



City of Polk City Newsletter

Volume 11, Issue 6

APRIL /MAY 2009

City Hall :

112 3rd Street
PO Box 426

Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Phone: 984-6233

Fax: 984-6177

E-mail:

snickles@polkcity.org

Web site: www.polkcity.org
(Clerk, building permits and inspections, water billing)

Police & Fire:

309 W. Van Dorn

For an emergency dial 911

For non-emergencies:

Police: 984-6565

Fire: 984-6304

County Dispatch: 286-2333

Library:

1500 W. Broadway
P.O. Box 259

Phone: 984-6119

Mon.-Thurs.: 10 a.m.—8 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. – 6p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.— 4 pm.

E-mail: [library](mailto:library@polkcitylibrary.org)

[@polkcitylibrary.org](mailto:library@polkcitylibrary.org)

Web site:

www.polkcitylibrary.org

City Maintenance:

301 Northside Dr.

Curb Side Clean-Up April 18

The city's curbside clean up will be Saturday, April 18. Place all of your clean-up items at the curb the night before, as collection will begin at 7 a.m. on Saturday. Please stack items rather than placing the items in a pile. Household furniture will be picked up. There is a weight limit of 150 lbs. per item and length limit of 6' (except furniture).

The following items will not be picked up at the curb and will only be accepted at the Maintenance Shop:

- Appliances: water heaters, kitchen appliances (appliances filled with food will not be accepted), lawnmowers, VCR's, cell phones, air conditioners, computers & accessories, microwaves, furnaces, grills, humidifiers, washers and dryers.
- Oil & Batteries
- Vehicle passenger tires, with a limit of 5 tires. Agricultural tires will not be accepted.
- Televisions and computer monitors with a combined limit of 2

These items must be taken to the Maintenance Shop on April 18, 2008 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Do not drop items at shop gates before or after hours.

The following items will not be picked up at the curb but may be allowed to be dropped off at the Regional Collection Center (515-967-5512) in Bondurant: dirt, sod, concrete, brick, railroad ties, vehicle parts, paint or thinners, solvents, antifreeze, toxic materials, radioactive materials, compressed gas cylinders, hazardous wastes and ammunition.

Tree limbs, landscape waste and brush are accepted year around at the city's Recycling Center. Recycling hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday through Saturday.

City maintenance building is located at 301 E. Northside Dr. This service is for Polk City residents only. You must live within the corporate limits of Polk City.

Flushing of Water Mains April 20—May 1

Residents could experience temporary discoloration of water and a loss of water pressure. Check water before doing laundry during this time.

Open Burning April 15-30

Weather Permitting

At the February 9 council meeting discussion was held on removing the two open burning periods, since the city now provides alternatives to burning with the recycling center year around. The discussion was held again at the February 23 council meeting. The motion at that meeting was to defer the vote on banning open burning of landscape waste twice a year until the council meeting on August 24, 2009 to allow time to inform the public of the council's intentions. The motion passed. Polk City residents will be able to burn, weather permitting, from April 15 until April 30. No open burning before 8:00 a.m. and the fire must be fully extinguished by 8:00 p.m. During this two-week period only landscape waste from your property may be burned.

Based on weather and other conditions, a committee consisting of the city administrator, police chief and fire chief may at their discretion cancel, change extend or shorten the times allowed for burning. The public will be notified of any changes.

Burning of recreational fires within a fire pit or other protective structures is not prohibited.

Remember the Polk City Recycling Center (301 Northside Dr.) accepts yard waste and tree branches and is open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday through Saturday.

If you have any questions about the burning ordinance, please contact Fire Chief Jason Morse

Tennis Court Closings

The North Polk Girls and Boys Tennis teams will use the courts on Wednesday afternoons from 3:40 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. March 25 – May 13.

3rd Annual Community Garage Sale

The Polk City Action Committee's 3rd Annual Community Garage Sale will be held on June 13 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Join others in Polk City and take advantage of the potential for more exposure, higher traffic to your sale and no need to place an individual ad. The cost of \$10 includes your garage sale on a map with three items listed and ad placement. Ads will be placed in the Des Moines Register, Tri-County Times, Bullseye, and Press Citizen. Registration sheets available at local businesses or by calling Charlotte at 984-9258 or Teresa at 984-6316.

City Construction Projects

It's that time of year for construction projects to begin. The Van Dorn Street project between 4th Street and Booth Street is to be completed this year. The old roadbed will be torn up and the new road and sidewalks will be installed.

The Community Room Sidewalk and Retaining Wall renovation will begin April 6 with a completion date of May 15. The project will include a heated sidewalk. Jensen Builders of Ames was awarded the contract for the project with the total cost being \$144,000.

Phase II and III of the Public Works Maintenance Building will be completed. This project includes storage buildings, including one for salt and sand and a driveway to the building. Total cost \$238,000.

Completion dates are subject to weather.

Web Site Gets A New Look

Kimberly Knapp of Blue Prairie Studios was hired at the March 9 council meeting to give the city web site a new look. The address will remain www.polkcity.org.

Did You Know?

Did you know the city codebook is on the city website, www.polkcity.org? Or that you can print out an application for a building permit or the rental form for the Community Room or Miller Park Shelter House? To print out applications for the building permit or rentals of the Community Room and Shelter House go to Departments, City Hall and then click on the one for which you would like an application.

You will also find the agendas and minutes to the Park Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council on the site. To find the agendas and minutes to the Library Board meetings you will need to go to the library's web site www.polkcitylibrary.org.

Thank You Neal Hawkins

The city would like to say thank you to Neal Hawkins for his time and talent he gave to the city as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.



Happenings at the Library

Photo Op With The Easter Bunny

Bring your camera and have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny at our fun Easter display on Saturday, April 11 at 11:00 a.m. While you are here, enjoy our simple craft for kids.

National Library & Amnesty Week April 12 –18

Come and help us celebrate! We will be having book drawings for all ages. For young ones there will be board games in our teen section and do it yourself craft materials at our open craft table. Ask about Amnesty Week!

- **Monday, April 13** at 6:30 p.m. – Hummingbirds and Orioles on Parade. Linda Thomas, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Ames will share how to attract and enjoy these nature's jewels.
- **Tuesday, April 14** from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Treasure Hunt. Search for special clues and learn more about your library. Your clues are sure to lead you to a "surprise box."
- **Wednesday, April 15** at 6:30 p.m. – How to Build A Backyard Butterfly Habitat. Kathleen Ziemer of Butterflies of Iowa will tell you what you need to do to attract and keep butterflies in your area.
- **Thursday, April 16** at 6:30 p.m. – Understanding Food Allergies. Specialist Dr. Sam Beattie will review the potential causes of food allergies and how parents and other adults can be pro-active in the care and treatment of allergies

Friends of the Library Meeting

The Friends of the Polk City Community Library is holding its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, April 21 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the library's meeting room and all are invited.

Free Movie & Popcorn

There is early dismissal from school on Thursday, April 24. Join us at 1:00 p.m. for the movie, *The Tale of Despereaux* and popcorn.

New Cake Pans Available

New cake pans for you to check out *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel), *Bunny Pans* (we also have the 3-D bunny pan), a *Star* pan and a *School Bus/Van* pan.

May Baskets

Join Laurie & Everett on April 27 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. as they show you how to make several easy May Baskets. Pre-registration is required.

The In's, Out's, Rules & Regulations of Gun Safety

A Polk City Police Department officer will share the ergonomics of a gun, how to handle a gun, Polk City's gun laws, and local hunting areas on Monday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m.. If you are under the age of 12 a parent must accompany you. No permits or gun license will be issued at this program. **No guns will be allowed at the library.**

Girls And Their Grills

Join Food Editor Lois White on Thursday, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. Lois will give hints on lighting a gas grill, plus grilling basics and samples. Pre-registration is required.

BeCentAble Workshop

Want to learn how to cut your monthly budget by up to 50%! Join us Thursday, May 28 at 6:30 p.m. and learn how to use coupons, store incentives and rebates to buy all your household products at rock bottom prices, for free, or even money off your purchases. Pre-registration is required and there is a \$25 fee payable by check or cash at class time.

Story Times

Mother Goose - Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. ages 2-5.

Tummy Time - Fridays at 10:30 a.m. for 5 months to 24 months with parent/caregiver. (April 17 – May 22)

Tell Me A Story – Fridays at 11:00 a.m. for ages 3-5. (April 17 – May 22)

Saturday Morning Book Club

One True Thing by Anna Quindlen will be discussed on April 11. On May 9, *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah will be the book of discussion. Book Club begins at 9:00 a.m.

Monday Night Book Club

Along the Tracks by Tamar Bergman is the book for discussion on April 20. The May 18 book club will discuss *The Way Life Should Be* by Christina Baker Kline. Book Club begins at 7:00 p.m.

GIS Intern Jake Schreier



Jake Schreier is Polk City's new GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Intern. Jake will be working with Public Works and the Police Departments.

Jake is majoring in Environmental Science at Iowa State University with a minor in Business and his specialty is GIS. He said he took this job to gain the educational experience.

Jake is a 2004 North Polk graduate and lives in rural Cambridge with his parents Scott and Jan, two sisters Meagann and Kayla and brother Christopher. He says he is an outdoor guy and loves hiking, camping and water sports.

Recycle and Roll From MWA

Polk City is scheduled to receive new curbside carts between May 11 – 13. With these new containers you will be able to place all of your recyclables into one container. The Recycle and Roll program will begin July 1, 2009. Collection will also go from weekly to every other week.

Even the most dedicated recycler sometimes has questions about what can be recycled and what cannot. Here are some frequently asked questions that will make it easy for you to remember what to recycle.

If you find you still have more questions, please go to www.recycleandroll.com or call Metro Waste Authority at 244-0021.

Can I continue using my recycle bin at the curb, after the program starts on July 1?

Once the program starts, you will no longer be able to set out your green bin for recycling. However, we have a list on the web site offering many ideas for using the bin — from personal storage to donations to local schools.

Will I have to pay for the new cart?

Residents will not be billed for the carts. One will be provided to each single family residence, by Metro Waste

Will there be an increase in cost for me as a resident to use the new program?

MWA is not going to charge the cities more than what is currently being charged for the curbside recycling program.

I don't think I have enough recyclables to fill up a new large cart – is there an option to get a smaller cart?

Residents are encouraged to try the new 96-gallon cart when the program begins. Cart trials throughout the Des Moines and Metro area have shown that most residents will need this size because:

- Recycling is easier so you end up recycling more.
- You will need storage for two weeks of recyclables since collection will be switched from weekly to every other week.
- All cardboard will need to be broken down and placed in the container for pick up
- All recyclables have to fit inside of the cart (imagine holidays, celebrations and events in your home; your cart will fill up quickly with recyclables).

Why is the collection of recyclables being switched from weekly to every other week?

Fewer trips of collection trucks down city roads have cost-saving and environmental benefits:

- Reduces wear and tear on roads; your community will save money on road repair.
- Uses less fuel. Your community will be doing its part to reduce greenhouse gases that are causing climate change. Fuel costs will also be reduced, which is one reason this program can be provided as economically as the current curbside collection program.
- And, recyclables can be safely stored for several weeks. They do not break down, so they do not cause odor problems or present human health hazards like garbage.

How does the new recycling process work since the items are not going to be sorted at the curb?

Your recyclables will still be sorted. But instead of you doing it curbside, it will be done by a state-of-the-art processing facility. Recyclables picked up curbside will be delivered to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) operated by Mid America Recycling. There, mechanical and manual methods will be used to separate the materials and to remove anything that is not recyclable.

For more information go to www.recycleandroll.com

Fire Department Purchases ATV

The Polk City Fire Department has received a \$10,000 grant from Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino through its 2008 Community Betterment Grant program.

The grant funds will be used to purchase a Gator for the Fire Department. The gator will be multi-functional and will assist department staff in responding to emergencies along bike trails, state parks, campgrounds, and other off road areas. It will also be utilized for special event coverage and included as a resource in the city's disaster planning. The Fire Department Association will contribute \$3,724 towards the purchase and \$3,724 will be spent out of the fire departments operating budget.



From left to right are Brad Skinner (Prairie Meadows Grant Advisory Committee), Gary Mahannah (Polk City Administrator), Gary Heuertz (Polk City Mayor), Jason Back (Polk City Firefighter), Dan Gubbins (Deputy Chief – Polk City Fire Department), Tim Cory (Captain – Polk City Fire Department), Jodi Urich (Prairie Meadows Board of Directors), and Ron Morden (Prairie Meadows Board of Directors and Prairie Meadows Grant Advisory Committee).

Chamber Makes Donation For City Parks



At the February 11 Polk City Chamber meeting chamber president Dr. JoAnn Brunsvold presented a check, for \$500, to the City to purchase new park benches. The check was presented again at the March 2 Park Commission meeting. The money comes from the annual Fall Bike Ride sponsored by the chamber.

Pictured from left to right: Denise Franck, Dave Dvorak, Sam Hill, David Hiatt and Dr. JoAnn Brunsvold.

City of Polk City Directory

Mayor:

Gary Heuertz 984-6950

City Council Members:

Ron Anderson 984-6365
Dave Dvorak 984-6502
Dan Lane 984-6931
Rob Mordini 984-9256
Tim Rhoades 984-6853

City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Monday's of each month, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled as necessary.

City Hall:

City Admin.: Gary Mahannah
City Clerk: Sharon Nickles
Deputy Clerk: Charlotte Loter
Finance Officer: Colin Adams
Summer Rec Director
Tami Leonard McCoy

Public Works:

Director: Mike Schulte
Supervisor: Randy Franzen
Staff: John Adams
Dennis Godfrey
Rick Riley

Police:

Chief: Mark Bowersox
Sergeant: Dustin Bjornson
Senior Patrol Officer: Ron Lamfers
Officer: Ben Johns
Officer: Adam VanderLeest
Reserve Officer:
Mark Schwalenberg

Fire & Rescue:

Chief: Jason Morse
Deputy Chief -Fire: Roy Bingham
Deputy Chief -EMS: Dan Gubbins

Planning and Zoning:

*Dennis Dietz 984-6343
Planning & Zoning meets the 3rd Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Tree Board:

*Ken Morse 984-6735

Historic Preservation Comm.:

*Herman Poggensee 984-6042

** Chair of Board or Commission*

Community Library:

Director: Kim Kellogg
Asst. Director/ Adult Librarian:
Pam Witt

Children's Librarian:

Rene Blessman
Librarian: Kelsey Blessman

Library Board:

*Maureen Mc Guire 984-6636
Library Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at the library.

Park Commission:

*Denise Franck 984-6200
Park Commission meets the 1st Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Board of Adjustment:

*Don Raker 984-6708
Board of Adjustment meets as needed.

City Newsletter:

Editor: Rosemary Hutton Taylor
984-6653
Photographer: Rich Taylor

All agendas and minutes can be found on the city web site: www.polkcit.org

Notice Of Resolution

Annual clean up day is nothing new to Polk City. This resolution was found in a box of items donated to the Big Creek Historical Society.

WHEREAS: THE APPEARANCE OF THE STREETS AND ALLEYS IS BETTER WHEN FREE FROM RUBBISH AND FOR THE SAFETY OF PUBLIC HEALTH IS BEHOOVES THE TOWN COUNCIL TO CALL THE ATTENTION TO AND ENLIST THE CO-OPERATION OF ALL CITIZENS OLD AND YOUNG IN AN ANNUAL CLEAN-UP DAY,

THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AT THIS THEIR REGULAR MEETING DO SET ASIDE AND APPOINT, MAY 1ST 1916 AS THE ANNUAL CLEAN UP DAY.

The resolution was signed by C. A. Snow – Clerk and J. A. Sprague – Mayor.

Mayor Delivers Meals

The National Meals on Wheels organization again this year had a "March for Meals." Mayor Gary Heuertz participated in the Polk City "Mayor's for Meals" segment. He is shown delivering a meal to Luella Shea on March 18th. He received a certificate and travel bag from Pam Lee who is a Meals on Wheels Program Assistant with Wesley Community Services.

