

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 24, Issue 3

Newsletter

Fall 2016

From the President

Fall has arrived in Iowa bringing with it cooler weather and the changing color of leaves.

Once again the flower beds are looking beautiful, thanks to Carla who tends to them with tender loving care. The golds, reds and yellow flowers are especially beautiful this time of year.

Sundae in the Park was held on Sunday, August 7. We opened the museum for tours. Thanks to the board members who volunteered to work.

A special thanks to the Class of 1964 who donated funds for the new flag pole. The flag pole is in place near the porch, on the southwest corner of the museum. It looks great to see Old Glory flying again.

Don't forget to join us for our upcoming fall soup supper in November. Visit us anytime.

Thank you for your support,
Lois Waggoner, President



Fall Soup Supper

This year on Thursday, November 3, 2016, we will treat our members to a Soup Supper. For the last few years this was our annual Chili Supper, but decided to change it to offer different kinds of soup. Chili will be one of the choices, but we will have a variety of other soups to select from. We hope by doing this, we might satisfy the palate of all.

Mark this date on your calendar and plan to join us at 5:00 p.m. in the lower level of the barn for some good conversation with other Johnston Historical Society members and guests. As always, we will have the usual soup extras, plus some yummy desserts. A brief program is being planned.

Flag Pole Update

Thanks to our board member, Mike Knight, we now have a new flag pole installed with our glorious flag blowing in the breeze. What a welcome sight. The new flag pole is located at the southwest corner of the museum. It is 20 feet tall and a perfect height for the sight. A light will soon be installed with plans for a marker at the base with the names of the donors.

Mike, we appreciate you stepping up to the

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Board Members Needed

With the end of 2016 just around the corner, we will be voting to fill two positions on the board. Please consider giving a few hours a week to the work at the museum.

Without the time and devotion spent by each board member, there would not be a museum to preserve the artifacts that tell the history of Johnston. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, call the museum 331-0687 and leave a message.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are seeking members who might be interested in volunteering in various aspects of the museum. We could use someone to greet guests for two hours a week, have them sign the guest book and show them around. This would be from April through November. Our goal is to have enough volunteers to be open five days a week. This could even be a shared job, if we have enough volunteers.

The museum, just like our homes, gets dusty and requires sweeping and dusting. This is another area that we could use volunteers. If you would be interested in devoting some time to either of these tasks, please contact Deb Krambeck on 515 537-6450. Thank you for giving this some consideration.

Museum Hours for the Johnston Station Historical Society

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
and the second Sunday of each month
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Please call the museum to schedule a time other than the times listed above. Museum phone 515-331-0687

Flag Pole cont.' from pg. 1

plate and taking on this task. You also secured the funds in which to make it happen. We know that it entailed coordination between the city of Johnston and the flag company to obtain a permit. It's a pleasure to work with you on the board and know that you are a "follow through" guy. The members of JHS thank you.



Board Members' Activities

Recently Nancy has been working with a new Johnston resident, who is sharing her experience with writing grants. She has been teaching Nancy the steps needed to successfully request a grant.

Nancy and Lois attended a luncheon called Community Connection at the Lions Club. It was conducted by Johnston Community Education in order for those attending to network with other organizations in Johnston. Each person attending gave a small presentation about who they represent and what they can provide to the community.

AI has met with the city of Johnston engineer, Eric to find out the specs on finishing the base of the sign. The work has begun to complete the base.

Young at Heart

Throughout Polk County there are senior centers, activity centers and fitness clubs. However, at Johnston's Polk County facility, Crown Point encompasses all three of these things. Located off of Pioneer Parkway in Johnston, Crown Point sets adjacent to Terra Lake Park. This center's ambiance, activities, meals and celebrations bring people together of all ages, thus making Crown Point the most 'young at heart'. As the City moves forward with this area adding fishing piers, picnic shelters, and an amphitheater, opportunities for our attendees will increase. With the current development, Crown Point is becoming the Crown Jewel of the area.

The history of Crown Point is a unique one; for its original purpose was built with private means and granted limited access to Johnston residents. However, as time evolved, Crown Point has become a cornerstone within the Johnston community due to a successful partnership between Polk County and the City of Johnston. Built by Pioneer Hi Bred in 1978, Crown Point was originally used as a clubhouse for Johnston's Green Meadow residents. However, in 1995, Pioneer donated Crown Point to the City of Johnston, who continued to use the facility for community purposes. Then, in 2007, a group of Johnston residents approached the Johnston City Council and requested that a Monday through Friday Congregate Meal Site/Activity Center be available for the community. Former Polk County Board of Supervisor, E.J. Giovannetti, was instrumental in ensuring that the seniors' wish for a 'Senior Center' was granted. Thus, Crown Point Senior Center was born on July 14th 2008. Since then, the partnership between Polk County and the City of Johnston has continued to be a blessing to Boomers' and Seniors' residing in the surrounding area.

While the primary purpose for Crown Point was to be that of a congregate meal site, over the past eight years, the facility's purpose has developed beyond such boundaries and instead plays a more focal role to both the community and the city. Here, "Baby Boomers" and "Seniors" visit our facility more for the county's sponsored weekly activities in addition to the meals. Such weekly sponsored activities include Pickle Ball, Tennis, Silver Sneakers, Wii-Bowling, Yoga, and ZUMBA Gold. Additionally, as an alternative to weekly physical activity, Crown Point also provides traditional options such as quilting, knitting & crocheting, bridge, bingo, mahjong, canasta, pitch, etc. on a weekly basis. Either way, all of our activities have shown to be quite popular within the community and function as a great way for seniors and boomers to keep physically and mentally sharp during their 'retirement age'. Lastly, Crown Point has been very fortunate to work with the Johnston Senior Advisory Board (through City of Johnston Parks and Rec). With the help of their financial support, our attendees have the privilege of off-site excursions and wonderful musical entertainment and dances throughout the year.

Another key feature of Crown Point is our attendees' constant encouragement and contribution of community service to the area. Many of our talented and proficient attendees have converted Crown Point's resources into a backdrop for various social and community service projects including: hospice angels, NICU babies, inner city and Johnston Community schools. Other service projects include: Quilts of Valor, Red Hearts, Prayer shawls, chemotherapy port pads, and busy blankets for Alzheimer patients. Volunteerism is at the core of our being. Our program would not be successful without the generosity of so many, whether it is washing dishes, serving food, sewing, knitting or sharing a musical talent. Our desire to serve others is prevalent throughout our center.

Aside from these physical and social activities, Crown Point also provides educational presentations and activities to all available attendees. From police detectives and health specialists to political candidates and historical presentations, Crown Point incorporates the ability for boomers and seniors to learn something new on a daily basis. Additionally, our program offers monthly blood pressure checks, foot care, wellness clinics and flu shots twice a year as an effort to encourage preventative care and healthy living.

Most importantly, while the usual senior center demographic is aged 55 and older, here at Crown Point, we urge all "Baby Boomers" and "Seniors" to invite kids and grandkids as guests of the center. Even for our annual events, such as holiday parties, State Fair Extravaganza, and school plays, Crown Point tries to maintain a youthful atmosphere by incorporating kids/grandkids into our activities. Intergenerational connectivity is important to us. Sticking to the belief that youth is good for the soul, like Frank Sinatra's song says. Crown Point proves that for as rich as we are, it's much better by far, "to be young at heart."

Caroline Ver Schuer has been our site coordinator since we opened eight years ago. You will find her at Crown Point, Monday through Friday 9:00 to 3:00. We invite you to take a drive to Johnston. See for yourself it's not just all about the meal. It's a sense of belonging, community pride and extended family during a noon meal. As you'll quickly discover, Crown Point's food may bring people together, but it's our activities and hospitality that draws boomers and seniors back on a regular basis. We look forward to meeting you, soon!

Article submitted by Caroline Ver Schuer
Johnston/Polk County Site Coordinator
6300 Pioneer Parkway
Johnston, IA 50131
515 251-3707

Johnston Youth Sports

Johnston High School Girls Softball team won the Class 5A softball championship, beating Pleasant Valley 3-2 in Fort Dodge on Friday, July 22, 2016. Johnston's senior, Haylee Towers was confident her team would take home the championship trophy this year, having been there for 4 straight years. She was quoted in the Des Moines Register as saying, "We've been doing this four times, and I knew this was our time."

Towers, the all-tournament team captain, threw a four-hitter and watched from the on-deck circle while Brooke Sandstoe, a senior, drove the ball into the outfield as teammates shouted with joy.

Johnston (41-4) took second in 2013, won in 2014, then lost last year to Waukee. Congratulations to our girls softball team. They deserved a championship win. Hard work and lots of talent paid off.

Johnston's Little League Team

I'm sure most of you have already heard the story of our Little League champions. The 14-member team was one of eight to qualify and represent the United States in the 16-team tournament held in Williamsport, PA in August. The all-star team was represented by three teams from grades seven and eight. The all-star season began in July and culminated in a district three championship and a win at the state tournament. They then advanced to the regionals, then headed to Williamsport. And as they say, the rest is history. They won two games, lost two at the World Series, making them the fourth best team in the nation.

Win or lose, this team represented Johnston, Iowa in such a positive fashion. They were good role models for the youth that will follow, showing what can be achieved with hard work and dedication. What a great experience for these little guys to travel that far away, play a sport they love, and with their families and friends cheering for them. You made Johnston proud!!

Donations

Below are the individuals/foundations who have donated to the work of preserving the history of Johnston since the last newsletter. We would like to recognize these individuals:

Michael & Linda Knight
Clive & Peggy Johnston
Nick Orlich
Dave & Patricia Goss
Keith Westbrook
Thomas M. Rock
Deb Krambeck
Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of you for your generous donation. Without your donations of money and/or items, we would not be able to maintain this vast history.

Recent Purchases

With donated money, it was possible for us to purchase a new computer this year. Keith has been busy transferring the files from the old computer to the new Samsung. We thank you, Keith, for giving your time and talent to make that happen.

Sundae in the Park Results

The city of Johnston once again held their Sundae in the Park on Sunday, August 7 from 6-8:00 p.m.. This was free for all Johnston residents and was held between the library and the museum. There was live music, the barn was open for youth organizations to advertise, and we once again opened the museum for tours. We had a total of 54 people tour the museum. Thanks to Lois, Nancy, Marilyn and Deb for giving their time to be available to provide tours.

Unique Telephone Display

John and Ruth Roskam, members of the Johnston Historical Society, have an attractive display of antique phones in our museum. John worked many years at the phone company and collects phones. He changes the display from time to time. He currently has an antique crank wallphone, and several Princess phones in varying colors, along with other black rotary dial phones. In addition to the glass display cabinet for the phones, he recently loaned us an antique telephone stand with a seat. It is such an unusual and attractive piece of furniture.

We thank John for the unique display. It certainly attracts the young and even older visitors. Many curious children, who tour the museum, have never seen a rotary dial or push button phone. If you are advanced in years, it is fun to reminisce. We get many interesting questions on this new asset to our museum.



In Loving Memory...

Out of respect for the grieving family, who have had to process the loss of their loved one, we delayed printing his obituary until this newsletter.

Col. Richard E. Garland of Johnston passed from this earth surrounded by family March 19, 2016. Dick was born July 22, 1936 to Katherine Lewis Garland and Gayle G. Garland in Des Moines, Iowa.

Dick graduated from Johnston High School in 1955 where he met the love of his life, Carol Yvonne Cox. Dick and Carol were married on December 23, 1956 and from this union they were blessed with four children and eight grandchildren left to cherish his memory. Terry A. (Cheryl) Garland, children Jacob and Alexandra; Andrea L (Lynn Schreder) Garland; Rick M. (Shelly) Garland, children Hunter, Dyland and Cody; and Kristin M (Jeff) Soelberg, children Alison, Andrew and Ashlyn. Also left behind are three sisters, Marilyn (Law) Coonley, Sandra (Dave) Gapinski and Barbara Garland.

Dick was the epitome of the Citizen Soldier and devoted his life to serving his country and community. His love for his country was demonstrated by his 36 years as a full time employee for the Iowa National Guard. He retired in 1991 at the rank of Colonel and was assigned as the Defense Movement Coordinator for the Iowa Guard. during his long, distinguished career, he attended many technician and military schools and had a BA degree from Western Illinois University. He received many awards and commendations, including two Meritorious Service Medals. He will always be remembered for his compassion for everyone, especially those in uniform. He enjoyed mentoring and developing younger soldiers and took great pride in watching them grow into leaders of the Guard today.

Dick was preceded in death by his mother, father and stepfather, Russell E. Law.

Dick was very active in the community of Johnston. He served on city council and was mayor problem at one time. He and Carol and their four children were all Johnston alumni. Dick and Carol were both active in Johnston School activities supporting the various sports in which their children were involved.

His sister, Marilyn Law Coonley, is a current Johnston Historical Society Board member and when asked about her brother, she simply said, "I wish Dick would have had the opportunity to tour the museum and see the vast history that occupies these rooms." She especially knows he would have enjoyed the Military Room which consists of many pictures and information on Camp Dodge. Due to her father's position with the Iowa National Guard and the Army, their family was raised at Camp Dodge and, of course, Dick was affiliated with the Iowa National Guard until his retirement.

Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Nancy Budrevich. If anyone knows of others, please let Nancy know. Nancy can be contacted by mail: 6161 Northglenn Dr., Johnston, IA, 50131; by email: jshs@q.com; or by phone: 515-331-0687. Over 1,000 Johnston related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Johnston (Station) Historical Society
6161 Northglenn Dr
Johnston, IA 50131

Johnston Historical Board Members

Lois Waggoner, President
Deb Krambeck, Secretary
Terri Holmgren, Archivist
Alan Lathrum, Membership

Michael Knight, Vice President
Nancy Budrevich, Treasurer
Marilyn Coonley, Membership

Museum phone: 515-331-0687
Website: www.johnstoniowahistorical.org

Mark Your Calendars

Society Events

November 3, 2016

Annual Soup Supper 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the lower level of the barn

City Events

May 24, 2016 -October 4,
2016

Johnston Farmers Market each Tuesday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in City Hall parking lot