



JOHNSTOWN QUARTERLY NEWS

FALL 2024 ISSUE

KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTED

WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL CITY OF JOHNSTOWN NEWSLETTER!

Members of Johnstown City Council, staff, and myself, Mayor Barnard, are excited to introduce this first-ever printed newsletter. As a team, we are committed to serving this wonderful community, and our shared goal is to make Johnstown an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Over the past two years, we've recognized the need for a better way to communicate with you, our residents. We've discussed how best to keep you informed about city operations, introduce you to our dedicated employees, share plans for the future, and highlight community events. In December, a small group of us came together to develop a solution, and today, we're proud to present this newsletter as a new way to stay connected with what's happening in Johnstown.

Like many small cities across the nation, we don't have a local newspaper or TV station dedicated to covering our community. That's why this newsletter will serve as a trusted source of news and information, delivered directly to your home four times a year. Throughout the year, you'll hear directly from your city leaders, including City Council members, the City Manager, and the Chief of Police, among others.

We'll keep you informed about upcoming projects, helpful tips regarding water and sewer services, financial updates, and articles highlighting local non-profits that make a difference in Johnstown. You'll also find news on community events and important updates from the school district.

Since the announcement of Intel's arrival in 2022, we have been working diligently to prepare for the growth headed our way. We believe that



Photo by: Mike Eltringham

with careful planning, we can manage this growth responsibly while maintaining the character of our beloved town. Johnstown is a special place, with a strong school district that we are committed to preserving. We encourage all residents to visit the city's website and review our 2024 Comprehensive Plan, a document you helped shape. Your input set the foundation for our future. But, we're not done; this is a living process, not a one and done exercise.

This plan positions Johnstown for a vibrant new chapter, but the road ahead requires us all to work together. By defining our shared vision

and investing in its realization, we can make the most of the opportunities before us—without losing the independent spirit that makes Johnstown so unique.

Thank you for taking the time to read this inaugural newsletter. We look forward to keeping you updated on the work we are doing on behalf of all of you, the residents of Johnstown.

Donald D. Barnard Jr.

DID YOU KNOW the Johnstown water department has two leak detection systems?

The first system has been active for several years and detects possible leaks based on meter usage. Every 24 hours it generates a report associated with an algorithm indicating higher than normal usage or constant flow.

With this alert, city staff can notify the resident of the potential issue, thus allowing the resident to identify the issue, which could limit damage or avert a costly water bill. This program has had a tremendous track record of saving the residents money on costly repairs or increased water

bills. Additionally, it allows the city to decrease operational costs associated with the production of water.

The second leak detection system was just recently acquired through grants and allows the city to detect leaks which may be happening below the surface. Over the last year we have been able to identify numerous leaks throughout the city allowing us to make the necessary repairs and maximize operational efficiency.



The city uses the Stealth Reader detection system equipment.

STAY CONNECTED: COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Website Update

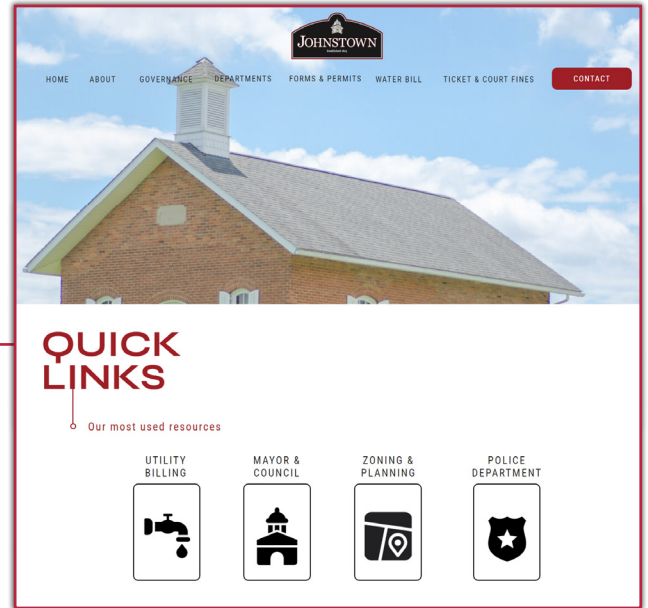
We've made important updates to our website to keep you informed. Whether you're looking for city services, upcoming events, or important announcements, it's now easier than ever to navigate. You can also submit community events. This will be a primary source of information and news from the city.

Newsletter

You're reading our latest effort to keep you informed! This quarterly newsletter will keep you up to speed on the latest news, city projects, and resident features. These will be available on the website, too.

We Want to Hear From You

Every voice matters! We welcome community feedback and contributions. We're launching new ways to engage with our community, including feedback forms and listening sessions. Stay tuned for details on our next session—we'd love to hear your thoughts!

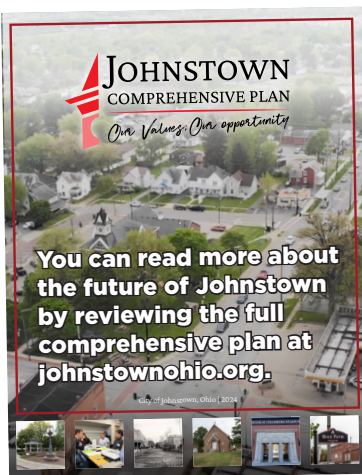


YOU SPEAK, WE LISTEN. TOGETHER WE GROW.

Scan the QR code or visit the city's new website to start a conversation today.



The city is excited to announce it has adopted a new comprehensive plan as of July 15 following a collaborative engagement process that included community stakeholders, residents and local government officials.



WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

By providing an overarching framework, the plan guides decision-making, zoning regulations, and investment priorities that foster sustainable development and ensure that the community evolves in alignment with the vision for the future. Sections of the plan include:

Our Place

A central role of the city is to strategically plan and regulate land use, aiming to achieve a healthy blend of economic productivity, public safety, architectural quality, and quality of life.

Our Prosperity

Vibrant communities are thriving communities. To achieve long-term fiscal sustainability and job growth, the city is prepared to leverage its position as a poised economy on the rise, situated in proximity to Central Ohio's most robust and fast-growing industry clusters.

Our Community

A community with vibrant events and amenities serves as a central attraction for new residents and visitors alike. Essential services such as city governance, emergency services, parks and recreation, and community events create a compelling draw for everyone while shaping a distinct identity for the community.

Our Foundations

Johnstown's roads, utilities, electric, and fiber connectivity make up the foundational framework for community expansion, development, and reinvestment. Robust and durable infrastructure planning ensures vibrant and healthy communities.



JOHNSTOWN CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Historic downtown

High traffic volumes converge at Main Street and Coshocton Street. Heavy truck traffic passes through downtown to access regional industrial parks. Historic Main Street buildings have varied facades and levels of transparency. Over time, the lack of clear architectural and design standards have led to inconsistent facades along Main Street.

Downtown is a unique, historic, and vibrant core of the city. With its grid-like layout of residential streets surrounding a central business district, it embodies Johnstown's traditional, small-town charm. As economic development opportunities continue to evolve throughout the next decade, reinvesting into downtown's streets, buildings, and public spaces are a top priority for residents. The

city's continued efforts to enhance downtown will ensure that prosperity preserves the most vital aspects of Johnstown's character.

Parks, Trails & Open Space

The city has 1.64 acres of city-owned, active parkland per 1,000 residents. Peer communities and best practice organizations recommend anywhere between five to ten acres of city-owned parkland per 1,000 residents city-wide. In dense urban areas, the standard is typically anywhere between one to three acres, while suburban areas range between seven to ten acres.

Johnstown currently has under 37 acres of parks. The formation of the Greater Johnstown Parks & Recreation District (GJPRD) aims

to double this amount to support healthy lifestyles and provide more places for outdoor activities.

Development

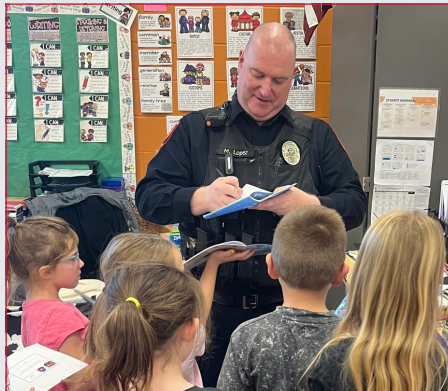
Development pressure will put existing city capacities to the test. Like many communities in Central Ohio, recent growth is a call-to-action for local governments to take stock of administrative, school district, housing, roadways, and utility capacities.

The city can leverage economic development as a tool for financing community improvements. Future economic development opportunities will help finance parks and recreation improvements, trail expansion, additional public services, and roadway improvements.

JOHNSTOWN POLICE DEPT. UPDATE

Enhancing Community Engagement and Officer Support

Under Chief Smart's leadership since May 2022, the Johnstown Police Department has made significant strides in both community outreach and officer support. As one of only two fully accredited law enforcement agencies in Licking County through the Ohio Collaborative, we continue to set a high standard.



Community Outreach

We've increased our involvement in public events, such as parades and school programs like "Books & Badges," where officers read to over 700 children. Our Facebook page has become a key communication tool for sharing event updates, safety alerts, and officer highlights, making it the most engaged platform in the community.

Event Support

Our officers play a crucial role in maintaining safety and managing logistics for local events, like those found on the back of this newsletter, including those organized by Downtown Johnstown, Inc. (DJI). We ensure smooth operations, focusing on the health, safety, and security of attendees.

Internal Improvements

To support our officers, we've refreshed the department's patch and lobby, making the workplace more welcoming. We relaunched the Officer of the Year program to recognize outstanding performance, reinforcing our belief that when we take care of our people, they take care of the community.

Building Partnerships

We're working closely with the Johnstown Police Officers Foundation and Englefield Oil to secure 501(c)(3) status. This will enable us to fundraise for officer welfare and community initiatives to support our community.

Looking Ahead

While the community feels we're doing well, more staff and resources would help us serve even better. For now, we remain dedicated to providing the best service possible to Johnstown.



The new patch for Johnstown PD.

UPCOMING
EVENTS**OCTOBER 2024**

Farmers Market ...10/2 • 4:30-7:30p
 Big Red Band & American
 Legion collecting 10/5
 Fall Fest10/19 • 5-9p
 Trick or Treat10/31 • 6-7:30p

NOVEMBER 2024

Election Day11/5
Voting/Polling location

Turkey Trot 11/23 • 9a-12p

DECEMBER 2024

Santa Parade12/7 • 5:30p

TAX REFORM: WHAT'S ON THE NOVEMBER BALLOT?

This November, Johnstown residents will have the opportunity to vote on an important tax reform measure that could bring significant benefits to our community. The proposed changes are designed to improve city services, enhance infrastructure, and support long-term growth while minimizing the financial burden on residents. Here are the main benefits of the tax reform and what we can expect if the reform is approved:

KEY BENEFITS OF THE TAX REFORM

Resident Economic Assistance Program (REAP)

City Council listened to citizens' concerns about the income tax increase from 1.0% to 2.25% and responded with the Resident Economic Assistance Program (REAP). REAP aims to provide relief for Johnstown residents most affected by the increase, offering a \$250 annual assistance check to those earning between \$20,000 and \$75,000. This program will last five years and can be reinstated.

75% Permanent Tax Credit

Citizens working outside Johnstown and paying taxes to another municipality will receive a permanent 75% credit on their Johnstown income tax (up to 2.25%). This credit, benefiting 36% of residents, can only be changed by a citizen vote, ensuring long-term tax relief for those who work elsewhere.

Retirees

Retirees in Johnstown who rely on pensions, retirement accounts, or investments will not see an income tax increase. The reform only applies to earned income, so non-taxable sources such as Social Security, pension distributions, and retirement withdrawals will remain unaffected.

Increased Funding for Infrastructure

Johnstown's roads and sidewalks are in serious need of repair. Currently, only \$450,000 per year is allocated for road maintenance, meaning some streets will not see repairs for decades. The tax reform would raise the budget to \$2 million annually, enabling the city to tackle more extensive road projects and prevent further deterioration.

Better Public Safety Services

Johnstown's police force, though small, is dedicated to serving the community. With additional revenue from the tax reform, the city will be able to hire three more officers, provide additional training, and acquire the necessary equipment to improve public safety and services.

City Operations

Johnstown's administration is understaffed. The street crew has only three employees, and critical roles like city planner and economic director are unfilled. The part-time zoning inspector is stretched thin, taking on additional responsibilities. New revenue from the tax reform will allow Johnstown to hire full-time staff to support city planning, economic growth, and other essential operations.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR TAXES!



Curious about how the proposed income tax reform could affect you?

Use the Johnstown Tax Calculator to estimate your savings if the ballot passes! Simply enter your workplace, tax rate, and income to see the potential impact on your taxes. Every dollar counts — find out how much you can save today!

<https://remorc.github.io/Johnstown-tax-calculator/>