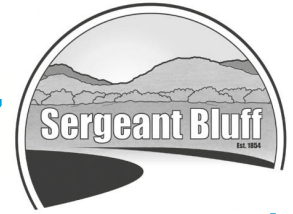


SERGEANT BLUFF SCOOP

•CITY OF SERGEANT BLUFF NEWSLETTER•



Cleanup Week October 22-27



It is time for Fall Cleanup! The semi-annual cleanup week is being held October 22-27. As a reminder, 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 and is for Sergeant Bluff residents

only. Items that **CAN NOT** 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 never a charge to dump lawn/yard waste.

You may bring white goods, such as washers, dryers and hot water heaters, to the compost site during any regular compost site hours. There will always be a \$10 charge per appliance for demanufactur-

ing. You **must purchase a ticket** for each appliance at City Hall, prior to taking the item(s) to the compost site.

Please call City Hall if you have specific questions about the semi-annual cleanup week.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

During cleanup week, the compost site will be open 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday & on Saturday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The compost site will remain open its regular hours (Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) through [Wednesday, November 21, 2007.](#)

Directions to Compost Site:

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

Please remember that it is illegal to dump at the compost site when it is not open and being manned by City personnel.

Utilities Update: New Policy on Meter Readouts

In order ensure that each of our customers are accurately being charged for their own usage, the City has instituted a new policy regarding final readings. This new policy is effective immediately: **If you move out, you must call us to have your meters read.** We will need to set up an appointment to come in-

side and read the actual meters to make sure they agree with the 'Read Right' meters that are installed on the outside of the building. The monthly readings are normally taken from the outside meter, so if the numbers don't match, the inside meter will be correct. Reading the actual meter will help to ensure that the previous

and new occupants are each paying for their own usage. Failure to notify us will result in you being charged for all usage up until the time that we gain access to the meters. We appreciate your cooperation with our efforts.

If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 943-4244.

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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 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 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 Li-

braries, 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 Sergeant Bluff City Hall. Stop in and fill out an application today.

For questions, please call 943-8716 or 943-4244

"What is this 'CA' on My Utility Bill?"

The formula takes the previous month's dollar figure spent by the City to purchase electricity and divides it by the number of kilowatt hours sold to the customers.

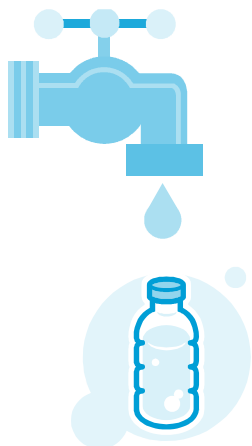
Believe it or not, the CA line item has been on your bill for years. It is called the power cost adjustment. The cost adjustment is a figure that is based on a formula which takes the previous month's dollar figure spent by the City to purchase electricity and divides it by the number of kilowatt hours sold to the

customers. From this figure, we subtract \$.0300 (which is the average cost per kilowatt hour) and the resulting figure is plugged into our software. The software then calculates the amount of the cost adjustment for each customer. This amount fluctuates from month to month because the cost of electricity to

the City and the usage by the customers fluctuates. When the City's costs go down, so does the power cost adjustment figure. When it goes up... well, we have all seen the results of that on our electric bill these past few months. Please feel free to call City Hall with further questions or clarification of the cost adjustment.



Tap Water Vs. Bottled Water



Did you know that the bottled water that people purchase at a rate that equals \$5 per gallon may be the same water that flows out of their kitchen sink? Approximately 25% to 40% of the bottled water sold in stores in the United States comes from a municipal water source. Consumers are therefore paying hundreds to thousands of times more for packaged municipal water that costs them only pennies per gallon out of

their tap.

The bottled water industry is regulated as a food by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) while the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates municipal water. The FDA's standards apply only to interstate sales, which amount to 30-40% of bottled water sold in the United States. Water packaged and sold in the same state are subject to that

state's requirements, which may or may not be as strict as the FDA's standards. Drinking water is regulated federally with primacy given to the IDNR to enforce and enact the EPA's standards. For more information, go to www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp or www.bottledwater.org.

Information reprinted in part from the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities newsletter. www.iamu.org

Dale Petersen Mayor's Corner

I hope you all had a wonderful summer! Today the weather forecaster has predicted frost for the low lying areas. I am sure that Sergeant Bluff qualifies as a low lying area and I suspect the flowers that I nurtured throughout the summer months will perish this weekend. I want to express my thanks to all the home owners who spent countless hours beautifying their yards and to the Community Action Team for recognizing their efforts through the "Yard of the Week" program. I understand there were far more nominees than weeks available to honor the home owners. Maybe a seasonal yard decorating competi-

tion could spark the same level of enthusiasm.

After many months of extensive investigation and the subsequent necessary repair we were finally able to operate the municipal swimming pool for the entire season without any serious issues! By all reports the pool was well attended and I want to thank not only the city staff who worked to make this reopening a success but to all the tax paying citizens of Sergeant Bluff for your trust and patience as we worked through the repair process. If you have not already heard, we were successful in settling the lawsuit surrounding the design and construction of the pool. We

will receive \$725,000 as a settlement.

On a personnel note, congratulations are in order for Paula Moriarty and Sandi Headid for completing city clerk training for the state of Iowa. One of our fellow employees, Myron Olerich, was recently ordered to active duty with the Navy Reserve Seabees with ultimate deployment to Southwest Asia. Our prayers go with Myron and his family. We also need to welcome Mike Bennett and Josh Van Beek to the public works staff as electricians!

School is back in session, so drive carefully!



Dale Petersen - Mayor of Sergeant Bluff since 2002.

Stormwater Central

When it RAINS it DRAINS

Stormwater will transport pollutants carelessly left or intentionally placed in or near a storm drain into water bodies used for drinking water, swimming, or fishing.

Strategies to Protect Water Quality

* Never dump anything down storm drains.

- * Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks and roads.
- * Never mow or sweep grass clippings onto the street.
- * Don't hose down driveways (either sweep up or blowback into the yard).
- * Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
- * Take your vehicle to the car wash or wash it on the grass.
- * Check car for leaks, recycle motor oil.
- * Pick up after your pet.

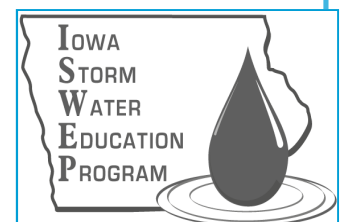
- * Plant bare spots in your yard.
- * Build a rain garden.
- * Use a compost pile or yard waste collection bin.

If you would like to be a part of the City of Sergeant Bluff's Stormwater Advisory Committee, please contact Sandi Headid at 943-4244. The Stormwater Advisory Committee meets quarterly to discuss the stormwater needs of our community.

For more information about stormwater, visit: www.iowastormwater.org

Word Find

Please turn to page 4 for a fun word search puzzle which includes some basic stormwater terms!



Automated Meter Reading Update

For many years, the City's maintenance employees have dutifully, every month, walked their routes to obtain the monthly utility meter readings. In the past 15 years, the number of meters has nearly doubled. As the City's growth continues, it has become apparent that we need to begin instituting a more efficient way of gathering the monthly meter readings. In June, the City signed on

with Hydrometering Technology, a Minnesota company, to purchase meters that can be read by a handheld device. Hydrometering also furnished the handheld device and accompanying software. As new meters are installed in new developments, we are using these radio ready electric and water meters. In addition, whenever a meter needs to be replaced, it will be replaced with a radio

ready meter. As we move toward installing and replacing the old meters, we will move away from the time consuming task of manually reading meters, allowing our employees to devote their time and efforts to other projects. In addition, having the meters read automatically will help minimize errors in readings and will make the billing process more efficient.

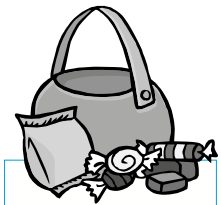


Halloween Trick-or-Treating Safety

The National Safety Council urges motorists to be especially alert on Halloween and offers the following driving tips: Watch for children darting out from between parked cars. Watch

for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs. Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully. If you are driving children, be sure they exit on the curb side, away from traf-

fic. Do not wear your mask while driving. At twilight or later in the evening, watch for children in dark costumes. For more safety tips visit: www.allhallowseve.com



Trick-or-Treating in Sergeant Bluff will be October 31 from 6-8 p.m.

Stormwater Basics Word Search

M	O	R	S	Y	A	R	D	W	A	S	T	E
W	S	A	W	T	N	R	W	O	T	P	I	G
N	S	I	I	I	U	W	T	A	O	E	N	Y
A	R	N	M	L	A	O	E	N	Z	I	T	F
U	E	G	M	A	Q	R	P	D	H	R	S	Q
P	Z	A	I	U	A	S	C	S	S	P	O	P
M	I	R	N	Q	M	E	I	A	N	I	P	T
I	L	D	G	R	D	F	C	G	O	W	M	M
T	I	E	D	E	D	U	C	A	T	I	O	N
S	T	N	A	T	U	L	L	O	P	R	C	D
M	R	E	T	A	W	M	R	O	T	S	S	R
R	E	T	A	W	G	N	I	K	N	I	R	D
S	F	S	E	I	E	A	O	E	T	R	F	I

- Find these words:**
- fishing
 - swimming
 - drinkingwater
 - downspouts
 - compost
 - pollutants
 - stormwater
 - fertilizers
 - raingarden
 - waterquality
 - education
 - yardwaste

SERGEANT BLUFF HELPING HANDS PANTRY

Again this holiday season, we are assisting less fortunate Sergeant Bluff families with food baskets and children's gifts. If you or your family could benefit from this assistance, or if you know of a Sergeant Bluff resident or family that would benefit, please fill out the following form and drop it off at City Hall or mail it to Helping Hands Pantry 124 Airview Drive, Sergeant Bluff IA 51054. For more information, please call 943-5197.

-----Cut Here -----

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Children	Gift Idea	Sex	Age	Size
----------	-----------	-----	-----	------

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

-----Cut Here -----

Please return all applications no later than November 1, 2007.

Distribution of the Christmas items will be December 22, 2007.

If you have received this assistance in prior years, you must reapply for 2007.

If you would like to help us make this holiday season a little brighter for some local families, there are two ways you can do it.

Make a donation to SERGEANT BLUFF HELPING HANDS PANTRY. Mail a check to the Helping Hands Pantry, 124 Airview Drive, Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054 or drop it off at City Hall.

Stop at Sergeant Bluff City Hall, the Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church, the United Methodist Church, Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, the Friendship Church, Fareway grocery store, or Aggie's Restaurant and pick up a gift tag from the Helping Hands poster located there. The tags are for children who need toys, books and clothing. Their age, sex and size will be on the tag. Simply return the gift and the tag to the location from which you picked it up by December 9th. Thank you!!

All donations to Helping Hands are tax deductible.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SERGEANT BLUFF IA
PERMIT NO. 9

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

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



POSTAL PATRON
ECR-WSS