

# HORIZON

## COULD EMERGENCY PERSONNEL FIND YOUR HOME?

How long do you think it would take for emergency personnel to locate your home? Please take a moment to look at the three pictures to the right of this paragraph that were taken by City staff. All three of these homes have their house number displayed, which one of these homes would be easier to locate?

In emergency situations the extra thirty seconds it may take to pinpoint the location of your home due to inadequate signage could mean the difference between life or death for yourself or a loved one.

City ordinance requires that you maintain your house number in a conspicuous place that is at least 2 ½ inches high and that it exhibits a high contrast with the color of your home. (Ord. 150.02) It is also recommended that they are large enough to be seen by someone approaching at a reasonable distance and are displayed in numerical digits rather than written (cursive) form. You may view the ordinance by going to the following link: <https://bit.ly/2L685Up>

## WATER RATE CHANGES/REMOVAL OF TAX

New water rates are now in effect and are reflected in this current bill. The basic service charge has increased from \$15.00 per month to \$16.50 per month and the usage charge has change from \$4.78 for each 1,000 gallons of water to \$5.50 for each 1,000 gallons of water (Ord 669). In addition the Local Option Sales tax for water has been removed from your bill, which was a 1% tax on water charges.

## COMMCON 9 AND FAMILY FUN DAY!

You are invited to the next *Community Conversation* which will be held on August 28<sup>th</sup> at the park on 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Baker Drive, near the new basketball courts, at 6:00 pm. The event will be outdoors and there will be bouncy houses, a ribbon cutting ceremony for the basketball courts and other activities. Come hear the updates from the Mayor regarding your community! Please bring your lawn chair to aid with seating, we hope to see you there!



## CALENDAR

- Aug 1 – Senior Committee Meeting @ 3:30 PM
  - Aug 1 – Mayor’s Committee Meeting @ 5:30 PM
  - Aug 7 – Planning & Zoning Meeting @ 6:00 pm
  - Aug 14 – Council Meeting @ 5:30 PM
  - Aug 16 – Library Meeting @ 6:00 PM\*
  - Aug 16 – Parks Board @ 5:30 PM
  - Aug 20 – Utility Bill Due Date
  - Aug 28 – Council Meeting @ 5:30 PM
  - Aug 28 – Community Action Team @ 12:00 PM
  - Aug 9, 23 – Recycle Days
- \*corrected

## PARKING ON PUBLIC STREETS

We would like to remind residents that no person shall park a vehicle upon public streets for more than 24 hours (Ord 69.06). If the vehicle does not move more than 20 feet in any direction from the vehicle’s original location after the 24 hour period, the vehicle will be in violation of the ordinance. Please visit the following link to read the ordinance: <https://bit.ly/2L2tpdj>

The definition of a vehicle means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway (ie: boats, trailers, campers, motorcycles, trucks, cars, etc.)

## PIONEER VALLEY DAYS

Reminder: Pioneer Valley Days is August 9th through August 12th.

A schedule of the events has been published in the Sergeant Bluff Advocate and may be viewed on our website: [www.cityofsergeantbluff.com](http://www.cityofsergeantbluff.com) under the “Residents” tab.



## RECENT VIOLATIONS ARE YOU PROTECTED?

Property owners are ultimately liable for their rental units

### CHAPTER 52 GRASS AND WEEDS

#### 52.02 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. "Curb," "curb line" or "curbing", "Cut" or "mow", "Easement", "Noxious Weeds", "Owner", "Parking", "Scrub tree", "Weeds" if you require the definitions contact the city inspections department.

#### 52.03 DUTIES OF OWNERS TO CONTROL VEGETATION.

Every property owner shall cut, mow and maintain all grass, weeds, brush, and vegetation of any type upon the owner's property, any easement area on the owner's property, and adjacent to the curb line or outer boundary of any street, which shall include the parking area.

#### 52.04 EXCESSIVE GROWTH PROHIBITED.

It shall be presumed that a health, fire or safety hazard exists when weeds or grass or other growth is in excess of ten (10) inches in length.

#### 52.05 EXCEPTIONS.

The following shall be exceptions to the provisions of this chapter:

1. Vegetable and/or flower gardens, purposefully planted, shall be permitted if they are maintained.
2. Wood perennials, purposefully planted, shall be permitted if they are planted and maintained.
3. Prairie grass areas, wild flower planting areas, natural reserve and preserve areas, urban wood lots, wild life refuge and conservation areas, wetlands and natural water ways, all as recognized and identified by a governmental agency or a respected private conservation organization.

#### 52.06 NOXIOUS WEEDS.

Every property owner shall cut and control noxious weeds upon the owner's property and any easement, and adjacent to the curb line, outer boundary of any street, which shall include the parking area abutting the owner's property, by cutting noxious weeds to ground level or using herbicides or other materials to eliminate or eradicate such weeds.

#### 52.08 PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE COMPLIANCE ALSO REQUIRED.

Property owners and occupants may also be required to comply with any applicable requirements in Chapter 159, the Property Maintenance Code, as it pertains to grass, weeds and scrub trees. In lieu of the abatement procedures set forth in Section 52.07, the City may enforce requirements regarding grass and weeds under the procedures set forth in Chapter 159, the Property Maintenance Code.

#### 105.06 SEPARATION OF YARD WASTE REQUIRED.

All yard waste shall be separated by the owner or occupant from all other solid waste accumulated on the premises and shall be composted on the premises, deposited at the City compost site, or placed in covered plastic or metal cans and set out for collection on the same day as regular solid waste collection. Each can shall not exceed 50 pounds and must have a City sticker attached thereto. As used in this section, "yard waste" means garden or horticulture waste, leaves, lawn cuttings, weeds, prunings, and other similar organic matter.

#### 105.08 OPEN DUMPING PROHIBITED.

No person shall dump or deposit or permit the dumping or depositing of any solid waste on the surface of the ground or into a body or stream of water at any place other than a sanitary disposal project approved by the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources, unless a special permit to dump or deposit solid waste on land owned or leased by such person has been obtained from the Director of the State Department of Natural Resources. However, this section does not prohibit the use of rubble at places other than a sanitary disposal project. As used in this section, "rubble" means dirt, stone, brick, or similar inorganic materials used for beneficial fill, landscaping, excavation, or grading at places other than a sanitary disposal project. "Rubble" includes asphalt waste only as long as it is not used in contact with water in a floodplain. For purposes of this section, "rubble" does not mean gypsum or gypsum wallboard, coal combustion residue, foundry sand, or industrial process wastes unless those wastes are approved by the State Department of Natural Resources

#### 107.05 OWNER RESPONSIBILITY.

Every property owner on which a compost bin is located shall be responsible for maintaining all property under his or her control in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

#### 135.03 PLACING DEBRIS ON.

It is unlawful for any person to throw or deposit on any street or alley any glass, glass bottle, nails, tacks, wire, cans, trash, garbage, rubbish, litter, offal, leaves, grass or any other debris likely to be washed into the storm sewer and clog the storm sewer, or any substance likely to injure any person, animal or vehicle.

#### 135.10 MAINTENANCE AND RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF PARKING OR CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY.

It shall be the responsibility of the abutting property owner to maintain all property outside the lot and property lines and inside the curb lines upon the public streets, (hereafter called the parking), except that the abutting property owner shall not be required to remove diseased trees or dead wood on such property. Maintenance includes timely mowing of grass, weed control, trimming, pruning trees and shrubs, picking up litter and keeping the parkway free of obstructions or depressions which might be injurious to the general public. In addition, the abutting property owner shall not plant any trees, park any vehicle, or place any fencing, barrier, planting or other material of any kind except the planting of grass seed and maintenance of grass lawn on the parking. The abutting property owner shall not place any concrete, gravel, asphalt, surface material or piping whatsoever in the parking.

#### 158.10 MODIFICATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE, 2015 EDITION.

**302.4 Weeds.** Premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of ten (10) inches. Noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, including scrub-trees provided; however, this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens. Scrub-trees shall mean any volunteer tree or bush not purposefully planted and maintained.

Property owners and occupants shall also comply with the requirements of Chapter 52 of this Code of Ordinances.