

JC schools plan downtown back-to-school bash

BY BROOKE SCHLYER
JOHNSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Adventure awaits Johnston City students and families at the district's first-ever Back-to-School Bash. This free celebration begins Friday, August 1, 5:00 pm. Several blocks of downtown will be transformed into a hub of fun activities, services, and giveaways to help families prepare for

the 2025-2026 school year. Families attending the bash will have access to an array of free services and items provided by the Full-Service Community Schools grant as well as local businesses and organizations, including:

- Games and activities
- School and Community Partner resources
- Dental screenings from Dental Safari

- Haircuts on-site and redeemable haircut vouchers
- Clothing giveaway
- Voucher for a special gift at your student's school

Due to limited space, backpacks containing school supplies will not be distributed at this event. Instead, all students (Pre-K through 12th grade) will receive a backpack and school supplies at their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Tomahawk Hill developers Rob and Laura Spiller stand in the great room/kitchen area of a three-bedroom home for sale on Joy Lane (Tim Hastings photo).

Local developer expands subdivision There's a new street in town

BY TIM HASTINGS

Tomahawk Hill Subdivision developers Rob and Laura Spiller have given Johnston City a new street. "We put in 'Joy Lane,' Laura said. "It's the one road we got to name so it's named after my husband's late mother Joy Spiller. We're very proud of that." Joy Lane runs north and south and intersects with Marilyn Street.

The Joy Street home features a great room with ample views of Tomahawk Lake. The home has two baths and a two-car garage. Kristen Anastasi-Samples of House 2 Home Realty serves as the listing agent for the Joy Lane homes and lots located on Tomahawk Lake.

The Spillers manage nine two-bedroom homes they built on Marilyn Street in the subdivision and are pleased with the camaraderie developing in the neighborhood. "They've organized Bingo games and are planning an ice cream social," Rob said.

The Spillers also brought in the electric, sewer, and water hookups for the new street. Futiva is expected to install fiber optic soon.

Tomahawk Hill Subdivision is on the northwest side of town, just south of the intersection of East 15th and Durham Streets.

The Spillers have completed a new three-bedroom home on Joy Street and are nearing completion of a second three-bedroom home. "We have a way to go before the development is finished," Laura said.

Although she's excited about finishing the subdivision and continuing to rehab older homes in Johnston City, Laura believes rest may be in sight. "The next stop for us might be a long vacation," she shares.

Find the Spillers and Tomahawk Lake Subdivision on Facebook.



Library, JCFD work together to provide activities encouraging kids to read this summer



EMT Firefighter/First Responder Nancee Burton shows a young library patron what to expect during an ambulance call. Burton graduated with honors from John A Logan College on May 17 with an associate's degree of applied science in EMS and certification of achievement for Nationally Registered Paramedic. (Library photo)

The Johnston City library launched its annual summer reading program at the Fire Station, June 10. The JC Fire Department, EMTs, local police, and street crews were on hand with various vehicles and equipment on display. Children and parents were able to see the equipment up close and watch first responders demonstrate how they prepare for emergency situations. Not all vehicles displayed are currently in use. The Tessone family brought their vintage 1960s model police cruiser. Other activities in June included a magic show and the Bubble Bus at the Fireworks Spectacular, June 27.

The reading program returns to the fire station, July 8, 2:00 pm for Water Fun Day. Activities continue through July 22 with special programs at the library (506 Washington Ave.) and the Scout Cabin (1308 Parkway Drive).

The reading program, targets children from preschool through eighth grade. Participation requires registration and a library card, both obtainable at the library. Call 618-983-6359 for more information.



ABOVE: A young reader tries on a firefighter's uniform at the kickoff of the Library's Summer Reading Program held at the fire station (Library photo)

TOP LEFT: Aerial view showing lot lines and a sunset photo (left) of the lake flanked by new homes in Tomahawk Hill subdivision (developer photos).

Happy
4TH OF JULY

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Frameable copy of the Declaration of Independence

Back-to-School Bash (FROM P. 1)

school's open house, orientation, or class schedule pick-up day. This way, no student misses out. Additionally, all families who keep their voucher can redeem it for an exclusive gift when they collect their student's backpack and school supplies.

The Full-Service Community School (FSCS) grant is providing the funding for the school supplies and the back-to-school event. Johnston City High School FSCS Coordinator Heather Miller shares that this event is designed to ease the stress that parents and guardians face when preparing their child for back to school.

"With prices continuing to rise, it can become a financial strain just to make sure each child has what they need to start the school year prepared," Miller explains. "It's a challenge that often goes unnoticed, but it's very real for a lot of parents."

Each Johnston City school will have booths set up where families can meet with administration and staff, learn about extracurricular activities, and ask questions about school sports, after-school programs, and clubs. Members of Johnston City's HOSA club will be on-site, offering free blood pressure checks, free JCHS bell schedule stickers, and free first-aid kits.

Washington Middle School FSCS Liaison Megan Hearn emphasizes the convenience of having multiple services in one place for busy parents.

"The Back-to-School Bash is at a later time frame in the day, so most parents working traditional hours should be off or can get off in time to take their child to this Dental Safari screening without the hassle of rushing back and forth from work," she says. "Being able to visit multiple resources at the same time comes in handy. You can have a one-stop shop."

Parents and children

can choose from a selection of free meals. Andresen's Cafe is serving up hamburgers and hot dogs, T-Moe's will offer delicious slices of pizza, while Blondie's Bakery will provide cookies and brownies for dessert.

Ronda Koch, Washington Middle School FSCS Coordinator and the WMS FSCS Advisory Team are leading planning efforts. This team includes Hearn, WMS Principal Kristina Armes, WMS Student Advocate Janel Chamness, WMS Teacher Matthew Leitzen, Lincoln Elementary Secretary Brooke Helsley, and WMS students Dominic Helsley and Miles Leitzen.

The group has spent months bringing community partners together for this event with the common goal of supporting Johnston City families and students.

"The support for Johnston City schools and the Back-to-School Bash by community businesses and organizations has been amazing," Koch reflects. "I can tell when talking with our Johnston City community partners that there is a deep sense of caring for students and our schools."

Students will stay entertained with a DJ, photo booths, inflatables, arts and crafts, sidewalk chalk, face painting, and giveaways.

The Mike Dean Memorial Blood Drive will take place the same day from 2:00-6:00 p.m. at Johnston City High School. Sponsored by HOSA, the drive honors beloved JCHS alum and Sesser educator Mike Dean. It also supports the local blood supply and funds scholarships for JCHS students. Community members who donate will be entered into a special giveaway at the Back-to-School Bash.

More information will be released in the lead-up to the Back-to-School Bash. For details contact Ronda Koch, rkoch@jcitydians.org.



SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM Last month, students from the JCHS Educators Rising Club staffed day-camps in the Full-Service Community Schools sponsored enrichment program. Campers completed projects, created memories, made friendships, and learned a lot, too. The next camp in the enrichment program will be held July 7-10. Entitled 'The Great Mess-terpiece,' this camp allows students to dive into a week of creativity and color using paint, crayons, and other arts and crafts supplies. Sign-up at <https://bit.ly/3F8qXIM>

WMS Mobile Pantry provides nourishing food

BY BROOKE SCHLYER
JOHNSTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Washington Middle School officially launched a mobile pantry, June 2, serving 33 families from the Johnston City School District and extending support to community members in need. School staff and volunteers set up the pantry at the downtown pavilion, where they handed out bags filled with non-perishable food and hygiene items.

The mobile pantry offered an assortment of shelf-stable foods, including cans of fruits and vegetables, beans, soup, and evaporated milk, plus essential toiletries like towels, cleaning wipes, hairbrushes, toothbrushes and toothpaste, hand and body wipes, and deodorant.

This program is made possible through the Full-Service Community School (FSCS) grant, which purchased the initial supply

of food and hygiene items for distribution. Washington Middle School's Full-Service Community School Coordinator, Ronda Koch, hopes the pantry will offer meaningful relief to families struggling with food insecurity.

"The Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) initiative is all about identifying and filling the needs of students and families, schools, and the community at large," Koch says. "We

know that many families in the Johnston City school district can benefit from food assistance, and the Washington Middle School FSCS team is here to help our community."

According to Feeding America, more than 1.6 million people in Illinois are food insecure, including over 419,000 children. In Williamson County alone, 15% of children live in households without reliable access to food.



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Adam King, pastor

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Sherry Cisneros, pastor

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(Church of God of Prophecy)
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***JCity Church**
(Free Will Baptist)
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618-983-5254
Dr. Randy Carney, pastor

Johnston City United Pentecostal Church
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618-983-5938
Brandon Abernathy, pastor

***St. Paul's Catholic Church**
1103 Washington Ave.
Johnston City, IL 62951
618-983-5073
Father Brian Barker

***Stiritz United Methodist Church**
Sherry Cisneros, pastor

***Washington Ave. Baptist Church**
9th and Washington
Johnston City, IL 62951
Barry Robertson, pastor
618-694-2995

Other Ministries
***JC Kids' Lunch Bunch**
c/o JCity Church (see above)

***JCity Center for Hope and Renewal**
504 E. Broadway Blvd.
Johnston City, IL 62951
618-952-1272

***Manna Mission**
306 E. Broadway Blvd.
Johnston City, IL 62951
618-983-6262

*Active members of Johnston City Ministerial Alliance

Washington Avenue Baptist Church



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Paul E Lawrence, Agent

305 E Broadway PO Box 118
Johnston City, IL 62951
Bus: 618-983-6953
paul.lawrence.by9j@statefarm.com



COMMUNITY CALENDAR



July Events

JULY 1
JC Business Meet N' Greet, Andresen's, 9am

Lions Club Meeting, JCity Church, 5:30pm

JULY 2
Rotary Club luncheon, Andresen's, Noon

JULY 4 - INDEPENDENCE DAY

JULY 6
Free Movie Night, "I Can Only Imagine," JCity Church, 5 pm

JULY 8
Library's Water Fun Day, Fire Station, 2 pm

JULY 11
Rotary fundraiser Chicken & Raffles, Andresen's

JULY 12
Manna Mission 29th Anniversary Celebration, 9:30 am-1:30 pm

JULY 15
Lions Club Meeting, Andresen's, 9 am

Library program from Carbondale Science Center, Scout Cabin, 2 pm

JULY 16
Rotary Club meeting, Indigo Realty, 4 pm

JULY 21-23
VBS, Washington Ave. Baptist, 5:30-8:00 pm

JULY 22
Game Day at the Library, 2 pm

August Events

AUGUST 1
FSCS Back-to-School Bash, downtown, 5-8 pm

AUGUST 3
Free Movie Night, TBA, JCity Church, 5 pm

AUGUST 5
JC Business Meet N' Greet, Andresen's, 9 am

Lions Club Meeting, JCity Church, 5:30 pm

AUGUST 6
Rotary Club luncheon, Andresen's, Noon

AUGUST 13
First day of school

AUGUST 19
Lions Club Meeting, Andresen's, 9 am

AUGUST 20
Rotary Club meeting, Indigo Realty, 4 pm

AUGUST 31
Fifth Sunday Night Community Sing, Washington Ave. Baptist, 6 pm

Daily Events

Lunch Bunch (summer meals for kids), M-F, 1308 Parkway, 11:30-12:30; 901 W. Broadway, Noon-12:30, noon; JCity Church, 12:15-12:45 (pick up only) *Program ends August 1.*

Weekly Events

THURSDAYS
Food pantry open, First United Methodist, 9 - 1 am (Commodity distribution on the 3rd Thursday each month)

Food pantry/clothes closet First Christian, 3:30-5:30 pm

FRIDAYS
Farmers Market, 7-11 am

For calendar updates, please see Facebook or watch our video podcasts. To submit an event, email date, time, and details to jcitycenter@gmail.com.



Legence Bank donates kayak for Arrowhead

The Johnston City Branch of Legence Bank recently donated a kayak to the City for use at Arrowhead Lake Campground. According to the Johnston City Events page, the City plans to rent out kayaks to campers and visitors at Arrowhead Lake. The new LED sign near the entrance of the park also indicates paddle boats will be available at some point. Numerous improvements are underway at the park, including the construction of a pickle ball court. Wet weather has hindered the completion of this project.



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Each month, volunteers distribute at least 1,000 copies of *Arrow News* to more than 30 local establishments. Here is a partial listing of places to pick up your copy:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
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| Arrowhead Store | JC Public Library |
| Bandy Drugs | JCity Church |
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Current and previous issues of *Arrow News* are available at JCity Center for Hope and Renewal, 504 E. Broadway. Call 618-952-1272 for information about the Center's current business hours.

ARROW NEWS

Never miss an issue, subscribe to the online edition of the *Arrow* here.



jcity.center/subscribe

SUMMER HOURS at JCity Center

Until August 25, JCity Center will be open only for scheduled counseling appointments (call 618-952-1272, leave message). Free meals are available daily at JCity Church (609 Monroe) from 12:15-12:45 Mon.-Fri. through Aug. 1 (Church phone: 618-983-5254). Take Action Today personnel are available in the Johnston City office, Mon.-Thu., 9 am-1 pm, or as scheduling permits (call Take Action Today, 618-212-3171).

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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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Local Banterra branch sponsors winning golf team

For the second year in a row, a golf team sponsored by the Banterra Bank's Johnston City branch won the CCM Annual Golf Scramble. The tournament was held June 20 at Hickory Ridge Golf Course near Carbondale. The 2025 team consisted of Ron Gibbens, Billy Dean, Darron Lindsey, and Denny Bacon, and was one of 27 teams signed up to play. According to branch manager Starla Waters, Gibbens organized the team.

The team sponsored by Goins Ag Supply came in second, and Wade Crew's team placed third.

In the past few years, Banterra has sponsored either a team or a hole, or donated an item for the silent auction held at the event. This year, Banterra became a corporate sponsor by donating \$600 to the event.

The event is a fundraiser for three nonprofits, all with a presence in Johnston City. Caring Counseling Ministries of Marion, the initiators of the golf scramble, offer counseling sessions at JCity Center for Hope and Renewal. JCity Center is the first of four community resource centers operated by Take Action Today. The scramble raised over \$20,000 to be divided (after expenses) among the three organizations.

Several golfers from Johnston City participated including Sidney Stephens (Edward Jones), Doug Hancock, Charlie Clendenin, and a team made up of current JCHS students and recent grads.

Keith Fletcher, director of JCity Center for Hope and Renewal said, "This fundraiser provides at least



FIRST PLACE: The golf team representing the Johnston City branch of Banterra Bank won the 11th Annual CCM Golf Scramble. Pictured (L-R) Billy Dean, Darron Lindsey (holding Gracie, Caring Counseling's therapy dog), Ron Gibbens, and Denny Bacon.

20 percent of our annual budget. We're glad to be included in the event." Fletcher also pointed out

that volunteers from JC Kids' Lunch Bunch help the lunch golfers enjoyed on Friday. "It takes a lot

of work and planning, but the event is well-worth our time. We sincerely thank our local supporters."

FREE MEALS FOR KIDS

LOCATIONS & TIMES

- Mike Dean Memorial Park (by Scout Cabin) — 11:30-12:30
- Lunch Bunch West, open-air site @ 901 W. Broadway (across from Indigo Realty) — 12:00-12:30
- JCity Church (609 Monroe) — 12:15-12:45

Meals served M-F through Aug. 1

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- What do people love to watch on the 4th of July?
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Gerry Glasco, former Johnston City High School coach, now at Texas Tech

Johnston City on ESPN thanks to Coach Glasco

BY JIMMY DEAN

If not for an occasional report of a disaster, an accomplishment by a resident, or someone doing something pretty bad, when was the last time Johnston City was mentioned on television?

Even a mention by channels 3, 6, 8, or 12 would only cover four states.

Now to a more important question: When was Johnston City last mentioned on ESPN?

If your answer is never before the first week of June, then you win the prize.

Gerry Glasco's Cinderella ride with Texas Tech to the Woman's College World Series in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, not only put Johnston City all over the nationwide airways, but also tiny Crab Orchard.

Glasco's Red Raiders up-

set some very good teams on their way to Oklahoma City, where the dream finally ended in the best of three series to Texas.

Gerry and his team also got to meet Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes, who came to Omaha to watch his alma mater (Texas Tech) play.

Lets look back before we go any farther.

Daughters Erin Glasco Stultz played in the College World Series with Texas A&M, Geri Ann made an appearance with Oregon, and Tara coached this year alongside her dad at Texas Tech. It's hard to be a successful coach without a good wife to take care of things while you are concentrating on doing your job. Gerry knows the finest in his wife Vickie who

has shared in all the blood, sweat, and tears that go into being the wife of a coach.

He's also a top-notch recruiter, as proven by getting the best player in softball (Nijaree Canady) to transfer from Stanford to Texas Tech. He also was known to have brought a few players to Johnston City during his tenure.

Gerry graduated from Crab Orchard High School, but later brought his wife Vickie and three daughters Erin, Tara, and Geri Ann to Johnston City where he was hired as an assistant coach to longtime head coach Lyndell Zanotti.

Gerry made a name for himself with hard work, dedication, family backing and the will to step out and try something new. I can remember when my

daughter Kara was playing, Gerry, after a loss, would have the team come out to his house where he had a batting cage set up in his barn so they could hit.

I recently asked her what her thoughts were back in those days.

"No one wanted to go do it after a long bus ride, and a loss, but we knew it would make us better, and it did."

Gerry was one of the first coaches to innovate a play. When a batter would walk and a runner was on third, he would have the batter keep running to second to either get in a hot box so the runner on third could score or get to second base.

We've had some long talks about softball and life. Both of us have lost children in car wrecks and we

both love sports.

I don't think the Indians lost any game I umpired as he and Lyndell coached.. He called me his favorite umpire and good luck charm.

He has paid his dues in coaching, and I doubt this will be his only trip to the WCWS.

And it all started in Johnston City, Illinois.

Jimmy Dean is a freelance writer and a former mayor of Johnston City. He can be reached at jrdean@mchsi.com.



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Adventure
AWAITS



FREE



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH

ALL families of the Johnston City School District are invited downtown Friday, August 1st from 5-8 p.m. for FREE:

- ✓ School/Community Partner resources and giveaways
- ✓ Dental screenings, haircuts on-site and redeemable haircut vouchers, blood pressure checks, free clothing
- ✓ Burgers, hot dogs, pizza, desserts and more
- ✓ DJ, photo booths, arts & crafts, inflatables
- ✓ Voucher redeemable for a special gift at your school!



Mike Dean Memorial Blood Drive, sponsored by JCHS HOSA, SAME day at high school from 2-6 p.m.

Contact: WMS Full-Service Community Schools Coordinator Ronda Koch at rkoch@jcindians.org