

City of Johnston, Iowa
October 2011

Johnston
Living • Learning • Growing

Contact Us

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Johnston City Hall

6221 Merle Hay Road
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: 727-8092

Johnston Parks

and Recreation
6400 NW Beaver Drive
727-8091 · Fax: 727-8092

Crown Point

Community Center and Senior Dining Center
6300 Pioneer Parkway
251-3707

Beggars Night is Sunday, October 30,
2011 from 6-8 pm. Help your child dress
in a safe costume and drive carefully.



Go to the Community Calendar
in this issue for a listing of City
events.

CHECK FRAUD CRIMES- DON'T BE A VICTIM

There has been an increase in financial crimes reported to the Johnston Police Department this year, to include check fraud. Check fraud crimes affects all facets of society, from financial institutions to businesses to the person or business listed on the check(s). Annual losses due to check fraud are in the billions of dollars each year. For the consumer, the amount of inconvenience and anxiety caused by resolving the problems associated with the account, local merchants, as well as possible repercussions with credit bureaus can be considerable.

Check fraud can be completed through a variety of ways including creating or duplicating an actual check through computer technology or by physically taking a check. Checks can be taken in several ways, including directly from a victim's checkbook, from your mailbox if you leave it for the mail carrier or a canceled check from the garbage. To learn how to protect yourself against check fraud go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/Checkfraud>

VISIT US ON THE WEB

www.cityofjohnston.com

DANGERS USING DECORATIVE "GEL FIRE POT"

In a recent fire safety information letter, the Iowa Department of Public Safety-State Fire Marshal Division urged citizens to use caution when using or lighting decorative gel fueled fire pots. Three citizens of Iowa have been taken to the University of Iowa Burn Unit with serious burns caused by decorative fire pots. Nationally there have been over 37 reported accidents with 23 of them injuring consumers. State Fire Marshal Special Agent in Charge Ron Humphrey stated, "The issues occur when people are re-filling the fire pots with fuel gel. The fire pots burst into flames spraying gelatin fuel all over the person refueling the devices."

Fire pots use a "gel-like" fuel inside a metal container which is housed in a decorative ceramic piece. Witnesses said the fuel gel to napalm exploded and stuck to clothing making it very difficult to extinguish, even when rolling on the ground. Several companies have recalled their fire pots. Here are some safety tips when using a decorative fire pot:

- * Avoid overfilling the devices. If you accidentally overfill the device, wash the ceramic vessel with soap and water before inserting the fuel.
- * Do not lean over the fire pot
- * Never leave the device unattended and never let kids play near the fire pots.
- * Have a fire extinguisher or water supply near the fire pot.
- * Never add fuel to an open flame and assure the ceramic vessel has cooled sufficiently before adding fuel.

Johnston Police Department Going Green

Green

With the ever-rising cost of fuel prices, and the growing concern over environmental issues, the Johnston Police Department will be trying a new approach this fall. In early October the department will be rolling out two new patrol cars that will be replacing ones at the end of their service life. With this delivery, the department will begin testing alternative fuels, specifically E-85, in one of the cars while the other will remain fueled using standard practices.

It is hoped that the testing will show either a budget neutral or a savings in the cost of operating the departments patrol fleet while helping to protect the environment at the same time. Annually a law enforcement vehicle operated by the City of Johnston dumps more than 10,000 lbs. of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. With a successful alternative fuel test, that number could be reduced by up to 70%.



AT THE LIBRARY

Library Building Observes 10th Anniversary-The "new" library building at 6700 Merle Hay Road will celebrate its first double-digit birthday in October. The grand opening of the building was held on October 6, 2001. In recognition of this milestone, the Library will have a special display during the month with pictures of the construction, the move, and highlights from the past ten years. Friends of the Johnston Public Library, Mayor Dierenfeld, and library staff will be serving treats on Wednesday morning, October 5, as part of the celebration.

Adult Program Highlights for October:

October 12-Flu Shots, from 5:30-7:30 pm. Available on a first come first serve basis. Shots will be \$22, and no pre-registration is required.

October 13-Adult Book Club, October 13 from 6:30-7:45 pm. Join in the discussion of *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie.

October 28- IPART Ghosthunters at 7:00 pm at the Simpson Barn. Come listen to the tales of real ghosthunters! They will be bringing the equipment used as well as footage and recordings of evidence caught on tape. Bring a blanket-you might get the chills!

Youth Programs

Fall sessions of all the regular library programming for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers, and K-12 students are in full swing. Check our website at www.johnstonlibrary.com or call the Youth Service Desk at 278-5233 for the most up-to-date information on special programs as well.



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