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JOHNSTON NOTES \$117 MILLION IN NEW TAXABLE VALUATION

The City of Johnston achieved significant growth in 2023, recording \$117 million in new taxable valuation, marking a year of substantial progress and development.

Key highlights from the 2023 construction activities include:

- **Residential expansion:** A total of 126 new residential units were added, with a notable emphasis on single-family residences, accounting for 102 units. Additionally, townhome/duplex construction remained steady, with 24 new units.

- **Commercial projects:** Nine commercial projects contributed to \$47 million in new valuation, representing the most substantial commercial growth since 2013.

- **Commercial remodeling:** The city saw 23 commercial remodel permits issued, with a combined value of \$8.7 million.

"Johnston had a successful



year in 2023, despite inflation and interest rate challenges," said Community Development Director David Wilwerding. "The city saw a positive blend of residential and commercial projects, with a solid foundation to continue this growth into 2024 and beyond. With notable construction projects scheduled this spring, Johnston's future growth is promising, and the community is excited about the opportunities it will bring for the city and its residents."

As outlined in the 2023 Community Development Annual Report, Wilwerding anticipates the

following developments for 2024:

- **Continued residential development:** Ongoing construction of single-family residences and townhouses/villas due to new and pending developments under construction, although permit totals may be impacted by uncertainty surrounding interest rates and inflation.

- **Commercial expansion:** Based on active site plans, commercial developments are expected to flourish into 2024, with a particular focus on light industrial employment-based projects and retail/entertainment-based ventures.

- **Infill projects:** An anticipated surge in commercial and residential infill projects targeting increasingly scarce and valuable undeveloped lots, ahead of the development focus shifting northwest.

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VALUATION, ON BACK

JOHNSTON WEATHER FORECAST

TUES. HIGH 4 | LOW -2

Partly sunny and bitterly cold



WED. HIGH 18 | LOW 2

Cold with partial sunshine



THURS. HIGH 11 | LOW -6

Colder with thick cloud cover



FRI. HIGH 6 | LOW -17

Partly cloudy and cold



SAT. HIGH 7 | LOW 3

Partly cloudy and cold



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

HEELS, CRUSTS OR BUTTS?

The words we Americans choose say a lot about us. Sometimes they define us as being rural or urban. Other times, they uncover what part of the country we are from. And, more often than not, they are simply the words our parents or schoolteachers taught us to use. Even so, we still decide between words.

What do you call the long piece of furniture in your living room? Is it a couch? Or a sofa? Or a davenport?

What do you call those flying, glow-in-the-dark insects? Fireflies? Lightning bugs? Firebugs? Glowworms? June bugs?

And how about those clothes you slip into on your bottom half, one leg at a time? Are they pants? Trousers? Slacks?

What word(s) do you use

to define the comfortable shoes you put on your feet? Sneakers? Or tennis shoes?

Some of us still use cash, but where do we store it? For us men, is it in our billfold? Or our wallet?

One of the most geographically defined words is the name of that fizzy stuff we sometimes consume. Do you call it pop? Or do you say soda? Or coke? Or the blandest choice, soft drink?

When you have a pop or a soda or a coke or a soft drink, do you do so at dinner? Or supper? Or lunch?

Let's not forget about breakfast and one of its most beloved menu items. Depending on where you reside, you may call them pancakes. Or flapjacks. Or hotcakes. Or Johnnycakes. Or



silver dollars. The name doesn't matter to me, as long as they are covered in maple syrup.

When you get food to go, do you call it takeout or carryout? Or both?

When you buy food, do you do so at the grocery store or the supermarket? And do you put your food items in a grocery cart or a buggy or a carriage?

And, last but not least, is my favorite word distinction. What do you call the pieces of bread on the ends of the loaf? Are they the heels? Or crusts? Or butts?

What ones did I miss? Send me a note and let me know.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
President and Publisher
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Living Weekly

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SEEN IN JOHNSTON

JOHNSTON CHAMBER AFTER HOURS WAS HELD AT WINESTYLES ON JAN. 10.



Paula Bierle and Brenda Ballard



Jenni Buchanan and Christy Cline



Julia Bradshaw and Ryan Rohlf



Brianne Fitzgerald and Meg Kinnetz



John Denny and Derek Trobaugh



Dan Fitzgerald and Nate Kinnetz



Gina and Allan Graham



Sharon Vickery and Eric Herrmann



Keagan Simons and Quincy Hill

URBAN COYOTES

Coyotes can be found throughout Iowa's landscape, including urban areas. They are a highly adaptable species that can survive in close proximity to humans and utilize the urban environment. They are often attracted to urban areas due to the availability of food such as fruits, birdseed, pet food and garbage, as well as prey like rabbits, squirrels and mice. During the coyote mating season (January - February), they may become more aggressive in defending their territory, mates and den sites. However, this aggression is typically directed toward other coyotes.

Coyotes will continue to exist in urban areas and utilize river systems, greenways, parks and ditches. To reduce the risk of conflict with coyotes, there are several techniques that anyone can use in areas where coyotes are present. Visit <https://www.cityofjohnston.com/1425/Urban-Coyotes> to learn how to deal with coyotes, including tips on protecting pets and keeping coyotes away. ■

CITY MEETINGS

Tuesday, Jan. 16: City Council Work Session, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 16: City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 17: Senior Board Meeting, 5 p.m.

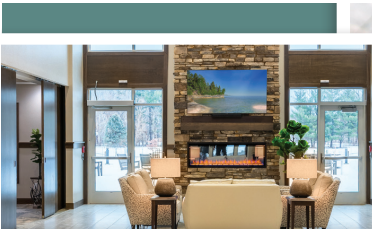
Thursday, Jan. 18: Library Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 24: Tree Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 24: Park Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. ■

TAYLOR SWIFT THEMED BINGO

Swifties unite! On Tuesday, Jan. 30, put all of that super-important Taylor Swift musical knowledge you have to good use while playing bingo at Backpocket Pin & Pixel, 6205 Merle Hay Road, Suite 110, Johnston. Prizes will be awarded. Get all your friends out and all your friendship bracelets on, because this one is gonna be a blast. See the Facebook event link at <https://fb.me/c/3kZ2aCFVG>. ■



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FUNERAL NOTICE

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DENNY GRILL

Denny Grill died Jan. 10, 2024. He was born to George and Hazel Grill on Dec. 4, 1938. Denny graduated from Tech High School in 1957 where he studied engine and airframe mechanics. After graduation, he worked for Central Life Insurance in data processing. In 1959, he married Janet Morain. After a brief time working in Davenport, he moved his family back to Des Moines, where he got a job in IT working with a local insurance company. He retired on his 58th birthday. The second chapter of his life was spent enjoying his family, friends and favorite pastimes. He and his life partner, Agatha, bought a place in Florida and spent 25 years as snowbirds. His favorite pastimes were fishing, golfing, traveling and driving his classic Corvette.

He is survived by his life-time partner, Agatha Norton; son, Jim Grill (Nelda Davis); daughter, Lora Sanderson (Mark); grandchildren: AJ Grill, Tanner Grill, Drew Grill, Brad Sanderson (Maddi), Scott Sanderson and Samantha Sanderson. He was preceded in death by his brother, George Grill, daughter-in-law, Ann Grill, and grandson, Kyle Welch.

Funeral services are scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 20, at Iles Westover Chapel, 6337 Hickman, Des Moines. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m., with funeral services at 11 a.m. Interment will be at the Masonic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Glen Echo Christian Church. Online condolences are welcome at www.IlesCares.com. Arrangements by Iles Westover Chapel. ■



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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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ENJOY THE SNOW!

(ONCE THE WIND CHILL WARNINGS END)

SKATING RINKS

Lace up the skates! Several communities across the metro offer ice skating experiences for little or no cost.

- **Brenton Skating Plaza**, 520 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines
- **Metro Ice Sports Facility**, 5100 N.W. 72nd St., Urbandale
- **West Des Moines RecPlex**, 6500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines
- **Centennial Park**, 605 S.E. Driftwood Lane, Waukee
- **Crosshaven Park**, 7909 N.W. 95th St., Johnston
- **Greenwood Park Pond**, 100 45th St., Des Moines
- **Johnston Commons Ice Rink**, 6700 Merle Hay Road, Johnston
- **Johnston Town Center Ice Rink**, 6245 Merle Hay Road, Johnston
- **MacRae Park Pond**, 1021 Davis Ave., Des Moines
- **Indianola Ice Skating Rink**, 2204 W. 2nd Ave., Indianola Activity Center
- **Raccoon River Park Ice Rink**, 2500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines
- **Sunrise Park**, 506 S.E. Peterson Drive, Ankeny

SLEDDING HILLS

Car hoods, boogie boards, doors and sleds, too. Just find the hills.

- **Altoona: Lions Park**, 507 13th Ave., S.W.
- **Ankeny: Northcreek Park**, 2301 W. First St.
- **Clive: Campbell Park**, 12385 Woodlands Parkway
- **Clive: Country Club Glen Park**, 16335 Sheridan Ave.
- **Clive: Mercy West Clinic**, 1601 N.W. 114th St.
- **Des Moines: Blank Golf Course**, 808 County Line Road



The skating rink at The Yard in Johnston

- **Des Moines: Grandview Golf Course**, 2401 E. 29th St.
- **Des Moines: Capitol Hill**, 1111 E. Court Ave.
- **Des Moines: Ewing Park**, 5300 Indianola Ave.
- **Des Moines: Greenwood Park**, 4500 Grand Ave.
- **Des Moines: MacRae Park**, 1021 Davis Ave.
- **Des Moines: Union Park**, 725 Thompson Ave.
- **Des Moines: Waveland Golf Course**, 4908 University Ave.
- **Urbandale: Winter Park**, 5110 N.W. 72nd St.
- **Waukee: Warrior Park and Sledding Hill**, 1050 Fourth St.
- **West Des Moines: Jordan Creek Elementary**, 4501 Fuller Road
- **West Des Moines: Pearson Park**, 1256 19th St.
- **West Des Moines: Southwoods Park**, 350 S. 35th St. ■

RECIPE

QUICK, EASY AND NUTRITIOUS MEALS

(Family Features) Making time for meals together can have a positive impact on the wellbeing of families, including children and adolescents. In fact, regular meals at home can help reduce stress and boost self-esteem, according to research published in “Canadian Family Physician.”

Making time for meals together shouldn't require spending all night in the kitchen, however. A simple-to-prepare ingredient like eggs can help you spend less time cooking and more time with family. ■

SWEET POTATO HASH WITH EGGS

Servings: 4 (1 cup per serving)

- 2 teaspoons canola or corn oil
- 1/2 medium onion, chopped
- 4 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1/2 medium red or green bell pepper, chopped
- 2/3 cup fat-free, low-sodium vegetable broth
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme, crumbled
- 1/2 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 4 large eggs
- hot pepper sauce (optional)

Directions:

In pressure cooker set on saute, heat oil. Cook onion 3 minutes, or until soft, stirring frequently. Turn off pressure cooker.

Stir in potatoes, bell pepper, broth, garlic, paprika, cumin, thyme, pepper and salt. Secure lid. Cook on high pressure 3 minutes. Quickly release pressure. Turn off pressure cooker.

Remove pressure cooker lid. Crack one egg into small bowl. Using back of spoon, make small well in potatoes. Slip egg into well. Repeat with remaining



eggs, making separate well for each egg. Secure lid with pressure vent open. Saute 2 minutes. Let stand on “keep warm” setting 2 minutes, or until eggs are cooked to desired consistency.

Serve hash sprinkled with dash of hot pepper sauce, if desired.

Nutritional information per serving:

258 calories; 7.5 g total fat; 2 g saturated fat; 1.5 g polyunsaturated fat; 3 g monounsaturated fat; 186 mg cholesterol; 244 mg sodium; 39 g carbohydrates; 6 g fiber; 9 g total sugars; 10 g protein.

JOHNSTON PARTNERSHIP'S CURRENT NEEDS

The Johnston Partnership provides food and personal hygiene products to those in need. Current needs are shampoo and conditioner, dish soap, laundry soap and dog and cat food. 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. They are currently providing about 200 bags per week. Their needs are: Ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, granola bars, individual shelf stable milk, individual peanut butter and fruit cups. ■

VALUATION, FROM FRONT

• **Johnston Town Center:**
In collaboration with Hansen Companies, the city aims to fully occupy and initiate planning for the next phases of the Johnston Town Center project.

• **Merle Hay Road project:**
Progress continues on the Merle Hay Road project, encompassing Bombers Golf and Entertainment, LifeServe of Iowa, Gateway Crossing and Ignit developments, fostering more development along the corridor.

• **Infrastructure expansion:** The

city is expanding utility services and the transportation network to prepare the newly annexed Northwest Annexation Area for future development.

• **Trail connections:** The completion of several trail connections is expected to boost trail ridership and promote more pedestrian-focused commercial activity in the community.

The statistics are part of the 2023 Community Development Department Annual Report, accessible by visiting www.cityofjohnston.com/2023CDAnnualReport. ■

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