

# SERGEANT BLUFF SCOOP

•CITY OF SERGEANT BLUFF NEWSLETTER•



## Ferneau New City Administrator

By Mayor Petersen

The City Administrator search committee members presented their recommendation for City Administrator to the Sergeant Bluff City Council on June 11<sup>th</sup> and the Council unanimously approved a three year employment contract with Mr. Jim Ferneau to serve as our new City Administrator. Mr. Ferneau comes to us from Fairbury, Nebraska where he currently serves as City Administrator. He will start what I hope is a long and mutually beneficial relationship with our community on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Council and search committee believe Jim

met or exceeded all their expectations for City Administrator of Sergeant Bluff. Jim has a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Iowa State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Notre Dame. Jim's previous employment experiences beyond his current position were as Assistant Budget Officer for Ames Laboratory at Iowa State University, Director of Finance for the Marshalltown Community School District, City Administrator of Eldora, Iowa, and City Administrator of Manning, Iowa. The City Council and I believe he not only possesses

the right education and experience but displays the correct focus and attitude for the job requirements.

Jim's wife, Shelley, is responsible for home schooling the couple's children, which range in age from a newborn to a 16 year old. They currently have eight children, including five girls and three boys.

Naturally, Jim loves to watch the Irish play on Saturday afternoons along with running and reading a good book. We hope to schedule an "open house" so everyone has an opportunity to meet and welcome Jim, Shelley, and their family to our community!



Jim Ferneau will assume the role of City Administrator on August 18, 2008.

## Thank You, Mayor Petersen: Mayor Fills in as City Administrator

A great big **thank you** goes to Mayor Dale Petersen for stepping into the role of interim City Administrator for the past 6-plus months. Under the Mayor's guidance we were not only able to keep the City functioning efficiently, but we were

also able to effect some positive changes within the City. The Mayor has been a reliable, consistent presence at City Hall. His choice to fill in as City Administrator was a decision he made with the best interests of the City in mind. Mayor Petersen

did not receive any additional compensation for filling in as City Administrator. He has donated his own post-retirement time to do what was right, and we, the City staff, greatly appreciate it!

Thanks Dale!

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## Public Library Services Available



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

The Sergeant Bluff-Luton 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

## Crossing Guard Thanks City



I would like to thank the City of Sergeant Bluff for letting me volunteer as crossing guard on the corner of 1st Street and Port Neal Road for the last 5 or 6 years. This is the last spring I will be on patrol duty as my youngest is graduating this year. I know I will miss the parents and the children who pass by on their way to school.

A special thanks to the

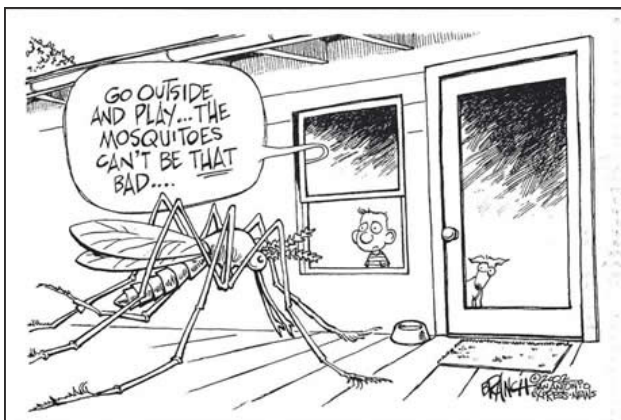
wood workshop class under the direction of Mr. Borkowski for building the guard shack to get out of the weather. And I also want to thank the police department for helping control the traffic problems. A special thanks to Officer McLeod for seeing the need for adult help in that area. Thanks to Officer Ford for his continuing support. A special thanks to Chief McFarland for working with

me also. Thanks to the City employees for your assistance with snow and ice removal. It really has been a great experience and I hope you will find someone who will enjoy the job as much as I have.

Thanks for the opportunity,  
Your Crossing Guard,

*Paul Brewer*

## Mosquito Control



The City of Sergeant Bluff has begun spraying for mosquitoes. This year we are spraying on Thursday evenings, beginning at 9 p.m. The spray is more effective when applied at night. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) offers the following tips for avoiding mosquito bites:

Use Insect Repellent with DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

Wear long pants, long sleeves and socks when outdoors.

Be aware of peak mosquito hours (dusk to dawn).

Drain standing water.

Install or repair screens in windows and doors.



# Dale Petersen Mayor's Corner

My tour of "daily" duty at City Hall is nearly through. The search committee has completed the task of recruiting a new City Administrator. His name is Jim Ferneau and he will begin his tenure with us August 18<sup>th</sup>. There is more on Mr. Ferneau elsewhere in this newsletter.

We also hired a new police officer to replace Curtis McLeod. His name is Tyler Milton and he comes to Sergeant Bluff from Hinton, Iowa. For all you sports fans, I assure you this is not a "Trojan Horse" ploy from the Hinton Athletic Boosters.

In the next few weeks I hope to announce the appointment of a Parks and Recreation Director. This is a new position that has been advocated for some time and will enable the

City to offer new and exciting leisure and educational opportunities for all the community members. I do not know where the Director's office will be at this time but I will try to make the location user friendly.

Paula Moriarty, Clerk I for the City, has earned the designation of Iowa Certified Municipal Clerk, which is awarded by the Iowa Municipal Finance Officers Association. This designation is only granted to those municipal officers who complete demanding education requirements and have a record of significant contributions to their local government, their community, and state. We are duly proud of Paula's accomplishment and applaud her dedication and achievement. Congratulations Paula!

On another personnel note, Sandi Headid submitted her resignation and has taken a position with the Floyd House assisted living facility in Sergeant Bluff. We will miss her and wish her continued success in her new endeavor.

The Community Action Committee is busy organizing events for the Pioneer Valley Days community celebration, August 7<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. A schedule of the events along with registration forms to participate in the various activities are available at City Hall. The committee is always looking for new members and volunteers to help before, during, and after the planned events. So, get involved and have some fun at the same time!

I hope everyone has great summer!



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.

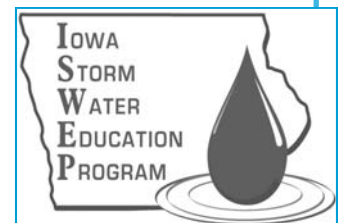
\* Plant bare spots in your yard.

\* 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 Kari Berge 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](http://www.iowastormwater.org)**



# Pioneer Valley Days: Aug. 7-10

The Annual Pioneer Valley Days celebration is moving to August this year. The Community Action Team has been very busy planning the celebration and there are a variety of activities covering four days.

The Pioneer Valley Days parade will be held on Thursday, August 7 at 7 p.m. Participants should begin lining up at 6 p.m.

The Drive-In movie will be held on Friday, August 8 beginning at sunset. Fireworks will follow the movie.

Saturday is full of events, such as a BBQ Cookoff, 3 on 3 basketball tournament, Fun Run/Walk, Sand Volleyball tournament, and a carnival of inflatables for kids, topped off with a street dance in front of Aggie's beginning at 8 p.m.

On Sunday, there will be a community worship service at 10:30 at the Recreation Complex. We will close out Pioneer Valley Days with a softball tournament, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Recreation Complex.

More details and entry forms are available on the City of Sergeant Bluff website: [www.cityofsergeantbluff.com](http://www.cityofsergeantbluff.com) and also at City Hall.

**We need people to help with the various events. If you would like to volunteer (even just a little bit of your time), please contact Lisa Thomas at 333-5800 or call the contact for the event that you would like to help with.**

**(Contacts are listed on the City website).**

# Police Chief Chat Chief McFarland

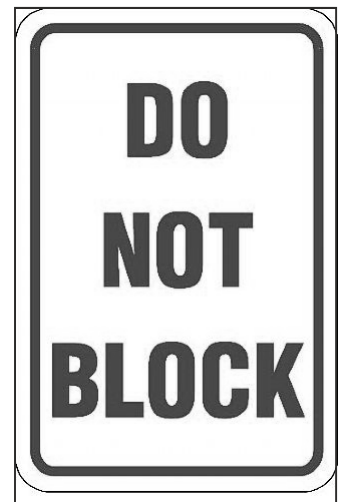


**David McFarland,** Sergeant Bluff Chief of Police since 1998.

With the weather finally getting better and summer upon us I want to remind everyone that if you park over the sidewalk in your driveway you can be ticketed.

It's easy to pull into your own driveway and block the sidewalk unintentionally if you are not paying attention. In the summer there are many people out walking and your vehicle does interfere with them.

I ask that everyone watch closely to assure they keep their sidewalks clear. I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the summer weather.



**Notice:** The City of Sergeant Bluff Parks & Recreation Board has purchased three handicap accessible swings that will be placed on existing swing frames at Jefferson Park, Oak Hills Park and at the Recreation Complex. These vertical swings have a steel frame with an average weight capacity of 300 lbs so they can be used by both adults and children with special needs. To see a photo of the swing seat, go to [http://www.sportsplayinc.com/product\\_detail.php?product=491](http://www.sportsplayinc.com/product_detail.php?product=491)

*PS*  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.

Sergeant Bluff Municipal Utilities  
401 4<sup>th</sup> St  
PO Box 703  
Sergeant Bluff, IA 51054  
712-943-4244



**Dear** Sergeant Bluff Municipal Utilities

*PS*  I'd like to help a neighbor in need with a tax-deductible contribution to Project Share

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- I will contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month to Project Share. I understand this amount will be billed to me monthly.
- I have enclosed a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation to Project Share.

**NOTICE OF PROCEDURE FOR REQUESTING INFORMATION FROM OR REGISTERING COMPLAINTS WITH SERGEANT BLUFF MUNICIPAL UTILITIES CONCERNING ELECTRICITY SERVICE:**

Persons desiring to request information from or register complaints with Sergeant Bluff Municipal Utilities CONCERNING ELECTRICITY SERVICE may do so by contacting: City of Sergeant Bluff, 401 4th Street, PO Box 703, Sergeant Bluff IA 51054 (712) 943-4244. If your complaint is related to service, disconnection, safety or renewable energy, and Sergeant Bluff Municipal Utilities does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board, 350 Maple Street, Des Moines IA 50319 (515) 281-3839 or toll-free (877) 565-4450 or by email at [iubcustomer@iub.state.ia.us](mailto:iubcustomer@iub.state.ia.us).

**Tornado Safety**

With the summer months comes tornado season. The warning in Sergeant Bluff to advise of a tornado or severe weather is a steady siren blast lasting for 3 to 5 minutes. The siren will **not** be blown to indicate all clear, only to advise of the approaching storm. The siren is intended for people who are outside, not in buildings.

The Sergeant Bluff Fire Department would like to remind the public of a few safety tips:

**IN THE HOME:**

Seek shelter in a basement if available. Seek shelter under a sturdy table or heavy furniture. Take cover in a small room (closet or bathroom). Always keep your head and eyes protected.

**MOBILE HOME:**

Leave mobile home immediately and take cover in a storm shelter. If none, get to a low lying area (such as a ditch or depression).

**SCHOOLS & OTHER PUBLIC BUILDINGS:**

Get to the basement if possible. Interior hallways or lowest floors are good places.

**WHEN SECONDS COUNT:**

Move away from glass. Get out of a car and move to a low lying area. Stay out of large rooms (such as a gymnasium). Do not try to outrun the storm in your car.

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PERMIT NO. 9

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Phone: 712-943-4244  
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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](mailto:paula@cityofsergeantbluff.com)

The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is [September 17](#).

POSTAL PATRON  
ECR-WSS