

SERGEANT BLUFF SCOOP

•CITY OF SERGEANT BLUFF NEWSLETTER•



City to Hire New Administrator

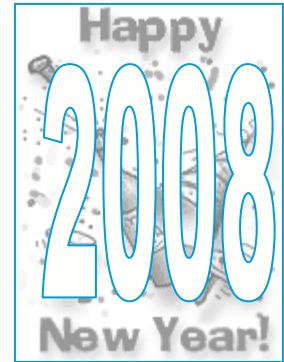
By Mayor Petersen

If you have not heard, our current City Administrator, Lane Danielzuk, has accepted a position with the city of Gering, Nebraska and will start that job beginning the first week of January. Lane came to the City of Sergeant Bluff at not only an exciting time, but also a difficult time from an administrative standpoint and he performed admirably as our first City Administrator. We will miss his insight and expertise, but as with all things, we must move forward. Consequently, the City Council commissioned Meisner Consultants to conduct the search and screening process for the future City Administrator.

At this past council meeting, the City Council appointed a search committee from the council membership that will be responsible for overseeing the City Administrator recruitment process and recommending actions to the Council. This recruitment process will be intense at times and will require a large time commitment on the committee's part. The entire process will be coordinated by me and the committee secretary, Candice Litras.

The first steps have already been taken by the formation of the committee and the discussion with the City Council members about their vision for the next City

Administrator. The search committee will meet December 27th for the first of many meetings to identify the strengths, abilities, and qualities desired in our next City Administrator that will fit the established goals of the City's future plans. We will meet as often as necessary to complete the search as quickly as possible, but with the intent of finding the most desirable candidate. At this time, we do not have a definite timeline for completing the search and hiring process but we will make as much information about the recruitment process and the potential candidates as possible within the confidentiality rules.



Utilities Update: Add a "PS" to Help a Neighbor

Project Share is a plan created by your municipal utility to assist needy households in paying their wintertime energy bills. You can help by adding a regular PS contribution to your monthly utility payment or by making a direct donation to Project Share. These funds will then be distributed to neighbors in need for wintertime

energy costs.

Those qualifying for help will be carefully identified by an area social service agency. A local committee will oversee Project Share to guarantee all contributions will be handled equitably and efficiently.

So please add a PS—Project Share—to your utility payment each

month. It's a simple way to share some warmth with those who need it.

Send payments to:
City of Sergeant Bluff
401 4th Street
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054

Please note "Project Share" on your check. If you would like to be billed monthly, please call City Hall - 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 4:00 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 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

Spring Cleanup Week Scheduled



The semi-annual cleanup week is being held April 7-12 this spring. 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 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 never a 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 de-manufacturing. You **must purchase a ticket** for each appliance at City Hall, prior to taking the item(s) to the compost site. Call City Hall for more details.

The Household Hazardous materials dump site is now located at the Sioux City Dump, 5800 28th Street. Call 279-6292 to make an appointment to dispose of household hazardous items.

Dumping of Snow No-No's



Per City Code:

"It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, push or place or cause to be thrown, pushed or placed any ice or snow from private property, sidewalks or driveways onto the traveled way of a street or alley so as to obstruct gutters, or impede the passage of vehicles upon the street or alley or to create a hazardous condition therein; ex-

cept where, in the cleaning of large commercial drives in the business district it is absolutely necessary to move the snow onto the street or alley temporarily, such accumulation shall be removed promptly by the property owners or agent, and only after first making arrangements for such prompt removal at the owner's cost of the accumulation within a reasonably short time."

Simply put, it is illegal to push snow from your driveway or sidewalk onto the street.



Dale Petersen Mayor's Corner

As I write this we are officially, by the calendar, into the start of winter and have already experienced nearly the full range of winter precipitation events possible. The subject of snow, ice, and all the other winter weather issues gives us all something to talk about at the local coffee shop. The Community Action Team along with the Sergeant Bluff Fire Department, Mayor's Youth Commission, Bluffs Area Family Center staff, Sergeant Bluff Police Department, Sergeant Bluff-Luton School District, and many volunteers and sponsors celebrated the winter season by presenting the fifth annual Winter Festival at the family center December 9th. If you have not attended the festival please plan on making it a part of your family cele-

bration next year. It is great family fun!!

I have been asked recently by citizens of the community why we loaned \$9,240,000 dollars to the Sunrise Retirement Facility board. There is a commonly used state statute that allowed the City Council to issue federally tax-exempt bonds or "bank qualified" notes to fund the expansion of the non-profit Sunrise Retirement Community. The bonds are issued by the City, sold to the bond purchaser, and the proceeds loaned to the borrower, in this case the Sunrise Retirement Community. The repayment of the bond proceeds is the sole responsibility of Sunrise and the City will not be called upon to repay the debt. The bonds are limited

obligations and do not constitute indebtedness for the City nor does it alter our credit rating. The bonding process is a means for non-profit organizations to secure funding for projects at a more favorable interest rate and the City Council's responsibility is to determine if the purpose is truly beneficial to the community.

I will be spending a great deal of my time at City Hall next year performing the duties of Mayor and City Administrator until we complete the search for Mr. Danielzuk's replacement. We all wish Lane well in his new position. I will try to fill his shoes and keep all the projects moving forward with the help of the council and city staff.

"Happy New Year"!!



Dale Petersen - Mayor of Sergeant Bluff since 2002.

Stormwater Central

Mow High & Let Grass Clippings Lie

Reprinted from the November 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 homeowners 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 stormwater, visit:
www.iowastormwater.org



Rosendahl Named Officer of the Year



Congratulations to Officer Brent Rosendahl for receiving the “2007 Officer of the Year” award for the Sergeant Bluff Police Dept.

According to Police Chief Dave McFarland, Officer Rosendahl has done a great job at the police department and has repeatedly gone above and beyond his required duties. His strong work ethic and positive attitude as well as his willingness to pitch in wherever he is needed is very much appreciated.

Rosendahl joined the Air Force in January 1991 as a Security Policeman with the 185th Iowa Air National Guard. He was activated in October 2001 and served in Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Cyprus during Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch, Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom.

Rosendahl is currently a member of the Iowa Urban Search and Rescue Team, Sioux City Division Task Force 1. He is an EMT-Intermediate and a Tactical

Medic and a CPR instructor.

Rosendahl created and designed the police department’s active shooter program involving the Sergeant Bluff-Luton Community School District.

Officer Rosendahl has been a police officer with the City since 2005.

Prior to becoming an officer, Rosendahl was employed in the maintenance department of the City of Sergeant Bluff for seven years.

Police Chief Chat **Chief McFarland**



David McFarland, Sergeant Bluff Chief of Police since 1998.

Interference with Snow Removal Ordinance

Since winter has officially arrived I thought I would remind everyone of the snow ordinances that the city will be enforcing. These ordinances are enforced to improve the street crews’ ability to clean up after a snow storm.

There are two ordinances which may apply depending on the expectation of the amount of snow. Code section 69.10 states that the Mayor may declare a snow emergency ban on parking. This will require that all vehicles be removed from all city streets by a specific time and date. If the vehicles are not removed by this time the police department

may ticket or tow the vehicle. Snow emergencies are typically declared when a heavy snow storm is expected.



A second ordinance, which is more commonly used, is the interference with snow removal section which is 69.12 of the city code. This ordinance requires all vehicles that have been plowed around to be moved from the street within 24 hours after being plowed around. This allows city crews to clean up the streets on their

follow up routes. If you fail to move your vehicle you may be given a ticket and the fine would be \$25.00, which is payable at city hall. If the vehicle is not removed after the ticket it may also be towed. This ordinance is usually enforced following a snow fall that requires snow removal by city crews but isn’t a major storm.

With winter snow storms a normal expectation in Iowa, I ask that everyone works together to help our city crews clean up our streets and keep them safe for travel. I wish everyone safe travel as we all enjoy another winter in Iowa. Please remember to give yourself more time when you leave and more space between you and the car in front of you.

Placement of Political Signs

There are right and wrong ways to place campaign signs. Political campaign signs are **NOT ALLOWED** on any property owned by the state or governing body of a county, city or other political subdivision of the state, including all property considered public right-of-way; property owned by a prohibited contributor under section 68A.503 of the

Code of Iowa unless the sign advocates the passage or defeat of a ballot issue; without the property owner's consent; on election day either on the premises of any polling place or within 300 feet of any outside door of any building affording access to any room where the polls are held, or of any outside door of any building afford-

ing access to any hallway, corridor, stairway or other means of reaching a room where the polls are held and within 300 feet of an absentee voting site or satellite absentee voting station, during the hours when absentee ballots are available.

Contact City Hall for more information.



2008 Recycling Schedule:

All residents South of First Street: January 10 & 24; February 7 & 21; March 6 & 20; April 3 & 17; May 1, 15 & 29; June 12 & 26; July 10 & 24; August 7 & 21; September 4 & 18; October 2, 16 & 30; November 13 & 28; December 11 & 26.

All residents North of First Street: January 11 & 25; February 8 & 22; March 7 & 21; April 4 & 18; May 2, 16 & 30; June 13 & 27; July 11 & 25; August 8 & 22; September 5 & 19; October 3, 17 & 31; November 14 & 27; December 12 & 26.

Other Dates to Remember:

February 24: Boy Scouts Pancake Feed at the American Legion

April 7-12: Spring Cleanup

If you're pregnant, breastfeeding, just had a baby, or have children under 5 you may qualify.

We can help you buy milk, cheese, eggs, baby formula, cereal, juice, peanut butter, and other healthy foods.

If you have questions about nutrition, breastfeeding your baby, or feeding your family WIC may be able to help you.

Call for more information 712-279-6636 or 1-800-587-3005

WIC is available at 2 locations:

In Sioux City @ 1014 Nebraska St.

Mon 8am-6 pm, & Tues-Fri 8am-4:30pm

In Correctionville @ Community Center

312 Driftwood. 4th Tuesday every month 9-1:30



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If you have something that you would like for us to consider including in a future newsletter, please email it to me at paula@cityofsergeantbluff.com

POSTAL PATRON
ECR-WSS