

# RIVER CITY NEWS



TRI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF MASON CITY, SPRING 2010

## Bookmeyer, Hickey and Solberg Join City Council

A new Mayor and two new City Council members were sworn in and ready to assume office in January. **Eric Bookmeyer** is Mason City's Mayor, **Travis Hickey** was elected to represent the second ward, and **Janet Solberg** is the new fourth ward representative.



**Mayor Bookmeyer** moved to Iowa from Nebraska to attend Luther College where he graduated with a degree in Biology. He founded an architectural mill-work firm in Clinton,

Iowa and eventually sold the firm to pursue an MBA Degree. He completed his MBA studies at St. Ambrose University with high honors. He relocated to Rochester, Minnesota, where he worked as an executive recruiter in the window and door industry, focusing on executive positions in production, operations, sales, marketing, engineering and finance. In order to take a more hands-on role raising his growing family, he left the recruiting business in 2006. He has since then become a volunteer and advocate for Mason City economic development. Mayor Bookmeyer and his wife, Erin, a local physician, have two children.



**Councilmember Hickey** is a native Mason Citian, having been born and raised in the community and graduated from Mason City High School. Since

October 2000, he has been employed with FedEx Freight as an Operations Manager. His hobbies involve outdoor activities including softball, hunting and fishing. He has fished in the IOWA tournament for three years and won the IOWA Walleye State Championship held in Spirit Lake and East Okoboji this past October with his fishing partner. He is also a member of the

Shellrock Chapter of Ducks Unlimited. Councilmember Hickey and his wife, Monica, have two sons at home.



**Councilmember Solberg** is a native Iowan and has resided in Mason City for 33 years. She attended North Iowa Area Community College and Hamilton

Business College. She was previously employed at Mercy Hospital and has been a Licensed Insurance Agent with Corcoran & Associates, Inc. for the past 18 years. She has been involved in volunteer roles including Mentoring, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), Youth Softball Coach, Citizens Police Academy, Mason City Youth Hockey, and housed North Iowa Huskie Hockey players. She assisted with the organization of the Central Heights Neighborhood Association and served as President for four years. Solberg has also organized various fundraisers for the schools, hospital and the Youth Softball Complex and received the Volunteer of the Year award from Iowa Lt. Governor Patty Judge. Councilmember Solberg and her husband, Dave, have three grown children.

At-Large **Councilmember Scott Tornquist** was also sworn into office in January after being reelected in November. Councilmember Tornquist was appointed as Mayor Pro Tem at the City Council's January 5 meeting.

## City Council Goals

Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Please contact: City Administrator's office  
10 1st Street NW  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 421-2701 (phone)  
(641) 424-7189 (fax)  
cityinformation@masoncity.net

### INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- 2 Planned Engineering Projects Awards and Achievements National Census Day April 1, 2010
- 3 Volunteer Mason City America's Night Out Against Crime Companion Niches at Elmwood Cemetery
- 4 Calendar of Events New Faces and Retirements

The City Council held its annual Goal Setting Session in December and discussed a set of goals which outlines their vision for the community and priorities that direct the day-to-day operations of City staff. The list below is a result of the goals and priorities for 2010 as compiled by the City Council.

### GOALS

- Maintain Sound Financial Position
- Sound Infrastructure and Safe Community
- Planned and Controlled Growth (jobs, income, population, school)
- Green City
- Fun City for Amenities
- Attractive Community

### TOP PRIORITIES

- Development of Multi-Purpose Facility
- Continue Infrastructure Improvements
- Study/Review the City Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Maintain Sound Financial Position through Controlled Spending
- Determine Future Business Park with Partners

For more information about the goals and priorities, contact your City Council member listed on page 2 or visit the city's website and click on the mayor and council page under 'Your Government'.

# Volunteer Mason City

**Volunteers Recognized:** The 7th annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held on November 3, 2009. Shining Star recipients were Brenda and Owen Currier.



*Owen and Brenda Currier with Mayor Roger Bang November, 2009*

The Curriers have donated nearly 1,000 hours to the efforts of the 457 steam locomotive preservation project, including refurbishing the brass bell, providing tours to visitors, working in the sales depot and helping in the construction of the award-winning Cannonball float.

The Shining Star team recognition was presented to Bill Bowen and Paul Nelson representing the First Covenant Church (5th Sunday team) for their coordination of community service projects through the City Volunteer Program.

The **Earth Day Committee** is currently planning for the 17th annual community-wide litter clean up effort scheduled during Earth Day week on Saturday, April 24. Previous clean-up teams are invited to return and the committee welcomes volunteers new to the event to register a team. To learn more about the event and the festival following it or to register, contact the City Volunteer Program office at (641) 421-3372 or email: [mzishka@masoncity.net](mailto:mzishka@masoncity.net).

**Park Watch Volunteers** have been assisting law enforcement officers by patrolling designated parks and responsible for helping to reduce acts of vandalism since 2006.

Park Watch volunteers are trained to recognize suspicious activity and to effectively report it to law enforcement.

Park Watch volunteers must be at least 18 years old, possess motor vehicle transportation and a valid driver's license. A two-hour training session with Mason City Police Department staff is required

prior to patrol assignment, and those chosen to participate must first pass a local background check.

To learn more about the program or to request an application, contact the Volunteer Program office at (641) 421-3372 or email: [mzishka@masoncity.net](mailto:mzishka@masoncity.net). More can be found at [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net). Go to *Your Government* and then click on Volunteer Program. Training will be held on March 23. Please apply today!

## Mason City to Join Cities Nationwide for 'America's Night Out Against Crime'

Neighborhoods throughout Mason City are joining forces with thousands of communities nationwide on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 for the 'National Night Out' crime and drug prevention event. This annual event builds a healthier, safer community to generate support for local anti-crime programs and strengthen police/community relations, and is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co-sponsored locally by the Mason City Police Department and Community Policing Advisory Board.

Starting at 5:00 p.m. on August 3, residents in neighborhoods throughout Mason City are asked to lock their doors, turn on their outside lights and spend the evening with neighbors and police at East Park. Activities, demonstrations, and displays will be presented. Free food will be served, and there will be a drawing for prizes. The event will conclude with a flashlight safety walk to show a unified stance against crime. Let's "Give Crime and Drugs a Going Away Party".

## Companion Niches now available at Elmwood - St. Joseph Municipal Cemetery

A "Grandview" columbarium is the newest addition to the cemetery. The name comes from its location on the higher ground of the cemetery with an impressive view of the rolling landscape and beautiful mature trees of the older sections. This columbarium contains 40 companion niches that are sized to hold two large urns. The present columbarium by the lake has single sized niches



that will hold only one large or two small urns. The columbarium was purchased to accommodate the growing trend toward cremations.

Construction of the unit is of preformed plastic niches encased in solid concrete and a Moonlight Gray granite exterior. to provide a secure resting place. The Starbright Black polished granite niche fronts afford a space for engraving names as well as a striking contrast to the gray granite exterior. Surrounding the columbarium are large black and gray granite faced pavers that give the area an elegant look. Benches, flowers and shrubbery will be added this spring.

The public is encouraged to visit Elmwood - St. Joseph Municipal Cemetery to see the new addition. and purchase their spaces on a pre need basis. No interest payment plans are available.

The cemetery entrance is located on South Federal Avenue. The weekday office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Appointments for purchasing plots and niches can be made for evening hours and weekends by calling (641) 421-3687. More information about the cemetery can be found at [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net).

## Yard Waste Season

begins Monday, March 29.

City sanitation customers may set out leaves, grass clippings, and tree branches on the regular day of sanitation collection. For more information, contact the Sanitation Division at (641) 421-3691 or the website at [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net) under How Do I? Dispose of Yard Waste.

## Engineering Projects Planned

The Mason City Engineering Department is planning for a busy 2010 construction season. The following is a list of planned projects that are spread out at various locations throughout the City:

- Manhole Replacement and Water Main Reroute Program
- Street Panel and Curb Replacement Program
- Sidewalk Replacement Program
- Pavement Marking Program
- 19th Street SE and Mason Creek Culvert Widening
- South Monroe Avenue Widening and Intersection Improvements
- Highway 122 Widening (Iowa DOT / City)
- Federal Avenue Streetscape and Utility Improvements Project
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Sanitary Sewer Repairs
- South Delaware Avenue Bridge Replacement
- Flood Protection Wall - Water Treatment Plant
- 15th Street SW Bridge Approach Replacement

## Awards & Achievements

Congratulations to EMS **Captain Dave Johnson** of the Mason City Fire Department for completing the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. This extensive, four-year program is open to key leadership positions within fire services. Captain Johnson joins Fire Chief Bob Platts as the only two officers at the Department who have completed this training.

**Lieutenant Frank Stearns**, a 25-year officer of the Mason City Police Department, graduated from the 240th FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. The FBI National Academy is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders that serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide.

**Electrical Inspector John Arp** has received his Master Class A Electrician license by passing the Iowa Prometric Examination. He also received his Commercial Electrical Inspector Certification and is pursuing the Residential Electrical Inspector Certification from the International Code Council.

**Building/Plumbing Inspector Curt Sauve** received his Building Inspector Certification along with the Plumbing and Mechanical Certifications from the International Code Council.

## EMS Division Earns a Perfect Inspection

For the second consecutive state certification period, the EMS Division of the Mason City Fire Department (MCFD) passed the on-site inspection with no deficiencies. The inspection concentrated on the department's adherence to the state EMS policy and Code of Iowa procedure and regulations and continuous quality improvement, provider certification and medical direction from a licensed physician.

Merrill Meese, Regional Coordinator from the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, stated that the MCFD is always a leader in the North-Central Iowa EMS region and "remains on the cutting edge of Iowa Code compliance and regulatory standards."

## April 1, 2010 National Census Day



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

### DID YOU FILL OUT AND RETURN YOUR CENSUS FORM?

2010 U.S. Census forms were delivered to households across the nation in March. If you didn't get an opportunity to fill your form out, it's not too late. If you don't send back your form, you may receive a visit from a census taker. If a census taker visits you, here's what you should do:

- First ask to see their ID. All census workers carry official government badges marked with just their name;

## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Mayor: Eric Bookmeyer**  
(641) 421-3600 (City Hall)  
mayor@masoncity.net

**\*At-Large: Scott Tornquist**  
(641) 423-4803  
tornquistatlarge@masoncity.net

**At-Large: Max Weaver**  
(641) 423-6888  
weaveratlarge@masoncity.net

**First Ward: Jeff Marsters**  
(641) 424-5845  
marsterswardone@masoncity.net

**Second Ward: Travis Hickey**  
(641) 423-4565  
hickeywardtwo@masoncity.net

**Third Ward: Don Nelson**  
(641) 423-3896  
nelsonwardthree@masoncity.net

**Fourth Ward: Janet Solberg**  
(641) 425-0749  
solbergwardfour@masoncity.net

*\*Councilmember Tornquist serves as the Mayor Pro Tem*

they may also have a "U.S. Census Bureau" bag

- The census taker will never ask to enter your home
- If you're still not certain about their identity, or if you have any questions call the Kansas City Regional Census Center at (816)-994-2000.

Census takers visit local homes several times to capture resident information for the 2010 Census.

For more information on the 2010 Census and why it's important to be counted in our community, visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census> or the City of Mason City's website at [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net) and look under the Residents tab.

**Counting Everyone Once — and Only Once — and In the Right Place**



## New Faces

Randy Krueger joined the Water Supply Division of the Engineering Department as an Operator in October of 2009. Randy is a graduate of Griswold Community High School and received a HVAC diploma from NIACC. He is ISO (International Standardization for Organization) and ASNT (American Society for Nondestructive Testing) certified from Technical Associates, Charlotte, North Carolina.

## Retirements

The City of Mason City would like to extend a thank you to the following employee who retired after 16 years of service:  
Robert (Bob) Rush, Street Division

## Summer Events

### 2010 American Barnstormers Tour

Thursday-Saturday, June 17-19, 2010, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Mason City Municipal Airport

This exhibit will feature 20 meticulously restored vintage aircraft from the 1920s and 1930s for everyone to see plus rides on biplanes (fee charged for the rides).

### Family Fun

It's not too early to start thinking about summer fun at the Family Aquatic Center! Center patrons have three options for admission:

Daily admission fees are \$3 for persons ages 3-17 and \$4 for persons 18 and over. Children 2 and under are free.

Family and individual passes go on sale beginning April 1. Family Passes are \$113 by May 7 and \$133 after May 7. Individual Passes are \$64 by May 7 and \$75 after May 7.

Coupon books are \$25 each and consist of 15 coupons. One coupon is required for admission.

For more information, contact the Recreation Department at (641) 421-3673.

Golf is a sporting event the whole family can enjoy! Weather permitting, the course is scheduled to open mid-April for the golf season. For information on memberships, course hours, tournaments, or general inquiries about the course, contact the Highland Park Club House during the golf season at (641) 423-9693 or log onto the City's website at [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net) under the facilities portion of the Recreation section. Get out and swing the clubs this summer at Highland Park Golf Course!

### Summer Fun at the Library!

Children's and Teen summer reading programs kick off on Monday, June 7 and run through Friday, July 16.

Kick-off Performer: Mad Science of Iowa – Monday, June 7 at 1 p.m.

\*Family Story Time – Mondays at 2:30 p.m.; Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

\*Kids Craft on the Library lawn – Thursdays 3-5 p.m.

\*Junior Book Club (3-5 grade students) – Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

\*Teen Event (craft or Wii), East Lounge, First United Methodist Church, 119 South Georgia Avenue – Tuesdays 6:30-8 p.m.

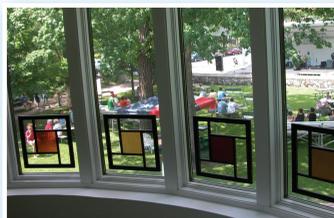
Program Closing performer: Zoo Man – Friday, July 16 at 1 p.m.

Contact the Library at (641) 421-3668 for more information and locations.

### Aloha Art!

The Charles H. MacNider Museum will host its annual MacNider Arts Festival on June 12th starting at 9 a.m. Join us for the FREE Mayor and City Council's Pancake Breakfast, a variety of Kid's Activities, an Art Market where you can purchase original one-of-a-kind art, and great music all day. Check out the website for details at [www.macniderart.org](http://www.macniderart.org). This year the festival is packing all of its fun filled activities into just one day – so don't miss it!

Many art activities fill the museum and library lawns during the MacNider Arts Festival.



## Calendar of Events

### APRIL 2010

- 1 National Census Day
- 1 The Amazing Adventures of Willy the Woolly, puppet show, MacNider Museum
- 1 Human Rights Commission, 12 p.m.
- 1 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 2 City offices closed
- 6 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 6 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 8 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 12 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 13 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 13 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 14 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 16 Margaret MacNider Campground opens for the season
- 17 School Art Exhibit closes, MacNider Museum
- 20 Kids' Club Day, MacNider Museum, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 20 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 20 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 20 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24 17th Annual Earth Day Festival, East Park, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 27 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.
- 29 30th Annual Cerro Gordo Photo Show opens, MacNider Museum, 5 p.m.
- 2 Sanitation make-up day for May 31
- 3 Human Rights Commission, 12 p.m.
- 3 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 6 Municipal Band Concert, East Park Band Shell, 7:30 p.m.
- 7 Library Children's and Teen Summer Reading Programs begin
- 8 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 8 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 9 Municipal Band Concert, South-bridge Mall, 7:30 p.m.
- 9 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 10 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 12 Aloha Art! MacNider Arts Festival, 9 a.m.
- 12 Municipal Band Concert, MacNider Museum, 4 p.m.
- 14 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 15 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 15 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 15 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 20 Municipal Band Concert, East Park Band Shell, 7:30 p.m.
- 22 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.
- 23 Municipal Band Concert, South-bridge Mall, 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Cannonball Day, East Park
- 27 Municipal Band Concert, East Park Band Shell, 7:30 p.m.

### JULY 2010

- 1 Human Rights Commission, 12 p.m.
- 1 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 3 Municipal Band Concert, Mohawk Stadium, 9 p.m.
- 5 City offices closed
- 6 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 6 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 7 Sanitation make-up day for July 5
- 8 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 8 Iowa Crafts: 39 Best in Show Astrid Hilger Bennett exhibit opens, MacNider Museum
- 11 Municipal Band Concert, East Park Band Shell, 7:30 p.m.
- 12 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 13 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 13 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 14 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 16 Library Children's and Teen Summer Reading Programs end
- 20 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 20 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 20 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 23-24 Up in Smoke BBQ Bash, East Park
- 24 Martin Weinstein Solo Exhibition closes, MacNider Museum
- 27 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.
- 1 The Art of Aging exhibit closes, MacNider Museum
- 4 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 4 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 6 Human Rights Commission, 12 p.m.
- 6 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 10 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 11 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 11 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 12 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 13 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 13 Martin Weinstein Solo Exhibition opens, MacNider Museum
- 15 Police Bike Auction, Monroe Storage, 1627 South Monroe, 9 a.m.
- 15 457 Cannonball Season Opening, East Park, 1-5 p.m.
- 15 Kids' Club Day, MacNider Museum, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 17 Peace Officer Memorial Service, Music Man Square, 7 p.m.
- 18 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 18 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 18 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.
- 27 Municipal Band Concert, South-bridge Mall, 6:45 p.m.
- 27-31 Band Festival weekend
- 31 City offices closed

### JUNE 2010

- 1 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 1 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.

This calendar is subject to change. For more information, visit [www.masoncity.net](http://www.masoncity.net) or contact staff at (641) 421-3600.