



*Johnston*  
THRIVE. EVERY DAY.

# CITY NEWSLETTER



  
**JANUARY** 2016

## CONTACT US! CITY HALL

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**JOHNSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
6700 Merle Hay Road  
278-5233

**JOHNSTON POLICE & FIRE**  
6373 Merle Hay Road  
278-2345 (24 hours)  
Emergency: 9-1-1

**JOHNSTON PUBLIC WORKS**  
6400 NW Beaver Drive  
278-0822  
FAX: 727-8092

**JOHNSTON PARKS DEPARTMENT**  
6300 Pioneer Parkway  
727-8091  
FAX: 727-8092

**CROWN POINT  
COMMUNITY CENTER AND  
SENIOR DINING CENTER**  
6300 Pioneer Parkway  
251-3707

## SPECIAL CENSUS QUESTIONS BEGIN THIS MONTH

The City of Johnston is getting ready to conduct a special census to officially document the City's population growth. Right now we expect that special census workers will begin knocking on doors sometime this month. All workers will have a U.S. Census Bureau badge. When the census enumerator knocks on your door, please cooperate. The enumerator will ask you five questions for each person living in your household, and the interview should take about 10 minutes.

Your answers are private. Every Census Bureau worker takes an oath to protect your answers. If they violate this oath, they'll face a maximum of five years in jail and a \$250,000 fine.

A number of the City's revenue sources are calculated based on a per capita basis, thus an updated census allows us to capture the revenue for all of our current residents. We estimate the City has grown by 2,000 to 2,500 people since 2010 based upon the number of new residential buildings that have been constructed, which would equate to a total city population of around 20,000.

Additional revenue received as a result of the special census will be allocated based upon the revenue source. The largest percentage of additional funding will be Road Use Tax funds which are used to operate and maintain the City's extensive street system. We hope to see the official results, and share them with you, sometime this spring. Thank you for participating in this very important special census.

## TOP 3 WINTER WEATHER TIPS:

1. Do not park vehicles on city streets when snow removal operations are in progress
2. Clear your sidewalks within 48 hours after a snowstorm
3. Please shovel around fire hydrants so firefighters may access them easily

## NW 60TH AVENUE TRAIL RECEIVES \$15K GRANT

City leaders are thrilled to announce that the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization and The Wellmark Foundation recently awarded the City of Johnston a \$15,000 grant to extend the trail and provide safe crossing of Northwest 60th Avenue. The improvements are part of a multi-year project that is enhancing the East of Merle Hay Road neighborhood.

In Johnston, reconstruction of NW 60th Avenue from Merle Hay Road to the east 660 feet is expected to begin in April 2016. The improvement project includes roadway and trail improvements based on a public engagement process, storm sewer construction, sanitary sewer installation, and water main replacement. The trail and safe crossing of NW 60th Avenue will have added safety measures, which include trail crossing signs and a pedestrian refuge area into a raised median between the east and west bound vehicular traffic. The benefits of this option include pedestrian and bicyclist safety, direct safe-route-to-school connection, long-term trail connection to Merle Hay Road and trail location away from residential homes.

To learn more about the NW 60th Avenue project and East of Merle Hay Road neighborhood improvements, please visit [cityofjohnston.com/projects](http://cityofjohnston.com/projects) today.

## SURVEY: COMMUNITY RANKS HIGH IN RESIDENT SATISFACTION

According to a scientific survey conducted in November, 92% of Johnston residents report being satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of life in Johnston. That's well above the national average in quality-of-life rankings and a three percent increase since 2013. We asked residents to provide positive and critical feedback on a variety of areas within city government, including police, fire, parks, library, public works, communication and community development. We are proud to report that our city departments consistently rank among the best in the country.

We invite you to visit [cityofjohnston.com/survey](http://cityofjohnston.com/survey) to view the full 2015 survey results, including a breakdown of where residents believe the city can improve. A total of 539 households completed the survey late last year. The results have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/- 4.2%. We appreciate everyone who took the time to fill out and return the survey. Your feedback is valuable as we make decisions that affect the city.



## EMERALD ASH BORER: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



As you may already know, the deadly tree pest Emerald Ash Borer has made its way to Greater Des Moines, though no cases have been confirmed in Johnston city limits. Approximately 18 percent of trees in Johnston's public spaces are ash trees. The density in several neighborhoods is even higher and the loss of all of these trees will have both a physical and financial impact on the neighborhood. The City has developed a plan where all ash trees in the right-of-way must either be treated or removed in the next five years. The City will be responsible for any trees that are removed, but residents who are interested in preserving street, or city trees in the right of way adjacent to their homes, may treat these trees at their own expense. Residents who wish to treat ash trees for EAB need to follow specific procedures laid out by the Johnston Parks Department. Please visit [cityofjohnston.com/trees](http://cityofjohnston.com/trees) to learn more.

## CITY HALL AND PUBLIC LIBRARY CLOSED FOR MLK HOLIDAY

Johnston City Hall and the Johnston Public Library will be closed on Monday, January 18 due to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Your trash and recycling pickup days are *not* affected by this holiday. The regularly-scheduled Johnston City Council work session and meeting will now take place on Tuesday, January 19.



## 50+ FUN NIGHTS CANCELLED DURING WINTER

Due to unpredictable winter weather, Johnston seniors will not be hosting 50+ Fun Nights in January, February and March. We look forward to seeing you again on Wednesday, April 20 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at Crown Point Community Center, located at 6300 Pioneer Parkway. That night we will be playing hand and foot, bridge, canasta, dominoes, pool, shuffleboard and Wii! Refreshments will be served at this free night sponsored by the Johnston Senior Advisory Board. To learn more about Johnston senior programming and meals, visit [cityofjohnston.com/seniors](http://cityofjohnston.com/seniors).