



JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2023

SUMMER EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

There are a lot of new happenings within the City of Johnston. Warm weather has arrived, and summer events and activities are in full swing. If you have any updates or photos to share, please email them to m Vanderlinden@cityofjohnston.com. Thank you for taking a moment to read this internal news update and being a part of our team at the City of Johnston. Happy summer!



SUMMER FUN IN JOHNSTON

JUNE - AUGUST

YOGA BY THE LAKE

Terra Lake Amphitheater
8-9 a.m.

JUNE 1, JUNE 8, JUNE 22, JUNE 29

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Camp Dodge
7-9 p.m.

JUNE 3

FAMILY FEST

Johnston Town Center
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

JUNE 6- SEPTEMBER 26

JOHNSTON FARMERS MARKET

North side of City Hall/ Town Center
Tuesdays, 5-8 p.m.

JUNE 15-18

GREEN DAYS

Terra Park

JUNE 23, JULY 22 & AUGUST 26

THE YARD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Johnston Town Center
7-10 p.m.

AUGUST 12

MAYOR'S RUN FOR THE TRAILS

Terra Park
8 a.m.



WWW.CITYOFJOHNSTON.COM



JOHNSTON TOWN CENTER family fest

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023

6245 MERLE HAY RD. ☀ 11 AM - 2 PM

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN AT FAMILY FEST! WE WILL HAVE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR FAMILY TO ENJOY FOR FREE. THE EVENT WILL RUN FROM 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M. AT THE JOHNSTON TOWN CENTER. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

EVENT ACTIVITIES:

- 3 INFLATABLE OBSTACLE COURSES
- FACE PAINTING
- BALLOON ANIMALS
- MAGIC SHOW
- YARD GAMES
- PICKLEBALL COURTS
- SPLASH PAD
- SPIN ART STATION
- FOOD TRUCKS
- SHUFFLEBOARD
- BINGO
- JOHNSTON POLICE & FIRE
- JOHNSTON STORMWATER INFORMATION BOOTH



PRESENTED BY:

metronet
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WWW.JOHNSTONTOWNCENTER.COM/EVENTS/FAMILY-FEST



SUMMER FUN @ THE JOHNSTON TOWN CENTER 2023



FARMERS MARKET

Come and enjoy the Farmers Market this summer on Tuesdays, starting June 6 through September 26, from 5-8 p.m. at the Town Center. This year, the market will take place on the north side of the Yard. Shop for fresh produce and homemade products while being entertained by live music. We hope to see you there!

TUESDAYS | 5 - 8 PM | JUNE - SEPTEMBER

music & movies after the market



Join us on Tuesday evenings after select Farmers Markets for extended live music or outdoor movies. The music begins at 7:30 p.m., and the movies start at dusk. Please bring chairs or blankets to enjoy the entertainment in the Yard.

MUSIC:

- June 6, Bruce Day
- July 11, Orphan Annie
- August 1, The Savage Feds
- September 12, Sons of Gladys Kravitz

MOVIES:

- June 27, Encanto
- July 25, Top Gun Maverick
- August 15, The Mario Bros.
- September 26, American Underdog

THE CORK 50131 PRESENTS:



THE YARD SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



The Cork 50131 is bringing musical acts from across the United States, including Nashville and Los Angeles, to the Yard. All three concerts will begin at 7 p.m. Mark your calendars for Friday, June 23, Saturday, July 22 and Saturday, August 26.

SPONSORED BY:



90S ROCKSHOW

JUNE 23

JAY ALLEN

JULY 22

MIHTAPE

AUGUST 26

COME SEE US THIS SUMMER!

THE JOHNSTON TOWN CENTER
6245 MERLE HAY RD., JOHNSTON, IA 50131



VISIT WWW.JOHNSTONTOWNCENTER.COM/EVENTS TO LEARN MORE



EMPLOYEE NEWS



HATS OFF, GRADS!

Congratulations to our employees who have recently graduated seniors this year. This is a major milestone worth celebrating, and we wish them all the very best as they embark on their future plans!



ELLIE SCHMITZ

- Daughter of John Schmitz (Parks)
- Graduated from Dallas Center-Grimes
- Attending Kirkwood College
- Majoring in Nursing



BEN CROLL

- Son of Dave Croll (Community Dev.)
- Graduated from Urbandale
- Attending Iowa State University
- Majoring in Business and Finance



JAZIRA SAENZ

- Daughter of Noemi Saenz's (Admin)
- Graduated from Urbandale
- Attending Iowa State University
- Majoring in Architecture



JACOB GUERRA

- Son of Molly Guerra (Library)
- Graduated from Southeast Polk
- Attending DMACC
- Majoring in Psychology



AIDEN BENBERG

- Son of Shawn Benberg (Fire)
- Graduated from Dallas Center-Grimes
- Will begin a career in construction



EMPLOYEE NEWS



HATS OFF, GRADS!



RACHAEL SCHLOTTER

- Daughter of Todd Schlotter (Parks)
- Graduated from Johnston High School
- Attending Kirkwood College to play softball
- Majoring in Early Childhood Education, PR or Business Management



CONNOR SLACK

- Son of James Slack (JPD)
- Graduated from Ankeny
- Attending Simpson College
- Majoring in Political Science



JENS RASMUSSEN

- Son of Peg Rasmussen (Library)
- Graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Software Engineering
- He will be working as an application developer



ALEXIS SLACK

- Daughter of James Slack (JPD)
- Graduated from University of South Dakota with a Double major in Biology of Human Dynamics and Cognitive Neuroscience with a minor in Disaster Response
- She will be pursuing a PhD in Physiological Sciences at the University of Florida



EMPLOYEE NEWS



HATS OFF, GRADS!



LILLY OSTERT

- Daughter of Adam Ostert (Building Dept.)
- Graduated from Madrid
- Attending William Penn University to run track
- Majoring in Kinesiology



BENJAMIN KINSEY

- Son of Shane Kinsey (Public Works)
- Graduated from Johnston
- Attending Buena Vista University to play baseball
- Majoring in Agricultural Science



BEN HANSEN

- Son of Brook Hansen (Fire)
- Graduated from Johnston
- Attending Iowa State University
- Majoring in Engineering



AVA REHM

- Daughter of Eric Rehm (Community Dev.)
- Graduated from Johnston
- Attending DMACC/ George Washington University
- Majoring in Publishing

JOHNSTON CHAMBER EVENTS

Did you know you can attend Johnston Chamber events? The City of Johnston is a chamber member giving employees access to attend [events and programs](#).

Member benefits include networking events, ribbon cutting ceremonies, volunteer opportunities plus resources and support. Learn more at <https://johnstonchamber.com/member-center/member-benefits/>. Learn more about the Johnston Chamber at <https://johnstonchamber.com>.

Samantha Winebrenner
Executive Director
samanthaw@johnstonchamber.com
915-275-9064

Gold Members

Johnston
CHAMBER of COMMERCE
8101 Birchwood Ct, Suite E
Johnston, IA 50131
www.johnstonchamber.com

DEPARTMENT NEWS



COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

In case of an emergency, the City of Johnston will notify all its employees. To receive these notifications, kindly fill and return the 'Employee Communication Contact Preference Form' to Janet Wilwerding. Once all forms are received, Janet will input the information into CivicReady. This notification system will be used only for emergencies like tornadoes, active killers, or floods. Our priority is to ensure that all city employees receive timely and accurate information about any incidents and follow-up actions.

Are you currently subscribed to the City's press releases, alerts, and newsletters? If not, we highly recommend signing up so you can stay informed.

Alerts & Notifications: <http://www.cityofjohnston.com/1062/Alerts-Notifications>

Monthly and Weekly Newsletters: <https://bit.ly/JohnstonEnewsletter>

Press Releases: <http://www.cityofjohnston.com/list.aspx>



May was Mental Health Awareness Month. We want to ensure all employees feel heard and can access the help they may need. Times are challenging, but you are not alone. You can connect with EAP (Employee Assistance Program). They are there to help you and your family overcome life's challenges by connecting you with quality, supportive resources.

It's free, confidential, and available 24/7. Connect with EAP by calling 800-327-4692 or explore your benefits at efr.org/how-we-help/work



ADMIN / HR UPDATE

During the open enrollment meetings, it was announced that starting in July, there will be changes to the withholding deductions for dental and vision coverage from your paycheck.

Previously, your medical insurance deductions were taken from the first check of the month to cover the premium for the following month. For example, if we pulled your contribution in May, you would have coverage in June. Dental and vision coverages were deducted from the second check of the month. These have always been for the SAME month of coverage.

Starting with the second check in July, we will be collecting contributions for the following month's coverage as this will help avoid billing issues and other related concerns.

This means that we will pull double premiums for dental and vision from the second check on Friday, July 21. From that second check, you will be paying your contributions for July and August. For calculation purposes – the monthly dental contribution is \$54.02 per month for family dental, and \$18.13 per month for single coverage. For vision the premium is \$7.38 for single coverage; \$14.06 for employee/spouse; \$15.92 for employee/children; and \$21.02 for family.

This will only occur on the second check in July. After that, the contributions will return to a single deduction per month. Please contact Cyndee Rhames at 515-727-7771 or via email at crhames@cityofjohnston.com if you have questions.

**DOUBLE
PREMIUMS
PULLED ON
JULY 21!**

DEPARTMENT NEWS



PARKS UPDATE

The new pickleball and tennis courts at Crown Point are ahead of schedule. The asphalt is now complete. They will need to let the court cure for at least 30 days and complete the walkways, retaining wall and fences before the area is ready for use.

We are excited to see community members enjoy this new amenity! To learn more about the project, visit www.cityofjohnston.com/1219.



A huge shout out to our Parks summer staff for helping ensure our community looks great as you travel down the roadways and our parks and green spaces are areas for everyone to enjoy.

Our summer parks staff includes; Brad Perkins, Harrison Pauley, Michael Rosenmeyer, Liz Deatsch, Bill Murtaugh, Karen Chambers and Tim Schumacher.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

There will be a Public Open House to present the Citywide Traffic Study findings on Wednesday, June 28, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Potential short-term and long-term improvements for intersections identified during the public input process will be discussed during the meeting.



Doug Kueck (Streets) and his wife went on a 7-day cruise to the Caribbean this spring. They stopped in Cozumel, Georgetown Cayman Island, Ocho Rios, and Stir Cove Bahamas.



Grant Selby (Water/ Wastewater) welcomed a daughter in May. Elanor Lynn Selby was born on May 2, weighing 8lbs 2oz and was 19 1/4" long.



Lori Mason's 10-year-old grandson, Dempsey, just started Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Within his first two months he has earned two stipes for his belt.

DEPARTMENT NEWS



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

BOMBER'S GOLF

Johnston Golf Development, LLC has submitted a site plan to develop a golf driving range and family entertainment center, including bowling, axe throwing, mini-golf, arcade, restaurant, and bar facilities. The project is slated for construction at 5055 Merle Hay Road within the City's Merle Hay Road Gateway redevelopment area. This property has been envisioned for a unique destination retail or hotel development for over a decade, and with the construction of Bomber's, a major component of the city's vision for the Merle Hay Road Gateway will come to life.



NW URBAN VILLAGE

In early May, the City Council approved rezoning 33.577 acres at the intersection of NW Towner Drive and NW 121st Street. The land was previously zoned as Agriculture Reserve but has been changed to Small Lot Residential and Conservation Districts. NW Urban Village LLC has submitted a preliminary plat application to develop 58 new lots for single-unit detached homes. As part of the development, NW Towner Drive will be realigned temporarily until it fully disconnects from Highway 141, where a new interchange will be built to the south.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS



SHAWN BENBERG

STAFF UPDATE

Current Firefighter Shawn Benberg will transition from shift work to the office in July, filling the new Fire Prevention Specialist position. This position replaces the Deputy Fire Marshal, and his primary duties will be fire inspections and public safety education.



The images above are from the controlled home burn at 5229 Merle Hay Road on March 30.

COMMUNITY MEMBER LETTER

Chief Clark recently received a thank you letter from the family of Greg Wig, a community member. On April 26, Deputy Chief Schipper and Chief Clark honored Greg's life by attending his funeral gathering. Greg and his roommate Tim were frequent attendees of JGMFD pancake breakfasts and often snuck out of their group home to visit the fire station. Greg held the fire service in high regard, and many photos of him with department members were displayed at the service. One photo featured Greg at the Grimes Station with former Grimes firefighter Mike Gentosi, who later served as Deputy Fire Chief for Johnston for a few years.



Dear Chief Clark and J's Fire Department,
Words cannot express our sincere gratitude for making Greg's funeral service so special. It helped Greg's roommate, Tim cope with his loss and brought a sense of joy to the day. We are overwhelmed by your love and kindness and will always be grateful. Please accept this small token of our appreciation and get some snacks on us.
From your biggest fans,
The Heikes Family
(Family of Greg Wig)



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS



On Tuesday, May 16, 2023, members of the Johnston Police Department were recognized with Letters of Appreciation and Certificates of Commendation for their excellent work in policing.



OFFICER RODRIGUEZ
Lifesaving Award



CORPORAL WEDEMAYER
Lifesaving Award



CSI DIPPOLD
Letter of Commendation



DETECTIVE CHILES
Letter of Commendation



DETECTIVE MENG
Certificate of Commendation



OFFICER NAIDENOFF
Officer of the Year



DETECTIVE CHILES
Annual Top Shot Award



OFFICER RUNGE
Ripple Effect Award



LETTERS OF APPRECIATION
CSI Love, Officer Runge, Officer Hayes, Lt. Nore, Chief McDaniel, CSI Naidenoff, CSI Holtry, Sgt. Grandon



TO VIEW THE FULL AWARD DESCRIPTIONS, VISIT
WWW.CITYOFJOHNSTON.COM/1274/MEMBER-RECOGNITION
OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Youth Services Librarian Megan Sockness was awarded the Hometown Hero Award by Modern Woodmen.

The Hometown Hero Award gives Modern Woodmen members an opportunity every year to honor an individual for their outstanding service to the local community. Each award recipient receives a certificate of appreciation and a \$100 check to be given to a charity of their choice. Megan received her award at a story time on March 6 and donated to the Johnston Partnership.

Modern Woodmen has launched a yearlong effort to support children's literacy in communities across the U.S. Member chapters and youth service clubs across the country will coordinate special activities throughout the year to bring the love of books to kids, fulfill library and classroom wish lists, and more. The Johnston Public Library received a \$300 book donation for Summer Reading prizes.



MEGAN SOCKNESS



NEW FACES AROUND THE CITY



KAYLA PARKER
Property, Evidence and Crime
Scene Technician
Johnston Police Department
March 20

Welcome!



TYLER HULS
Water Maintenance Worker
Public Works
April 3

EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS & WORK ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 DENNIS MCDANIEL
 2 RYAN REDMOND
 3 DAVE CROLL
 6 MATTHEW POLITO
 6 NATE OSMUNDSON
 10 ADAM HOFFMAN
 11 JOHN CORREY
 11 LAURA RATH
 12 MARCI SANTI
 12 NICHOLAS HUTCHINSON
 15 ADAM PLAGGE
 15 TODD SCHLOTTER
 21 ADAM OSTERT
 22 STEPHANIE GIBB-CLARK
 28 MARY BUSH
 29 NICHOLAS PEARSON

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

5+ YEARS
 DENNIS MCDANIEL
 ANDREW HOLM
10+ YEARS
 STEVEN JOHNSON
15+ YEARS
 KENNEY AGAN
 MARK CASKEY

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 AARON WOLFE
 4 ANDREW HAYES
 7 ETHAN MENG
 7 TRISTAN JOHNSON
 10 MATTHEW CHILES
 10 SAMUEL ABELL
 11 ERIC GRADELER
 11 NATHAN JOHNSTON
 13 CLAYTON BORMANN
 20 DUSTIN RUNGE
 28 ELIZABETH DEATSCH
 26 SAMANTHA DICKSON

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5+ YEARS
 ANTHONY TREJO
 NATHAN JOHNSTON
 ZANE MARTIN
 BRANDON MELLENCAMP
 JOEL HOIUM
 MYLES SCHRAGE
10+ YEARS
 DANNY STECK
20+ YEARS
 DOUG KUECK
25+ YEARS
 STEVE BUCKALEW

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

17 SHANE MOUNLAVONG
 12 MYLES SCHRAGE
 12 TAYLOR HOLTRY
 21 JOSHUA KENNEDY
 20 NICHOLAS COLLINS
 26 TANNER SCHUMACHER
 15 NICK STEWART
 9 BRANDON SJULLIE
 4 DENNY MESSENGER
 7 BEN MCNAMARA
 20 ZANE MARTIN
 1 ANDREW BERRY
 6 SHERYL START
 11 PEGGY RASMUSSEN
 30 RIDDHI SHETH
 7 CHRIS DOWNING

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

5+ YEARS
 MOLLY HAUSER
 MICHAEL COUVILLON
 SUSAN BARLOW
 TYLER HARDENBROOK
 CLAYTON ENDER
10+ YEARS
 ELIZABETH STEVENS
 LORI ELRICK
15+ YEARS
 SCOTT CHIRI



EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS & WORK ANNIVERSARIES

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 RYAN WHEELER
3 MATT GREINER
6 STEPHEN NORE
7 CHRISTINE KANE-FINN
10 JASON HILL
12 BRAD PERKINS
18 MICHAEL GASKINS
21 ANDREY NAIDENOFF
23 MICHAEL ROSENMEYER
29 ERIC REHM
29 JARDEN LOVE

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

5+ YEARS

JANET WILWERDING
JEFFREY HAWBAKER
NICHOLAS PEARSON
RYAN WHEELER
MOLLY GUERRA

10+ YEARS

ERIN MCDONOUGH
ADAM HOFFMAN

15+ YEARS

CRAIG VERHUEL
SHAWN BENBERG
DAVE CROLL

ELVIR HASANOVIC
KARI ALLEN

20+ YEARS

MARCI SANTI
CARL KLOSTERMANN

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 SCOTT CHIRI
3 BRYNNE BURROUGH
4 BOBBIE RICHMANN
6 JIM MART
10 ANTHONY TREJO
11 JEFFREY LEITCH
11 DREAMA DESKINS
13 ANDREW HOLM
19 JEFFREY HAWBAKER
20 BRETT JOHNSON
21 ADAM CRISWELL
21 LAURIE HAZEL
22 DENISE RAMSEY
24 SHERI BROWN
27 JOHN SCHMITZ
30 DOUG KUECK
31 ANDREW CURRY

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

5+ YEARS

DUSTIN RUNGE
DENISE RAMSEY
ANN BROWN

10+ YEARS

TRISTAN JOHNSON

15+ YEARS

JESSICA JENSEN
SHERYL START
ZACH GRANDON

MATT GREINER
SHANE KINSEY

20+ YEARS

JESSICA YOUNG

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 MOLLY HAUSER
3 SARAH SWISHER
3 SUSAN BARLOW
5 TERESA ROTSCHAER
7 PAULA DIERENFELD
10 ORLANDO PEACE
12 HARRISON PAULEY
13 CAROLYN WALL
14 JOSEPH SIEMBIEDA
15 AINA BROWN
22 JOSHUA LARSEN
25 BRANDON MELLENCAMP
26 KAYLA PARKER
27 MARK CASKEY

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

5+ YEARS

MICHAEL GASKINS
ADAM PLAGGE
ANTHONY YEAGER
CLAYTON BORMANN

10+ YEARS

JOHNATHON SWEENEY

20+ YEARS

DAVID WILWERDING



