

# Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 20, Issue 1

Newsletter

January/ February

## President's Column:

The Museum has been closed January and February. We were able to do much needed maintenance and cleaning. There is a new Board of Directors consisting of five old and two new members. The old members are Dick Hyde, Carla Johns, Jan Jensen, Sharon Hyde and Chris Kinsey. The two new members are former board member Dick Tarlton and Deb Krambeck. The new officers are President Dick Hyde, Vice President Dick Tarlton, Secretary Deb Krambrick, Treasurer Carla Johns

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## 2012 Board of Directors Johnston Historical Society

President: Dick Hyde is a 1950 graduate of Johnston Consolidated school

Vice President: Dick Tarlton is a 1950 graduate of Johnston Consolidated School

Secretary: Deb Krambrick is a 1963 graduate of Johnston High School

Treasurer: Carla Johns is a 1963 graduate of Johnston Consolidated School

Archivist: Jan Jensen married to a 1962 graduate of Johnston Consolidated School (Jerry Jensen)

Board Member: Sharon Hyde is a 1979 graduate of Johnston High School

Board Member: Chris Kinsey is a 1974 graduate of Johnston High School

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and Archivist Jan Jensen. Jackie Rieneke and Wanda Slauson have left the board and will be missed. Jackie for her organizational skills and for being secretary for the last three years. Wanda served as vice president and has been a dedicated member of the board. The new board will continue to preserve the history and artifacts depicting Johnston's past and future. The cemeteries in Johnston are in disrepair and need to be worked on this spring. The society is in need of volunteers for this project. Anyone interested should contact Dick Hyde at the museum on Tuesdays from 2-4pm. The phone number is 515-331-0687.

## **Johnston History Quiz**

Answers are on the bottom of page 6

1. In what year was the official groundbreaking for the Saylorville Dam?
  - a. 1959
  - b. 1963
  - c. 1965
  
2. In what year was the final section of the dam completed?
  - a. 1972
  - b. 1975
  - c. 1981

## Fifty Years Ago in Johnston

Fifty years ago Johnston was an unincorporated community. It had no city government. Initiatives to improve the community were spearheaded by the Johnston Lions Club. Police protection was provided by the Polk County Sheriff's Department. There were no stop lights, only a few stop signs, and no speed limit. Merle Hay Road was made of brick and most other roads were dirt or gravel. The county maintained the roads with a road grader. Most homes received their water from wells located on their property. Trains ran on the interurban track which ran parallel to the high school football field and behind the Dairy Sweet. There were no fast food restaurants although you could order hot dogs and hamburgers at the Dairy Sweet. Pizza was available only in Des Moines.

The Johnston High School class of 1962 had 49 graduates. They attended kindergarten through grade 12 in the same building. Charles Varner was the superintendent and Jack Sims was the principal. Girls played half-court basketball and took Home Ec; boys took shop. The chalk boards were made of slate and the worksheets smelled of mimeograph fluid. Al's Texaco was located next to the school and housed Irene's Ice Cream Shop. Students could walk to the shop during their lunch period and order ice cream or buy candy.

If you would like to share memories of Johnston 50 years ago, please send them to the Johnston Historical Society, 6161 Northglenn Drive, Johnston, IA 50131.

## Johnston's Developing Bridge Between Preschool and Kindergarten

The Johnston school district is working to create a developmental kindergarten, or pre-kindergarten, program to kick off in the fall.

The program would be used as a bridge between four-year old preschool and kindergarten for students whose parents would like more time before traditional kindergarten.

The school thinks that the program will gain a lot of interest as 24 families were already planning to open enroll in a similar program in Dallas Center Grimes before Johnston announced this program.

### Obituaries

Obituaries are compiled by Dick Tarlton. This is a known list of deaths that Dick could obtain. If anyone knows of others please let Dick know. Our address is 6161 Northglenn Dr. Johnston, IA 50131 or contact us by email: [JSHS@Q.COM](mailto:JSHS@Q.COM) or phone 515-331-0687. Over 700 Johnston School related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

Name	Class	Date of Death
Della Argenta Albright	1939	12-14-11
Dorothy Jo Williamson Ebert	1942	10-10-11
Jarret Goodman	1943	12-6-11
Mary Jo Molson Perin	1958	11-30-11
Viola Mortimer	1979	7-5-10
Sherrie Marie Hemry	1991	11-5-11
Larry Ashley	1960	1-4-12
Ian Riemenschneider	2000	10-14-11
Lynn McClain Demoss	1968	9-23-11

## City News

In August 2011, 82% of Johnston voters approved building a public safety building and a second fire station. Several meetings have gone on since that time. The public safety building will be located at Merle Hay Road and NW 64th place. The second fire station annex will be located at 103rd St and NW 62nd Ave. It is expected that the second fire station annex will be completed and in service by the end of the year. The public safety building will be completed in the spring of 2013. It is also expected that the city will hire 3 career firefighters/EMTs to work at the new second fire station. Both buildings were designed by members of the Johnston police and fire departments. We will continue to provide updates on the project as it moves forward.

The historical society is looking to find history on Johnston's public safety over the years. If you know any history, or have any photos or articles, please let us know.

On January 17th 2012 two new officers (Officer Cale McClain and Officer Jon Alexander) were sworn in by mayor Paula Dierenfeld. Congratulations to these two officers.

### Answers to History Quiz

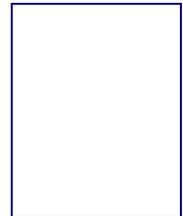
1. Year of the Saylorville Dam groundbreaking?  
c. 1965

2. Year the final section was completed?  
b. 1975

## Mark Your Calendars

March 15th: the members of the Johnston Station Historical Society will celebrate St Patrick's Day on Thursday, March 15th from 5pm until 7pm in the Barn. 5 to 6 will be a social hour and a corned beef and cabbage potluck dinner will begin at 6pm. The corned beef, cabbage and drink will be provided. Members are asked to bring a vegetable side dish, dessert or bread. Guests are welcome. For more information contact the museum at 515-331-0687.

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6161 Northglenn Dr  
Johnston, IA 50131



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED