



City of Polk City Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 5

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2010

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. – 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.— 4 p.m.

E-mail: library

@polkcitylibrary.org

Web site:

www.polkcitylibrary.org

City Maintenance:

301 Northside Dr.

Thank You Jack Wilkinson & Forrest Olcott For Your Service To Polk City



Jack Wilkinson



Forrest Olcott

An open house was held on February 6 for retiring members Jack Wilkinson and Forrest Olcott of the Polk City Fire Department. Jack has been a member of the department since 1984 and Forrest has been a member since 1994. Thank you to these men who gave their time and talent to our community

Sign Up For E-mails on Recycling Delays

Residents can now sign up to receive e-mails from Metro Waste Authority that contain helpful tips. Residents who “op-in” will receive e-mails regarding collection delays and information pertaining to Metro Waste Authority’s programs and services.

E-mails updates will only be sent to those residents who sign up. The updates should reduce any confusion when recycling collection schedules are disrupted or changed due to inclement weather or holidays.

**INFORMATION ON DART SERVICES
AND COUPON TO RIDE ON PAGE 8**



Cold-Weather Effects On Smoke Alarms

The Fire Department would like to remind residents that temperature extremes can reduce the life and performance of batteries in smoke alarms, causing them to activate when no smoke or fire is present.

- **If your alarm is beeping, but you do not smell smoke:** Go to each room where detectors are located (the suspect detector may have caused all of the home's detectors to go off). Look for one that is flashing red where the test button is located (all others will still have a solid green light). Start with bedrooms and living areas with vaulted ceilings, which will typically have a smoke detector three feet down from the peak. Vaulted ceilings will cause detectors to become much colder than room temperature due to the minimal separation between the roof and ceiling, which can draw the battery life down ten times faster than normal.
- **To deactivate the detector once it has been set off:** Twist and remove the detector from the ceiling or wall and unplug the 110 volt power supply; it will then only be powered by the battery. This should deactivate and silence all the other detectors in the home. Remove the battery and replace it with a fresh 9-volt battery, which should silence the detector. If the detector is only powered by a battery, use the same process of installing a new battery.
- **If the smoke alarm is beeping and you smell smoke:** Leave the home immediately and call 911.

The Polk City Fire Department is available to assist residents if they are having problems with their smoke alarms. Call 515-984-6304.

Reminder To Clear Your Fire Hydrant

The Fire Department would like to remind you to clear snow away from fire hydrants when you are removing snow from sidewalks and driveways this winter. When recovering from a major snowfall, it's easy to forget emergency responders not only need access to your front door, but to the equipment that will help save your home in the event of an emergency.

It is recommended that you clear a three-foot perimeter around fire hydrants that are covered with snow. It's also helpful to shovel an access path to the road, so fire fighters can easily thread a water hose to the hydrant from the street. In general, for every minute a home fire goes unsuppressed or undetected, it doubles in size. Every second counts. If a fire occurs in your home or in your neighborhood, you can help save precious time by shoveling snow to gain access to the fire hydrant.

Winter Is Not Over Yet

As much as we would like it to be, winter is not over yet. Beside clearing your fire hydrant remember:

- It is the responsibility of the property owner to remove all natural accumulation of **snow and ice** from the sidewalks within a reasonable amount of time after accumulation.
- Do not shovel or snow blow the snow into the street.
- The snow ordinance is in effect until April 1. No person shall park, abandon or leave unattended any vehicle on any public street during a snowfall which has accumulated one inch or more of snow or for a period after the termination of such snowfall if parking such vehicle impedes snow removal operations.
- The Mile Long Bridge gates will close when winds reach between 40 and 50 mph.

Polk City Home Improvement Program

The City of Polk City started a home improvement program in 2008 with the purpose to preserve the existing affordable housing stock in the community. The Program assists homeowners within the city limits with housing repairs and correcting code violations. The work on the home is paid for by the Program through funding from the City. The financial assistance from the Program is in the form of a forgivable loan. The maximum loan is \$12,500 and the minimum loan is \$500 per household.

The City has had ten homeowners that have benefited from the program since inception. Currently, there are funds available. If you or someone you know is in need of some assistance with housing repairs, we would encourage you to take advantage of this program.

To qualify for assistance from the Polk City Home Improvement Program, the homeowner must meet all of the following requirements:

- The property to be assisted must be located within the city limits of Polk City.
- Proof of homeownership of the applicant must be provided. The property to be assisted must be the homeowner's primary residence.
- Property taxes and/or mortgage payments must be current and paid-to-date and there cannot be any mechanics liens on the property to be assisted.
- Income limits of the household must fall at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for Polk County. Priority is given to households at 50% or less of the Area Median Income.
- The assessed value of the property according the Polk County Assessor must be less than \$161,316 (the average assessed value in Polk County).

The types of program eligible activities include:

- 1) Basic structural repairs: (a) Exterior walls; (b) Roof and roof structure; (c) Foundation; (d) Floor joists and ceilings
- 2) Building Systems: (a) Electrical; (b) Plumbing; (c) Heating
- 3) Weatherization: (a) Insulation; (b) Windows; (c) Siding
- 4) Handicap accessibility: (a) Exterior ramp; (b) Bathroom facilities

If you have questions or would like to request an application, please contact Christine Gordon or Kay Schoon 515-273-0770, or at <http://www.wdm-ia.com/Index.aspx?page=824>

Used Motor Oil Wanted

Metro Waste Authority's Regional Collection Center (RCC) in Bondurant would like your used motor oil. The RCC uses the oil in their Polk County-approved burner to heat its warehouse, where materials are received and sorted for proper disposal. The oil should not be mixed with any solvents, water or other materials. You may also bring containers of used oil that are larger than five gallons for a \$10 handling fee per large container and must make an appointment.

The RCC is open to the public from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and the first and third Saturdays of the month from 8 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 515-967-5512.

2010 Pet License Due By March 31

Every owner of a dog or cat six months or older shall obtain a license for such dog or cat from the City Clerk's office by March 31. The fee is \$8.00 per animal. After March 31 the fee is \$15.00 per pet. Owners must show proof of rabies vaccination before a license is issued.

City Hall is open from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for purchasing you pet's license. If you can not make office hours, drop off or send a copy of your pet's rabies vaccination certificate along with the appropriate fee plus an additional \$1.00. Your license will then be sent to you by mail.

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POLK COUNTY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

POLK COUNTY IOWA : SETTING NEW STANDARDS

POLK COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

	ROBERT BROWNELL 1ST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR	
	E.J. GIOVANNETTI 2ND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR	
	TOM HOCKENSMITH 3RD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR CHAIR	
	JOHN F. MAURO 4TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR	
	ANGELA CONNOLLY 5TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR	
	JOHN SARCONI COUNTY ATTORNEY	
	JAMIE FITZGERALD AUDITOR	
	JULIE M. HAGGERTY RECORDER	
	BILL MCCARTHY SHERIFF	
	MARY MALONEY TREASURER	

FOR MORE INFO OR QUESTIONS
 POLK COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
 111 COURT AVENUE, DES MOINES, IA 50309
 WWW.POLKCOUNTYIOWA.GOV

POLK COUNTY AUDITOR EMPLOYEES CONTRIBUTE TO WORTHY CAUSES

Polk County Auditor Jamie Fitzgerald recently announced that his office had contributed over \$1,400 in charitable contributions in the past two months.

The staff in the Auditor's office has collected charitable contributions for the Family Enrichment Center (FEC) for a number of years. In exchange for a voluntary charitable contribution, employees are allowed to wear jeans during the month.

The FEC's mission is to assist families in achieving stability and economic independence by providing family support services, education and training, and opportunities for employment. The Auditor and Election offices contributed \$760 in December to the FEC program.

Due to the success of the December collection, employees inquired about doing it again in January. The office decided to give the \$660 collected to the Food Bank of Iowa.



Auditor Jamie Fitzgerald presents a check for \$760 to Doug Stodgel from the Polk County Family Enrichment Center. Photo By Ken Agey.

The Food Bank's vision is a hunger-free Iowa and its mission is to alleviate hunger through food distribution, partnership, and education.

"I am proud of the generous, kind-hearted and hardworking employees in the Auditor's office and believe their generosity is directly attributable to their feeling of community spirit and concern that the employees of Polk County feel especially during these difficult economic times," Fitzgerald said.

BOAT RENEWAL FEES ACCEPTED NOW UNTIL APRIL 30, 2010

Iowa boat registrations expire on April 30, 2010. Renewal fees will be accepted between January 4, 2010 and April 30, 2010. Registration fees received after April 30, 2010, will have an additional \$5 penalty added to their registration fee.

Polk County residents can pay their renewal fees by mail, in person at our office (located in the Polk County Administration Building), or through our online processing site. To renew online, please visit our website at www.polkrecorder.com.

2010 AMAZING SENIOR CALENDAR

Polk County Crisis and Advocacy Services – Violence Prevention Program for Seniors developed a calendar about seniors. For each month in the calendar, a different person and their story is featured as well as a variety of events



Dick Mason and Dean Lettington are volunteers at the VA Hospital in Des Moines were featured in the month of June for the 2010 Amazing Senior Calendar.

and holidays from different cultures are stated. Each month concludes with a sentence or two about safety, wellness and a remembrance from the past.

On November 19, all the participants gathered at Polk County River Place for a calendar signing.

“There were stories, joy, and laughter shared,” Outreach Counselor for Polk County Crisis and Advocacy Services Sherry Knox said. “Putting this calendar together was a wonderful and rewarding experience. Each interview was a delight and the seniors on this calendar are amazing. We can learn so much from each and every one of them.”

SENIORS FEATURED IN CALENDAR

- January** - Edith Barnes (75)
- February** - Myrtle Jones (70)
- March** - Arleen Van Hermert (84)
- April** - Alicia Towers (71)
- May** - Linda Fishman (83)
- June** - Dick Mason and Dean Lettington (88/84)
- July** - Kay Kracht (70)
- August** - Jim and Shirley Aiken (75/74)
- September** - Naomi Streyffeler (63)
- October** - The Society of Italian American women (ranging from 64-89) (20 women)
- November** - Roy Beauchamp (90)
- December** - Jeannette Whelchel (80)

ANNUAL SENIOR FEST TO BE HELD 05-19-10

Polk County Senior Services will sponsor the annual Senior Fest at the Varied Industries Building at the Iowa State Fairgrounds on May 19. The event runs from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and focuses on senior health screenings and a fried chicken lunch. Door prizes are awarded after lunch to round off the day. This event is open to people 60 and older, the services and lunch are free although donations are accepted. Call 515-286-3679 after April 22 to reserve a seat or to receive more information.

UPCOMING COUNTY EVENTS

- HOG WILD** FEBRUARY 2
6:30 - 7:30 P.M. AT JESTER PARK LODGE
- O.W.L.S. - NEAL SMITH NWR**..... FEBRUARY 2
11:00 A.M. - NOON AT JESTER PARK LODGE
- CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING BASICS**..... FEBRUARY 6
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. AT CHICHAQUA LONGHOUSE
- SNOWSHOE HIKE**..... FEBRUARY 7
2:00 - 4:00 P.M. AT CHICHAQUA LONGHOUSE
- TRICKY TRACKS**..... FEBRUARY 13
10:30 - 11:30 A.M. AT JESTER PARK LODGE
- BIRDS OF IOWA**..... FEBRUARY 13
1:00 - 2:00 P.M. AT JESTER PARK LODGE
- HIKE POLK COUNTY**..... FEBRUARY 20
1:00 - 2:00 P.M. AT BROWN'S WOODS
- BALD EAGLE WATCH**..... FEBRUARY 21
NOON - 4:00 P.M. AT SAYLORVILLE LAKE & JESTER PARK LODGE
- ICE FISHING CLINIC**..... FEBRUARY 21
1:00 - 4:00 P.M. AT EASTER LAKE PARK
- NATURE FRIENDS**..... MARCH 2
6:30 - 7:30 P.M. AT RACCOON RIVER PARK NATURE LODGE
- CREATE A BACKYARD HABITAT**..... MARCH 2
6:30 - 7:30 P.M. AT JESTER PARK LODGE
- O.W.L.S. - ARCTIC NWR**..... MARCH 2
11:00 A.M. - NOON AT JESTER PARK LODGE
- WILD NIGHT LIFE & HIKE**..... MARCH 16
7:30 - 9:00 P.M. AT JESTER PARK, CAMP AREA 5
- HIKE POLK COUNTY**..... MARCH 17
1:00 - 2:00 P.M. AT FORT DES MOINES PARK, SHELTER #1
- NATURE'S STORIES, SONGS, & MORE**..... MARCH 18
10:00 - 11:00 A.M. AT WEST DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY
- WINTER STARGAZING**..... MARCH 19
7:30 - 9:00 P.M. AT CHICHAQUA LONGHOUSE
- NATURE FRIENDS**..... MARCH 23
6:30 - 7:30 P.M. AT RACCOON RIVER PARK NATURE LODGE
- RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP**..... MARCH 27
10:00 A.M. - NOON AT EASTER LAKE PARK SHOP
- GEOCACHING HIKE**..... MARCH 28
1:30 - 3:00 P.M. AT FORT DES MOINES PARK, SHELTER #1

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ABOVE EVENTS PLEASE GO TO WWW.LEADINGYOUOUTDOORS.ORG OR CALL 515-323-5300.

- LANCASTER, PA (AMISH COUNTRY) & PHILADELPHIA - THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE TRIP**..... JUNE 19- JUNE 27
- CANADIAN ROCKIES BY RAIL**..... OCT. 11 - OCT. 19

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE TRIPS ABOVE PLEASE GO TO WWW.POLKCOUNTYIOWA.GOV/CFYS/PAGES/CALENDAR.ASPX OR CALL 515-286-3536.

THE POLK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS HOLDING H1N1 CLINICS, PLEASE GO TO WWW.POLKCOUNTYIOWA.GOV/HEALTH FOR THE SCHEDULE.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONVENES EACH TUESDAY AT 9:30 A.M. IN ROOM 120 IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING.



Happenings at the Library



Kindermusik— Away We Go!

Starting on Monday, February 8 at 10:30 a.m. for children 1 to 3 years of age—Kindermusik.

This session focuses on transportation, a favorite topic of toddlers who are on the go.

Registration is \$130 for 15 sessions, covering a \$50 instrument fee and an \$80 tax-deductible donation to the library.

Chocolate 2 Die 4!

Enjoy a sinful experience at this chocolate tasting workshop on Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. The workshop is being presented by Food Editor Lois White. Pre-registration is required and a \$5 per person fee is payable at the workshop.

Knit A Tote Bag Class

Do you know how to knit and purl? Are you ready to learn some new stitches? On Wednesdays starting on March 10 through to April 28 at 6:30 p.m. we will be knitting a simplified version of a tote bag including the main and front pockets. Complete the full pattern to learn seven different pocket techniques. Pre-register by March 1. Cost of the kit is \$30 -\$45 (depending on size of kit) and must be paid in advance.

Book Club

Monday Evening Book Club will be discussing Garrison Keillor's *Pilgrims: A Wobegon Romance* on February 15. *Last Dance at Jitterbug Lounge* by Pamela Morsi is the book for discussion on March 15. Book Club starts at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Morning Book Club will discuss *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett on February 13. The book for discussion on March 13 is T. Coraghessan Boyle's *The Tortilla Curtain*. Saturday Morning Book Club starts at 9:00 a.m.

All books are available at the check out desk.

Dr. Mom To The Rescue!

Dr. Mom or Dr. Dad workshop will be presented on Thursday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m. by Bobbi Schaben. At the workshop learn to confidently address the many health concerns that your family faces, and do it naturally without the harsh side effects of prescription drugs.

Body After Baby . . . And Beyond

Would you like to know about pregnancy, your pelvic pyramid, and how to get your body back in shape without injury? If they answer is yes, then join us on Thursday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. Stephanie Reinhart Kelsick, Polk City physical therapist, who specializes in women's health and orthopedics is excited to bring this knowledge and information to women of all ages in the community.

Wednesdays—Coffee Klatch!

Joins us every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to noon for coffee or tea. We got creamers!

Sit N Stitch Thursdays

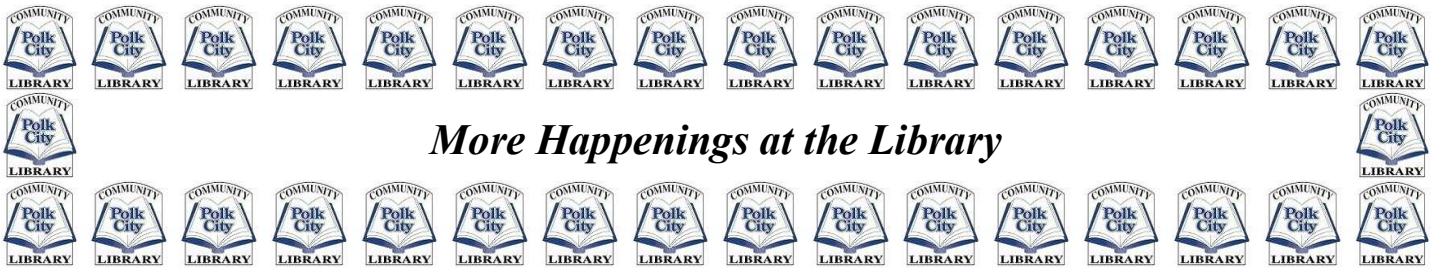
Have you been putting off that project or need to get re-started on a project? Come and relax by the fireplace between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. with your project on Thursday evenings.

New Cake Pans

There are three new cake pans for you to check out, a cute clown, Teddy bear and blue ribbon.

Spring Break—March 15—19

Looking for activities to do during Spring Break? Join us at 1 p.m. On Monday, Thursday and Friday we will be showing movies, Tuesday it's Wii for all, and on Wednesday you can do a craft.



More Happenings at the Library

Story Times

Bouncing Babies Story Time – Tuesdays, Feb 16, 23, March 16, 23 & 30 @ 10:30 a.m. – This 20-minute program is for 5-24 months babies. Adult and child will bond using nursery rhymes, and songs. Do expect a lot of repetition for this story time.

Toddle On Over – Tuesdays, Feb. 16, 23, March 16, 23, 30 @ 11 a.m. – This story time is for children ages 2-4 years old. Enjoy 20 minutes of fun-filled minutes of songs, finger plays, flannel board stories and other favorite stories for the toddler.

ABC’s and 1-2-3’s Story Time – Thursdays, Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 22, 29 @ 2:40 p.m. – Children ages 3-5 years join us for 20 minutes of ABC fun. There will be more than just learning during the story time.

Wild About Book Story Time – Fridays, Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 19, 26 @ 10:30 a.m. – This story time is designed with many rhymes and stories for ages 3-5 years. Children must be able to sit still for a longer period of time. An activity time will follow after story time.

Craft Time

Join us after school on Wednesday, February 17 from 3:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m. for a craft project you can take home. This is for children 4 years of age and up. All supplies will be provided.

I Play, You Play, Wii Play

Join us in the meeting room on Wednesdays from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for Wii and other games. A snack will be provided. Children under 10 need their parents’ permission.

Can You Help?

The City often receives inquires from citizens wanting to know of people who do snow removal and yard work that involves clean up and hauling away of leaves. The city staff is working on compiling a list for the public. If you would be interested in being on this list, please contact City Hall at 984-6233 with your information.



Fire Department Members Earn Fire Fighter I Certification



Several members of the Polk City Fire Department recently completed Fire Fighter I Certification as part of Fire Recruit Academy hosted by the department.

Members who participated are Chad Dawson, Rod Clark, Lieutenant Peg Back, Michael Bernard, Michael Morlan and Christopher Weishaar. The academy started in September 2009 and training and testing was completed on January 27. The Fire Recruit Academy also included fire department members of other area departments. Most of the academy students have started Fire Fighter II certification, as well as EMT-B certification.

Fire Department Now On Facebook

The Polk City Fire Department can now be found on Facebook, with updates about the department’s activities. The department’s Facebook page is another resource for Polk City residents to use, in addition to the department’s web site, www.polkcityfd.com. On facebook and the web site, you can find information about members, the department’s guidelines, photos and video of training and incidents, and a wealth of other information.

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: Philip Burrell
 Officer: Matthew Untrauer
 Reserve Officer: Mark Schwalenberg

Fire & Rescue:

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

Planning and Zoning:

*Doug Sires 984-9091
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
 Mindy Mackey

Library Board:

*Maureen Mc Guire 984-6636
Library Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the library.

Park Commission:

*David Hiatt 984-6757
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.polkcity.org

On Call bus service from Polk City - Alleman to Ankeny every Thursday.

The shuttle operates along a designated route, with scheduled stops in each community, but with advance notice can pick up and drop off passengers at locations along the route on a time and space available basis. FREE park-and-ride locations available at Polk City Town Square, 3rd St. & Broadway, and Alleman Salem United Church of Christ, 320 NE 141st Ave. Cost is \$3 per ride or 75 cents for seniors. If you have any schedule questions about, please call **515-283-8100** or **On Call 515-250-6472**.

POLK CITY & ALLEMAN ■ THURSDAY SERVICE				
Start Polk City Square	Leave Ankeny Wal-Mart	Leave Alleman Salem United Church	Leave Ankeny Wal-Mart	Ends Polk City Square
9:00 AM	9:22	10:00	10:33	11:05
11:10 AM	11:32	12:10	12:43	1:15
1:20 PM	1:42	2:20	2:53	3:25

