those needs. Following the presentation, the Johnston City Council will accept public comments regarding the proposed storm water utility. Additional information regarding the proposed storm water utility is available on the City web site, www.cityofjohnston.com, including responses to frequently asked questions and a current draft of the proposed storm water utility ordinance. Questions and written comments can be directed to David Wilwerding, Community Development Director at dwilwerding@ci.johnston.ia.us or 515-727-7775.

What is a Storm Water Utility?

Like gas, electricity, water, and sanitary sewer, storm water runoff can be managed as a utility and billed as a fee. The fee is based on the concept that every property in a watershed contributes runoff and should support the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of the storm water drainage system in the watershed. The amount of support is based on the amount of runoff the property contributes to the storm water drainage system. The amount of runoff a property contributes is directly proportional to the amount of impervious area that is on the property. For the City of Johnston, a storm water utility fee would be a new fee the City would implement to fund storm water expenses. Specifically, the revenue from the fee would be used to fund activities that would maintain and improve the infrastructure that transports storm water in the City plus fund activities that would improve the quality of the storm water discharged to creeks in the City. Every property owner within the City would be billed for the storm water utility fee. The storm water utility fee would be based on the amount of impervious area on the property.

Focus on Fire Safety: Fire Escape Plans

In the event of a fire, remember that every second counts, so you and your family must always be prepared. Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames. Prepare and practice your fire escape plan twice a year with everyone in your household, including children and people with disabilities. It's also a good idea to practice your plan with overnight guests. Some tips to consider when preparing your escape plan include:

- Draw a map of each level of your home and show all doors and windows. Find two ways to get out of each room. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open easily.
- Only purchase collapsible escape ladders evaluated by a recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Use the ladder only in a real emergency.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them.
- Have a plan for everyone in your home who has a disability.
- Practice fire escape plans at night and during the day.

Fertilize Your Lawn Not The River

As you are thinking about lawn care this year, please consider:

- * Understand the fertilizer label: NPK
N=nitrogen, P=phosphorus, K=potassium
- * Use "P-Free" (#0-#) fertilizer or phosphorus-free fertilizer (example: 20-0-20)
Excess phosphorus is a pollutant that causes algal blooms in lakes and streams. Most soils in Iowa already provide the phosphorus needed; do a soil test if you are unsure.
- * Follow proper application rates
- * Apply in spring and fall

Keep The Pavement Clean

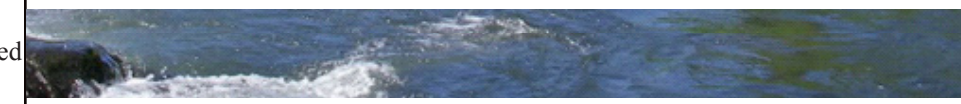
- * Sweep up grass clippings, leaves, and fertilizer from driveways and streets so this debris won't be washed down the storm drain.

Restore Soil Quality

- * In fall, aerate your lawn and add a thin layer of compost with grass seed

Consider Native Turf

- * Try select, deep-rooted native grasses for minimal fertilization and watering after establishment



AT THE LIBRARY



Find What's New at the Library!

The Johnston Public Library is pleased to offer you a new service called "Wowbrary." This service provides e-mail alerts that showcase the library's newest items on order each week. The alerts feature the latest best sellers, movies, music CDs, audio books, children's titles, cookbooks, mysteries, travel guides, health books, science fiction and more purchased by the library. This advance notice about the items that have been ordered by the library will enable library users to watch for new titles and place holds on titles of interest. Wowbrary alerts are free. Go to www.johnstonlibrary.com to sign up. Simply click on the Wowbrary icon on our home page, and enter the library's zip code, 50131, to sign up for learn more.

Programs

Don't miss the Traditional Chinese Medicine program on Sunday, February 5, at 1:30 p.m. Please register online at www.johnstonlibrary.com or call 278-5233. The Family Movie @ the Library will be shown on Sunday, February 26, at 2:00 p.m. The movie will be The Smurfs and no registration is required.

For more information about the city, visit our Web site - www.cityofjohnston.com or call 515-278-2344

Fun Night (Senior Advisory Board)
February 15, 7-10 p.m., Crown Point Community Center, 6300 Pioneer Pkwy Play cards (bridge, canasta, pitch, etc.), dominoes, pool, Wii bowling, bean bag toss, table shuffleboard. We will be serving CHERRY PIE with ICE CREAM.

City Offices and the Johnston Public Library will be closed February 20 for Presidents' Day
Trash collection will stay on schedule.

- Contact Us**
- Mayor**
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- City Council**
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- Johnston City Hall**
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PO Box 410
278-2344 · Fax: 278-2033
- Johnston Public Library**
6700 Merle Hay Road
PO Box 327
278-5233
- Johnston Police**
6221 Merle Hay Road
PO Box 410
278-2345 (24 hours)
Emergency: 9-1-1
- Johnston Public Works**
6400 NW Beaver Drive
278-0822 · Fax: 278-8092
- Johnston Parks and Recreation**
6400 NW Beaver Drive
278-8091 · Fax: 278-8092
- Crown Point Community Center and Senior Dining Center**
6300 Pioneer Parkway
251-3707