

RIVER

Vol. 4 No. 2 November 2008

City News



The Historic Flooding of River City

June 8, 2008 is a day that the citizens of Mason City will not forget. Mother Nature sent water rushing through all streams, creeks and rivers flooding River City, pouring over the levee and damaging homes and businesses within the reach of the banks. The Winnebago River exceeded the height of the levee, reaching the highest crest ever recorded in history, 18.72 feet, raising the water levels an average of just under one foot per hour between the hours of midnight and noon.

The City's water supply was immediately halted due to a possible compromise of the treatment system. Bottled water was hauled in by the semi loads, meals were served, and temporary shelters were set up to assist residents with the attempt to maintain some normalcy in their lives. The weeks that followed entailed long and painstaking hours of cleaning and sorting through damaged family keepsakes. Flood victims experienced the gamut of emotions when faced with the loss and what the future would hold for them. There was also a sense of outpouring from neighbors and fellow citizens to lend a helping hand providing hard work, support and compassion.

The future requires Mason City to move forward in taking the necessary measures to prevent this devastation from overpowering our community again by protecting the water supply, raising the levee to prevent future flooding and reviewing the prospect of purchasing a Reverse 911 system to notify citizens of future emergencies.

The City has received preliminary approval to proceed with a full application for voluntary homebuyouts which will assist us in moving forward with the next steps in our rebuilding process.

Those of us in River City have shown an undeniable resiliency of pulling together, finding answers, reaching out and reaching in to find the resources needed to assist all those affected by the waters. Our courage and character were tested, and as the recovery process continues, we will continue to commit ourselves to the challenges ahead.



Water churned through the footbridge in East Park near the State Street and Virginia Avenue entrance.



Water rose up the doors at the Water Treatment Plant located on 13th Street NE and Elm Drive.



Mason City Fire Department personnel traveled city streets by boat to rescue citizens from their homes.



The Winnebago River came within reach of the trail bridge which connects the Aquatic Center to East Park.

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Steve Tynan Elected City Council Member for Ward 2



Ward 2 City Council
Member Steve Tynan

Residents of the 2nd Ward elected Steve Tynan as their representative to serve on the City Council for the City of Mason City.

Steve was born and raised in Charles City, Iowa and has lived in Mason City since 1988. He is a graduate of Northwestern University and holds two Bachelor of Science degrees in Economics and was in the Honors Program of Mathematical Methods in Social Sciences. He graduated from Drake University Law School and was admitted to the Iowa State Bar in June of 1987. Steve has been employed as

Assistant County Attorney for Cerro Gordo County since 1988.

Steve and his wife, Lori, have been married twenty years and they have one daughter, Kristina.

He has been involved in many community activities including the Charles City Jaycees (Board of Directors), Mason City Jaycees (Treasurer and President), Iowa Jaycees (District Director), Charles City Elks Lodge (Loyal Knight), Charles City and Mason City Kiwanis Clubs, Floyd County Bar Association, Parents United Board of Directors (President), Appalachia Service Project, Special Needs Family Activities Group, Iowa County Attorneys Association, and State Legal Counsel. Steve is also a member of the Grace United Methodist Church serving on the Grace Vision Committee, Family Life Committee, and the Board of Trustees for Grace and Wesley United Methodist Churches.

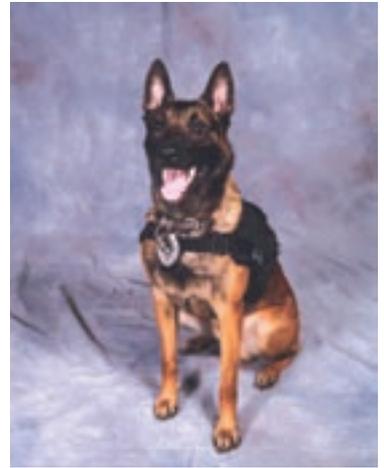
He has been active in the political arena, serving as Treasurer for many groups including the Cerro Gordo County Democratic Party, Amanda Ragan for Iowa Senate, Zook for 2nd Ward, and Citizens for Zook.

Mason City Ranked as #10 Least Expensive Urban Area to Live

According to the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI), Mason City is number 10 on the least expensive urban areas relating to the cost of living. The comparison is based on criteria such as housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

The ACCRA COLI ranks communities and submits a quarterly list. Mason City appeared on the list for the First Quarter of the 2008 year. According to the index, New York (Manhattan), New York ranked as the highest urban area and Joplin, Missouri was ranked as the least expensive.

"Mason City's Dynamic Duo"



Mason City Police Officer Jason Stiles and K-9 Partner Castor

Mason City Police Officer Jason Stiles and his K-9 partner Castor recently participated in the Ninth Annual American Working Dogs and Vohne Liche Kennels K-9 Olympics held in Denver, Indiana. This year's event hosted 80 dogs from 16 states and 4 countries.

The event consisted of 14 competitions, half of which pertained to narcotics searching and the other half to patrol operations. The patrol events included obedience, building and open area searches for perpetrators, control work and call-offs, obstacle course, tracking, and the Hard Dog/Fast Dog contest.

Officer Stiles and Castor formed a team with K-9 handlers from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Rochester, Indiana. Their combined team scores achieved a first place finish in the Overall Narcotics Events. Individually, Castor placed 12th in the Narcotic Vehicle Exteriors competition. In 2006, Castor won first place in the Individual Event for Narcotic Searches of Schools.

Castor is a 7 year old Belgian Malinois and is a dual-purpose patrol dog; proficient in two or more areas and trained in apprehension, narcotic detection and tracking. The 'Dynamic Duo' have been partners for 5 years.

New Changes for Utility Billing Customers

Under the Red Flag Rule of the Federal Trade Commission, the City of Mason City has set in place an Identity Theft Prevention Program. All utility billing customers applying for new or a change of water service must now apply in person with two forms of identification. All information provided to the City will be secured and protected per Section 114 of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act of 2003.

For more information or if you have questions, please call the Utility Billing Department at (641) 421-3610.

Projects Update

South Washington Avenue Extension

The South Washington Avenue extension located west of Highway 65 between 43rd Street SW and the Avenue of the Saints was completed in September. The new extension is a 700' long, 31' wide Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) pavement with City water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer. South Washington Avenue provides access to the Iowa Highway Patrol Center and also provides the opportunity for further growth in the south limits of the City.



The South Washington Avenue roadway extension in the southern edge of Mason City.

2008 Street Rehabilitation Program

The Street Rehabilitation Program included improvements and upgrades to several of the city's utilities and streets. The budgeted amount for the 2008 program was \$1,500,000. The program involved replacing storm sewer structures and sanitary sewer manholes, rerouting water mains from sanitary sewer manholes, and the overlay of streets with Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA). Prior to the overlay, the streets were milled to remove deteriorated concrete to maintain a consistent and smooth transition surface with adjoining streets and gutter lines. This year's program involved the overlay of over three miles of City streets.



The asphalt overlay on South Jefferson Avenue, part of the 2008 Street Rehabilitation Program.

19th Street SW Overpass and South Pierce Avenue Intersection Improvements

The 19th Street SW Railroad Overpass and South Pierce Avenue intersection improvements include the installation and replacement of City utilities, the widening of Pierce Avenue and 19th Street SW with traffic signals, and the construction of an overpass bridge at the Union Pacific Railroad.

The project began in August with the closure of 19th Street SW. Since then, much of the work to install city utilities has been completed. Extensive work to realign and build new crossings on the Iowa Traction Railroad have also been accomplished to allow for the completion of the Iowa National Guard facility entrance from South Pierce Avenue.

Several other public utilities have had to be relocated due to the location of City utilities and the location of the piers to support the bridge. All of those utilities must be relocated before the construction of the bridge can begin, which is expected this fall.

Weather permitting, bridge construction will progress throughout the winter months as much as possible. The intersection of South Pierce Avenue and 19th Street will be reopened during the winter months and closed again in the spring to complete the pavement widening and installation of traffic signals.



Utility construction began this fall on the 19th Street SW Railroad Overpass Project.

2008 Water Main Project

The 2008 Water Main project included the installation of over 3,200 feet of new water main in two locations within the city. The budgeted amount for the 2008 program was \$400,000. New water main was installed as an extension along South Federal Avenue from 33rd Street SE to 43rd Street, which will allow existing businesses and future development to utilize the City's water distribution system. The second section of water main installed was a replacement along the south side of 4th Street SW from South Taft Avenue to Cerro Gordo Way, which replaced an older stretch in need of repair.

Volunteers are Shining Stars

6th Annual Recognition Event Honors Volunteers

Dee Tracy and Doug Montgomery were the City Volunteer Program's 2008 Shining Star recipients, which is awarded to those individuals who approach their volunteer efforts with enthusiasm and professionalism. It is through these efforts that others see the dedication and leadership these volunteers share with the community. Both Ms. Tracy and Mr. Montgomery gave generously of their time to various City departments contributing to projects that benefited City staff, citizens and visitors to our community.



Mayor Roger Bang presented the Shining Star to this year's recipients Dee Tracy and Doug Montgomery



The Shining Star Team certificate was given to members of the Gardeners of North Iowa who are actively involved in planting and maintaining several community flowerbeds through the City's Beautification project.

Twenty-nine volunteers were recognized at the annual event held to honor those individuals who have donated time, skills and knowledge to municipal projects through the City Volunteer Program.

Thank you to all the volunteers who donated time and energy to flood relief efforts within the City organization. Power washing City facilities, shoveling sand from playground equipment and tennis courts, filling and stacking sandbags, cleaning dug outs & fence line at the softball complex, raking sand and sediment from grass within City parks, removing debris from City facilities, removing litter & debris from waterways, restoring community flower gardens lost or destroyed by flood waters, emergency flood information brochure folding and Park Watch patrol of those neighborhoods heavily damaged by the flood waters. As a result of your generous donation of time, we were able to open city facilities with limited interruption. A donation of monetary funds also helped to replant East Park.

ANTI LITTER CAMPAIGN

Focus is on Awareness, Prevention and Action

City Council Priorities for 2008 included a public campaign in community clean up. The last issue of *River City News* announced the receipt of a grant to provide funds to help meet this priority. The grant dollars have been put to work through the purchase of supplies volunteers can use to work with City staff on various community beautification projects.

Although the City organization has been successful in making efforts to encourage litter pickup in our City, we have not concentrated enough on preventing litter from being tossed in the first place and that is what we are attempting to do through the Anti-Litter Campaign. We sincerely appreciate our volunteers who assist in our efforts, but we cannot depend upon them to do all of the work. We must seek everyone's assistance—individuals as well as the business community.

What Can You Do To Help Keep Mason City Clean?

- ~ Pick up litter when you see it—even when it's not yours.
- ~ Don't throw trash from your vehicle—take it home instead.
- ~ Cigarette butts are litter too—put them in proper receptacles.
- ~ Report littering by calling: 1-888-NO LITTR.
- ~ Post anti-litter posters provided free to area businesses.
- ~ Encourage others to clean up after themselves.

Call the City Volunteer Program to learn more: (641) 421-3372.



Reminders have been placed throughout the community to encourage participation in the City's anti-litter campaign.

Flood Relief Efforts Aided by Volunteers: Over 360 volunteers offered their assistance to the City of Mason City staff during and after the June flood. Volunteers donated 1,885 hours to flood-relief efforts toward City facilities.

Community Notes

Stray and Lost Animals in Mason City Have a New Home

On August 29, 2008, animals taken into care by the City's Animal Control were transported to the newly constructed animal shelter. The shelter is located on property donated to the Humane Society of North Iowa (HSNI) by Charles MacNider. HSNI will begin construction on their facility this fall. Upon completion, Mason City will have a one-stop animal care, control and adoption center with the two entities under one roof.

The 3,300 square foot building cost \$773,000 and was funded through the City's Capital Improvement Program. It is accessible for persons with disabilities and includes many modern amenities to provide comfort and safety for the animals while they are in the shelter.

The experienced HSNI staff will manage the shelter. By joining forces with the city and HSNI, an aggressive adoption, education and spay and neuter program will be developed with the goal to increase the reclaim and adoption rate and a reduction in the euthanasia rate.

Anyone seeking to retrieve an impounded animal, searching for a lost pet, or looking for a pet to adopt is encouraged to call (641) 424-3617 or visit the shelter at 2750 Birch Drive (next to the Water Reclamation Plant). **Shelter hours are Tuesday through Friday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** The shelter is closed on Sunday and Monday.

Mayor Roger Bang, the City Council Members and everyone involved in animal control operations would like to acknowledge the efforts of and express their appreciation to Dr. Jeff Cornick of Pioneer Animal Hospital and his staff for their care of the many abandoned, neglected, or lost animals that visited the City's animal shelter in the past seven years. Thank you for your kind hearts and caring hands.



The newly opened Mason City Animal Shelter, built in 2008.

The Central Heights Neighborhood Association has not been in existence for very long but they are working hard to make their neighborhood one that all residents can be proud of. They started with neighborhood cleanups and continued on to planning a new playground. Over the past two years residents have been raising money for a shelter for the neighborhood park recently renamed Dustin Colby Park in honor of the grandson of Mary Lou and Frank Wood. Dustin died in 2004 while in service with Iowa Army National Guard's 2168th Transportation Company.

The Association raised \$11,000 through local grants from the Elizabeth Muse Norris Charitable Foundation, the Kinney-Lindstrom Foundation, the John K. and Luise V. Hanson Foundation, the Farrer Endowment Foundation and Ray Rorick Foundation. Association President Janet

Solberg would like to recognize the neighborhood volunteers, Frank Wood for his assistance with constructing the concrete pad for the shelter and Park Superintendent Mark Suby and the Park Department staff who have helped bring the vision of the playground and shelter to life.



A new playground and shelter in Dustin Colby Park located in the Central Heights Neighborhood.



The new Monroe Park Shelter at the intersection of 12th Street NW and North Monroe Avenue.

Thanks to the North Iowa Community Credit Union's donation, the Monroe Park Neighborhood also has a new picnic shelter. The steel shelter, approximately 24 feet long and 12 feet wide, cost \$8,500 and was installed this summer with the help of Park Department staff and members of the D106 Boilermakers Union of Mason City. Kleen Sweep Construction donated the labor to pour the 36-by-20 foot concrete pad.

Funding is budgeted through the Park's Capital Improvement Program budget to install playground equipment next spring.

Perpetual Memory Gift to the Cemetery

The Elmwood - St. Joseph Municipal Cemetery received a gift of \$50,000 from the Eunice T. Park Trust to be used for perpetual memorials to honor Eunice's mother, Mary Ellen Ward and uncle, Leo Gribben. Both are at rest at Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery, along with their parents, Irish immigrants Peter and Catherine Gribben.

The development of a reading and meditation feature is underway in the Crown Hill section near the gravesite of Mary Ellen. A sitting and meditation area with an antique theme is planned for Leo's honorarium near his gravesite by the Tenth Street entrance. Leo's family donated an antique bell that is on display in the cemetery office and will be included in the memorial.

Eunice passed away in February of 2006. Her daughters, Becky Wilharm and Mary Singleton are actively involved in the design and creation of the memorials. Construction began in late summer of 2008. Final completion and dedication will be held this coming spring.

Citizens are encouraged to stop by the cemetery office at 1224 South Washington Avenue or call (641) 421-3687 to receive more information about this memorial or to remember your loved one with a memorial.

Update of City Happenings

New Faces

Joshua Eernisse joined the Mason City Police Department as a Police Officer in February of 2008. He is a graduate of Edgerton Public High School in Edgerton, Minnesota, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement from Minnesota State University.



Gary Akins joined the Mason City Fire Department as a Firefighter/Paramedic in August of 2008. He is a graduate of Rockwell-Swaledale High School and holds an EMT-P Certification.



John Barlow joined the Operations and Maintenance Department as a Street Maintenance Person. John is a graduate of Mason City High School and began his duties in May of 2008.

Kellie Bull became a Library Assistant I at the Public Library in May of 2008. She is a graduate of Newman High School and Hamilton College with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Business Management.

Bridgett Hauert became a Library Assistant I in May of 2008. Bridgett is a graduate of Mason City High School, and attended Cornell College and the University of Northern Iowa.

Gretchen Hayes was appointed as a Youth Services Librarian in June of 2008 at the Public Library. She is a graduate of Fort Madison High School and Charleston Southern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Science and Humanities & Fine Arts. She also holds a Master of Library Science degree from the Clarion University of Pennsylvania.



Renee Hull was hired as a Human Resources Assistant in May of 2008. Renee is a graduate of Mason City High School and holds an Associate degree in Paralegal from Hamilton College. She is currently attending Kaplan University working toward a Business Management degree.

Mary Markwalter was appointed the Director of the Mason City Public Library in April of 2008. Mary is a graduate of Marquette High School in Marquette, Illinois and the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She also holds a Master of Library Science degree from Emporia State University.



Troy Miller joined the Mason City Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. He is a graduate of Pocelli High School and Austin Community College. He also obtained a Certificate for Computer Networking from Riverland Community College and holds an EMT-B certification. He began his duties in August of 2008.

Brandon Niedermayer was appointed as a Police Officer with the Mason City Police Department in August of 2008. Brandon attended Ventura High School, ABC of Iowa and received his electrical license. He has served as a Mason City Police Reserve Officer since November 2007.

Sheridan Penney joined the Recreation Department as an Assistant Programmer. Sheridan is a graduate of Williamsburg High School and attended Kirkwood Community College. She is a graduate of the University of Iowa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. She began her duties in April of 2008.



Todd Ristau was hired as an Equipment Operator for the Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery in August of 2008. Todd is a graduate of Meservey-Thornton High School and attended North Iowa Area Community College.

Melinda Severs was hired as the Secretary/Administrative Assistant II for the Police Department in September of 2008. She is a graduate of Irwin-Kirkman-Manilla High School.



Erica Shugar was appointed as a Police Officer for the Police Department in August of 2008. Erica is a graduate of Ackley-Geneva High School and Ellsworth Community College with an Associate in Arts degree in Criminal Justice. She is a Certified Law Enforcement Officer for the State of Iowa.

Melissa Weiner was hired as the Outreach Coordinator for the Human Rights Department in September of 2008. Melissa is a graduate of Coon Rapids High School in Minnesota and attended the Universidad de Gaudalajar, Jalisco, Mexico. She is a graduate of Minnesota State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Spanish and International Relations.



Holiday Fun at the MacNider Museum

The MacNider Art Museum will host its annual Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 14 from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. This festive celebration of the winter season will feature take-home art activities for children, cookie decorating, delicious treats and a chance for children to tell Santa Claus their secret wishes for what they would like to see under the tree.

Grown-ups are not left out of the celebration.

On Friday, December 12, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., join friends after work for a special MacNider Off-the-Clock with live music and holiday hors d'oeuvres while you view the Costel Iarca solo exhibition.

Both events are free and open to the public.

A young artist creates a festive masterpiece at the Holiday Open House.



Upcoming Events & Meetings

November, 2008

2		Daylight Saving Time Ends
4		Election Day
4	4:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
4	7:00 p.m.	City Council
7	12:00 noon	Human Rights Commission
7	4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission
10	4:00 p.m.	Airport Commission
11		Veteran's Day holiday (City offices closed)
12		Sanitation pick-up for Veteran's Day
12	4:00 p.m.	North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team
12	6:00 p.m.	Park and Recreation Board
12	7:00 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission
13	8:00 a.m.	Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board
15		Alternate Side Parking Begins
18	4:15 p.m.	Public Library Board
18	7:00 p.m.	City Council
18	7:00 p.m.	MacNider Museum Board
25	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission
26		Sanitation pick-up for Thanksgiving holiday
27 & 28		Thanksgiving holiday (City offices closed)
28		Yard Waste pick-up ends

December, 2008

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
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
14	1-4 p.m.	Holiday Open House, Museum
16	4:15 p.m.	Public Library Board
16	7:00 p.m.	City Council
16	7:00 p.m.	MacNider Museum Board
23	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission
24		Sanitation pick-up for Christmas holiday
25		Christmas holiday (City offices closed)
31		Sanitation pick-up for New Year's Day holiday

January, 2009

1		New Year's Day holiday (City offices closed)
6	4:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
6	7:00 p.m.	City Council
8	12:00 noon	Human Rights Commission
8	4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission
12	4:00 p.m.	Airport Commission
13	6:00 p.m.	Park and Recreation Board
13	7:00 p.m.	Planning & Zoning Commission
14	4:00 p.m.	North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team
15	8:00 a.m.	Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board
20	4:15 p.m.	Public Library Board
20	7:00 p.m.	City Council meeting
20	7:00 p.m.	MacNider Museum Board
27	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission

UPDATE OF CITY HAPPENINGS

Yard waste collection for the season will end on Friday, November 28, 2008, weather permitting. The pick-up of yard waste will resume on April 2, 2009. The public will be notified of any changes to this pick-up schedule. For more information, contact the Sanitation Department at (641) 421-3691.

DID YOU KNOW...

there are over 567 acres of parks in Mason City.

February, 2009

3	4:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
3	7:00 p.m.	City Council
5	12:00 noon	Human Rights Commission
5	4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission
9	4:00 p.m.	Airport Commission
10	6:00 p.m.	Park and Recreation Board
10	7:00 pm.	Planning & Zoning Commission
11	4:00 p.m.	North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team
12	8:00 a.m.	Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board
16		President's Day holiday (City offices closed)
17	4:15 p.m.	Public Library Board
17	7:00 p.m.	City Council
17	7:00 p.m.	MacNider Museum Board
18		Sanitation pick-up for President's Day holiday
24	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission

March, 2009

3	4:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
3	7:00 p.m.	City Council
5	12:00 noon	Human Rights Commission
5	4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission
8		Daylight Saving Time Begins
9	4:00 p.m.	Airport Commission
10	6:00 p.m.	Park and Recreation Board
10	7:00 pm.	Planning & Zoning Commission
11	4:00 p.m.	North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team
12	8:00 a.m.	Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board
17	4:15 p.m.	Public Library Board
17	7:00 p.m.	City Council
17	7:00 p.m.	MacNider Museum Board
24	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission
31		Alternate Side Parking Ends

April, 2009

2		Yard Waste pick-up begins
2	12:00 noon	Human Rights Commission
2	4:30 p.m.	Historic Preservation Commission
7	4:00 p.m.	Zoning Board of Adjustment
7	7:00 p.m.	City Council
8		Sanitation pick-up for Good Friday holiday
8	4:00 p.m.	North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team
9	8:00 a.m.	Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board
10		Good Friday holiday (City offices closed)
13	4:00 p.m.	Airport Commission
14	6:00 p.m.	Park 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
25		Mason City's 16th Annual Earth Day
28	5:00 p.m.	Environmental Stewardship Commission

2009 City Holidays and Sanitation Make-up Days

City offices are closed on the following holidays. The sanitation make-up day for the holiday is listed in the column across from the holiday.

2009 City Holiday

New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1
 President's Day, Monday, February 16
 Good Friday, Friday, April 10
 Memorial Day, Monday, May 25
 Independence Day, Friday, July 3
 Labor Day, Monday, September 7
 Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11
 Thanksgiving Holiday, Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27
 Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

Sanitation Make-Up Day

Wednesday, December 31
 Wednesday, February 18
 Wednesday, April 8
 Wednesday, May 27
 Wednesday, July 1
 Wednesday, September 9
 No sanitation service
 Wednesday, November 25
 Wednesday, December 23

What's New at the Library

The library is constantly bringing in new items for patrons to check out! Thank you to the Friends of the Library for financial assistance for the new Wii video system with widescreen television, extra controllers and fun games to experience in the Children's Department. After hosting several successful and well attended game days and nights, staff believes the Wii is a wonderful addition to the Library.

A new self check out station is located at the front near the Circulation Desk. A library patron in good standing with no fines or blocks on their account can check out materials without staff assistance.

Coming attractions: a VendPrint program to assist patrons with managing and purchasing copies and computer prints using currency, debit and credit cards. Patrons can also manage their Internet usage with the program.



A library patron uses the new self check out station at the Mason City Public Library.



The new Wii gaming console at the library allows members to participate in a variety of social gaming experiences.

50 Year Resident of Mason City's East Park

The Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad Steam Locomotive Engine 457 will be the featured guest during the 50th year celebration of its arrival in Mason City in 2009!

The festivities will kick off on Saturday, May 16, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. Leading off will be a dedication of the engine followed by plenty of entertainment and a variety of activities for all ages to commemorate the anniversary of the steam locomotive's arrival to its new home in East Park.

The 'Friends of the 457' are asking citizens to look in their archives for pictures or a movie/video of the arrival of the locomotive to East Park in September of 1959. Please contact Friends of the 457 Co-chairs Dennis Wilson at (641) 423-5328; Cliff Hagman at (641) 424-9246; or Park Superintendent Mark Suby at (641) 421-3672. For additional information about the '457', log on to www.friendsofthe457.org.

Happy Birthday East Park!

East Park will turn 100 years old in 2009! A steering committee has been formed to plan the celebratory activities to take place during the summer of 2009.

The committee needs your help! Citizens are encouraged to submit their favorite memories and photographs of East Park including skating, fishing, playing ball, family reunions or concerts. The photos and memories will be compiled into a special edition of an anniversary picture book to be available for sale to the public.

Citizens are asked to submit the photos electronically either via e-mail to archive@mcpl.org or on a disc delivered to the Public Library at 225 2nd Street SE to the attention of the Archive Department. The submission of photographs authorizes the committee to use them in a way they deem appropriate.

For more information, contact Terry Harrison, Historian/ Archivist at the Mason City Public Library, at (641) 421-2721, or e-mail at archive@mcpl.org.

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

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