

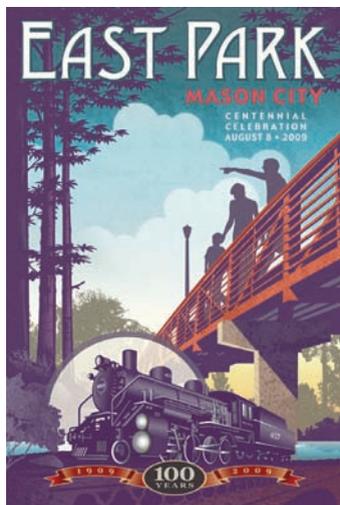
RIVER

Vol. 5 No. 1 May 2009

City News



HAPPY BIRTHDAY OLD FRIEND



There probably isn't a single person who grew up in Mason City that hasn't enjoyed the recreational opportunities and natural beauty of Mason City's largest park, East Park. The park spans over 57 acres, enhanced by two scenic rivers and endless recreational activities. Over the years, patrons have enjoyed picnics, disc golf, tennis, basketball, trail system, fishing, sledding and the playground equipment located throughout the park. A popular attraction, the Prairie Playground maze, was built in 1998 by community volunteers. Music fills the summer air as the band shell hosts Mason City Municipal Band concerts and various other annual events throughout the summer months. The M&St.L. 457 Locomotive (Rotary Cannonball), a longtime resident of the park has received an extensive facelift in recent years. See page 4 for the newest feature added to one of the park's oldest residents.

On Saturday, August 8, everyone is invited to the 100 year birthday celebration of East Park. The celebration kicks off at 11:00 a.m. with family oriented activities that will consist of a petting zoo, fishing contest, storytelling, caricature artist and much more. Food vendors will provide an assortment of options certain to satisfy almost any palette. Local partner organizations will be on hand to provide educational demonstrations and a silent auction will feature an array of items. Transportation within the park will be provided by a trolley and live bands will reminisce with a genre of music over the past 100 years.

This celebration is open to the public and activities are free (with the exception of food or purchases from vendors and the auction).

Posters designed by Jim Zach commemorating this special event are available for sale at the North Iowa Community Credit Union at 640 South Federal Avenue for \$10.



The scenic bridges provide access over the two waterways that flow through the park.



The merry-go-round offered hours of amusement for kids of all ages.



The beauty of the park provides a scenic backdrop for the appreciation and enjoyment of nature.

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The Band Shell has provided musical entertainment of all genres over the years.



Fishing is just one of the many activities patrons enjoy at East Park.



East Park has been the venue for countless family gatherings in the past 100 years.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR 2009

The City Council of Mason City approved a set of goals which outlines their vision for the community and their priorities to direct the day-to-day operations of City staff. The following list is a compilation of the Council's goals and priorities for 2009.

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

PRIORITIES:

- ✓ Infrastructure improvements continued
- ✓ Maintain sound financial position through controlled spending
- ✓ Implement Vision Iowa with consideration of a streetscape assessment
- ✓ Determine future business park development located at the south side of Mason City or the airport
- ✓ Finalize downtown Planning and Zoning plans
- ✓ Strict nuisance code enforcement – property maintenance code public and private
- ✓ Flood recovery
- ✓ Continue trails development – connecting and linking
- ✓ Study the Reverse 911 system
- ✓ Re-write the existing paving programs with alternatives
- ✓ Partner with Mercy Hospital for a west anchor to downtown

For more information about the goals and priorities, contact your City Council member listed on page 8 of this publication.

WHERE IS THE LIBRARY MOVING?

In order to move out of the building in preparation for the extensive remodel project, the Mason City Public Library will close beginning May 1, 2009, and will reopen on June 1, 2009. The project will include replacing the HVAC system and roofs, reconfiguring rooms and adding landscaping and a Commons Area.

The renovation will last approximately 17 months until October 2010. During this time, the library materials, circulation desks and Children's Department will operate from the Mason City Room and the adjoining garage. The Archive and Genealogy Departments will be housed at Madison School and open by appointment only.

Children's programming will continue to be offered during the renovation. Story times and other special events will be hosted in the Salsbury Room at the MacNider Museum.

Hours of operation for the Mason City Room will remain Monday-Wednesday 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Thursday-Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS MOVE TO TEMPORARY LOCATION

Due to the upcoming renovation of the public library, beginning May 19, 2009, the Mason City City Council meetings will be relocated to the Muse-Norris Facility at the North Iowa Area Community College campus. It is anticipated this change in location will be in effect until October 2010. The meetings will continue to be aired live and rebroadcast at 1:00 and 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 and 7:00 p.m. on the City's Education Government Channel 4.

The City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m.

STATE-OF-ART AMBULANCE

The Mason City Fire Department welcomed its newest ambulance in March. The 2009 model provides improved safety restraints for EMS personnel in the passenger compartment, and offers a larger work space with updated amenities. The unit also offers extra safety features for the public with upgraded lights and sirens and special reflective striping on the back. This ambulance was purchased entirely with ambulance revenue generated from services.



AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

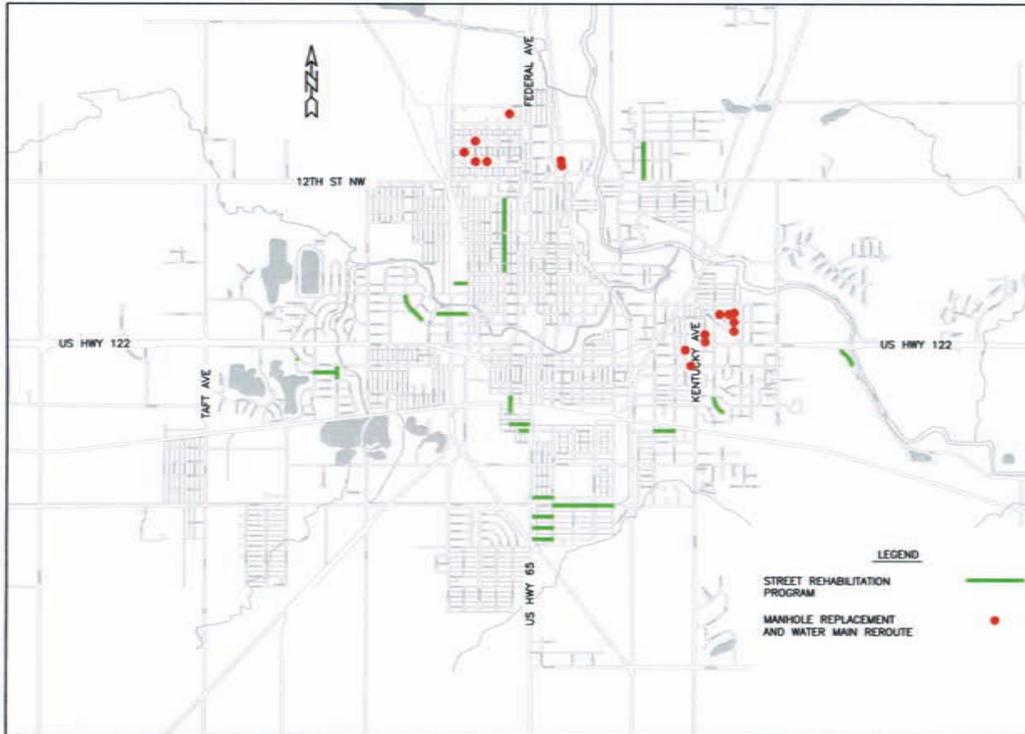
City Planner Tricia Sandahl was presented with the Noon Rotary Club's Service Above Self Award. The award is presented to the city employee that exemplifies a commitment to the mission of public service. Tricia serves as the City Planner in the Growth Development and Planning Department and has been with the City for over 7 years.

Volunteer Program Coordinator Mary Zishka obtained a certificate in volunteer leadership offered by the Minnesota Association of Volunteer Administration. Candidates for the certification must complete the Volunteer Impact Leadership Training Series, which provides tools needed to ensure that volunteer programs support the mission of their organization and expand the organization's overall impact and outreach.

Mason City Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide efficient and effective city services and infrastructure with sound fiscal policies that create an enjoyable quality of life in a safe and viable community.

Projects Update



Street Rehabilitation Project

The replacement of sanitary manholes and storm sewer structures, rerouting of water mains, pavement and curb patching, and mill and overlay of existing pavement is scheduled as follows:

Street	From	To
North Hampshire Ave	15th Street NE	14th Street NE
North Adams Ave	10th Street NW	3rd Street NW
2nd Street NW	North Monroe Ave	Dead End
Linden Dr	1st Street NW	South Crescent Dr
1st Street SW	South Crescent Dr	South Monroe Ave
Birch Dr	4th Street SW	400' South of Intersection
South Grant Ave	6th Street SW	Meadowbrook Dr
South Tennessee Place	Manor Dr	Cul-de-sac
South President Ave	8th Street SW	10th Street SW
12th Street SE	South Virginia Ave	South Rhode Island Ave
18th Street SE	South Federal Ave	South Pennsylvania Ave
19th Street SE	South Pennsylvania Ave	South Carolina Ave
20th Street SE	South Federal Ave	South Pennsylvania Ave
21st Street SE	South Federal Ave	South Pennsylvania Ave
22nd Street SE	South Federal Ave	South Pennsylvania Ave

MacNider Campground Opening Soon with a New Look!



The MacNider Campground Improvement Project will be completed soon – in time for the summer camping season. Special features of the project include new water service, sanitary sewer service, electrical service, dump station, roadways, park lighting, tornado shelter/bathhouse, picnic shelters and a modern office/camp store. The newly renovated campground will feature 20 full hookups with water, sewer and electrical; 55 hookups for water & electrical; 20 tent camping sites with water only, for a total of 95 camping sites. Campsites will include a fire ring and picnic table and large barbeque grills in the tent area. Picnic shelters will include picnic tables, wheel chair accessible picnic tables and a barbeque grill. The MacNider Campground Camp Store will provide many amenities for the modern day camper.

To contact campground staff, call 421-3679.

Zoning Ordinance Update

After 6-months work on new development regulations for the city, the biggest change is the reduction of separate zoning districts from 22 to 7 zones.

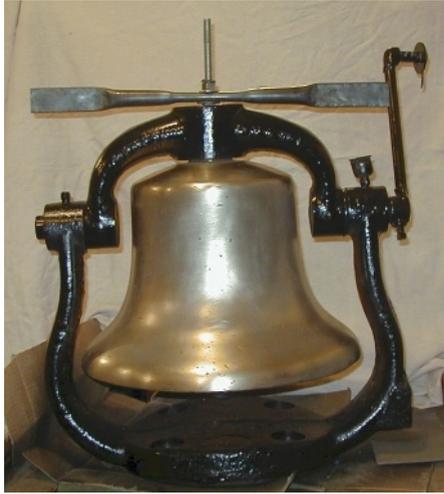
This simplification requires a new language and a repackaging of the rules for development. Will it change what you see when you drive down the street tomorrow? Probably not. But over time, it is the hope that new development will reflect the quality of development that Mason City deserves and that supports the vision of the Comprehensive Plan. Developers and citizens alike should find that the new rules are easier to understand, more flexible in their application and less time-consuming to administer.

The 7 proposed zones are: Z1 Agricultural District, Z2 Sub-Urban District, Z3 Multi-Use District, Z4 General Urban District, Z5 Central Business District, Z6 Industrial District and Z7 Specific Use District.

If the zoning ordinance changes are adopted by the City Council, the entire city will be mapped and classified into the 7 new zoning districts. Every attempt will be made, and language will be included in the ordinance, to ensure existing developed property does not lose its current legal zoning status.

Questions? Citizens can call the Growth Development & Planning Department at 421-362

Original Brass Bell Returns Home!



The brass bell has been brought back to its gleaming grandeur in time for the 50th anniversary dedication.

Volunteers Brenda and Owen Currier have donated many hours to restore the brass finish and clean up nearly 100 years of scratches and nicks from the prized brass bell that will adorn the 1912 M&St.L. 457 "Rotary Cannonball" steam locomotive located in East Park.

The bell is an original Minneapolis and St. Louis from 1910. It graced two M&St.L. engines before disappearing for almost 20 years and then found a home at a church camp in Brainerd, Minnesota for the next 30 years - a journey of almost 100 years from when it first crowned an M&St.L. engine.

Through connections with the church camp, Friends of the 457 (a volunteer group working to restore and preserve the M&St.L. 457 in Mason City's East Park) took ownership of the bell. The restoration of the bell is nearly complete and Friends of the 457 are making arrangements to put the bell into place as originally intended.

Thanks to the dedication, hard work and keen eyes of volunteers, they have been able to bring the bell

home. It will be placed on the "Cannonball" this spring and the complete site will be dedicated during a celebration on May 16, which marks the 50th anniversary of the train being placed in East Park.



Volunteers Dennis Wilson and Owen Currier look over the brass bell prior to starting its restoration, provided by Currier and his wife Brenda.



4TH ANNUAL CANNONBALL DAY WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 27 IN EAST PARK.

Tours of the train, Food, Entertainment, Family activities & the 2nd Annual Kids Fun Run

~You Won't Want To Miss It~

Looking for a Volunteer Opportunity? Help Make Mason City "Sparkle."

There are many volunteer opportunities to choose from. Contact 421-3372 to learn more about these and other municipal projects:

- Memorial Refurbishing Project
- Arts Fiesta (MacNider Art Festival)
- Cemetery Adopt-a-Section Project
- Cannonball Day Event
- Tour Guides #457 (Rotary Cannonball) & Depot Sales Attendants
- Limb/branch Removal Project
- Beautification Project (community gardens)
- Adopt-a-Street Program
- Volunteer Park Watch Program



Scouts pose for photo op after painting 60 trash barrels for City parks.

Last year 1,393 volunteers contributed 5,785 hours to City projects.

East Park's Steam Locomotive to be in Parade!

Friends of the 457 and several other volunteers are currently donating their skills, time and talents to the construction of a float, which will replicate the Rotary Cannonball. It will make its debut on May 23 during the Band Festival parade.

More Color for Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery



Volunteers & staff worked together to complete the Main Entrance Landscaping Project at the cemetery.

This spring, volunteers and cemetery staff will create four features, adding to the beauty of the Elmwood-St. Joseph grounds and offering more enjoyment to our citizens.

The front entrance landscaping will be completed with the addition of annual flowers to compliment the serviceberry tree, shrubs, perennials and ground cover planted last fall.

Colorful shade plants will provide improvements to the Melson mausoleum located in the older section of cemetery.

The landscape design for a feature in the Crown Hill section includes low flowering perennials, evergreen ground cover, a bed of annual flowers, and a patch of gladiolas which will surround a reading and meditation area with a bench and "blarney stone" with an Irish blessing.

Wild rose bushes will be the main theme for landscaping planned near the St. Joseph section complimented by splashes of colorful annuals and evergreen ground cover.

Visitors will be able to enjoy the beautiful plantings in most areas of the cemetery. Benches are available throughout the grounds to allow visitors to sit and reflect, relax or meditate.

Citizens interested in making a donation or assisting with the planting of these landscaped areas are encouraged to contact the cemetery office at 421-3687.

Community Notes

100 Years of Tradition and Pride

The Mason City Police Department marked its 100th anniversary as an organized department in April of 2009. The original five-man department has grown to the present day number of 49 officers. To date, approximately 275 peace officers have served the citizens of Mason City. Over the past 100 years, the department has called several locations 'home' and the method of policing by the officers has evolved from 'on foot' and horseback to squad cars and motorcycles.

Historical events helped shape the operation of the department to best meet the needs of citizens then and now.

1911

Major industries such as the Brick & Tile and the Northwestern and Lehigh Cement plants were beginning to boom. Bootlegging, prostitution, robberies and murders kept law officers busy in the areas of 'Powder Street' (presently South Jackson Avenue) and 'Lehigh Row'.

1920s

Officers on foot used a communication system of red lights located at various intersections. The desk sergeant would turn on the red light at a particular intersection, which served as a signal for the officer to get to a call box to phone the station.

The Records and Identification Bureau was implemented, which kept a record of all calls for service and documented all arrests with mug shots and fingerprints.

1930s

Organized crime came to town with the robbery of the 1st National Bank by John Dillinger and his gang. Police Detective John Buchanan was kept at bay behind a rock as Dillinger sprayed it with gunfire. The rock is known today as Fort Buchanan.



The Mason City Police Department in 1912 (the location is facing east on the 200 block of North Federal Avenue).



Call boxes were used as part of the red light system, located throughout the downtown area between the 1920s and 1960s.

1940s

The Department got its first radio which enabled a quicker response and more efficient communication for officers in squad cars. Police call boxes and the red light system were still used by foot patrol officers.

1960s

Portable hand held radios replaced the police call box and red light system. Metermaids and civilian dispatchers were hired to free up officers assigned to those duties which increased the number of officers patrolling the street.

The department's inventory was increased with riot helmets and batons in an effort to be prepared for possible rioting in the community.

1970s

A Vietnam War demonstration led to 14 arrests.

The department moved to its current location which added more officers, a new dispatch center, jail and indoor firing range. The new station retained a piece of the old station with the addition of the concrete 'Police Station' marker that was above the former station's main door. The sign still sits in front of the station as a tribute to the officers that have served the community in the past years.

Today, one hundred years after the organization of the Police Department, officers drive Ford Police Interceptors instead of riding horses, they use laptop computers equipped with GPS in the cars instead of the red light system, and they have Sig Sauer semi automatic pistols instead of the Colt Detective Special revolvers.

A lot has changed over the years. However, the one thing that has remained the same since 1909 is that officers still respond when the public calls and they uphold a strong sense of pride and tradition.

For a more comprehensive look at the historical view of the Mason City Police Department, contact Sergeant Greg Scott at the (641) 494-3561.



Policeman John Dempsey uses the new 'walkie-talkie' radio during its experimental stage. He is standing by the police call box which had been relieved of duty in the 1960s.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a Presidential Proclamation that set aside May 15 as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day and the week that May 15 falls as National Police Week.

The Mason City Police Honor Guard team was established to pay tribute to police officers, both past and present, who have dedicated their lives to the service of others. The team strives to provide a suitable display of the noble law enforcement traditions with pride, excellence, and dignity at police funerals, memorial services, parades and other ceremonial occasions.

In honor of National Police Week, there will be a memorial program at Music Man Square on Tuesday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m.



The Honor Guard team prepares to fire rifles during a memorial event.



The Honor Guard at the funeral of a former Mason City Police Officer.

Update of City Happenings

NEW FACES



Mark Halverson joined the Transit Department as a Transit Driver in March of 2009. Mark is familiar with City operations, having previously worked in the Police Department, Water Utility Department, Street Department as Street Superintendent and most recently as the Cemetery Manager at Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery. He is a graduate of Mason City High School.

Jessica Punelli was appointed as Project Coordinator with the Youth Task Force in February of 2009. Jessica is a graduate of Dowling High School, Kirkwood Community College with an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts, and Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology/Criminal Justice.



Lynn Sheimo joined the Finance Department as a Cashier in January of 2009. She is a graduate of Nora Springs-Rock Falls High School and NIACC with an Associate of Science degree in Business.

Randi Thomas was hired in February of 2009 by the Engineering Department for the position of Traffic Control Technician. Randy is a graduate of Mason City High School and holds an IBEW/NECA Apprentice certificate.



Justin Vander Leest was appointed to the position of Firefighter/Paramedic by the Fire Department in December of 2008. He is a graduate of Lynnville-Sully High School and Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Transportation/Logistics. Justin is certified as an EMT-Basic.

YARD WASTE SEASON

Residents may set out yard waste and tree branches on the day of regular sanitation pick-up. Any changes to this schedule will be made available to the public via media outlets in the City. If there are questions, please contact the Sanitation Division at 421-3691.

LARGE ITEM PICK-UP SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

Current City sanitation customers are invited to set out their large items for pick-up the week of June 8 on their scheduled sanitation collection day. Stickers will be required to be placed on the items, based on the size of the item. For further details, contact the Sanitation Department at 421-3691 or the Operation & Maintenance Department at 421-3675.

DRAIN PLUGS

It's the end of an era. The Mason City Fire Department is no longer providing wooden drain plugs to the community free of charge. Area home improvement and hardware stores have a variety of floor drain plugs available at a reasonable cost. The plastic and rubber plugs are easier to put in and take out than the wooden drain plugs and can be reused any number of times.



RESIDENTIAL SMOKE DETECTOR UPGRADE

The State of Iowa now requires the installation of dual-sensor smoke detectors in new residential construction. These detectors contain a photoelectric sensor that provides the best protection against slow, smoldering fires and an ionization sensor which is best at detecting fast, clean burning fires. Most detectors in homes currently use the ionization technology to detect smoke. If your smoke detectors still meet the manufacturer's recommendations, you are not required to immediately replace them. However, when you have a detector that needs to be replaced, it must be replaced with a dual-sensor unit. Remember, all smoke detectors have a 10-year useful life. So if yours are approaching this age, now would be a good time to replace them with the new units. And don't forget to replace with new batteries every year. If you have any questions regarding smoke detector selection and placement in your home, contact the Mason City Fire Department at 421-3640.

PREMISES IDENTIFICATION RULES

Imagine an emergency in the middle of a dark night. An ambulance, fire engine or police squad car needs to locate your house quickly. Seconds count. You see emergency lights, but they slow down or stop a few houses away. Why? Could it be your house and your neighbors are missing street address numbers? Are they difficult to locate or see because of the background?



Mason City has adopted the International Fire Code which requires new and existing buildings to have approved address numbers, building numbers or building identification placed in a position that is plainly legible and visible from the street. These numbers shall contrast with the background of the building and be Arabic or alphabet letters a minimum of 4" high and 1/2" wide.

Take a few minutes. Go out to the street and look at your house. Pretend it's 3:00 a.m. and pitch black outside. A storm has just passed through knocking out the electricity. You smell smoke. Is your house easy to find?

TO CONTACT THE GROWTH DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT OR FOR PLANNING OR ZONING INFORMATION, CALL 421-3626.

Upcoming Events & Meetings

May, 2009

5	4:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
5	7:00 p.m.	City Council
7	12:00 noon	Human Rights Commission
7	4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission
9	10:00 a.m.	Police Department Open House,
	-2:00 p.m.	Police Department
11	4:00 p.m.	Airport Commission
12	6:00 p.m.	Park and Recreation Board
12	7:00 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission
13	4:00 p.m.	North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team
14	8:00 a.m.	Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board
16	1:00-5:00 p.m.	Dedication of the 457 Cannonball Locomotive, East Park
19	7:00 p.m.	Peace Officer Memorial Service, Music Man Square
19	4:15 p.m.	Public Library Board
19	7:00 p.m.	City Council
19	7:00 p.m.	MacNider Museum Board
21	6:45 p.m.	Municipal Band Concert, Southbridge Mall
22-23		Band Festival weekend
25		Memorial Day holiday (City offices closed)
25	TBA	Memorial Day ceremony at Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery
26	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission
27		Sanitation pick-up for Memorial Day holiday
31	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Band Concert, East Park

June, 2009

2	4:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
2	7:00 p.m.	City Council
4	12:00 noon	Human Rights Commission
4	4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission
7	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Band Concert, East Park
8	4:00 p.m.	Airport Commission
9	6:00 p.m.	Park and Recreation Board
9	7:00 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission
10	4:00 p.m.	North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team
11	8:00 a.m.	Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board
13-14		MacNider Summer Arts Festival
14	3:00 p.m.	Municipal Band Concert, MacNider Art Museum
16	4:15 p.m.	Public Library Board
16	7:00 p.m.	City Council
16	7:00 p.m.	MacNider Museum Board
19	5:00-9:00 p.m.	Friday Night Live, Central Park
21	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Band Concert, East Park
23	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission
24	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Band Concert, Southbridge Mall
27	9:00 a.m.	Cannonball Day, East Park
	-10:00 p.m.	
28	7:30 p.m.	Municipal Band Concert, East Park

July, 2009

1		Sanitation pick-up for Independence Day holiday
2	12:00 noon	Human Rights Commission
2	4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission
3	9:00 p.m.	Municipal Band Concert, Mohawk Field, High School
3		Independence Day holiday (City offices closed)
7	4:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
7	7:00 p.m.	City Council

8	4:00 p.m.	North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team
9	8:00 a.m.	Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board
13	4:00 p.m.	Airport Commission
14	6:00 p.m.	Park and Recreation Board
14	7:00 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission
21	4:15 p.m.	Public Library Board
21	7:00 p.m.	City Council
21	7:00 p.m.	MacNider Museum Board
24-25		Up in Smoke BBQ Bash, East Park
27	5:00-9:00 p.m.	Friday Night Live, Central Park
28	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission

August, 2009

4	4:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
4	7:00 p.m.	City Council
4	TBA	National Night Out
6	12:00 noon	Human Rights Commission
6	4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission
8	11:00 a.m.	East Park Centennial Celebration, East Park
8	-11:00 p.m.	
8	11:00 a.m.	Municipal Band Concert, East Park
8-14	TBA	2009 Pyrotechnic Guild Intl. Convention, North IA Fairgrounds
10	4:00 p.m.	Airport Commission
11	6:00 p.m.	Park and Recreation Board
11	7:00 pm.	Planning & Zoning Commission
12	4:00 p.m.	North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team
13	8:00 a.m.	Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board
14-16	TBA	Civil War Encampment, East Park
18	4:15 p.m.	Public Library Board
18	7:00 p.m.	City Council
18	7:00 p.m.	MacNider Museum Board
21	5:00-9:00 p.m.	Friday Night Live, Central Park
25	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission

September, 2009

1	4:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
1	7:00 p.m.	City Council
3	12:00 noon	Human Rights Commission
3	4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission
7		Labor Day holiday (City offices closed)
8	6:00 p.m.	Park and Recreation Board
8	7:00 pm.	Planning & Zoning Commission
9		Sanitation pick-up for Labor Day holiday
9	4:00 p.m.	North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team
10	8:00 a.m.	Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board
14	4:00 p.m.	Airport Commission
15	4:15 p.m.	Public Library Board
15	7:00 p.m.	City Council
15	7:00 p.m.	MacNider Museum Board
22	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission

October, 2009

1	12:00 noon	Human Rights Commission
1	4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission
6	4:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
6	7:00 p.m.	City Council
8	8:00 a.m.	Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board
12	4:00 p.m.	Airport Commission
13	6:00 p.m.	Park Board
13	7:00 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission
14	4:00 p.m.	North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team
20	4:15 p.m.	Public Library Board
20	7:00 p.m.	City Council
20	7:00 p.m.	MacNider Museum Board
27	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission

Join the Arts Fiesta!

The lawns of the MacNider Art Museum and Public Library will be flourishing with activity Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14 during MacNider Arts Festival 2009. Great entertainment, art activities, and festival food will be plentiful throughout the weekend. The public is invited to the Mayor and City Council's free pancake breakfast on Sunday, June 14 from 10 a.m. – noon. Also on Sunday, festival goers can browse through and purchase original artwork of various types at the art market featuring over 40 local and regional artists.

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering, please call 421-3666.

Mark your calendar for May 9, 2009 to attend the open house celebrating the Mason City Police Department's 100th Anniversary and the start of National Police Week!

Kids – bring your bicycles to the safety rodeo to get a free safety inspection and participate in the bicycle obstacle course. Mason City bicycle licenses will be available and participants will be eligible for a free bicycle raffle.

Historical displays will chronicle the 100 year history of the department and how law enforcement has evolved over the last century. Staff will be available to answer questions and show equipment currently used by the department. Food and refreshments will also be provided.



**Suddenly...
You hear a siren...
And see FLASHING lights...
What do you do?
Make the RIGHT move!**

Do you know what to do when an emergency vehicle approaches your vehicle from behind or from the front? What should you do if you are stopped at an intersection? Make the **RIGHT** move. Iowa law states that that you are required to pull to the right and stop which allows emergency vehicles adequate and clear lanes to safely and quickly continue their emergency response. Here are some dos and don'ts to follow when encountering an emergency vehicle.

DO...

- Stay calm.
- Pull to the right and stop.
- Pull to the right as far as possible and then stay where you are if stopped at an intersection.
- Pull to the right and stop – even if on a four lane road without barriers.
- Be careful, slow down, and be prepared to stop when driving around an emergency scene.
- Stay at least 500 feet behind emergency vehicles.
- Slow down and be prepared to stop and move to the furthest lane from a parked vehicle with emergency lights operating.
- Follow directions of emergency personnel.

DON'T...

- Don't panic.
- Don't play your radio so loudly that you are unable to hear sirens.
- Don't drive through a red light or stop sign.
- Don't race ahead of an emergency vehicle to get out of the way.
- Don't disregard the presence of an emergency vehicle.
- Don't pull to the left or in a left turn lane.

*Please be a responsible driver and make the **RIGHT** move.*

Credit to Operation Right Move Campaign for parts of this article.

Say NO to Plastic Bags



Well over a billion plastic bags are given out free each day worldwide. Here are some facts to show the costs to the environment & our community.

- The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that Americans annually use 100 billion plastic bags.
- Plastic bag production requires oil which increases a dependency on foreign suppliers & contributes to the destruction of ecosystems around the world and toxic chemicals used to make plastic bags produce pollution.
- Plastic bags get blown around, get caught in trees and shrubs, and litter the natural environment.
- The effect on wildlife can be disastrous as birds can become entangled and die & some mammals die after eating plastic bags mistaken for food.
- As the bags decompose, they break down into small toxic bits which contaminate soil, lakes and rivers.

What can we do?

- Use 1 cloth or reusable bag and save 6 bags a week, 24 bags a month, 288 bags a year, or 22,200 bags in an average life time.
- Some countries banned plastic bags, taxed them or banned free bags, in an effort to reduce consumption & environmental litter.
- In 2008 CNN reported that China will save 37 million barrels of oil each year due to their ban of free plastic bags.
- Some cities in the United States have banned plastic bags and Iowa City is currently discussing a ban.
- There are stores in Mason City that sell cloth or reusable bags and some will give you a credit on purchases if you use them.

Use recyclable bags-it's the right thing to do!

Information from Mason City Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission

**HOW TO
CONTACT YOUR MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL
MEMBERS**

Mayor Roger Bang
(641) 421-3600
mayor@masoncity.net

At-large Max Weaver
(641) 423-6888
atlargea@masoncity.net

At-large Scott Tornquist
(641) 423-4803
Scott@TornquistForRiverCity.com

1st Ward Jeff Marsters
(641) 424-5845
wardone@masoncity.net

2nd Ward Steve Tynan
(641) 210-9665
wardtwo@masoncity.net

3rd Ward Don Nelson
(641) 423-3896
wardthree@masoncity.net

4th Ward John Jaszewski
(641) 423-6166
wardfour@masoncity.net

City of Mason City
10 First Street NW
Mason City, IA 50401

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