Due to the expansive growth of the City of Des Moines from the 1870s onward, 6th Avenue has long been an important transportation corridor. It was seen as a primary artery for movement through the city. This was demonstrated through brick pavement and the presence of a bridge, unlike on 2nd Avenue or 9th Street, which delivered people, goods and animals back and forth. This passage enabled people to work in the central city and return to residences on the northern edge of Des Moines (University Avenue) and beyond, up to Hickman and Douglas Avenue.

This growth in the early 20th century is responsible for the presence of the many historic homes found in the neighborhood today. Fifteen buildings along the 6th Avenue Corridor are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These structures, built in eclectic architectural styles, give the neighborhood a unique sense of identity.

Today, the area's ethnic diversity creates a rich neighborhood culture. The current population includes families from Laos, Vietnam, Nigeria, Sudan, Central America, and South America, in addition to those of European descent. Local businesses and residential areas reflect this rich diversity.

The corridor is less than two miles from Downtown Des Moines, making it a walkable or bikeable destination from the center of the city. The 6th Avenue area includes commercial uses, the Des Moines Area Community College, an elementary and high school, a regional park, and a connection to regional trails along the Des Moines River.
Can our nurse be your neighbor?

She takes care of you when you’re sick. She is always around to answer questions about your health. But she may not be able to afford to live near her work and be a part of your community.

Affordable housing makes it possible for hard-working people like our nurse to enjoy safe and stable housing. And she helps keep you in good health, contributing to the high quality of life you enjoy.

Everyone benefits from affordable housing!

The average annual salary of a nurse in Des Moines is: $39,751

If a single nurse paid 30% of her income on rent monthly, she could pay: $994

In the 6th Ave Corridor, our nurse could afford this number of rental homes: 558

Meet the rest of our neighbors at: canibeyourneighbor.com

Who are your neighbors?

In the 6th Ave Corridor...

340 households make less than $25,000 per year, or...

40% of the neighborhood.

648 rental homes

209 owner-occupied

273 renter households pay 30 to 50% of their income each month on rent.

84 renter households pay over 50% of their income each month on rent.

$39,751

$994
Welcome to Johnston!

The Johnston area got its start in 1846 when Ezekiel Hunt “came west” with his family and established a sawmill near N.W. 58th Street and N.W. Beaver Drive at the present location of the Hawkeye Pallet Company. Over the years, the area had names such as Beaver Creek Settlement, Ridgedale and Huntsville. In later years, the expanded area became known as Johnston Station, named after John Johnston, one of the station agents for the Inter-Urban Railroad, which was developed in 1906.

In the late 1920’s, experiments with hybridizing corn, done by Henry A. Wallace, led to the beginning of Pioneer Hi-Bred Corn Company. By the middle of the 20th century, Pioneer was becoming the leading seed corn producer in the world. As Pioneer hired more and more workers, houses and small businesses began to move into the area. Scattered residential growth occurred over the next several decades and by 1960, population in the Johnston area was estimated at 1,460.

By 1969, several citizens had come together and were attempting incorporation on a much larger scale than its initial geographical start near Johnston Station. To encourage voluntary annexation by Johnston residents, many of whom had reservations about joining the new town, Pioneer stepped up and voluntarily petitioned for 1800 acres of their land to be in the newly formed city of Johnston. Camp Dodge was included in the 1969 incorporation and the city got its start. Voters passed an election to incorporate on June 23, 1969, with a vote of 71 to 13.
Can our **welder** be your neighbor?

He’s the steady hand fusing white-hot metal pipes for that new house next door. He probably helped build your house, your office, your bike, or your car. But he may not be able to afford to live near his work and be a part of your community.

Affordable housing makes it possible for hard-working people like our welder to enjoy safe and stable housing. And he helps build our buildings, contributing to the high quality of life you enjoy.

Everyone benefits from affordable housing!

The average annual salary of a welder in Des Moines is: **$38,939**

If a single welder paid 30% of his income on rent monthly, he could pay: **$973**

In Johnston, our welder could afford this number of rental homes: **712**

Meet the rest of our neighbors at:

canibeyourneighbor.com

Who are your neighbors?

**In Johnston...**

- **596** households make less than **$25,000** per year, or...
- **10%** of the city.
- **1,259** rental homes
- **4,980** owner-occupied

Renter households pay **30 to 50%** of their income each month on rent.

Renter households pay **over 50%** of their income each month on rent.