

New Faces

Kevin Duenow was hired as a Police Officer in April of 2010. He is a graduate of St. Ansgar High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Buena Vista University.

David Gleason joined the Street Division of the Operation and Maintenance Department in February of 2010. He is a graduate of Mason City High School, attended NIACC and holds a Professional Truck Driver Institute Certificate from DMACC.

Seth McChesney was appointed as a Police Officer in April of 2010. He is a graduate of Clear Lake High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Criminal Justice Certificate from Waldorf College.

Daniel Nonweiler joined the Park Department as a Maintenance Person. He is a graduate of Mason City High School and began his duties with the Park Department in February of 2010.

Brian Pauly was appointed as the Program/Child-care Coordinator for the Recreation Department. Brian is a graduate of Ankeny High School and holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts Degrees from the University of Northern Iowa in Leisure, Youth and Human Services.

Emily Thomsen was hired as the Development Administrative Assistant for the MacNider Museum in May of 2010. She is a graduate of North Iowa High School and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing from Iowa State University.

Fall Festivities at MacNider Art Museum

The Charles H. MacNider Museum will host its annual Artoberfest on September 18 from 6 to 9 p.m. Join us for an evening full of fantastic food, friends, and music – all for a great cause! Tickets cost \$40.

Don't forget to sign up for classes! Fall studio classes for children and adults start September 21, and Kids' Club activities are planned through November. Class scholarships are available for students who normally would not be able to experience an art class.

Save the date for the Museum's Holiday Open House on December 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. Join us for kids' activities, seasonal treats, and a special visit from Santa.

To learn more about exhibitions, classes and events visit www.macniderart.org.

Wreaths for Loved Ones

Wreaths will be for sale at the Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery to place on the graves of loved ones during the upcoming holiday season. Contact staff at (641) 421-3687 for more information.

New Hours - MacNider Art Museum

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sunday and Monday: Closed

Retirements

The City of Mason City would like to extend a thank you to the following employees who retired after their years of service:

Karen Blunt, Library

Calendar of Events

AUGUST 2010

- 2-6 Summer Art Camp, MacNider Museum, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 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.
- 5 Area Show: 42 opens, MacNider Museum, 5 p.m.
- 7 Area Show: 42 opening reception, MacNider Museum, 2 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.
- 17 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 17 Kids' Club, MacNider Museum, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 17 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 17 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 24 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2010

- 2 Human Rights Commission, 12 noon
- 2 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 4 Iowa Crafts 39: Best in Show Award Winner Exhibition, Astrid Hilger Bennett closes, MacNider Museum, 5 p.m.
- 6 City offices closed
- 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.
- 8 Sanitation Make-up Day for September 6
- 9 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 9 Exhibition from Permanent Collection opens, MacNider Museum, 5 p.m.
- 13 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 14 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 14 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 17 NIDAT Lunch, City Hall Parking Lot, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- 18 Artoberfest, MacNider Museum, 6-9 p.m.
- 21 Fall studio classes for children and adults begin at MacNider Museum
- 21 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 21 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 21 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25 Kid's Club, MacNider Museum, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 28 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.

OCTOBER 2010

- 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.
- 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.
- 16 Area Show: 42 closes, M
- 19 Kid's Club, MacNider Museum, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- 19 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 19 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 26 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.
- 29 Marc Sijan: Being Alive Exhibition opens, MacNider Museum, 5 p.m.

NOVEMBER 2010

- 2 Election Day
- 2 Zoning Board of Adjustment, 4 p.m.
- 2 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 4 Human Rights Commission, 12 noon
- 4 Historic Preservation Commission, 4:30 p.m.
- 7 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 8 Morning Coffee: Getting to Know Marc Sijan's People, MacNider Museum, 10 a.m.
- 8 Airport Commission, 4 p.m.
- 9 Park & Recreation Board, 6 p.m.
- 9 Planning & Zoning Commission, 7 p.m.
- 10 North Iowa Diversity Appreciation Team, 4 p.m.
- 10 Sanitation Make-up Day for November 11
- 11 Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery Board, 8 a.m.
- 11 City offices closed
- 16 Library Board, 4:15 p.m.
- 16 Museum Board, 7 p.m.
- 16 City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 20 Kid's Club, MacNider Museum, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- 23 Environmental Stewardship Advisory Commission, 5 p.m.
- 24 Sanitation Make-up Day for November 25 and 26
- 25 City offices closed
- 26 City offices closed
- 27 Exhibition from Permanent Collection closes, MacNider Museum, 5 p.m.

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

RIVER CITY NEWS

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



City Flood Management Plans

The demolition of the houses purchased through the City's flood buyout program started in May and will continue until the project ends in 2010. Costs of the buyout program will be covered with a combination of federal, state, and local funds. Active Thermal Concepts of Hiawatha began working in the area west of the Norris Youth Softball Complex beginning with the demolition of the structures with collapsed foundations. Because of the severe structural damage, asbestos cannot be removed. As a result, the contractor is required to wrap all debris, including the foundation, in plastic; the debris is then buried at the Landfill of North Iowa.

The City has partnered with several organizations to minimize the waste stream and to ensure that the project is as "green" as possible. Where it is safe and legal to do so, the City is working with Habitat for Humanity to salvage items that can be reused in Habitat homes or sold in the Habitat ReStore. The Gardeners of North Iowa are also identifying plants and shrubs that might be used to landscape the City parks and enhance the green space that will be created by the buyout. Approximately 20 historic homes have been targeted for relocation outside the flood plain and hopefully many non-historic homes will also be moved.

The future use of these properties is not known at this time. Stakeholders from the City and several commissions will begin initial meetings to discuss options for determining the most efficient and logical use of the land.

Several other projects are completed or scheduled to be completed in relation to the community's flood prevention efforts.

The **effluent pump station** at the Water Reclamation facility will be modified to upgrade the existing structure by

constructing a new effluent lift station with an automatic system. This will enhance the ability to discharge treated wastewater by pumping into the receiving stream during heavy rain events or high river levels.

A **flood protection wall** for the Water Treatment Plant is a high priority due to the flooding of the lower portion of the plant, which resulted in the City's inability to provide water for five days. An interlock block wall which matches the wall on the north side of the plant will provide protection for the plant against flood waters and prevent this type of event from reoccurring. The construction will begin in August with an expected completion date in November.

A **standby generator** at the Water Treatment Plant was destroyed during the flood. This item has been replaced and is necessary for the continued operation of the plant in the event of a power failure.

An I-JOBS Local Infrastructure Program grant application has been prepared for submittal to the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) for replacement of the **equipment storage facility** severely damaged in the flood. The 20,000 square foot, pre-fabricated metal building will be used to store Operations & Maintenance equipment such as street sweepers, vehicles, patching machine, and other infrastructure maintenance equipment.

Citizens with questions or concerns are encouraged to contact the City's Growth Development & Planning Department at (641) 421-3626. More information about the project is also available on the City's web page, www.masoncity.net.



Demolition of structure damaged by the flood in 2008.

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- 2 Construction Updates
Contact your Mayor and Council, Awards and Achievements
- 3 Volunteer Mason City
MacNider Campground
Ribbon Cutting
History Springs to Life at Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery
Marc Sijan: Being Alive returns to MacNider
- 4 Calendar of Events
New Employees



Are you signed up for CodeRED emergency notification?

Log on to www.masoncity.net and click on the CodeRED link on the left side of the page; stop by City Hall to fill out a form; or call (641) 421-3601 to receive a form in the mail.

River City News

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

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.

Construction Updates

Several street and bridge projects are planned for the construction season, which may involve the...

- ✓ The bridge over Cheslea Creek on 15th Street SW: new embankment material, approach sections, and barrier rail. The street will be closed for several weeks in August and September during the rehabilitation.
- ✓ A large culvert located on Taft Avenue at 12th Street NW: replacement with a reinforced concrete arch pipe, requiring the closure of Taft Avenue north of 4th Street NW for 2-3 weeks.
- ✓ The Delaware Avenue Bridge: replacement during late summer and early fall. The project is scheduled to be let through the State of Iowa in July.
- ✓ The project on South Monroe Avenue: let in June through the State of Iowa and involves the widening of the existing street between 15th and 19th Street. It also includes curb and gutter, improved storm sewer, and replacement of the traffic signals at the intersection of 19th Street and South Monroe Avenue.

Annual City programs are in progress, to be completed by late summer or early fall. They include the Manhole Replacement and Water Main Reroute project which is concentrated in the south east quadrant of the city, the Street Panel and Curb Replacement Program which is scattered throughout the city, and the Sidewalk Replacement Program which is located in the neighborhood north of 12th Street NW and west of Federal Avenue.

City staff appreciates your patience during the busy construction season for the safety of motorists as well as construction workers.

Summer's here!

Want to know about fire pits and recreational fires in the City? Recreational fire rules are available on the City's website at www.masoncity.net; click on the Document Central tab on the left side of page, then select Fire.

Seen Me About Town?

Ambulance 2408 was welcomed into Fire Headquarters in April. The newest ambulances have bolder reflective stripes on the rear for greater safety of the fire fighters, patients and the public at large. The Department's ambulances are not just a quick ride to the emergency room. Did you know they are actually mini intensive care units on wheels!



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week (October 3-9) is always a great time for the Mason City Fire Department. Stall will provide tours for the Mason City 3rd graders, host a Fire Prevention Week poster contest and much more. For more information, contact staff at (641) 421-3640.

2009 Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest Winners



Iowa Governor Chet Culver appointed two Mason City employees to serve on a committee and task force:

Finance Director Kevin Jacobson was appointed to a 4-year term on the City Finance Committee. Mr. Jacobson will represent communities with a population of 15,000-50,000. This committee advises and makes recommendations to the Governor about City budgets and finance.

Growth Development & Planning Director Pam Myhre was appointed to the Smart Planning Task Force. This task force will submit a report to the

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

Governor and General Assembly with a recommendation to integrate the Iowa Smart Planning Principles into the appropriate State programs and policy.

Police Department Crime Mapping Information

Citizens can access up-to-date crime information online 24 hours a day in the form of a 'crime map'. This map provides icons indicating incidents of criminal activity including the date, location and report number. Citizens can also sign up to be notified via e-mail of crime alerts of specific criminal activity. For more information, visit www.masoncity.net and go to the Police page under 'Your Government'.

Marc Sijan: Being Alive opens October 29 at MacNider Museum

The life-size ultra realistic sculpture exhibit by internationally recognized artist Marc Sijan is making a return to the MacNider Art Museum. The human sculptures are incredibly lifelike, sensuous and graceful. In fact, they are so lifelike, they seem always on the verge of movement, a mere instant away from action.

Sijan's exacting attention to detail can be seen in the pores in the skin, the tiny hairs, the veins and blemishes on the sculptures which make human beings so similar yet so unique. Each figure is made of polyester resin and can take as long as six months to a year to sculpt and paint. Museum visitors may be familiar with one of Sijan's figures, the 'Security Guard', which is on display as part of the museum's permanent collection.

The exhibition of ultra realistic sculpture will be on view from October 29 through January 8, 2011. The exhibit was previously featured at the MacNider Museum in 1994.



Smiling Girl figure by Marc Sijan (photo courtesy of www.marcsijan.com)



Maid figure by Marc Sijan (photo courtesy of www.marcsijan.com)



Elected representatives from the City's Park and Recreation Board and the City Council recently held a ribbon cutting at the Margaret MacNider Campground. Campers can enjoy the newly renovated campground which features a camp store and many modern amenities to enhance the camping experience!

Call (641) 421-3679 for more information and how you can be a part of the fun!

Volunteer Mason City

Volunteers have been busy in 2010. The Beautification Project began its 40th year thanks to many talented gardeners and financial assistance from the Kinney Lindstrom Foundation. The 17th annual community-wide litter clean-up event, in celebration of Earth Day, represented 723 volunteers involved in the effort. Several mass mailing projects have been completed thanks to our volunteers. The committed Park Watch ambassadors continue to work to help reduce vandalism in our City parks. Friends of the 457 have worked hard to continue the preservation and maintenance of the "Cannonball" in East Park for the enjoyment of citizens and visitors to our fine community. Four tree planting projects have been completed by several of our City youth.

A new federal report on volunteer rates shows that Iowans' volunteerism ranks the 2nd in the nation, and indicates that 40% of the citizens in our state volunteered last year. The trend to 'answer the call' to volunteer continues to increase here in Mason City, too, where the City Volunteer Program has once again experienced an increase in the number of hours volunteers donate to municipal projects.

To find out more about how you can volunteer for municipal projects, contact the Volunteer Program office located on the 2nd floor of City Hall, call 421-3372 or e-mail: mzishka@masoncity.net. To locate current volunteer opportunities, click on the City's website at www.masoncity.net.



Students from Mason City Alternative High School plant trees in Monroe Park. (5-7-10)



completed renovation and the many amenities and opportunities for library patrons will be featured in the next edition of the River City News, due out in November.

Elmwood - St. Joseph Guided History Walk

As a means of increasing awareness of history, heritage and legacy, guided cemetery walks are becoming increasingly popular. Those participating in the walks learn about historic deeds and achievements made by past generations as actors recount these events. You are invited to the first guided history walk at Elmwood - St. Joseph Cemetery.

In a series of guided tours, eight volunteer actors dressed in period costumes, will recount the lives of the following Mason Cityans who shaped town history:

E. R. Bogardus, the residential and commercial designer and builder of such famous landmarks as the Keerl/Decker House;

George Brentner, the German immigrant whose ownership of the town site included one-third of its property and who later co-gifted Central Park to the city;

Ella Cliggett, among the first to sponsor a movement to beautify the cemetery grounds and a charter member of the Ladies Cemetery Improvement Society;

Corey Currie, Currie's Hardware Company founder in 1892, of the present-day Curries Door Company;

Mary Emsley, City Bank co-organizer with her husband in 1893, who, upon her husband's death, became the bank president;

Elizabeth Hartshorn Russell, Mason City's first milliner and mother of the Russell sisters; her mother, Betsy clothed George Custer as a newborn infant;

A. T. Parker, employee and owner of the flourmill located in the Rock Glen area on Willow Creek and builder, with his cousin, of the Parker Opera House;

Margaret Shipley, Mason City's first infant whose parents, John and Sara Mc-Millin, built the first log cabin in Mason City.

The Elmwood-St. Joseph Cemetery History Walk is set for 1:00 to 4:30 P.M., with tours begun every 12 minutes, starting at 1:00 and ending at 3:00. Each tour is expected to take approximately 80 minutes, with a 4:30 ending time for the last tour. Tickets are \$7.00 and will be available at the event. For more information, call the cemetery office at 641-421-3687.

The Mason City Public Library renovation project is on schedule to be completed this fall of 2010. This sketch gives a view of general outline of the appearance of the completed exterior of the facility. A closer look at the