



1st Street & S. Lewis Blvd. Update

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Steve Harris Construction was awarded the bid for the 1st Street and South Lewis Boulevard project. The contractor has set a start date for the middle of May and to hopefully be completed by the end of August. Harris Construction is going to do their best to have the project completed before school starts again in the fall. Please remember to avoid the area as much as possible to

allow the workers a safe environment to do their work. Mike's Mini Mart and Fareway will be the two businesses directly affected and the contractor will keep one of the two entrances open at all times during the construction.

Marked detours will be established for traffic seeking to avoid the affected areas, though traffic will also be al-

lowed to move through the construction zones for local traffic. We appreciate your patience as we try to complete a project that is anticipated to improve traffic flow in the 1st Street/ South Lewis Boulevard area for years to come.



Storm Water Problems... and Solutions

You know that storm water soaks in, runs off, and flows into various places, and you know storm water can be harmful when it picks up and carries pollutants into **streams, rivers, wetlands** and even into the **ground water in which we drink**. However, problems created by us can be solved by us.

We all have opportunities to help reduce negative effects of storm water in our homes and yards. If you remember that what you put into the ground

soaks in, runs off or flows into the water, keeping storm water clean can be simple. Here are some things we can all do to help out:

Sweep your sidewalk and driveway instead of using a hose.

Clean up after your pet and properly dispose of the waste.

Don't litter, and pick up any litter you see.

Fix leaks in your car and recycle used motor oil.

Use lawn fertilizer properly.

Avoid using pesticides or use the least toxic.

Compost grass clippings, do not blow your grass clippings into the street.

Wash your car on your lawn instead of the driveway.

Recycle old paints and household chemicals.

Remember it is up to all of us to do our part in keeping the storm water as clean as possible.

Dates to Remember:

- Cleanup Week, April 6-11
- Hydrant Flushing, April 6-May 8
- Pool opens May 23
- 1st St. & Hwy 75 Road Construction begins middle to late May
- Pioneer Valley Days, August 6-9

Adopt-A-Drain Program

Do you live near a metal – grated storm drain that accumulates sticks and leaves after every rain? Or perhaps you have a drain in your backyard that becomes blocked with debris, causing possible flooding. If so, you can adopt a drain to continue to keep storm sewers running smoothly. Let us know which drain you wish to adopt so we can recognize your hard work - for more information, call City Hall at 943-4244!



**Parks & Recreation
Director:** Brent Brown

**Parks & Rec Office
Bluffs Area Family
Center**
(903 Topaz Drive)

Email:
brent@cityofsergeantbluff.com

Office Phone: 943-1942

Cell Phone: 899-0930



Department News

Spring is upon us and Summer is right around the corner! The Parks & Recreation Department is busy with activities. A few of the things upcoming are the Youth Soccer League, Little League Baseball and Northwest Iowa Softball Leagues. Teams will be wrapping up their Live Healthy Iowa competition, SBL Table Tennis Club and people getting out and using the walking trail at the Complex.

The Youth Soccer League has had a great response with over 150 kids participating. Games will be starting on April 4th and running through May 16th. Games will be played on the East Field at the complex. Picture day is scheduled for April 11th after their game time.

Both the Girls Softball and Little League organizations have had their signup dates by now but practices and games at both the Complex and B Street Fields will be going strong. If you need to reach a league representative feel free to contact me and I can get

you to the right person.

People and teams participating in the Live Healthy Iowa 100 Day Challenge will be wrapping up their competition to see who is the fittest in Sgt Bluff. Hopefully all have been able to increase their activity and lose a little weight in the last 100 days. The challenge ends on April 23rd and we will crown our championship teams on April 18th.

The Sgt Bluff Table Tennis Club has been going strong for three months. They currently have 14 members (\$40 annual fee) and average about 30 players every Sunday. All are welcome. They meet at the Bluff's Center every Sunday evening from 6-10 p.m. You must bring your own paddle and can purchase a ball on site. The first time you come to check it out it's FREE!! If you decide to come back you can choose one of two payment options: a \$40.00 annual fee or a \$5.00 daily session fee. With the number of participants in the program we are

trying to continue to add tables. Parks and Recreation has purchased 4 new tables and the Winkel Family Foundation has purchased a table. Others currently being used have been donated by people who are looking to get rid of or ones they are not using and are taking up space in their basement/garage. So if you've got a table in good condition and are looking to get rid of it, let us know. We may be able to get some use out of it for the Table Tennis Club.

Last but not least, it's great that the weather is breaking, warmer temperatures are on the way and we will soon be seeing our neighbors and families out and about walking the trail and using the playground equipment after the long winter. I have gotten a few calls from people who have been walking/running on the trail about pet owners not picking up after their dogs. We supply Mutt Mitts in two locations along the walking trail and in other City parks, so please use them!

Municipal Pool Opens May 23

The Sergeant Bluff Municipal Pool is located at 910 Topaz Dr. (in the Recreation Complex)

Phone: 943-POOL (7665)

The 2009 Pool Season runs from May 23-25 and May 30 through September 7.

Hours and Admission fees:
Mon-Fri 12-5 p.m. (\$3.00)
Mon-Fri 6-8 p.m. (\$2.00 Adult, \$1.50 Child)
Saturday 12-7 p.m. (\$3.00)

Sunday 12-6 p.m. (\$3.00)

Coupon books are available as follows:

Book of 25 coupons (\$50.00)
Book of 50 coupons (\$90.00)
Book of 75 coupons (\$120.00)

Swim lessons are available. For details on swim lesson

times or renting the pool visit the City's website at www.cityofsergeantbluff.com/pool_news.htm and click on the Sergeant Bluff Aquatics - 2009 Summer Guide. Call Brent Brown at 943-1942 if you have any questions.

Recycling: Good for You — Good for the Earth!

You know that recycling is good for the environment, but did you know that it can save you money? The City uses a Pay as You Throw (PAYT) system, meaning that if you pay for a second garbage cart, you may be able to save money by turning more of your waste into recycling. Currently, there is NO COST to recycle! Recycling

also helps extend the life of our landfill. The recycled materials are used as raw materials for new products. Items that you can recycle are: Numbers 1, 2 & 5 plastics (look on bottom of container), tin cans, aluminum cans and foil, newspapers, computer paper, magazines, cereal boxes, detergent boxes and corrugated cardboard

(flattened). If you don't have a green recycle tub, call City Hall today! Be sure to also ask for the recycling schedule and a full list of acceptable recyclable items. For more information about our recycling program, contact City Hall at 943-4244 or the Woodbury County Landfill at 712-873-3837.



Utility Billing: Budget Billing Explained

The City offers a Level Payment Plan, also known as Budget Billing, for your utilities. It is important that you understand how this works before signing up. The purpose of the plan is to allow you the benefit of knowing exactly how much your bill will be each month. The amount is based on an estimate of previous usage. If you have just moved in to your home, we have no record of your previous usage, so it is recommended that you wait to go on the Budget Billing until after you

have lived in your residence for one year. The monthly amount is re-evaluated each year in March, for the April billing. If you have underpaid over the past year, your monthly budget amount will go up. If you have overpaid, your budget amount will go down. Each month, your bill will show your budget balance. It is important that you understand that if you make a double payment in one month, thinking that you are paying for that month and the next month's bill, you are incor-

rect. The amount you overpaid goes to your budget balance and you will still owe for the next month. Persons on the Budget Billing plan must pay on time. No agreements will be made on accounts on the Budget Billing plan. You must stay on the Budget Billing plan for one year, unless you disconnect services prior to one year. If you opt to go off the Budget Billing plan after a year, you must wait another year to go back on the plan. If you have questions about the Budget Billing plan, please call City Hall.



Spring Hydrant Flushing Schedule

The Water Department will be flushing hydrants this spring. This is done to maintain a high quality of water throughout our system. During these times, you may experience darker than normal water. This is a normal occurrence during the hydrant flushing process. The schedule is follows:

April 6-10: Old Town & the Recreation Complex

April 13-17: Pioneer Park Addition, Golden Flats, Schools, Airview Drive, Port Neal Road, Sgt Square Drive

April 20-24: Prairie View I, II, III, and IV, Settler's Point, Gaul Dr, Bluffs Blvd and Stream

April 27-May 1: S. Lewis Blvd., Fox Run and Estates West, Woodford's and Bridge Mobile Home Parks

May 4-8: Camelot, Oak Hills, Meadowbrook I, II and III and 1st Street

If excessively rusty water is experienced, or if it persists even after you have run the water for awhile, contact the Water Department at 943-9616 or City Hall at 943-4244 and someone will check into the matter as soon as possible.



Public Library Services Available!



Did you know that we have Public Library facilities right here in Sergeant Bluff?

The Elementary and Primary libraries are open to the public on alternating Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. The High School Adult library is open to the public on Thursday evenings from 4:00 p.m.

until 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The ICN (Iowa Communications Network) Classroom is available for distance learning opportunities. Call for details! We are an “Open Access” Library. Patrons with a valid Sergeant Bluff Public Library card may check out books from any other Open Access Library

across Iowa at no charge. This includes the Sioux City Public Libraries, Briar Cliff University, Morningside College, Western Iowa Tech as well as others. Sergeant Bluff Public Library cards are free and may be obtained in each of our School Media Centers or at City Hall. Stop in and fill out an application today.

Spring Cleanup Week: April 6-11

Directions to Compost Site:

From the stoplight at Warrior Road and Port Neal Road (by the high school) continue south on Port Neal Road for exactly one mile. Just across the Interstate, there is a gravel road to the right. The compost site is on the right side. There is a red gate and a sign.

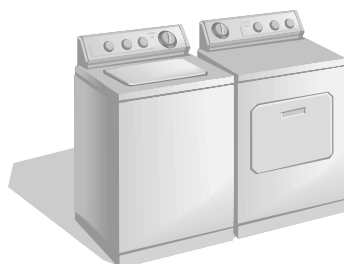
The semi-annual cleanup week is April 6-11. The hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The site is not open on Sunday. There is NO curbside pickup. All items must be taken to the City compost site during open hours of operation. During this week only, dumping is free of charge for Sergeant Bluff residents only, and proof of residency will be required. Items that CANNOT

be dumped include: Batteries, paint, broken concrete, asphalt, used oil, bricks, tires, recyclable goods, fluorescent light bulbs, treated lumber (with creosote, such as railroad ties), gas and oil filters and containers, solvents or cleaners. Lawn/yard waste can be dumped at the compost site but must be separated from all other items. There is no charge to dump lawn/yard waste. You may bring white goods to the

compost site during any regular compost site hours. There will always be a \$10 charge per appliance for demanufacturing. You **must purchase a ticket** for each appliance at City Hall, prior to taking the item(s) to the compost site.

Back this year: The Goodwill Trailer will be located in the Fareway parking lot during cleanup week (until April 13)!

Appliance Demanufacturing



The Iowa Department of Natural Resources requires that some appliances be demanufactured prior to disposal in a landfill. In order to dispose of such items at the Compost Site, we require a \$10.00 fee to cover the cost of demanufacturing.

The following items require demanufacturing:

- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Kitchen ranges
- Commercial coolers
- Air conditioning units
- Dehumidifiers
- Gas water heaters
- Furnaces
- Clothes washers and clothes dryers
- Dishwashers
- Microwave ovens
- Any items that contain mercury switches, refrigerant or PCB.

Dale Petersen Mayor's Corner

I wish I could write that this past winter has been an enjoyable one, and although I am sure there are those among us who enjoyed all the cold, snow, and winter activities, I was not one of those hearty individuals. Cold, dreary winters are certainly a challenge!

In recent weeks, you may have heard several rumors about the future operation of the Bluffs Area Family Center. It is my pleasure to state that Jon Winkel and the Winkel Family Foundation have offered the Bluffs Area Family Center buildings and grounds to the City of Sergeant Bluff and that the City Council allocated funds in next year's budget to take over operation of the facility. The details of the transition from a private to a public entity are yet to be negotiated, but this is truly an unbelievable, exciting, and awesome opportunity, as well as a gener-

ous gift to Sergeant Bluff. I can not thank Jon and his family enough for their unselfish support of this community. Their passion and vision for the future of our community and its youth are unequaled. A simple thank you does not meet the gravity of such a gift. This gift will continue to add to the "quality of life" in "Pioneer Valley" for many years.

The next Fiscal Year's City operating budget, 2009-2010, was passed by the City Council March 12, 2009. The tax levy required to support the budget and maintain the current level of City services is \$0.29466 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation higher than last years but \$0.05608 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation less than two years ago. The increase in the levy is primarily attributable to an increase in the debt service levy to pay the general obligation bonds previously ap-

proved by the City Council. The addition of the minimal funds to operate the Bluffs Area Family Center and changing the part time building inspector contracted from the City of Sioux City to a full time dual purpose position resulted in the remainder of the increase. I want you all to know the City Council did not make the budget decisions hastily or without regard for the impact to property owners.

As I write this, I have already played two rounds of golf! My game has not improved over the winter, but does practice makes perfect? As a note to all of my fellow golfers, the Community Action Team has begun the planning for Pioneer Valley Days and I am hopeful we will have a fund raising golf tournament to help defray the costs associated with the celebration.



Dale Petersen
Mayor since 2002.

Police Chief Chat

Chief
McFarland

Be Aware of Pedestrians

I want to take a moment to remind everyone of the requirements by state law to yield to pedestrians in any crosswalk or at any intersection. Anytime a pedestrian is entering a marked crosswalk or any unmarked crosswalk within an intersection all vehicles must slow down or stop if needed to yield to all pedestrian. Failure to yield to the pedestrian is a violation of state law 321.327 and is a simple misdemeanor.

Three pedestrian crossings I

want to bring to your attention are on 1st Street which is heavily traveled daily. They are: 1st and Port Neal, a school crossing; 1st and D Street, also a school crossing; and 1st and C street. Both 1st and Port Neal and 1st and C Street do not have traffic control lights or stop signs to alert the driver of the crossing, however, there are yellow pedestrian signs in place alerting drivers of the crosswalks.

I know we can sometimes be distracted while driving and not see a pedestrian who is

entering a crosswalk. It is, however, the driver's responsibility to see and yield to the pedestrian

I encourage everyone as they drive through Sergeant Bluff to take notice where the crosswalks are and be aware of extra caution needed in these areas when you approach them. Together we can make a difference for the safety of our kids and all pedestrians in Sergeant Bluff.

Drive careful and remember spring is just around the corner.



David McFarland
Chief of Police
since 1998.

Energy Conservation: Load Management

Don't know if you may already be participating in the load management program? Call City Hall to find out!

The City urges citizens who are not presently in our load management program to sign up to participate. Load management is a crucial tool in keeping the City's energy costs down and it also rewards the participants in the load management program for doing their part. This coming year, participants will be credited \$4.50 per month for being in the load management program. Load Management is a tool that the City uses to keep from setting new

peaks on hot days. When we set new peaks, the City pays for that peak demand for 12 months. This can be controlled by the installation of load management switches. The way load management works is that on days that we get close to our peak, the controller starts shedding load, typically air conditioners. The load management program turns off the compressor unit for only 7 minutes out of every half hour, while the load is

being shed. During this time, your fan continues to operate and move the air in your home. The City will come out and install and explain the operation of the switches to further educate the citizens of the effectiveness of load management. The City has over 600 households using load management presently. If you have further questions, please contact City Hall at 943+4244. Thank you—your participation would be greatly appreciated.

The Facts on Water Leaks



Water leaks are serious. Leaks can account for, on average, 11,000 gallons of water wasted in a home every year. The amount of water leaked from U.S. homes could exceed more than 1 trillion gallons per year. That is equivalent to the annual water use of Los Angeles, Chicago and Miami combined.

Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day.

Common types of leaks found in the home include leaking

toilet flappers, dripping faucets and other leaking valves. All are easily corrected.

Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save customers more than 10 percent on their water bills.

A good method to check for leaks is to examine your winter water usage. It is likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if their winter water use exceeds 12,000 per month. Check your water meter before and after a two-hour

period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, you probably have a leak.

One way to find out if you have a leak in your toilet is to place a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak. Make sure to flush immediately after this experiment to avoid staining the tank. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/watersense



Garbage Service Reminders

The City's contract with Independence Waste states that you are only allowed to use their containers, or you must purchase tags for extra containers at City Hall. They will

not pick up untagged garbage left next to the cart. You may only use your own cart(s). You may get extra carts for an extra monthly fee. Also, the contract is for **regular household**

waste only. You may not dispose of construction materials in the carts. You must either obtain a roll off or dispose of these items at the compost site during regular hours.

Pet Poop Pollutes

The following is courtesy of the City of Austin, TX:

Pet waste is more than smelly and unsightly, it is a health risk to pets and people, especially children. When it rains, pet waste left on trails, sidewalks and grassy areas can wash into the nearest body of water. The bacteria, parasites

and viruses in pet waste can harm water quality and anyone who comes in contact with it. It also contains nutrients that increase the growth of nuisance algae in our waterways.

Bring plastic bags with you when you walk your dog or use the Mutt Mitts provided in the City's parks (two are located

along the walking trail in the Recreation Complex). Remove pet waste from your yard. Encourage neighbors to pick up after their pets by placing signs in your yard.

If you are a pet owner, please Scoop the Poop - it is the healthy and neighborly thing to do!



Storm Water Central

Mow High & Let Grass Clippings Lie

From ISWEP newsletter:

The single (or is it combined?) best management practice that should be a given in any community or for any property owner, residential or otherwise is “mow high and let grass clippings lie.” However, according to the turf survey that is not necessarily what’s going on in the state.

Mow High (3 inches or

greater): Less than 30% of all homeowners maintain a cutting height of 2.5 inches or greater. 56% maintain a lawn between 1.5 to 2.5 inches tall; and 15% mow at less than 1.5 inches. The greatest benefit to a taller grass, besides being a better playing surface for children, is its ability to compete against weeds for sunlight, nutrients and moisture.

Let Grass Clippings Lie (or mulch mow): According to the Iowa survey, 57% of home-

owners are still “non mulching” mowers and 32% of those remove (bag) grass clippings with every mowing; 50% remove grass clippings after heavy growth and only 18% rarely remove grass clippings. There is a common misperception that grass clippings cause thatch, which just isn’t the case. Thatch is caused by a biologically impaired (lifeless) soil system that is unable to release potential nutrients (nitrogen) in the clippings for growing grass.



For more information about storm water, visit: www.iowastormwater.org

Fire Department Needs Members

The Sergeant Bluff Fire Department is now accepting applications for new members. Founded in 1924, the mission of the department is to provide fire, rescue, and medical services to the community and surrounding areas of Sergeant Bluff.

The department is sanctioned by the City of Sergeant Bluff and is approved for up to 39 fire/rescue and 10 medical personnel. Individuals may serve on fire/rescue only, medical only, or both;

however those choosing medical only must attain medical certification (EMT-B, etc) within one year of placement on the department. While prior experience is welcome, the department will provide or will cover the cost of all other necessary trainings.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age; must be residents of the City of Sergeant Bluff, Woodbury Township, or work in the city of Sergeant Bluff; and must be able to pass a physical

agility test.

The men and women of the Sergeant Bluff Fire Department are all volunteers who conduct continuous training exercises to better prepare themselves to respond to emergency situations. If you are looking for a rewarding way to give back to your community and at the same time expand your personal capabilities, you can pick up an application at City Hall or online at www.sgtblufffire.com.



City of Sergeant Bluff

401 4th Street
PO Box 703
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054
www.cityofsergeantbluff.com

Phone: 712-943-4244
Fax: 712-943-2106
E-mail: cityhall@cityofsergeantbluff.com



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