

City of Johnston, Iowa  
May 2011

Johnston  
Living • Learning • Growing



## Contact Us

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### City Council

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### Johnston City Hall

6221 Merle Hay Road  
PO Box 410  
278-2344 · Fax: 278-2033

### Johnston Fire

6015 N.W. 62nd Avenue  
276-5182 · Fax: 334-5390  
Emergency: 9-1-1

### Johnston Public Library

6700 Merle Hay Road  
PO Box 327  
278-5233 · Fax: 278-4975

### Johnston Police

6221 Merle Hay Road  
PO Box 410  
278-2345 · Fax: 278-8239  
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  
Closed for remodeling.  
Call 251-3707 for lunch reservations at St. James Lutheran Church

## Offices Closed

City offices will be closed  
Monday, May 30, 2011,  
in observance of  
Memorial Day.

## Public Meetings Scheduled to Learn More About The Public Safety Building Project

The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) recommends that a city's fire station should be located no more than four minutes away from any home or building in the community. Response time is critical since fires can double in size every minute. Each minute that passes puts a homeowner's life and property in danger.

Due to Johnston's growth more homes and buildings are farther away from the existing fire station. Response times are further hampered by the fact that fire fighters in the Johnston Fire Department are housed in a building located near the fire station once used as a temporary classroom building by the adjacent school. Getting from this building where they sleep to the fire station lengthens the response time...especially in inclement weather.

Likewise, the Johnston Police Department now faces serious legal and safety liabilities because of the physical layout of the department. The police station is housed in the city hall, a remodeled former grocery store. Police work in cramped, non-secure, and potentially hazardous working conditions.

To address this problem, the Johnston City Council and a group of concerned citizens are considering construction of new public safety facilities to help the city's fire and police departments enhance public safety for Johnston citizens. A referendum on the issue is tentatively scheduled for August 2 of this year.

The public is invited to attend public meetings to learn more about this problem and to provide input regarding the proposed new facilities. The first public meeting will be Wednesday, May 18 at 6 p.m. at the Johnston City Hall, 6221 Merle Hay Road. The second meeting will be Thursday, May 19 at 6 p.m. at Summit Middle School, 9500 Windsor Parkway in Johnston.

At the meetings Police Chief Bill Vaughn and Fire Chief Jim Krohse will make presentations regarding the challenges they face due to inadequate facilities. The recommendations of a consulting firm commissioned by the city will be discussed and citizens attending will be asked for their opinions and suggestions. More details about the project are posted on the city's website, [cityofjohnston.com](http://www.cityofjohnston.com).

## BICYCLE SAFETY

It's that time of year again; time to pull the bikes out of the garage and dust off the cobwebs. Your bike is probably due for a tune-up to make sure it's ready for the elements. We would suggest making sure all of your equipment, e.g. bike helmet, pads, lights, brakes, etc., are in proper working condition before you make that first trip out.

Bike patrol officers from the Johnston Police Department will continue to ride the bike trails and residential areas this year. It is important for us to make sure your riding experience is fun and safe this season. Please contact this department if you have any questions for one of our bike officers.

## 2ND ANNUAL BICYCLE ROUND-UP

The 2nd Annual Bicycle Round-Up will be held on Saturday, May 14 starting at 12:30 p.m. Please meet in the parking lot at the corner of Pioneer Parkway and South Drive. The event is FREE and includes a Bicycle Rodeo for kids and a 3 or 4 mile Trail Ride for families. Completion of the Trail Ride earns a free ice cream cone at Van Dee's! For complete information visit: <http://www.cityofjohnston.com>

This family event is being sponsored by Van Dee's, Johnston Police Department, Johnston Parks & Recreation Department, Johnston Public Library, Johnston Community Education and the Johnston Partnership for a Healthy Living. In addition, area businesses including Pioneer Hi-Bred, a DuPont business, Kyle's Bikes, Iowa National Guard, and Van Dee's Ice Cream Shoppe will provide support and services to the event.

## Residential Tree Program Reminder

If you purchased a tree in our Residential Tree Program, pick up of the trees is on Johnston's Arbor Day, May 7th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Public Works Facility, 6400 NW Beaver Drive. You must bring your receipt with you. Any trees not picked up by 11:00 am will be considered a donation to the Tree Board.

## VISIT US ON THE WEB

[www.cityofjohnston.com](http://www.cityofjohnston.com)

Check for up-to-date city information

## It's Pool - Time!

Do you know the rules?

With warm weather here, many residents are ready to open their pools or hot tubs for the summer. But, before doing so, remember a few things to keep our water supplies safe. Pools contain water that can be hazardous to our environment. The chemicals used to make it safe and clean for swimming, are harmful to fish and other water-life. When it is time to drain your pool, remember these guidelines.

The water in chlorine pools can safely be released onto the ground after the water has been exposed to sunlight for 3 days. This allows the chlorine to dissipate from the water. (Leaving the pool untreated for more than three days can cause algae growth, and that isn't good, either.) After 3 days, release the water onto the lawn where it can be naturally filtered through the soil. The pool water should not be directly disposed of through the storm sewer (the grate in the street); to do is against the law.

When draining a salt water pool, the water must be released into the sanitary sewer, (down a drain, not the grate in the street) where it is then taken to the wastewater treatment plant for processing before it is released.

Residents are reminded that a permit and fence are required for any pools that are capable of holding 24 inches of water or more, including temporary pools that are filled each season. Call 727-7778 for more information.

## City Council Considers a Change in the Water Rate Structure

The city currently charges water customers a higher rate for the first 1,000 gallons of usage and a flat rate for each 1,000 gallons of usage beyond the first 1,000 gallons each month. Although this method provides some revenue to operate the water system it does not accurately reflect the actual cost of providing service to our customers. The council is considering switching to a service availability rate structure. Under this structure the rate is broken down into two components, the cost to provide service and the cost to purchase the water.

There are fixed costs the city incurs to provide water to our customers, these costs include the cost to construct, operate and maintain water mains, fire hydrants, water towers and the pumps. Under the service availability rate structure, all customers share in these costs by paying a monthly fee for having water service available no matter how much water they use. The second part of the rate structure is the cost of the water. All customers will pay for their actual water use each month. Switching to a service availability fee structure will help make water rate adjustments more transparent in the future. If the cost to provide water service increases (i.e. the construction of a new water tower, system maintenance, fuel costs, etc.) then the service availability portion of the water rate will be adjusted. If Des Moines Water Works increases the cost of purchasing water, then that portion of the rate would be adjusted accordingly. Most Des Moines metro communities charge a water availability charge in the range of \$3.00 to \$8.00 per month. Johnston is considering a \$6.00 water availability fee that would go into effect for usage beginning July 1st.

## Volunteer for Trail Cleanup Workday

The Johnston Alliance for Character Development is hosting a trail cleanup workday on May 8th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Volunteers can gather at Crown Point Community Center, 6300 Pioneer Parkway, starting at 8:30 to receive instructions. Work gloves and trash bags will be provided. The Johnston Alliance for Character Development is a group of community members working together to help educate all individuals about the six pillars of character, character development and reminding them that they are role models for others, young and old alike. This work day is highlighting the pillars of Respect and Responsibility. By working together to keep our trails litter free, we are showing our respect for nature and our responsibility to protect the environment.



Due to the observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 30th, garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection will be provided one day later that week. Monday collection will be on Tuesday and Tuesday collection will be on Wednesday.

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

## One World, Many Stories

The Summer Library Program is just around the corner! This year's theme is "One World, Many Stories" and we'll be exploring different cultures throughout June and July. Our Youth Services librarians will be distributing fliers to the schools in May with all the fun activities planned for the summer. Reading program sign-ups for children, teens, and adults begin on June 6, so mark your calendar to get set for a world of reading!

## Library closings

May 8 - Mothers Day  
May 29-30 - Memorial Day



Laptop computer lab coming to the library in late May. Contact Cheryl at the reference desk 278-5233 for more details!



For more information about the city, visit our Web site - [www.cityofjohnston.com](http://www.cityofjohnston.com) or call 515-278-2344