

RIVER CITY NEWS



TRI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF MASON CITY, SPRING 2011

Mason City to Join Cities Nationwide for the 28th Annual 'America's Night Out Against Crime'

Neighborhoods throughout Mason City are invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, for the 28th Annual National Night Out crime and drug prevention event. This event is sponsored in conjunction with the National Association of Town Watch, Target Stores, and by the Mason City Community Policing Advisory Board along with the Mason City Police Department.



National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts; strengthen neighborhood spirit and community partnerships; sending a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are watching.

Starting at 5:00 p.m. on August 2nd, residents throughout Mason City are asked to encourage their neighbors to turn on porch lights and partake in a free fun packed "family affair" at East Park by the band shell. A variety of activities, demonstrations, and displays will be presented by local community and youth oriented organizations. Free food will be served and there will be a drawing for prizes. Join us in spending the evening outside "Giving Crime & Drugs a Going Away Party".

Mason City's 'Dangerous or Vicious Animal' Portion of City Code Revised

The City Council unanimously approved amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance changing the definition of 'Dangerous or Vicious Animal' to allow for better enforcement. The amended definition states:

An animal is deemed to be vicious, when it meets any one or more of the following:

A. Attacks, bites or claws any person while the person is on public property or lawfully on private property, including the property of the owner of the animal.

B. Attacks any domesticated animal or fowl while off the premises of the owner.'

The amended ordinance also broadens the definition of 'Owner' to prevent confusion when individuals are just watching another person's dog. The revised definition is:

OWNER: Any person, firm, association or corporation who owns, keeps, shelters or harbors an animal, or otherwise provides care, custody or has responsibility for the animal on a permanent or temporary basis, or knowingly permits an animal to remain on or about any premises occupied by that person shall be deemed to be the owner and responsible party for the animal. In the event that the owner of any animal is a minor, the parent or guardian of such minor shall be responsible to ensure that all provisions of this ordinance are complied with.

A reminder that a violation of any portion of the Animal Control Ordinance may result in criminal charges with fines beginning at \$65.00 plus court costs if found guilty. In addition to a court ordered fine, if the owner is found guilty of owning, keeping, or sheltering a dangerous or vicious animal, the animal will be humanely euthanized.

Tips for animal owners are featured on page 3 of this publication.

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Mason City is a fun city for amenities!

Mason City offers many fascinating fun summer opportunities for individuals of all ages to enjoy! Contact the departments below to learn of the exciting summer activities and programs waiting for you.

Aquatic Center. (641) 421-3678
Highland Park
Golf Course (641) 423-9693
MacNider Campground . (641) 421-3679
MacNider Art Museum. . (641) 421-3666
Public Library. (641) 421-3668
Recreation Department . . (641) 421-3673
Park Shelter Reservations. (641) 421-3673

Information can also be found by visiting the City's website at www.masoncity.net and clicking on Things to Do under the Residents or Visitors tab.

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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

Construction Update

The Mason City Engineering Department is preparing for a busy summer. The Federal Avenue Streetscape and the South Monroe Avenue widening projects were initiated last construction season and will be completed this year.



Demolition and construction of the replacement of the Delaware Avenue bridge in progress

Demolition of the South Delaware Avenue Bridge was completed in the fall of 2010. The contractor began construction on the bridge piers in January and plans to set beams and continue work on the bridge deck. The bridge is scheduled to be completed this fall.

Projects planned throughout Mason City for the 2011 construction season include the Manhole Replacement and Water Main Reroute Program, Street Panel and Curb Replacement Program, Sidewalk Replacement Program, Pavement Marking Program, 19th Street SE Pavement and Culvert Widening Project, and a Community Development Block Grant project which will address Inflow/Infiltration of the sanitary sewer system.

The construction of the structure protecting the Water Treatment Plant during a flood event is nearly complete. When construction resumes in the spring, sidewalks will be installed along 13th Street and Elm Drive. Final back-filling and seeding and/or sod will also be done. Work will also be completed to raise vents and hatchways on the underground storage reservoir. Other projects planned for the Water Treatment Plant for 2011 include replacement of the roof and HVAC system in the water pumping building and the installation of a Hypochlorite Generator used for the production of Sodium Hypochlorite used in the water treatment process.



Structure protecting the flood wall around the Water Treatment Plant

2011 City Council Goals and Priorities

The City Council outlined their vision for the community with the development of six goals and seven priorities at a recent work session. The list below represents the compilation of the goals and priorities of the 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

PRIORITIES

- Job creation – shovel ready site working with partners through 28E or TIF
- Consider consolidating TIF districts
- Strict nuisance enforcement, address the Maintenance Code where applicable
- Continue repairs/renovation of infrastructure
- North Federal Avenue improvements, North entrance into the City – address properties
- Encourage residential development with incentives
- Continue pedestrian/bicycle trails

For more information, contact your City Council member or visit the Mayor and Council page of the City's website under 'Your Government' at www.masoncity.net.

Planning a Construction Project?

The City of Mason City reminds property owners, contractors, developers and their architects and engineers that building and zoning permits must be issued prior to the start of any new construction project. Permits ensure all building and fire codes and zoning regulations are met. In addition, since July 1, 2010, all commercial, industrial and multi-family residential developments require site plan approval by the City's Development Review Committee (DRC) in addition to building plan approval.

The DRC meets every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., as needed, to review pro-

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

**Council Member Tornquist serves as the Mayor Pro Tem*

posed projects from a site development standpoint, including water, sewer, gas, electric, telecommunications, zoning setbacks, parking and traffic circulation, landscaping and screening, storm-water management, dumpsters, site lighting and signs. Property owners and developers have a one-stop opportunity to sit down with the different City departments involved in permit approval, along with representatives from the private utility companies to discuss their project during a DRC meeting. After the initial "pre-app" meeting, a completed site plan application is submitted for review and approval at a subsequent DRC meeting. Approval of building plans will follow site plan approval.

For more information, call the City's Growth Development & Planning office at (641) 421-3626.

Existing and New Dumpsters: they must be screened from view

By December 31, 2011, with the exception of 1- or 2-unit residential uses, all refuse and refuse handling equipment, including but not limited to garbage cans and dumpsters, must be stored within a building or totally screened from eye level view. If placed outside, dumpsters must be screened to a height of at least 6 feet and provide a minimum 80% opaqueness. Dumpsters must be located in the 3rd tier of a property, which is measured from a point 20 feet back from the front building line and extending to the rear lot line.

Examples of appropriate dumpster enclosures can be found at www.masoncity.net by clicking the "Document Central" button at www.masoncity.net, then clicking on "Growth Development & Planning", and "Dumpsters".

For more information, call the Growth Development & Planning office at (641) 421-3626.

Be A Good Neighbor and Animal Owner

Be courteous. All animals must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet when off your property. However, courtesy demands you keep your animal from being able to make contact with other people or animals you may encounter.

Be Prepared. Clean up animal waste on your property and when walking your pet. Always carry a disposable bag for this purpose.

Be Aware. State and City law requires a rabies vaccination and city license for all dogs and cats 6 months and older. City licenses may be renewed for 1, 2, or 3 years depending on the expiration of the rabies vaccinations. License fees are \$25.00 for each animal that has not been altered and \$5.00 for each neutered or spayed animal. Licenses are available at City Hall, the Humane Society and select area veterinary clinics.

For more information, contact the Neighborhood Services Division at (641) 421-3620.

Volunteer Mason City

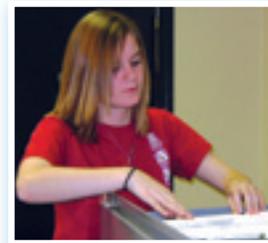


Mayor Eric Bookmeyer with the 2010 Shining Star Recipients, Jenny Thada and Jim Leppert

The Eighth Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon honored twenty-seven volunteers who donated their time and talent to municipal projects throughout the community. This year's Shining Star recipients were Jim Leppert and Jenny Thada. The Shining Star Team recognition went to the students and staff of the Mason City Alternative High School.

Six departments within the City organization have benefited by Jim's willingness to volunteer. He has also been involved in activities through the Georgia Hanford Park Neighborhood Association.

Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery has benefited from Jenny's efforts with beautification projects throughout the cemetery. She also serves on the Cemetery Board.



The team recognition is given to individuals, who in a combined team effort, contribute to the needs

of the City organization. It is through the team's efforts that others see the commitment and dedication the students and staff of the Mason City Alternative High School share with the community.

Long-term and short-term municipal projects are available through the City Volunteer Program. To contact the Volunteer Program office call (641)421-3372 or e-mail: mzishka@masoncity.net.

There's something for everyone, both indoors and out! To see current volunteer opportunities, go to the Volunteer Program page under the Your Government tab at www.masoncity.net.

Awards and Achievements

Mason City Police Officers **Tiffany Creekmur, Charlie Connor, Lane Seifken and Ed Walthall** received the Life Saving Medal for their courageous actions on October 27, 2010. The officers saved valuable time in freeing two unconscious submerged occupants of a car that had flipped into the Winnebago River. Their heroic actions were directly responsible for saving the life of the driver of the vehicle and making a valiant attempt at saving the life of the passenger.

Elmwood-St. Joseph Sentry Program

A Cemetery Sentry Program is being implemented at the Elmwood-St. Joseph Municipal Cemetery to provide additional protection within the grounds. The goal of the program is to reduce the incidents of missing decorations from gravesites and enhance the safe and serene setting of the cemetery. Volunteers will be trained to identify suspicious activity and report it to the police. Volunteers will be present during times people are most likely to take items from gravesites. A second component of the Sentry program is to train regular visitors of the cemetery to report any unusual activity, similar to a Neighborhood Watch Program. With its history and beautiful landscapes, Elmwood-St. Joseph is a relaxing place to spend a few hours a week.

Anyone interested in being a Sentry volunteer is encouraged to contact Volunteer Service Coordinator Mary Zishka at mzishka@masoncity.net or (641) 421-3372.

Other volunteer projects at the Cemetery include the Adopt-a-Section program where volunteers care for the maintenance of assigned sections within the cemetery removing fallen branches, limbs and pinecones to make way for mowing. Some sections may require routine maintenance to keep litter at bay, trim shrubbery, or to plant and maintain flowers.

Are you signed up for Mason City's E-News e-mail alert system? If not, sign up today at www.masoncity.net and click on the E-News envelope on the left side of the home page to receive news releases, meeting agendas, event notifications, and other timely information.

City of 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.

New Faces



Brad Boldt joined the Mason City Fire Department in November 2010. He is an EMT-B and completed courses in Firefighting I and II as well as Hazmat Operations at Texas A&M University. He most recently worked as a firefighter at the Iowa Speedway in Newton.



Teresa Braun was hired by the Public Library as a Library Assistant this January. Teresa holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Office Administration from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. She previously worked in the Finance Department for the City.

Jody Hixson (not pictured) started working fulltime with the Mason City Public Library as a Library Assistant in January 2011. She is a graduate of Mason City High School and completed her Associate of Arts degree from NIACC in 1981 and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Iowa in Elementary Education.

Greg Jurek is one of the newest members to the Mason City Fire Department. Greg is originally from Minnesota and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management from St. John's University. He worked as a Special Transport Technician as well as an Emergency Communications Specialist before joining the City in November of 2010.

Troy Kubista joined the Mason City Fire Department in October 2010. Originally from Minnesota, Troy gained valuable experience working for the Mankato Fire Department before joining the Mason City Fire Department. He is a 2006 graduate of Riverland Community College and certified as an EMT-B and in Hazmat Operations.

Amy Martin was hired in December 2010 to work as a Secretary I at the City's Airport. Amy is a graduate of Mason City High School and has held various positions with the City in the past, including working in the Clerk's office and also as a Secretary to the Mayor. She is still celebrating her recent marriage in February 2011.

Brad Moretz joined the Operations and Maintenance Department in January 2011 as a Wastewater Operator. He is a graduate of Central Springs High School in Manly and has completed coursework at Kirkwood Community College in Water Environmental Technology. Last summer, Brad completed his internship at the Mason City Wastewater Plant.

Sara Poppy joined the Mason City Public Library in November of 2010 as a part-time Library Clerk. She is a Newman High School graduate and holds an Associate of Arts degree in business from NIACC. Sara went on to the University of Northern Iowa to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree in Finance.

Matt Sberal started with the City of Mason City's Operations and Maintenance Department as a Swing Worker for the Utilities division. A graduate of Mason City High School, Matt continued on to complete his Associate of Science degree from Des Moines Area Community College in 2005.

Calendar of Events

APRIL 2011

- 4 Yard Waste Season Begins
- 5 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 5 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 7 Human Rights Commission, 12 noon
- 7 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 9 *Iowa State University Faculty Show* closes, MacNider Museum
- 11 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 12 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 12 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 13 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 14 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 14 *Coyote's Eyeball* free puppet show, MacNider Museum, 7 p.m.
- 16 18th Annual Earth Day Festival, East Park, 10 a.m.-12 noon
- 19 MacNider Museum Kids' Club *Melting the Rainbow*, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 19 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 19 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 19 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 20 Sanitation make-up day for April 22
- 21 *Art of Africa: Objects from the Collection of Warren Robbins* exhibit opens, MacNider Museum, 5 p.m.
- 22 City offices closed
- 23 Margaret MacNider Campground opens for the season
- 23 School Art Exhibition *Creative Commotion* closes, MacNider Museum
- 26 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.
- 28 31st Annual Cerro Gordo Photo Show opens, MacNider Museum
- 29 MacNider Museum MacNider: *Off the Clock*, 5-7 p.m.

MAY 2011

- 3 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 3 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 5 Human Rights Commission, 12 noon
- 5 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 7 457 Cannonball Season Opening, East Park, 1-5 p.m.
- 9 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 10 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 10 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 11 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 12 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 14 Police Bike Auction, Monroe Storage, 1627 South Monroe, 9 a.m.
- 17 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 17 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 17 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 21 MacNider Museum Kids' Club *Let's Go On An African Safari!*, 10 a.m.-12 noon
- 24 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.
- 26-30 Band Festival weekend
- 30 City offices closed

JUNE 2011

- 1 Sanitation make-up day for May 30
- 2 Human Rights Commission, 12 noon
- 2 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 7 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 7 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 8 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 9 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 11 *Art Safari!* MacNider Arts Festival, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 13 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 14 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 18 *Art of Africa: Objects from the Collection of Warren Robbins* exhibit closes, MacNider Museum
- 21 MacNider Museum Kids' Club *Big Beautiful World*, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 21 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 21 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 21 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25 6th Annual Cannonball Day, East Park
- 25 31st Annual Cerro Gordo Photo Show closes, MacNider Museum
- 28 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.

JULY 2011

- 4 City offices closed
- 5 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 5 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 6 Sanitation make-up day for July 4
- 7 Human Rights Commission, 12 noon
- 7 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 7 *Solo Show - Area Show: 42 Best in Show Award Winner* exhibit opens, MacNider Museum
- 11 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 12 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 12 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 13 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 14 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 19 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 19 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 19 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 22-23 Up in Smoke BBQ Bash, East Park
- 26 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.

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

Retirements

The City of Mason City would like to extend a thank you to Ann Butcher who retired after forty years of service with the City.

Special Events at the MacNider Art Museum

MacNider's annual Arts Festival will take place Saturday, June 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Join the Museum for a pancake breakfast in the morning. Throughout the day enjoy the Art Market, numerous kids' activities, delicious food and live music. Admission is free! The *Art Safari!* theme ties in with the *Art of Africa: Objects from the Collection of Warren Robbins* exhibition at the Museum from April 21 through June 18. The exhibition features 66 objects from 30 cultures of sub-Saharan Africa which will provide visitors with a unique opportunity to experience the art of another culture. Learn more at www.macniderart.org.