

THE BRIGHT START

ISSUE 5 • APRIL 15, 2024

Emma Johnson Graduates With Honors in Science

By Elizabeth Johnson, Family Editor



Emma Johnson, the youngest daughter of Robert and Sarah Johnson, graduated summa cum laude from State University with a degree in Environmental Science. Her groundbreaking thesis on urban

Continued on page 3

COMO

Como Community Garden Expansion

The Como City Council has unanimously approved the expansion of the community garden

Continued on page 4

BRIGHTWATER

Brightwater Annual Festival Dates

The popular Brightwater Summer Festival will run from June 15–18 this year, featuring local artists, food

Continued on page 6

FAMILY

Johnson Family Reunion Breaks

This year's family reunion saw unprecedented attendance with over 70 family members traveling

Continued on page 8

GARDENING

Seasonal Planting Guide: Spring Edition

A comprehensive guide to what vegetables and flowers to plant this spring, with special focus on

Continued on page 10

PUZZLES

This Week's Puzzles: Crossword Challenge

Test your knowledge of local history and gardening terms in this week's special themed crossword

Full puzzles on page 12

Emma Johnson Graduates With Honors in Science

By Elizabeth Johnson, Family Editor

Emma Johnson, the youngest daughter of Robert and Sarah Johnson, graduated summa cum laude from State University with a degree in Environmental Science. Her groundbreaking thesis on urban gardening sustainability earned...

Emma's thesis, titled "Urban Garden Sustainability: Maximizing Food Production in Limited Spaces," explored innovative methods for growing food in urban environments with minimal resources.

"Her work shows exceptional promise," said Dr. Maria Rodriguez, head of the Environmental Science department. "Emma's research could make a significant impact on how we approach food security in urban areas."



Emma at her graduation ceremony with fellow Environmental Science graduates.

Following graduation, Emma has accepted a position with the National Sustainable Agriculture Initiative, where she'll work to implement her research findings in community gardens across the country.

Family Comments

"So proud of my brilliant daughter! Your mother and I always knew you were destined for great things. Your dedication to solving real-world problems is inspiring."

— Robert Johnson

"Way to go, sis! I remember when you started your first little garden when we were kids. Now look at you changing the world!"

— Lisa Johnson



Sarah Johnson

The weekend trek to Eagle Mountain resulted in stunning views and plenty of laughter.



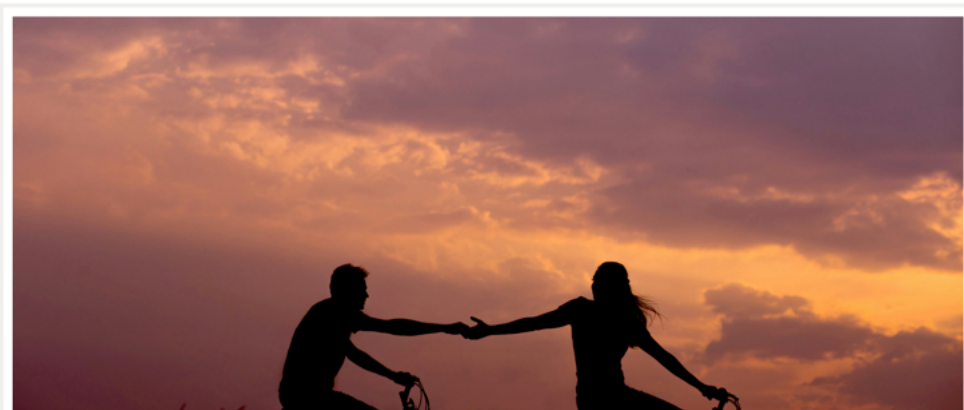
Emma Johnson

My garden system earned recognition in the



Lisa Johnson

Welcoming baby Sophia!
Born March 15th, 7lbs 8oz.



Martha Johnson

Sunday dinner brought together three generations. So wonderful to have everyone at my table again.



James Johnson

Dad celebrated eight decades with the whole family.
What an amazing milestone!



Robert Johnson

Volunteering at the Como Food Bank fundraiser.

News

Como Community Garden Expansion Approved (Continued from page 1)

By Local Reporter

The expansion, which was approved after months of community discussions, will convert an unused portion of Riverside Park into 20 additional garden plots measuring 10 by 12 feet each.

"We've had a waiting list of over 50 families for the past two years," explained Garden Committee Chair Sarah Chen. "This expansion will help us meet the growing demand from residents who want to grow their own produce b...

The project, funded by a \$15,000 grant from the Como Community Foundation, will include installation of water lines, raised beds for accessibility, and a small tool shed.

Construction is scheduled to begin next month, with plots ready for planting by early June. Priority will be given to families on the existing waitlist, with remaining plots allocated through a lottery system.



Architectural rendering of the garden expansion area.

Local School Wins Regional Science Fair

A team of fifth-grade students from Como Elementary School won first place in the regional science fair with their innovative rainwater harvesting system designed specifically for community gardens.

The students, led by teacher Ms. Rachel Green, designed and built a prototype system that collects rainwater from shed roofs, filters it, and distributes it to garden beds through a gravity-fed irrigation system.







Library Extends Summer Hours

The Como Public Library has announced extended evening hours for the summer months. Starting June 1, the library will remain open until 8pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"We want to ensure our resources are accessible to working families and students during the summer break," said head librarian Patricia Wilson. The extended hours will continue through August 31.

Events

Mark your calendars for these upcoming local events.

 SATURDAY 15 MAY, 9AM-2PM	 Central Park Pavilion
Farmers Market Opening Day The Como Farmers Market returns for its 12th season with over 40 local vendors. Opening day festivities include live folk music, cooking demonstrations, and children's activities.	ADMISSION Free ORGANISER Como Business Association REGISTER 555-123-4567
 MONDAY 3 JUN, 3PM-6PM	 Como Public Library
Summer Reading Kickoff Join the Como Library for the launch of their summer reading program with special guest author Jane Porter. Features a reading and book signing of Porter's acclaimed children's book "The Garden Explorer".	ADMISSION Free ORGANISER Como Public Library REGISTER library@como.org
 MONDAY 17 JUN, 10AM-12PM	 Riverside Community Garden
Community Garden Workshop Hands-on workshop led by master gardener Elena Diaz on sustainable gardening techniques. Learn practical skills in soil preparation, companion planting, and organic pest management for urban gardens.	ADMISSION \$5 materials fee ORGANISER Como Garden Committee REGISTER comogarden.org

Newsletter

Summer Festival Returns This June

The annual Brightwater Summer Festival takes place June 15–18. Residents and staff have organized live music, craft stalls, and special menus to celebrate the season together.

"We have activities planned for everyone," says Activities Coordinator Maya Williams. "Expect storytelling, art workshops, and evening concerts on the patio."

This year's festival has expanded to include more interactive elements. The craft area will feature demonstrations from local artisans, including pottery making, watercolor painting, and jewelry design. Participants will...

The culinary team has created a special menu featuring seasonal ingredients, with outdoor dining options available throughout the weekend. Evening entertainment will include jazz performances, classical music, and a spec...

Festival committee member Robert Johnson adds, "We've worked hard to create an event that brings our community together. It's a wonderful chance to connect with neighbors and welcome the summer season."



Highlights from last year

Recycling Program

New recycling bins arrive June 20. Join the workshop on June 23 to learn proper sorting.

Facility Upgrades







Main hall renovations start June 27. Temporary access via East Wing entrance.

Welcome New Members

Say hello to Julie Peterson and Mark Johnson who join our community team this month.

Events

Join your neighbors at these upcoming community events in Brightwater.

 FRIDAY 15 JUN, 5PM-9PM	 Brightwater Town Square
Summer Festival Opening Night Join us for the opening night of the Brightwater Summer Festival with a special concert by local musicians, food trucks, and the lighting of the community lanterns. The evening concludes with a sustainable light display.	ADMISSION Free ORGANISER Brightwater Arts Council REGISTER No registration required
 SATURDAY 23 JUN, 10AM-2PM	 Brightwater Community Center
Recycling Program Workshop Learn about Brightwater's new recycling program with hands-on demonstrations, sorting games, and Q&A sessions. Each household will receive their new color-coded bins and a guide to the updated collection	ADMISSION Free ORGANISER Brightwater Waste Management REGISTER brightwaterrecycles.org
 SUNDAY 24 JUN, 9AM-12PM	 Lakeview Park
Community Clean-Up Day Join your neighbors for our quarterly park and shoreline clean-up. Gloves, bags, and tools will be provided. After the clean-up, enjoy a community picnic with refreshments provided by local businesses. Great for families!	ADMISSION Free ORGANISER Brightwater Environmental Club REGISTER 555-789-0123

Featured Article

Seasonal Planting Guide: Spring Edition

By Garden Expert



A well-planned spring garden in bloom.

Spring is the perfect time to prepare your garden for a season of abundant growth. As the soil warms and the risk of frost diminishes, gardeners can begin planting a variety of vegetables and flowers that thrive in our l..

"The key to a successful garden is understanding your specific growing zone and soil conditions," explains local master gardener Elena Diaz. "For our region, mid-April to early May is ideal for planting most spring crops...

Preparing your soil is perhaps the most critical step in spring garden planning. Start by removing any debris and weeds that accumulated over winter. Then, incorporate a layer of compost or well-rotted manure to replenis...


"Many gardeners are in a rush to plant everything as soon as the weather warms up," cautions Diaz. "But it's important to follow the recommended planting calendar for your specific region. Cold-season crops like peas, sp...

Consider companion planting strategies to maximize space and deter pests naturally. For example, plant basil near tomatoes to improve flavor and repel certain insects, or surround cabbage family plants with aromatic herb...

For those with limited space, vertical gardening offers an effective solution. Trellises, wall-mounted planters, and hanging baskets can significantly expand your growing area while creating visual interest in the garden...

Trending Online

Popular discussions from garden enthusiasts around the world.



Took the plunge and converted my entire front yard to native plants. Here's what happened

Posted by u/NativePlantFan • 3 days ago • 4.7k upvotes • 2,104 comments

After months of planning, I removed my traditional lawn and replaced it with native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs. The transformation has been incredible – my water bill is down 60%, maintenance time has been cut in half, and the yard is now buzzing with pollinators and birds!



Before: Traditional lawn




After: Native garden in spring

Top Comment

u/GardenCouncil • 2 days ago

Did you have any issues with HOA or city ordinances? My city has restrictions on grass height but I'd love to do something similar.



My tomato plants produced over 200 tomatoes this season! Here's what I did differently

Posted by u/TomatoMaster • 2 days ago • 3.2k upvotes • 1,245 comments



Help! What's eating my hostas and how do I stop it?

Posted by u/HostaLover • 1 day ago • 945 upvotes • 832 comments

Weekly Quiz

Test your knowledge of this week's news and stories. How many can you answer correctly?

1. What is Emma Johnson's degree in?

A. Environmental Science B. Urban Planning C. Agriculture D. Botany

2. How many additional garden plots will be created in the community garden expansion?

A. 10 B. 15 C. 20 D. 25

3. Which of the following is NOT listed as a vegetable to plant in spring?

A. Lettuce B. Radishes C. Tomatoes D. Peas

4. When is the Farmers Market Opening Day?

A. May 10 B. May 15 C. June 1 D. June 15

5. What does the user NativePlantFan report their water bills have decreased by after replacing their lawn?

A. 30% B. 45% C. 60% D. 75%

6. When does the Brightwater Summer Festival take place?

A. May 15–18 B. June 1–4 C. June 15–18 D. July 1–4

7. Who is the special guest at the Summer Reading Kickoff event?

A. Sarah Chen B. Rachel Green C. Patricia Wilson D. Jane Porter

8. What method did NativePlantFan use to remove existing turf?

A. Chemical treatment B. Sheet mulching and sod removal C. Tilling and replanting
D. Controlled burning

Last Week's Answers

1. C 2. B 3. A 4. D 5. C 6. A 7. B 8. D

Word Search

Find all the hidden words related to this week's stories. Words can run horizontally, vertically, or diagonally in any direction.

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

Find These Words:

- COMMUNITY
- GARDEN
- FAMILY
- NATIVE
- BRIGHTWATER
- COMO
- RECYCLE
- FESTIVAL
- LIBRARY
- HARVEST
- TOMATO
- COMPOST
- WORKSHOP
- VOLUNTEER
- ENVIRONMENT
- NEWSPAPER

Coming Soon to Pigeon Tales

The Pigeon Tales team is excited to announce several major updates coming to the platform in the next few months. Based on your feedback, we've prioritized features that will make creating and sharing family newspapers even easier and more engaging.

First, we're introducing collaborative editing, allowing multiple family members to contribute to the same newspaper simultaneously. This means grandparents, parents, and children can all add their own stories, photos, and updates, no matter where they are in the world.



Collaborative editing makes creating family newspapers a shared experience.

AI-Powered Layouts

Our new AI system will analyze your content and suggest optimal layouts, ensuring professional results every time.

Print-On-Demand

Partner with local print shops to have physical copies delivered to family members who prefer traditional newspapers.

Family Archives

Create a searchable repository of all your past editions, preserving family stories for generations to come.



Share Pigeon Tales with Friends

Know someone who would love creating family newspapers? Tell them about Pigeon Tales and help them preserve their family stories.

www.pigeontales.com.au



Read Issue Online

ID: a5-45-67

