

Arrowhead Park gears up for summer season, Fireworks Spectacular

BY ARROW NEWS STAFF

Arrowhead Lake Campground opened for the season in April, kicking off another summer at Johnston City's most popular outdoor destination. A long-anticipated pickleball court is expected to be completed by mid-May, adding a new recreational feature for visitors.

Returning this season as campground co-hosts are local pastors Brad and Kelly Dexter, who have moved their camper back into the park, alongside Shane and Andrea Thompson. The Dexters are planning special events for campers over Memorial Day weekend, including an ice cream social, rock painting for children, and possibly a bluegrass show.

The City has also ap-

proved the replacement of the onsite memorial garden, including the installation of a bench honoring the late Dwight Hoffard, a longtime alderman and the lake's honorary "fish warden."

On the other side of the lake, workers are installing a historic flagpole donated to Lakeview Cemetery by the Eberhardt family.

Looking ahead, the annual Fireworks Spectacular is set for **Friday, June 26**. Activities will begin at 5 p.m., with the fireworks display scheduled for dark, or around 9 p.m. Marion musician Matt Basler will provide live entertainment, and the evening will feature food trucks, vendors, and a variety of children's activities, including the ever-popular Bubble Bus.



Arrowhead Campground is open and the new pickleball courts (in background) lack only nets and fencing. The City expects the courts to be completed by the middle of this month. (Arrow News photo)

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence, organizers say the finale of the fireworks show is expected to be better than ever. Johnston City proudly kicks off the season with one of the first—and best—fireworks shows in southern Illinois.

Fallen service members to be honored at annual Memorial Day ceremony

Johnston City residents are invited to gather in remembrance and gratitude on Monday, May 25, as the community hosts its annual Memorial Day service at the War Memorial on Broadway. The ceremony begins at 9 a.m. and will pay tribute to local men and women who gave their lives in service to the nation.

Organized by retired U.S. Army Sgt. Bill Hatfield, the observance continues a long-standing tradition of honoring those whose names are etched on the memorial wall. Hatfield emphasized the importance of the ceremony, noting it serves as a moment each year to recognize every individual who made

the ultimate sacrifice.

"It's important we let the community know that one day a year, every name on this memorial wall deserves to be spoken," he said.

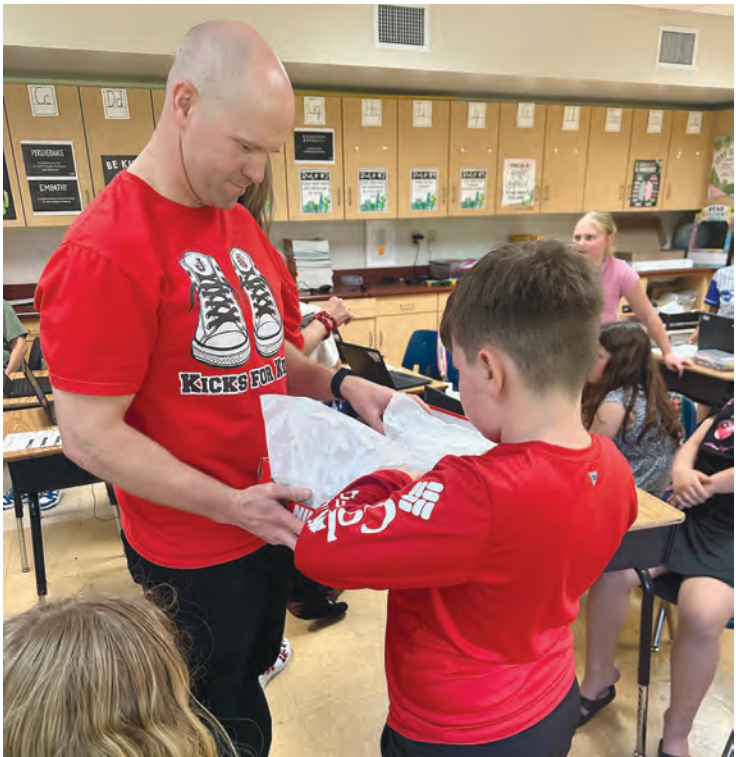
This year's keynote speaker will be Kenny Hilliard, a Desert Storm veteran who retired as the highest-ranking noncommissioned officer in the United States Air Force. His remarks are expected to reflect both personal experience and a broader message of remembrance and service.

The downtown memorial site, familiar to many as the home of the "Lest We Forget" sculpture created by local artist Jack Batts, provides a fitting backdrop for

the ceremony. The life-size statue of a fallen soldier has become a powerful symbol of sacrifice and reflection within the community. Prior to the observance, the City plans to install a new roof, door, and window on the building that supports the memorial wall.

In addition to honoring those lost in combat, organizers stress the service recognizes all who died while serving in uniform. The ceremony stands as a reminder of the cost of freedom and the enduring responsibility to remember.

Community members, veterans and families are encouraged to attend and take part in this meaningful observance.



Kicks for Kids Steps Up—STORY ON PAGE 3

Sidney Stephens of Edward Jones helps a Lincoln Elementary 3rd-grade student try on a new pair of shoes as part of the "Kicks for Kids" program, which continues to expand across Johnston City schools (photo provided by Ashton Stephens).

MORE SCHOOL NEWS ON PAGES 3 & 6

Library organizes community yard sale May 2, sponsors annual puzzle race

The Johnston City Public Library continues to engage the community while supporting its annual Summer Reading Program through a mix of events, sponsorships, and outreach.

The library's annual Puzzle Race, held April 14, brought together nine teams and 45 participants for an evening of friendly competition. Teams of up to five raced to complete

CONTINUED ON P. 2



During a previous year's Memorial Day service, a member of the VFW Ritual Team salutes after placing a wreath in memory of the unknown soldier on the "Lest We Forget" sculpture in downtown Johnston City (Arrow News photo).

Barter to lead Anna Police Department

A longtime Southern Illinois law enforcement officer is stepping into a new role as Anna, Illinois Chief of Police. J.D. Barter was sworn in April 21 and will officially begin May 11, 2026.

Barter is departing the Johnston City Police De-

partment, where his final day is set for May 8. He said the move came unexpectedly after plans to retire, but he chose to accept the position with his family's support.

With his departure, the City has posted an opening and is now searching for its next Chief of Police.

On April 21, J.D. Barter was sworn in as Anna's new chief of police, a role he will begin May 11. His last day in Johnston City is May 8. (photo by Danielle Barter)





CITYWIDE CLEAN UP

Curbside pickup on your regular trash day.

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VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 5

JC Kids' Lunch Bunch returns
June 1 for 17th summer of service

Johnston City's longest-running summer meals program returns June 1, continuing a mission that has become a cornerstone of the community for nearly two decades.

JC Kids' Lunch Bunch will operate through July 31, providing free weekday meals to children and families across Johnston City. Launched in 2010 by JCity Church, the program has grown into a citywide effort supported by volunteers, churches, civic groups, and local donors.

Now entering its 17th season, Lunch Bunch has served tens of thousands of meals—ensuring that no child in Johnston City goes hungry during the summer months.

Multiple sites, same familiar schedule

Meals will be served Monday through Friday at several locations:

- Mike Dean Memorial Park (near the Scout Cabin), 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
- Nelson & W. Broadway (to-go only), 12:00–12:30 p.m.
- Jefferson Elementary & JCHS (for summer school and enrichment students)

Meals may also be picked up at JCity Church, 609 Monroe, from 12:00–12:30 p.m.

The West Broadway site continues to expand access for families needing a quick, convenient option.

More than a meal

While the goal is simple—feed kids—organizers say Lunch Bunch has always been about more.

"We have two purposes," said program director Marta Phillips. "The first is to feed the kids... and the second is a program at the park with stories, music, and activities."

Children may take a meal and go, or stay and participate, making the park a daily summer gathering place.

A true community effort

What began with just a few children has grown into a coordinated daily operation



powered by volunteers.

Each morning, teams prepare meals at JCity Church before transporting them to distribution sites. Volunteers include students, retirees, educators, civic groups, and local workers—many with personal ties to the program.

"I remember coming to Lunch Bunch as a kid," one student volunteer shared. "Now, I have the opportunity to help others."

Support also comes from local organizations, churches, and businesses that provide funding, food, and supplies.

How it works

Lunch Bunch operates through the USDA Summer Food Service Program, ensuring each meal meets nutritional standards.

While federal funding supports children's meals, local donations make it possible to serve adults and provide "Friday Bags" to help cover weekend needs.

Meeting a real need

The program serves thousands of meals each summer—nearly 5,000 in 2025 alone.

Organizers say both the need and the community response remain strong. The mission is unchanged: provide food, connection, and care for local families.

Looking ahead

As the 2026 season begins, organizers are preparing for another busy summer—and again emphasize that the program depends on community support.

Volunteers and donations of any kind help ensure that, for another summer, no child in Johnston City goes without a meal.



Winning Team

Members of the winning puzzle race team—Janet Thornton, Kathy and Hannah Johnson, Cindy Jean, and Marjorie Sanders—finished in just two hours (photo by Cindy Pulsford).

Library Puzzle Race

FROM P. 1

a 500-piece puzzle in the shortest time.

Taking top honors was a team of Janet Thornton, Kathy and Hannah Johnson, Cindy Jean, and Marjorie Sanders, finishing in just two hours.

Librarian Cindy Pulsford said the Puzzle Race is intended as a fun community event rather than a fundraiser, giving participants a chance to gather and enjoy friendly competition.

The library's primary

fundraiser for the Summer Reading Program will be the Community Yard Sale on May 2 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Scout Cabin. The library will sell yard sale items and books inside the cabin, and shoppers may pick up maps showing participating sale locations.

In addition to fundraising efforts, the Summer Reading Program is supported in part by generous anonymous sponsors who contribute throughout the year.

The library is also expanding its services through new technology. A

recent grant has enabled staff to begin livestreaming programs, with early offerings including live views of baby eagles and astronauts orbiting the Moon—bringing engaging educational experiences to local children in real time.

This year's Summer Reading Program kicks off June 9 at the Johnston City Fire Department and will include weekly events through July, ranging from hands-on science activities to outdoor programs and a community celebration to close out the season.

LUNCH BUNCH VOLUNTEER

Help is needed daily for:

- Cooking & food prep
- Packing meals
- Delivery & transport
- Serving at sites
- Kids' activities at the park

Individuals, families, churches, and groups are welcome—even for a single day. **Info meetings, May 3 & 5** (see calendar on p. 5)

GIVE

Donations help cover:

- Adult meals
- Friday Bags (weekend food): See shopping list on right.
- Paper goods & supplies
- Fuel & transportation

DONATE

Checks payable to **Lunch Bunch**, PO Box 55, Johnston City, IL 62951
Or give online at jcitchurch.com

STAY CONNECTED

Follow JC Kids' Lunch Bunch on Facebook for daily menus and updates.



NEEDED FOR FRIDAY BAGS

- Drink boxes or pouches
- Cheese/peanut butter crackers
- Fish crackers
- Pop tarts
- Rice Krispie Treats
- Fruit snacks
- Granola bars
- Canned ravioli
- Chicken noodle/vegetable soup
- Individual-size cereals
- Small packs cookies or crackers
- Mac & cheese
- Fruit cups – applesauce cups
- Jello/pudding cups
- Teddy grahams / animal crackers
- Individual packages cookies
- Oatmeal packets

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Scheduled Events at Lincoln School

BY MARGIE SANDERS

Illinois Principals Banquet

Two 4th graders were chosen to represent Lincoln School at the annual Illinois Principals Association Awards Banquet held at SIU April 14. Congratulations to Lucas Shick and Lilith George. These students were chosen for their leadership skills, inside and outside the classroom. They are role models for their peers because of their outstanding character and personality and are all-around ex-

ceptional students. We are proud of Lucas and Lilith.

Ag in the Classroom

Maria Farris, the Program Educator for the Williamson County “Ag in the Classroom” has teamed up with Lincoln’s 3rd grade teachers to make their curriculum more memorable. Mrs. Farris comes to their classrooms throughout the school year to do some pretty amazing things. On Earth Day, she brought a tree sapling for each student. Earth Day, celebrated April 22, is an environmental movement started in 1970.

District Spring Concert

All our unit band and chorus students contributed to the annual Spring Band and Chorus concert this year. The musical event took place at the JCHS gym on April 27.

Lincoln’s 4th graders contributed to the concert by performing a musical number using recorders they have learned to play.

Wax Museum

On Wednesday and Thursday, April 29-30, famous men and women of history came alive again through our Lincoln 4th graders. Teachers provided a list of famous historical figures for their students to choose. The famous people on this list were known for leaving a lasting impact on America.

From athletes to educators, students role-played these famous people. Students researched, made posters, timelines, and dis-

plays, dressed up, and even learned to talk like their historical figures. What a memorable experience for Lincoln students!

Annual Fundraiser and Open House

On Friday, May 1, Lincoln School students and faculty will roll out the red carpet, inviting everyone to their annual fundraiser and open house. All proceeds benefit students through future PBIS programs, field trips, school supplies, books, and whatever students need. The event will run from 5-7 p.m. Supper items of hot dogs, pizza, chips, and drinks will be sold. There will be a silent auction, and

many donated items will be raffled off. Examples of raffle items are: bikes, \$100 gift card, and a PS5 gaming system. Games and fun activities will round out the evening.

Open House for Roberts’ Retirement

An open house honoring Beth Roberts, on her retirement from Johnston City School District #1, will be held Saturday, May 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Andersen’s Event Center, 215 E. Broadway. Friends, coworkers, and community members are invited to stop by and offer congratulations and best wishes.

JCHS senior earns prestigious national scholarship

Johnston City High School senior Sophie Walker has been selected for the Stamps Scholars Program, one of the country’s most competitive scholarships. The award includes a full-ride to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and provides additional funds for studies abroad or other educational enrichment opportunities.

Walker was chosen for her exceptional academic achievement, leadership, character, and commitment to service.

Walker has served this year as president of Educators Rising at JCHS and recently led a student workshop at a state conference. “I created this workshop, and I went to the state conference and hosted it,” she said. “I think I had about 45, 50 people show up.” School officials said the scholarship is a testament not only to Walker’s work ethic and character, but also to the support of her teachers, mentors, and family throughout her academic journey.



JCHS senior Sophie Walker, winner of U of I’s prestigious Stamps Scholarship (photo posted on social media by Kathleen Smith)

FROM PAGE 1

Kicks for Kids reaches 3rd grade

Edward Jones program continues expanding in JC schools

The “Kicks for Kids” program, launched in 2025 by the Johnston City office of Edward Jones, continues to grow—most recently providing brand-new shoes to third grade students at Lincoln Elementary. The initiative, led by local advisors Ashton and Sidney Stephens and branch staff in partnership with Hibbett Sports, began last year with Pre-K students at Jefferson Elementary. Since then, it has steadily expanded to additional grade levels across the district. At Lincoln, students received individually sized, name-labeled shoeboxes and eagerly tried on their

new shoes—a moment that has become a signature of the program. “Our branch has been trying to think about what our give-back can be to the community,” Ashton Stephens said at a previous giveaway. “Getting to see how excited students were ... made all the hard work worth it.” Educators say the impact goes beyond footwear, helping students feel confident and supported while also easing a financial burden for families. The goal remains to provide every Johnston City student with a new pair of shoes—one step at a time.



Follow the String

aimed at all ages



Shine On! Fun Facts About the Moon

BY DON MCCHESENEY

Hey kids! As I’m writing this, four astronauts are flying a spaceship to the Moon. The first time astronauts went to the Moon was in 1969, when astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on its surface. When he stepped onto the Moon, he said, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” Because the Moon has no wind, his footprints are still there today.

The Moon is Earth’s only natural satellite and our closest neighbor in space. A satellite is something that orbits (goes around) a larger object. It takes about 29 days for the Moon to orbit Earth. It’s about 238,855 miles away and takes roughly three days to reach by a very fast spaceship.

The Moon may look big in the sky, but it’s only about one-quarter the size

of Earth. If Earth were a basketball, the Moon would be about the size of a tennis ball. And here’s something fun—if you were playing basketball on the Moon, you could jump about six times higher than on Earth because the Moon’s gravity is much weaker. We often talk about “moonlight,” but the Moon doesn’t actually produce its own light. Instead, it reflects the Sun’s light like a giant mirror in space. The Moon is a rocky world covered in craters. There is no wind or rain there. Temperatures can reach about 260°F in sunlight and drop to around -280°F in darkness. Because gravity is weaker, you would weigh much less—if you weigh 60 pounds on Earth, you’d weigh only about 10 pounds on the Moon. The Moon doesn’t re-

ally change shape, even though it looks like it does. As it orbits Earth, the Sun lights different parts of it. These are called phases: new moon (not visible), full moon (fully lit), waxing (getting brighter), and waning (getting darker). The Moon also affects Earth in important ways. Its gravity pulls on the oceans, creating high and low tides. It even has “moonquakes,” caused by meteorites hitting its surface. And just in case you’re wondering—the Moon is not made of cheese, and there are no Moon people living there (at least none we know of!). Sometimes it looks like there’s a face on the Moon, which is why people talk about the “man in the Moon.” So tonight, when you look up at the sky, don’t forget to tell the Moon to keep shining on!

Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and we would like to remind readers of the services available at JCity Center:

- *Clinical Counseling*—Licensed therapy for emotional health, relationships, trauma, anxiety, and depression.
- *Pastoral Counseling*—Faith-based guidance that integrates spiritual care with emotional support.
- *Life Coaching*—Goal-focused support for personal growth, direction,

and accountability.

- *Marriage & Trauma Intensives*—Affordable, concentrated trauma counseling and marriage coaching.
- *Peer Recovery Support*—Encouragement and mentorship from individuals with lived experience in recovery.

CONTACT: JCity Center for Hope and Renewal. 504 E. Broadway, Johnston City, IL 62951
618-952-1272, www.jcity.center
jcitycenter@gmail.com.

When a group of people join together, roll up their sleeves and take action on projects to make their community better, it's a beautiful thing—and an incredible feeling for everyone involved.



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A LOOK BACK

A Cut Above: Inside an Early Johnston City Barbershop



Photo courtesy of Chuck Reed. Retouched for print clarity; no other alterations made.

EDITORIAL

When every block had a store

Remembering Johnston City’s neighborhood economy

BY JIMMY DEAN

A recent story in *The Arrow* about two local businesses closing got me thinking about what Johnston City used to have—and what we’ve lost along the way. That thought really took shape during a conversation with Shirley Manier about the upholstery business she and her husband, Leon, ran for decades. L and S Upholstery operated from 1985 to 2023 and, as best I can recall, was one of only two such shops in town, the other being Kenny Sutton’s. Their motto was simple: “First be honest and fair to your customers.” They worked out of their home, never put up a sign, and relied on word of mouth and quality work—an approach that served them well in those days. Thinking back on our neighborhoods, and with help from Dave McNeil, Mary Ellen Grisley, and Chuck Reed, we did a little digging and came up with some numbers. Each neighborhood once had its own grocery store, and nearly every area had a church nearby. Gas was cheap, and stations were plentiful—nearly 10 scattered across town, most offering full service. On Broadway Street alone, there were three stations from Newton to the main stretch, and along Grand Avenue, seven more extended north to 13th Street. The four-way stop had a station on each corner, all full service, as best

anyone can remember. Neighborhood grocery stores were just as common. Many were locally owned, and families often ran a tab to settle at the end of the month. From two markets on Market Street on the east side to Jansco’s on the west, there were about 13 neighborhood stores, plus three along Broadway—Kroger, Bracy’s, and Daniels. What stands out most is that these stores were known by the names of the people who ran them, not by corporate brands. Ask where someone shopped, and you’d hear: Mike Malkovich’s store, Bill Elliott’s Market, Seconda Foli’s place, and so on. Friendly service built loyal customers. I wish we could remember every owner of every store and business we’ve mentioned—and others we may have missed—but we didn’t want to risk leaving anyone out by guessing. Jess Beal operated one of the town’s most popular small grocery and lunch spots in the 1200 block of Jefferson Street. When the high school lunch bell rang, students would race the two blocks to grab a Beal Burger or line up for the pinball machines. Chuck Reed’s memory proved especially sharp—he even recalled the gas station brands: Shell, Texaco, Sinclair, Zephyr, DX, Standard, two Mobil stations, and Martin’s (brand unknown), all along Broadway and Grand. One station

on north Grand has since been torn down. Churches were just as numerous: First Christian, St. Paul Catholic, First Methodist; three Baptist congregations (First, Free Will, and Washington Avenue); Friendly Church of God; Pentecostal; Church of God of Prophecy; and two non-denominational churches. All but one are still holding services today. On the other end of the spectrum were five bars and three clubs, with the bars along Broadway and the American Legion, VFW, and Buccaneers located elsewhere. We counted about six eating establishments in town at one time, with Andresen’s being the only one still in operation today. This list came together through a bit of brainstorming, along with Dave McNeil’s 1955 phone book, Mary Ellen’s yearbooks, and Chuck’s remarkable recall. We’re sure we may have missed a few—and there are likely some I never knew about. One final mystery: if anyone knows what the round structure near the electric plant at Broadway and Burgess is, let us know. It even has Chuck stumped.



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

This early 1900s photo, loaned to the *Arrow* by Chuck Reed, offers a glimpse into one of several barber shops located in Johnston City during the town’s early years. A long, narrow storefront features ornate mirrors and cabinetry, with stations neatly

arranged with razors, brushes, and tonics. A customer relaxes in a cast-iron chair while a barber in vest and tie stands ready. In the background, men wait on a bench, underscoring the shop’s social role—where news spread and daily life unfolded.

DEVOTIONAL

Memorial Day: Honoring Those Who Gave Everything

BY BARRY ROBERTSON Veterans’ holidays can be a little confusing, so here’s a simple way to remember: Armed Forces Day honors those still in uniform, Veterans Day honors those who have served, and Memorial Day honors those who never made it out of uniform. Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May. It was originally known as Decoration Day. On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan—born in Murphysboro and associated with our local community college—called for a nationwide day of remembrance following the Civil War. In his proclamation, he designated May 30, 1868, as a day to decorate the graves of those who died in defense of their country. The holiday became a federal observance in 1971. Memorial Day is set aside to honor all who died in service to the United States, in both war and peace. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, and volunteers

place American flags on graves. A national moment of remembrance is observed at 3 p.m. local time. I am grateful for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. As one quote puts it, “Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it. It flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it.” John 15:13 reminds us, “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Christians see this ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, who gave His life and rose again on the third day. Johnston City will observe Memorial Day with a ceremony downtown at 9 a.m. on May 25. It is a meaningful tribute and well worth attending.



Barry Robertson has served as pastor of Washington Avenue Baptist Church since 2010.



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Johnston City, IL 62951
618-983-6455
Larry Stevens, pastor
- First Christian Church***
505 E. Broadway Blvd.
Johnston City, IL 62951
618-952-2591
Adam King, pastor
- First United Methodist Church***
400 W. Broadway
Johnston City, IL 62951
618-983-5150
Paul Jacob, pastor

- Heritage Fellowship***
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- JCity Church***
(Free Will Baptist)
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Dr. Randy Carney, pastor
- Johnston City United Pentecostal Church**
1101 W. 10th
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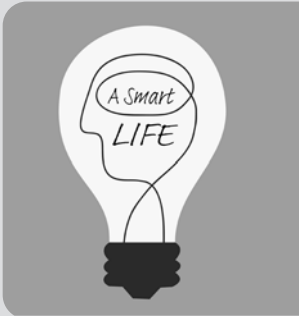
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Barry Robertson, pastor
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 - JC Kids’ Lunch Bunch***
c/o JCity Church (see above)
 - JCity Center for Hope and Renewal***
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 - J. C. Manna Mission***
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A SMART LIFE

Nip them in the bud: Keeping spring allergies in check

BY DON MCCHESNEY

Spring means flower buds and blooming trees. If you're one of the millions who suffer from seasonal allergies, it also means sneezing, congestion, a runny nose, and other bothersome symptoms like itchy, watery eyes, headaches, coughing, sore throat, body aches, fatigue, and even brain fog. These symptoms can make you miserable.

Spring allergies can affect your daily life—especially when they become severe enough to keep you in bed, disrupt your sleep, or make it hard to focus at work. But before you settle for plastic flowers, try a few simple strategies to keep allergies under control.

Start by reducing your exposure to allergy triggers. Stay indoors on dry, windy days. Avoid mow-

ing the lawn or doing heavy yard work. When you come inside, remove clothing worn outdoors and shower to rinse pollen from your skin and hair. Wearing a mask outside can also help. Keep windows closed at home and in your car, and use air conditioning with an allergy-reducing HVAC filter. A dehumidifier can help, and regular vacuuming of your home and car will reduce buildup.

When pollen counts are high, take extra precautions. Check local forecasts through TV, radio, newspapers, or online sources. If high levels are expected, start allergy medications before symptoms begin. Pollen counts are typically highest in the morning and early afternoon, so plan outdoor

activities for the evening when possible.

The good news is that medications can help prevent allergies from ruining your season. Over-the-counter antihistamines can relieve symptoms like itchy eyes, sneezing, and a runny nose. Nasal sprays may help with postnasal drip and sinus pressure, while decongestants can provide additional relief.

If these remedies aren't enough, consider consulting an allergist. They can perform skin or blood tests to identify specific triggers. For some, allergy shots may be an effective long-term solution.

For everyone dealing with spring allergies—gesundheit (and God bless you). Here's hoping you can truly nip them in the bud.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR



May Events

- MAY 1
JCHS Greenhouse Sale, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
- MAY 2
Citywide Yard Sale, 7 a.m.–2 p.m.
Sweet Southern Market, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
- MAY 3
Lunch Bunch Volunteer mtg., JCity Church, 2 pm
- MAY 5
JC Business Meet & Greet, Andresen's, 9 am
Lions Club mtg., JCity Church, 5:30 pm
Lunch Bunch Volunteer mtg., JCity Center, 2 pm
- MAY 6
Rotary lunch mtg., Andresen's, Noon
- MAY 7
National Day of Prayer
- MAY 9
JC Jr. Ball League Opening Day & Parade
- MAY 10—MOTHER'S DAY
- MAY 12
Baccalaureate, JCity Church

- MAY 15
JCHS Graduation (Rain date May 16)
- MAY 17
Free Movie Night, JCity Church, 5 pm
- MAY 18–20
Citywide Spring Clean-Up Days (bulk item pickup on regular trash day)
- MAY 18
8th Grade Promotion, 6 p.m.
- MAY 19
Lions Club mtg., JCity Church, 5:30 pm
- MAY 20
Rotary lunch mtg., Andresen's, Noon
Last day of school (tentative)
- MAY 25 —MEMORIAL DAY
Annual Memorial Day Service, downtown, 9 am

Weekly

- FRIDAYS
Farmers' Market, 3–6 pm

Public Meetings

- MAY 11
Library Brd. mtg., 6:30 pm
- MAY 12
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5 pm
- MAY 18
Planning Commission, Scout Cabin, 5 pm
- MAY 21
School Board mtg., Unit Office, 6 pm
- MAY 26
City Council, Scout Cabin, 5 pm

Coming Next Month

- JUNE 1–JULY 31
JC Kids' Lunch Bunch sponsored by JCity Church
- JUNE 4
JCHS Athletics Golf Scramble (see ad on left)
- JUNE 9
Library Summer Reading Program Kickoff
- JUNE 19
CCM Golf Scramble (see ad on p. 6)
- JUNE 26
Fireworks Spectacular, Arrowhead Lake, 5–9 pm

For calendar updates, please see our website (arrownews.org) or social media posts. To submit an event, email date, time, and details to jcitycenter@gmail.com or call 618-952-1272.



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| Food Shop | Washington Ave. |
| Gibbons & Kiel | Baptist |
| JCUP Church | ZX |

JOHNSTON CITY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

1ST ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

About Tournament

Support our Johnston City High School athletes and coaches by participating in our first-ever golf scramble. You can sign up to play, sponsor a hole, donate a silent auction item, or all three!

Date & Place

JUNE 4TH, 2026

Stardust Golf & Country Club
14756 Stardust Dr.
Johnston City, IL

Game-Day Details

8 a.m. & 1 p.m. sessions

Check-in an hour before session

18 hole scramble

Four-person teams

\$75 per person

Includes cart & lunch!

Register Now
Space is LIMITED!

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JCity Arrow News is published monthly by

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To submit news items, story ideas, events, employment/volunteer opportunities, or make 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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Randy Carney, pastor



Sunday School 9:30 | Morning Worship 10:30 | Wed. Night 7:00



Before the Leap

8th Graders Share Advice
With Those Next in Line

Aerobella Breedwell

Some advice I would give to incoming 8th graders is to try. Try hard on your school-work and try out for that team. Be part of something. It's your last year in middle school. Your 8th grade year goes by so fast, and you don't even realize it. So try! Work on yourself, get better, and improve in everything, because next year everything counts. During your last year, be outgoing, have confidence, and work hard. It's over before you know it.

Isabella Ray

Incoming 8th graders, here is some advice and tips to start and end your year. Remember to keep up with your assignments so they're not missing. Be nice to others and don't bring people down just because it makes you feel good. Bring math books, language books, and notebooks to class, because you will need them frequently. Also, remember to charge your computer overnight, because you will need it for science work and any online work. Paying attention in class will pay off a ton with the Pre-ACTs and any big tests in the future. Do not get involved in drama; it will bring your reputation down a lot. Always be nice to the teachers and faculty. They will treat you kindly if you treat them with respect. Substitute teachers count, too—it will pay off for the whole class if you're good. Also, don't get in trouble during the year—the 8th grade trip will be here before you know it. A lot of things will matter this year, and they will help get you into classes that you like in high school. I hope you have a great time in 8th grade!

Zoey Thompson

Some advice I would like to share with incoming 8th graders for their last year in middle school is to stay out of drama, be nice, try new things, and do your best on everything. In middle school, you should always be kind to others, because everyone's life is different. And since it's your last year, you should try everything you can, even if you are embarrassed to do it. You should always try your best on everything you do, because it will matter when you get into high school. That's why, once you get into 8th grade, you should always stay out of drama, be nice, try new things, and do your best on everything you do.

Nash Bullard

Stay out of trouble, but have fun. This 8th grade experience has its ups and downs, but make sure you have friends. It doesn't matter if you have one friend or five to ten friends—just make sure you have one good friend. Also, don't forget you will be an example for younger students. 8th grade may seem scary at first, but just make sure you do your work. Try not to get into drama or start it. While sometimes drama can be fun, it can hurt people, too. Some more advice: do sports. This can be a great way to make friends and meet new people. Eighth grade will seem slow at first, but when you make it fun, it'll be a breeze. Just remember to work hard and be courageous. I hope you all have a great year, and I can't wait to see you in high school.

Anthony Keller

Going into eighth grade is quite a big step, considering

your school career thus far. At times, it can almost seem dreadful—you're the oldest class in the building, and you have to set an example for a grade that doesn't seem that much younger than you are. Despite my own worries, eighth grade was actually one of the most positive years of school I've experienced. That is not coming from a place of blind positivity. I, much like other students at Johnston City, have had my own struggles, so my words come

from a good bit of experience. Some good advice is to simply do work when it's assigned to you, especially in math and science classes. It's extremely easy and common to fall behind in extracurriculars because you missed one or two days of school, so getting work done should be a top priority. Something I know a lot of you don't do—and something you should start doing—is getting more sleep. You're going to thank yourself one day for it. And

finally, just look at things positively. Sometimes school can be overwhelming, and you can drift away from your friends, but simply reaching out for a good day with a buddy can shape a whole year. So while going into eighth grade may seem scary, I can guarantee things can and will go well for both your development and your education.

8th Grade Promotion
May 18, 6 p.m.—JCHS gym

CARING COUNSELING MINISTRIES

12TH ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

PARTNERING WITH TAKE ACTION TODAY & JCITY CENTER FOR HOPE & RENEWAL

June 19, 2026

• Check in 9 AM • Tee Time 10 AM

Hickory Ridge Golf Course

2727 W GLENN RD CARBONDALE IL 62901

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- Becoming a corporate sponsor
- Sponsoring a hole
- Donating silent auction items
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- Team sponsor/player—chances to win big prizes, published photos

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CONGRATS GRADUATES!!!

Congratulations, Graduates! 🎓 Wishing you success, happiness, and new beginnings. The future is bright—go chase your dreams! – Indigo Realty

Please enjoy this Graduation-Themed WORD SEARCH! You will find words across, up and down, and diagonally.

R	Q	R	H	M	D	P	J	S	U	C	C	E	S	S
W	O	E	Y	G	R	A	D	U	A	T	E	S	N	G
K	T	I	O	L	P	O	I	C	B	D	V	P	R	R
C	E	A	A	P	Y	V	V	A	U	P	G	E	I	A
E	X	R	S	C	C	U	W	C	D	U	V	E	Q	D
L	G	S	Y	S	H	E	C	T	V	D	R	C	O	U
E	B	Q	T	U	E	I	R	J	N	I	K	H	H	A
B	R	J	P	X	S	L	E	E	G	P	Y	Q	O	T
R	Y	F	U	T	U	R	E	V	M	L	K	Q	N	I
A	C	E	O	M	H	S	W	I	E	O	R	O	O	O
T	G	O	A	L	Y	M	X	G	K	M	N	V	R	N
E	J	K	D	K	R	I	R	P	A	E	Y	F	G	
R	C	P	O	T	V	Z	S	A	Z	F	J	N	C	U
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