



CITY NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2016

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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 CONTINUES THIS MONTH

The City of Johnston is currently conducting a special census to officially document the City's population growth. Your participation is crucial to getting an accurate population count. All workers knocking on doors throughout the city will have a U.S. Census Bureau badge and you may ask to see it. 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.

We hope to see the official results, and share them with you, sometime this spring or summer. Thank you for participating in this very important special census. To learn more about what to expect, please visit cityofjohnston.com/specialcensus today.

CITY HALL, LIBRARY CLOSED ON FEBRUARY 15

Johnston City Hall and the Johnston Public Library will be closed on Monday, February 15 due to the Presidents' Day 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, February 16.

NEW ELECTRIC SUBSTATION PLANNED

Currently, Johnston is served by three existing electric substations located on NW Beaver Drive, NW 100th Street and Highway 141. The existing substations and distribution feeder lines are approaching their full capacity due to significant growth in the area, which impacts the reliability of electric service for Johnston residents and businesses.

MidAmerican Energy Company will soon be constructing a new electrical substation and associated transmission lines near 6750 Pioneer Parkway to serve electrical growth in the Johnston community. You may notice activity in the area soon.

The new substation will be located just south of DuPont Pioneer's McClintock Building, and will include a 25 foot wall around the entire facility to help blend the substation with the surrounding area. Transmission lines will be extended through the Beaver Creek Natural Resources Area to connect the substation to the existing transmission lines located to the south. To learn more about the project, please visit cityofjohnston.com/substation today.

SEASONAL WORKERS WANTED: APPLY TODAY

The City of Johnston is looking for seasonal workers in our Public Works and Parks Departments during late spring and summer months. Please visit cityofjohnston.com/jobs to find job descriptions and an employment application.

JOHNSTON POLICE CHIEF BILL VAUGHN TO RETIRE MARCH 4

On November 30, 2009, Bill Vaughn became the seventh Chief of Police for the City of Johnston. His first order of business? Attend a Johnston School Board meeting. Community outreach would quickly become his trademark.

"Law enforcement is a people business. It's a service. I might be old fashioned but I think it's still an honorable calling," Vaughn said.

Vaughn was called to service in 1976 when he began working for the Polk County Sheriff's Office. He held a variety of positions with the PCSO for 30 years, including as a Jail Deputy, Patrol Deputy, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Division Chief. When he retired from the Sheriff's Office in 2006 he was the Chief Deputy.

Retirement didn't last long. Vaughn would soon find himself working for Polk County again, overseeing the construction of the new jail. The completion of the jail happened within budget and on time. It's part of what attracted Johnston city leaders to him when they were looking for a new Chief in 2009. At the time, the Johnston City Council wanted a leader who could oversee construction of a new public safety building. The Johnston Police Department was housed in the back of City Hall, a building that used to be a grocery store.

Johnston residents voted in favor of a new Public Safety Building in 2011 with 82.28 percent of voters approving it. Chief Vaughn oversaw the construction of the building, which opened successfully in August 2014. The building, which houses the Johnston Police and Fire Departments, offers more opportunities for training, improved crime and fire prevention services, and is Johnston's Emergency Operations Center during times of crisis and natural disasters. The building offers complete fire and police protection to Camp Dodge and is one of Polk County's backup Emergency Operations Centers.

"Although Chief Vaughn was critical to the success of the referendum and the construction of the public safety building, what many people did not get to see, or appreciate, is how he worked every single day toward the betterment of the police department in order to provide exceptional service to our community," City Administrator Jim Sanders said.

Vaughn has helped build up other outreach efforts including the community's Crime Free Multi-Housing Program, Crime Free Business Program, and the Police Department's annual Spaghetti Feed with proceeds going to assist Youth Homes of Mid-America in their mission of rehabilitating at-risk youth. The JPD was among the first police departments in the metro to use body-worn cameras as a way to promote transparency within law enforcement.

"I consider myself blessed to have been surrounded by a lot of good people, to have good staff and a good City Council. Because of the harmony and support I got through Council and then community and civic groups, it is not what Bill Vaughn did --- it's what we all did collectively. The messenger alone doesn't get the job done. It's the team that's needed to succeed and I've been blessed by having a good community," Vaughn said.

Chief Vaughn will retire from the Johnston Police Department on March 4. A search for his replacement is underway.

