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JOHNSTON RECEIVES TREES PLEASE! GRANT

MidAmerican Energy granted Johnston \$5,000 through its Trees Please! program to help reduce energy costs.

The program provides funding for tree planting projects in publicly owned community and school spaces. The strategic placement of these trees encourages the use of less energy.

This funding will be used to plant trees in public green spaces, increasing the community's overall urban tree canopy. Thanks to the MidAmerican Trees Please! grant and the Community Forest grant, 77 trees will be planted. The trees will be placed in different locations, such as the city's parks, along trails, and other public green spaces. This initiative aims to compensate for the loss of trees caused by the derecho and emerald ash borer and reduce the city's carbon footprint. By increasing the number of trees, the city also hopes to lower energy consumption, increase oxygen levels, and decrease carbon emissions. In addition to environmental benefits, having more trees can create a calming environment, reduce anxiety, and provide shade for recreational activities.



From left: Council members Tom Cope, Bryan Burkhardt and Rhonda Martin; resident Mary Jane Paez; Mayor Paula Dierenfeld; MidAmerican Community Development Manager Kelly Swenson; council members Jim Evans and Suresh Reddy; and Parks Superintendent Kari Allen.

Beyond the environmental benefits and added beauty that trees provide, certain varieties of well-placed trees can reduce energy use. For example, leafy trees, such as maple trees that provide shade in the summer, can help

GRANT, ON BACK

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

WED. HIGH 65 | LOW 43
Mostly sunny 

THURS. HIGH 70 | LOW 57
Breezy with sun and clouds 

FRI. HIGH 71 | LOW 57
Severe thunderstorms 

SAT. HIGH 76 | LOW 57
Warm and partly sunny 

SUN. HIGH 67 | LOW 53
Clouds; thunderstorms 

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

WHO DEFINES COOLNESS FOR YOU?

The essence of cool. Some people have it. Most of us don't. Each of us may define coolness differently, but some similar and underlying traits seem to fit. Those who are the essence of cool are often quiet and show little emotion, only speaking when they have something meaningful to say. They don't openly argue, blast their opinions, or wear their politics on their sleeves. They are a bit mysterious, not putting themselves completely out there for others to judge.

Those who are the essence of cool treat others with kindness, but they don't do so to seek recognition. They are simple in the way they dress and don't see the need to obsess with the material things in life. And they don't have to try to be cool. They just are.

Here's my list of people in the public eye who are (or once were) the essence of cool.

Lenny Kravitz is a singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist,

producer and actor. And he defines cool not only in song but in film. Just like a dragonfly.

Joan Jett is a rock singer, guitarist, songwriter, record producer and actress. She doesn't need to put another dime in the jukebox, baby, but she can if she wants to.

James Dean was an actor with a career that lasted five years until his death. His roles typified teenage disillusionment and social estrangement of his time. This rebel had a cause. Still does.

Elvis Presley was the king of rock and roll. The hair. The snarl. The jumpsuits. The gyrations. He had it all. Until he didn't. But he redefined cool.

John Wayne starred in Western and war films that were produced during Hollywood's Golden Age. Born in Winterset, "the Duke" was tough-guy cool, partner.

Clint Eastwood rose to fame in



1960s spaghetti Westerns and in the "Dirty Harry" films of the 1970s. He has been called "an enduring cultural icon of masculinity." At 94, he is still cool.

Although they are not real people, and with all due respect to Lenny and Squiggy, the **Lone Ranger** and **Tonto** may have been the coolest duo on TV. "Hi yo, Silver, away!"

And no list of the essence of cool would be complete without another TV character, Arthur Fonzarelli, or as we know him, **the Fonz**. Perfectamundo.

What ones did I miss? Send me a note and let me know. Have a thoughtful Thursday, and thanks for reading.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

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MAYOR'S BIKE RIDE

Join Mayor Paula Dierenfeld for the annual Mayor's Bike Ride on Thursday, May 9, at Terra Park, 6400 Pioneer Parkway near Corteva. Mayor Dierenfeld will provide comments around 11:30 a.m., and the ride will take off shortly after. A free lunch will be provided for riders at the large shelter at Terra Park. Visit www.cityofjohnston.com/DocumentCenter/View/12699/2024-Mayors-Bike-Ride to view the map of the route. Stay tuned for more details. ■

MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND OPEN HOUSE

The Johnston (Station) Historical Society (JSHS) 2024 annual membership meeting and open house will be held on Wednesday, April 24, from 6-8 p.m. at the Simpson Barn in the Johnston Commons. Come and share in a potluck supper and see the local history artifacts in the 1936 Simpson Barn and the adjacent 1902 Simpson House Museum. Tours will be given, and drinks and the main dish will be served. You are encouraged to bring a dessert or a side dish. Plates and tableware will be provided. The Simpson House and Barn are in the Johnston Commons at 6161 Northglenn Drive, next to the Johnston Library. RSVP by leaving a message with JSHS at 515-608-5730 or e-mail johnstonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

The Johnston (Station) Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to discovering, preserving and presenting the history of the Johnston area. Consider supporting the Society by becoming a member, a volunteer, a benefactor or donating Johnston-related historical items. ■

JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. In March, they continued to break records by serving 574 families in the food pantry, which means they are going through a lot of personal items. Their biggest needs currently are: toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, dish soap and laundry soap.

Donations can be dropped off at 5870 Merle Hay Road, Suite C, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m., and on Thursdays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every third week of the month, they collect for the Friday food bag program that serves food insecure students at all nine Johnston schools. Currently they pack 220 food bags each week to go home with students. They can use fruit cups, macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, granola bars, individual shelf-stable milk and individual peanut butter. ■

KITES ON THE GREEN FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Johnston Commons Park near the library and get set for a day filled with free, family-friendly activities and fun. New activities and performances have been added this year, including a magic show and balloon animals with Jonathan May, stilt walking and mesmerizing sway pole performances by Laura Ernst with Kinetic Entertainment, two obstacle bounce houses and many more fun, free activities for your family. More information and a schedule of all the activities can be found by visiting www.cityofjohnston.com/kitesonthegreen. ■

CITY CALENDAR

- **Monday, April 29:** Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Monday, May 6:** City Council Work Session, 6 p.m.
- **Monday, May 6:** City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Monday, May 13:** Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7 p.m.
- **Wednesday, May 15:** Senior Board Meeting, 5 p.m.
- **Thursday, May 16:** Library Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, May 16:** Board of Adjustment Meeting, 6:30 p.m. ■

FARMERS MARKET

Johnston Farmers Market will be held on Tuesdays from 4-7 p.m. June 4 - Sept. 24 at the Johnston Town Center just north of City Hall, 6245 Merle Hay Road. Shop for fresh produce and homemade products while being entertained by live music. www.cityofjohnston.com/farmersmarket. ■

ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Backpocket Pin & Pixel is celebrating its one-year anniversary (three months late) with a party on April 26. Enjoy all-day specials on food and drinks, free duckpin bowling, raffles and giveaways, polaroid photo fun and more. Live music from Ted Stockton will be featured from 6-9 p.m., and you can paint your own Backpocket mini ceramic beer stein (with purchase). To save your stein, visit <https://tinyurl.com/MiniStein>. All ages are welcome until live music stops at 9 p.m. More information is available on the Facebook event Link: <https://fb.me/e/zRUNVjm33>. ■

COMMUNITY GREETINGS

Johnston Community Greetings would like to welcome anyone new to Johnston with a welcome bag including discounts at local businesses and city information. Contact Missy Shepherd by phone, text or email at 515-991-5014 or mshepherdgreetings@gmail.com. ■

SPLASH PAD OPENS MAY 25

The splash pad at the Johnston Town Center, 6245 Merle Hay Road, just west of Johnston City Hall, will open Saturday, May 25, at 10 a.m. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Visit www.cityofjohnston.com/1183/Splash-Pad-at-the-Town-Center for more information. ■

SOUNDS OF SUMMER AT THE YARD

The music will begin at 7 p.m. on the stage, just west of Johnston City Hall. Bring your lawn chair and blanket and enjoy the free music. More information is available by visiting www.cityofjohnston.com/1438/Sounds-of-Summer.

- **Saturday, June 8** – The Trip is a Los Angeles-based studio of musicians playing rock hits spanning multiple generations
- **Saturday, June 29** – Back in Black is America's leading AC/DC cover band based out of Dallas
- **Saturday, Aug. 24** – Mixtape is a Nashville-based 1980s rock band
- **Saturday, Sept. 28** – The Pork Tornadoes is Des Moines' No. 1 summer party band ■

FREE SHRED DAY APRIL 27

Get rid of your old confidential documents in a safe and secure way at Johnston Public Library's free Shred Day on Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. to noon in the library parking lot. THE SHRED IT company will be there with three of their mobile document-shredding vehicles. Limit material to be shredded to three disposable boxes or containers per household. Visit <https://johnston.librarycalendar.com/event/free-shred-day-6723> for more information. ■

2024 MOVIES IN THE YARD

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable lineup of outdoor Movies on the Yard this summer at Johnston Town Center, 6245 Merle Hay Road. The lineup includes: Thursday, May 16: "Barbie"; Friday, June 21: "Kung Fu Panda 4"; Thursday, Aug. 15: "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3"; Thursday, Sept. 19: "Wonka." All screenings begin at dusk. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and loved ones for an evening of free entertainment. ■

JOHNSTON BUDGET INCLUDES ENHANCEMENTS TO PUBLIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Johnston City Council adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget on April 15. The FY 2025 budget will begin on July 1, 2024.

This year's budget totals \$83.8 million, an increase from the previous fiscal year's budget of \$82.1 million. The additional funds will support a range of initiatives, including public safety enhancements, infrastructure upgrades, and the addition of essential staff positions aimed at improving city services.

Staffing additions to the budget include funding for two new police officers, a second mechanic position to support the city's growing fleet of vehicles and equipment, splitting the assistant city administrator/finance director position into two separate positions, and a recreation coordinator to support the new IGNIT facility that is expected to open in the first quarter of 2025.

A key component of the FY 2025 budget is the allocation of \$26.3 million for critical capital projects, such as the extension of water and sewer services in the northwest

annexation area and the purchase of an aerial fire truck and an ambulance.

The budget utilizes the Local Option Sales and Services Tax (LOSST) to keep the city's tax rate competitive while funding necessary improvements. The approved tax rate for FY 2025 is \$11.439 per \$1,000 of taxable value. The city's portion of a Johnston property owner's total tax bill is 31%. The remaining taxes go to Johnston Schools (37%), Polk County (19%), Broadlawns Hospital (8%), DART (2%), DMACC (2%), and Polk County Assessor (1%).

Highlights of the Capital Improvement Projects include the following projects:

General government

- An aerial tower truck for the Fire Department
- Replacement of three police vehicles

Parks improvements

- Completion of the total renovation of Crown Point Community Center
- Dewey Park improvements
- N.W. 78th Avenue trail

connection

- Foxboro Trail reconstruction, Waterford Trail reconstruction

Street improvements

- Reconstruction of N.W. 100th Street (N.W. 70th Street to City Limits)

- Development of a new Highway 141 interchange at Towner Drive

- Reconstruction of N.W. 62nd Avenue (Beaver to N.W. 54th Avenue)

- Green Meadows West sidewalks

Water and sanitary sewer improvements

- Extending water and sanitary sewer utilities to the Northwest Annexation area

Stormwater

- River Bend Outlet Improvements
- Country Ridge Stormwater Improvements

- Design for Green Meadows North (downstream of Waterford Pond)

Library

- Repair of the Library roof

For more detailed information, visit www.cityofjohnston.com/budget. ■

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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BIG GROVE VINYL MARKET

May 5, noon to 4 p.m.

Big Grove Brewery, 555 17th St., Des Moines

www.biggrove.com

Six vinyl record vendors will be on hand selling thousands of vinyl records, CDs and memorabilia with nearly all genres of music on display.

ANKENY ART FESTIVAL

May 11

Uptown Ankeny,

Third Street and Walnut Street, Ankeny

www.ankenyartcenter.org/artfestival2024

Join the Ankeny Art Center for a fun-filled day of art, demonstrations, shopping, food, live music and more.

VALLEY JUNCTION ARTS FESTIVAL

May 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

100-200 Blocks of Fifth Street, West Des Moines

www.valleyjunction.com/valley-junction-events/valley-junction-arts-festival

Live entertainment, art activities and artists' demonstrations. Refreshments will be available from several food vendors on the street, and several Valley Junction stores will be open during the festival.

DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS

Des Moines Civic Center, Cowles Commons, Stoner Theater, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines

www.dmpa.org

May 18: The Peking Acrobats

May 19: Josh Gates LIVE!

GREENBELT MUSIC FESTIVAL

May 17-18

Horizon Events Center, 2100 N.W. 100th St., Clive

horizoneventscenter.com

This music festival returns to the Horizon Events Center with double-digit musical acts to fill your weekend, starting Friday at 3 p.m. and going till Saturday at 11 p.m. Kids 12 and younger enter for free.



Des Moines Con

DEMICON

May 3-5

Holiday Inn and Suites,

4800 Merle Hay Road, Urbandale

<https://demicon.org/35/>

Des Moines' longest running science fiction and fantasy convention. With several special guests, authors, artists and an art show. For people specifically interested in cosplay, the formal masquerade competition is Saturday night from 8-10 p.m. An informal Hall Costume Contest will be held Friday from 9 p.m. to midnight.

CELEBRASIAN

May 24-25

Western Gateway Park, 1205 Locust St, Des Moines

www.iowaasianalliance.com

A weekend of Asian cuisine, music and entertainment. Vendors and performers will fill the area with an authentic celebration of Asian culture.

DES MOINES CON

May 31-June 2

Hy-Vee Hall at Iowa Events Center,

730 Third St., Des Moines

A celebration of all things nerdy. From Marvel to Star Wars to LEGOs and around the universe and back, this con has you covered. ■

RECIPE

UNITE LOVED ONES WITH A LUSCIOUS DESSERT

(Family Features) Celebration-worthy treats are perfect ways to cap off days spent with those you love, whether there's a special occasion or you're simply looking for creative ways to share more moments together. As a beloved staple in American households for generations, pie provides a sweet, delicious way to bring family and friends to the table. ■

TART CHERRY UNITY PIE

Recipe courtesy of the U.S. Tart Cherry Industry

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 55 minutes

Servings: 8

Pie:

- 1 pie crust (9 inches)
- 2 cups canned tart cherry pie filling
- 2 cups canned apple pie filling
- 1 egg, beaten (for egg wash)

Streusel:

- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup pecans, roughly chopped
- 1 pinch salt
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted

Pumpkin Spice Whipped Cream:

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon pumpkin spice

Directions

Preheat oven to 400 F.



Fit pie crust to 9-inch pie dish. Crimp edges and use fork to poke holes in bottom. Place pie crust in freezer to chill.

In large bowl, combine tart cherry pie filling and apple pie filling. Set aside.

To make streusel: In bowl, use fork to mix flour, brown sugar, granulated sugar, pecans and salt. Pour butter over dry ingredients and mix until ingredients come together in clumps.

To assemble pie: Pour cherry-apple filling into prepared pie crust and sprinkle streusel on top. Brush beaten egg onto exposed pie crust edges.

Bake 25 minutes. At 10-minute mark, cover pie dish with foil to prevent crust from over-browning.

After 25 minutes, lower oven temperature to 375 F and bake 30 minutes.

To make pumpkin spice whipped cream: In large bowl or bowl of stand mixer, add heavy cream, powdered sugar and pumpkin spice. Use hand mixer or beater attachment on stand mixer to beat on medium-high speed 3-5 minutes until stiff peaks form. Refrigerate whipped cream until ready to serve.

Let pie cool 2-3 hours then dollop pumpkin spice whipped cream on top, slice and serve.

Substitution: Storebought whipped cream topped with pumpkin spice can be used in place of homemade pumpkin spice whipped cream.

SEEN IN JOHNSTON



WOMEN'S EVENT HELD BY CHAMBERS: I am Uniquely HER, a women's event held by the Johnston, Grimes and Waukee chambers, was held April 4 at the Simpson Barn in Johnston. Pictured are Sharon Vickery, Tiffany Nielsen, Christy Cline, Jenni Buchanan, Samantha Winebrenner, Kit Mihalik and Andrea Hodapp. ■

GRANT, FROM FRONT

keep a building cooler if planted near a south wall. Evergreen trees and shrubs, such as pine trees that keep their needles year-round, can provide wind protection in the winter months if planted in the direction of prevailing winds, thus reducing

heating usage.

The City of Johnston is one of 55 Iowa cities and community organizations receiving Trees Please! grants. MidAmerican selected grant recipients based on each project's merits, its community benefits, and the applicant's ability to obtain matching funds. ■

IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM

515-252-4531

HOURS:

SUNDAY: CLOSED
MONDAY: CLOSED
TUES. - FRI.: 9AM - 3PM
SATURDAY: 10AM - 2PM



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CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED: Looking for a handyman or carpenter to tear an old fence down and rebuild in Van Meter. We have the material and have started work but would rather pay someone to do it. It is wood covered with chicken wire, attached to railroad ties. if interested please call 515-321-0301.

FOR SALE: Old rolltop antique desk for sale. Call 515-249-8664.

FOR SALE: Vertical cloth blind. Light gray color. 40" x 36" in like-new condition. Call 515-321-0301.

GOLF CLUBS FOR SALE: Adult and kid's sets. Photos and descriptions can be viewed by accessing the Des Moines Craig's List on the internet. Enter GOLF JOHNSTON and INTEREST! in the search box and reply to any sets that interest you.

FOR SALE: Nice bunk beds. Solid built. \$175. Call or text 515-238-3198 and I can send photos.

WANTED: Stereo & electronic radio stuff receivers speakers guitar amp etc. Any age or condition is OK. Call 515-238-3343.

LOOKING TO BUY VINYL RECORDS: Paying cash for 60's-90's rock and jazz and blues. Please call Brian at 515-326-5033.

BICYCLES WANTED: Any condition is ok. For parts or repair. Will pick them up. Phone 515-238-3343.

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