



PREMIERE EDITION

APRIL 2023

JCity Center for Hope and Renewal launches online, print publications

New nonprofit taps volunteers to fill local news void with old, new technology

It's been over 30 years since a local newspaper circulated in Johnston City. A recent community survey indicates that a majority of residents prefer traditional media like newspapers and television for local stories, while a growing percentage embrace newer technology such as social media and podcasts. JCity Center for Hope and Renewal, Inc., a new nonprofit community development organization launched by JCity Church and led by its former pastor, has a vision for bridging the digital divide by producing a local news podcast with a companion printed edition.

Pastor Keith Fletcher and his wife Sarah (Blades) grew up in Johnston City, but upon graduation from JCHS in 1977, began a 40-year ministry encompassing local church, denominational, and parachurch positions. Keith served 14 years as editor-in-chief at Randall House, a Christian publisher in Nashville, Tenn., and Sarah was editor/designer for 14 years for a national women's ministry magazine. These experiences prepared the couple to return to their home town with the ambition to "inform, promote, and unite" their community using multi-faceted communication methods.

"We realize this little news sheet cannot measure up to the venerable *Johnston City Progress*," Keith says of the locally owned, weekly newspaper he remembers as a child. *The Progress* began publication in the early 1900s and ceased to be a locally produced newspaper in 1971.

At present JCity Center is staffed by volunteers and supported only by local funding. A partner agency, Take Action Today, that shares space at 504 E. Broadway (Christian Church's former parsonage), helped build an in-house recording studio for its bimonthly video podcast, "The Recovery Lab."

"We pray *JCity Arrow News*, though a small beginning, will grow in size, circulation, and frequency of publication," Keith stated, acknowledging the



success of this venture will require increased local interest and support. Donations will provide funding, and volunteer reporters, photographers, editors, and photojournalists, as well as local distribution points are essential if this venture continues. The current goal is to publish a monthly print edition subsequent to the release of the video podcast on YouTube and Facebook. Between issues, short video segments will be released via social media, and compiled into the monthly 20-30 minute video podcast.

To volunteer or contribute to *JCity Arrow News*, call 618-952-1272, email jcitycenter@gmail.com, see the website jcity.center or visit the office in person located on Broadway next door to JCity Church.



Another JCHS Grad to Receive \$1,000

Lions add 3rd scholarship after fish fry success

The Johnston City Lions raised \$1,116 in this year's April 1 fish fry. Funds are earmarked for the club's annual college scholarship program. Club members reviewed 17 applications at a recent meeting to choose 3 deserving college-bound seniors who each will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Club president Phil Crosby states, "This may have been our most successful fish fry." According to Crosby, about 16 members make up the local chapter, and they stay

LION BOB MILLER PREPARES FRENCH FIES FOR CLUB-SPONSORED FISH FRY

busy throughout the year with fundraising activities. As part of Lion Clubs International, the local chapter provides eye glasses for needy children and adults and supports various other charities including JCity Center for Hope and Renewal. Regular meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 6:30 pm, in the fellowship hall of JCity Church, 609 Monroe Ave. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the club is welcome to attend.

After move, transportation challenge, Good News Club attendance holds

An after-school club that began in February at Jefferson School endured a location change and transportation issues but continues to average 27 Kindergarten and elementary students (up to fifth grade). Good News Club is an outreach of CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) that provides interested students an opportunity to meet after school for biblical instruction. According to the CEF website, the organization exceeds 3,000 workers globally, with representatives in nearly every country instructing over 15 million children each year.

After flood damage at the school prior spring break, the club relocated to JCity Church, one of the

local church sponsors of the program. Randy McIntosh, a retired school custodian, transports Jefferson and Lincoln students by church bus to the new location. Upon arrival, volunteers (3 are retired educators) teach children songs, games, and Bible stories, guided by CEF's curricula. Judith Zanotti, Carolyn Grant, and Marta Phillips of Johnston City, and Dennis and Cindy Mohr of Herrin supervise the club. All volunteers in the program are vetted and trained Bible teachers. Good News Club's remaining meetings are April 17 and 24. Interested parents may contact Marta Phillips, 618-983-5254, for more information.

Happy Easter
KIDS' EVENTS
SATURDAY, April 8

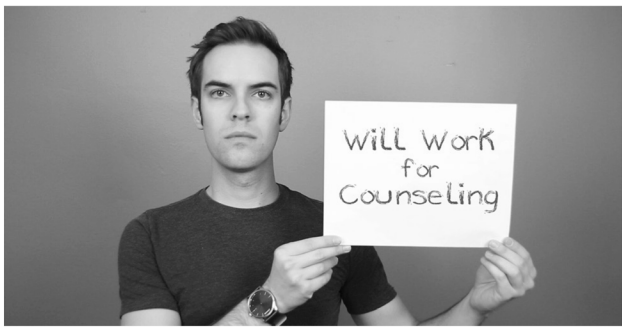
- **Breakfast with the Bunny**
8:00-10:00 am
Free breakfast for kids, crafts, photo ops, sponsored by Legence Bank
Andresen's Cafe, 618-983-6991
- **Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt**
1:00 pm
Arrowhead Park, 618-983-6651



Got Skills?
HELP FOR MANAGING EVERYDAY LIFE
Smart Money: 'Bank on It!'

Got Skills? Here's help with money matters

Volunteers from Legence Bank are leading a free community education program called "Smart Money: 'Bank on It!'" The workshops began April 4 at JCity Center, 504 E. Broadway. "Got Skills?" offers "help for managing every day life." Laura Small and Debbie Paris from the local Legence branch facilitated the first workshop, "How to Keep Your Dough Fresh." The first session introduced basic banking services. According to organizers, the program, though sponsored by Legence Bank, is applicable to anyone regardless of a banking relationship. Other titles include "How to Pay Your Bills (Almost) Painlessly on Time," April 11; "How to Deal with Debt/Credit Problems," April 18; "How to Avoid Common Rip-Offs," April 25. All classes start at 6:30 pm and are free and open to the public. Preregistration is requested but not required. See www.jcity.center or call 618-952-1272 for more information.



Innovative counseling program helps clients as they serve community

JCity Center for Hope and Renewal now offers "invested counseling." This unique program allows individuals, couples, and families exchange community service (or local church ministry) for counseling sessions. Invested counseling is predominantly for the under-insured, the uninsured, or those with government-provided coverage limiting their choice of service provider.

The types of counseling available include mental health, trauma, relationships, grief, conflict resolution, and spiritual issues. Depending on availability, counselors may see children and teens, as well as adults. Clients with private or employer-provided insurance coverage may not qualify for invested counseling but will be referred to a partner agency, Caring Counseling Ministries.

For those unable to fulfill the community service requirement, i.e., the elderly, disabled, small children, a family member or friend may work on behalf of the client. Service hours not under direct supervision of JCity Center can be verified by a pastor or community leader.

The professionals providing invested counseling services are well-trained Christian counselors, either clinical or pastoral, who volunteer their time in our community. For more information, call 618-952-1272 or email jcitycenter@gmail.com.

Local Business Leaders Gather Monthly

The second monthly meeting of Johnston City area business leaders was held April 4 at Andresen's Cafe. The first meeting in March garnered an enthusiastic response. According to an email invitation from Alysa Bunting of Indigo Realty, the purpose of this meeting is to provide informa-

tion on upcoming events and to encourage local business owners to work together. She concluded that "a strong team makes a strong community." The group meets on the first Tuesday each month at 9:00 am in Andresen's event center.

Community Calendar

Seasonal & Special Events

- APRIL 7—SCHOOL HOLIDAY
Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm, First United Methodist, 618-983-5150
- APRIL 10—SCHOOL HOLIDAY
- APRIL 18—TAX DAY
- APRIL 20
Volunteer/Worker Mtg. for JC Kids' Lunch Bunch, 6:30 pm, JCity Church, 618-983-5254
- APRIL 21
Art Show, 4-6 pm, Johnston City High School, 618-983-8638
- APRIL 27
Spring Concert, 7:00 pm, JCHS, 618-983-8638
- APRIL 30
Fifth Sunday Night Community Sing, 6:00 pm (meal served 5:30), Farmers Market area on Broadway, 618-983-5254

Weekly Events

- SATURDAYS
Free Community Meal (drive-thru), 5:30-6:00, JCity Church, 609 Monroe, 983-5254 (no meal April 7)
- MONDAYS
Good News Club (limit K-5 w/parental perm.), 3:00-4:45 pm (thru April 24, no club Apr. 10), JCity Church
- MONDAYS
SIMI (Southern Illinois Men of Integrity), 7:00 pm, Call 618-952-1272 for details.
- TUESDAYS
Got Skills?—Smart Money, 6:30 pm, JCity Center, 504 E. Broadway, 618-952-1272 (April 4-April 25)
- FRIDAYS
Farmer's Market, 3:00-6:00 pm, Downtown—Broadway & Washington (April 14-Oct.)

Monthly Events

- 1ST TUESDAY
Business Leaders Mtg. 9:00 am, Andresen's, 618-534-0303 or 618-922-8089
- 1ST & 3RD TUESDAYS
Lions Club, 6:30 pm, JCity Church, 618-922-8005
- 1ST THURSDAY
Ministerial Alliance Mtg., 6:00 pm, JCity Center, 504 E. Broadway, 618-952-1272
- 2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS
City Council Mtg., 5:00 pm, Scout Cabin, 618-983-6651
- 3RD MONDAY
Planning Commission Mtg., 4:00 pm, JCity Church, 618-983-6651
- 3RD THURSDAY
School Board Mtg., 7:00 pm, Unit Office, 200 E. 12th, 618-983-8021



Food Service

- PART-TIME WAITRESS. Days & Sundays. Additional hours available for events. Apply in person. Andresen's Cafe.
- COOKS & DELIVERY DRIVERS. Apply in person after 4:00 pm. T-Moe's Pizza.
- KITCHEN HELP. Chartwells (food service provider for JC schools). Call 618-983-6404.
- CREW TEAM MEMBER. Johnston City McDonald's. Apply online www.mchire.com.

Retail

- SALES ASSOCIATE, Johnston City ZX. Search Indeed.com "Johnston City ZX" Jobs and Careers.

School Positions

- K-12 MUSIC TEACHER. Send Letter of Application, resume, proof of teaching certificate with appropriate certifications, 4 references and university transcripts/credentials to Mrs. Kathy Clark, Superintendent, Johnston City CUSD #1, 200 E. 12th St., Johnston City, IL 62951.
- HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING SPONSOR. Send a Letter of Application, resume, and proof of meeting the requirements in the IHSA by-law 2.070 "Qualifications of Coaches" to Mr. Josh Pietrantonio, IHSA Athletic Director, Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, 200 E. 12th Street, Johnston City, IL 62951
- MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSISTANT BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH. Send a Letter of Application, resume, and proof of meeting the requirements in the IHSA by-law 2.070 "Qualifications of Coaches" to Mr. Jim Kowzan, SIJHSAA Athletic Director, Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, 200 E. 12th Street, Johnston City, IL 62951
- 5TH AND 6TH GRADE EXTENDED SEASON BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH. Send a Letter of Application, resume, and proof of meeting the requirements in the IHSA by-law 2.070 "Qualifications of Coaches" to Mr. Jim Kowzan, SIJHSAA Athletic Director, Johnston City C.U.S.D. #1, 200 E. 12th Street, Johnston City, IL 62951
- SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIANS. Criminal background required. Applications available at Unit Office, 200 E. 12th.
- SCHOOL BUS MONITORS & DRIVERS. Illinois Central School Bus is hiring school bus monitors and drivers. See jcindians.org for information and how to apply. Questions, contact Illinois Central Bus Garage, 618-800-6402.
- KITCHEN HELP. Chartwells (food service provider for JC schools). Call 618-983-6404.

Independent Contractor

- SHOPPER & DELIVERY DRIVER for Instacart. See indeed.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

- PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST. 2-4 hrs. per week as volunteer. Required HIPAA training provided. JCity Center, 618-952-1272
- COMMUNITY EDUCATOR (basic life skills). Volunteer opportunities for 4-5 1 hr. sessions in a month. JCity Center, 618-952-1272.
- RENOVATIONS & YARD WORK. Volunteer help needed for basic carpentry, flooring installation, painting (interior & exterior), outside clean-up. JCity Center, 618-952-1272.
- LUNCH DISTRIBUTION. Volunteers to provide/serve meals (in small quantities) at daily lunch distribution 11:30-12:30, JCity Center, 618-952-1272.
- SUMMER MEALS HELP. JC Kids Lunch Bunch needs volunteers to help prepare, transport, distribute meals in summer meals program, call 618-983-5254.
- LITERATURE DISTRIBUTION. JC Kids Lunch Bunch & JCity Center seek able-bodied, cheerful volunteers to distribute literature (fliers, door hangers) all over town. Call 618-983-5254 or 618-952-1272.
- AV/SOUND TECH. JCity Church is seeking volunteers to assist during services w/ livestream, video projection, & sound. Email jcitychurchfbw@gmail.com.
- MUSICIANS. Local churches seeking volunteer musicians on keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, drums. Christian testimony & church attendance required. Call 618-952-1272 for more information.

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504 E. Broadway Blvd., Johnston City, IL 62951, 618-952-1272, jcitycenter@gmail.com, www.jcity.center

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To submit news items, story ideas, events, employment/volunteer opportunities, donations, please call 618-952-1272 or email jcitycenter@gmail.com. All items for publication must pertain to events, individuals, or jobs located within Johnston City, Illinois.

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