



City of Polk City Newsletter

Volume 14, Issue 3

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2011

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

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

Web site:

www.polkcitylibrary.org

City Maintenance:

301 Northside Dr.

City Recycling Center:

409 E. Northside Dr.

Sunday—Saturday

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

U.S. Post Office:

302 N. 3rd St.

984-6137

City Election November 8

Polk City residents will be voting for three City Council positions on November 8 at the Polk City Community Room. Hours to vote are 7 am to 8 pm.

Polk City council members serve four-year terms.

Incumbents on the ballot will be Ron Anderson, 710 Tyler, and David Dvorak, 520 Hansen Place. Challengers will be Anthony Herman, 1600 W. Broadway, Roger Mills, 713 Waldo, Brent Rockwood, 1708 W Wahkonsa, and Steven Sloan, 810 Phillips Street. Tim Rhoades, current council member is not seeking re-election.

Meet The Candidates October 18

The Polk City Chamber will be hosting a “Meet the Candidates” forum on Tuesday, October 18 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the city’s Community Room.

Meeting on Paving Original Town Streets

There will be a meeting on paving the streets in the original part of town. Those would include streets east of 3rd Street between Grimes and Broadway. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 6 at the city’s Community Room. You may stop in between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Square Lighting Set For November 29

Mark your calendar for the Annual Square Lighting, Tuesday, November 29. There will be horse drawn wagon rides, open houses, prizes, two performances of the Elementary Band at the Big Creek Historical Society’s Miller Hall, and of course Santa will arrive at Square at 6:00 p.m.

Beggar’s Night October 30



The City Council has set “Beggar’s Night” for Sunday, October 30. If you would like children to trick-or-treat at your home, please leave your porch light on between 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Sports Complex Concession/Restroom Dedicated

On September 13 the sports complex concession/restroom was dedicated. Darryl Johnson donated a flagpole in memory of his late wife, Ellen Johnson.

Todd and Renita Walker of Absolute Garage and Closets donated the floor coating.

The building was paid for with the Local Option Sales Tax.



L to R: Gary Mahannah, Renita Walker, Todd Walker, Dave Dvorak, Gary Heuertz, Dan Lane and Ron Anderson.

Where Does Polk City Rank On Curb it!?

In July of 2011 Polk City placed 18th out of 22 communities in the metro area in Curb it! with 43.35 % participation. In July 2010 participation was 53.77 %. The average home pounds recycled for 2011 was 23.59 up from 21.55 in 2010.

The residents of most communities pay for Curb it! themselves. In Polk City there is no charge to residents.

So join in the Curb it! program and make Polk City number one in recycling!

Summer Rec Lost & Found

Did you lose one of these items during Summer Rec – towel, water bottle with the name Lauren on it, gold wallet, and a gray zipper jacket? If any of these items are yours, please contact city hall.

Fall Leaf Disposal

With the banning of open burning the city has provided residents with two options to dispose of landscape waste—the city's Recycling Center at 409 E. Northside Drive or Compost It! The Recycling Center is open 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. There is no charge for Polk City residents to drop off yard waste, leaves, tree limbs and brush.

Compost It! has two options – standard or premium services. With the Standard Service program residents use approved bags or stickers that must be purchased. The material is then left at the curb for pickup. With the premium service a 96 gallon wheeled cart is provided. The city will pay for your cart but there is an annual fee. Check with city hall at 984-6233 for the reduced rate for the remainder of 2011. The cart is then left at your curb for pickup.

Player Piano Finds New Home

Thanks to Bill Kerrigan's generosity the player piano from his childhood home in Ohio has been donated to the Big Creek Historical Society. This piano once made it's home in a speakeasy.





Happenings at the Library

Beginner Guitar Lessons

A four-week Acoustic Guitar Class will begin on Wednesday, October 12. This class is for beginners or those who need a refresher class. You must be 17 years or older and provide your own guitar. The cost is \$10 and is payable at class. **Pr-registration is required.**

Researching The Paranormal

Have a passion for the paranormal? Join the S.R.S.O.I. (Supernatural Research Society of Iowa) on Thursday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m. here at the library for an evening on paranormal research. This Des Moines based society will share slides, audio clips and interesting stories of their experiences. All new this year!

Friends Of The Library Meeting

Friends of the Polk City Community Library will meet on Wednesday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in supporting the library is welcome and encouraged to attend. To sign up for childcare, please **pre-register** online under Tidbits (Friends).

Digestive Health – Need A Gut Check?

If there are times you just do not feel like yourself, have no energy, are often sick, or have a chronic degenerative disease then come join us on Thursday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m. Dr. JoAnn Tully, DC,FASA, of Big Creek Family Chiropractic will have a free one hour discussion on the importance of proper diet and how good digestion and bowel elimination can improve your life and the lives of your loved ones.

CIMS Mineral & Jewelry Show

Join CIMS (Central Iowa Mineral Society) on Wednesday, November 16 and Thursday, November 17 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the third annual Mineral and Jewelry Sale. Unique, one of a kind jewelry and treasures from the earth make great gifts at this time of year. CIMS informational brochures are available at the library.

Humanities Iowa Program – Camp Dodge: Home Away From Home, 1917-1918

Join Mike Vogt on Thursday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m. as he presents a forty-five minute presentation on the organization, construction, disease, camp life and other facets of military training conducted at Camp Dodge during World War I. The presentation includes an accompanying slide show of period photographs from the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum collection. This program is free and open to the public.

This program is being hosted by the Friends of the Polk City Community Library. They have received funding from Humanities Iowa.

Tea/Coffee/Cocoa Wednesdays

On Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon drop in for a cup of tea, coffee or hot cocoa.

Sit N Stitch

Love to stitch? Bring your needlework and join the fun! We meet on Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. around the fireplace with plenty of room for big or small projects.

Book Clubs

Join the Monday Book Club on October 17 as we discuss *Remembering Smell* by Bonnie Blodgett. On November 19 come join us to select next year's books. Join us for a snack too! The Monday Book Club meets at 7:00 p.m.

Twan Eng Tan's *The Gift Of Rain* will be discussed on Saturday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m.

Halloween Activities

The library will be doing crafts at the Fall Festival, Saturday, October 29. Hope to see you there! Stop in at the library on Monday, October 31 for a fun treat!





More Happenings at the Library

Story Times

Pre-School Story Time: is on Wednesdays mornings at 10:30 a.m. Children ages 3 years and older will enjoy 30 minutes of stories, rhymes songs while they build a love for reading and language skills. Story Time will be followed with coloring time or an easy craft.

Special Story Time With DART: DART (Des Moines Area Regional Transit) will bring one of their busses to the library to do a special story time for us on October 12. It sure to be lots f fun!

Tummy Time: is on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. for babies 0 to 24 months. It is 20 minutes of nursery rhymes, songs and stories introducing babies to the rhythm and beauty of language, building the foundation for a life-long love for books and reading.

BeTWEEN

Join us on Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.! Every week will be different! We will speak about books, play games or do a craft. A small snack will be provided. BeTWEEN is for grades 4 – 8.

Craft Is Cool

Join us for *Craft Is Cool* on October 5 at 12:30 p.m. (early dismissal), October 19, November 2 and 16 at 3:30 p.m.



Daytime Staffing Begins at Polk City Fire Department

Articles submitted by the Polk City Fire Dept.



The Polk City Fire Department has added new part-time, paid staff during the weekdays, in response to the growing needs of the city. The new staffing began Monday, Oct. 3. This is the first time the Polk City Fire Department — a volunteer, paid-on-call department — has had this type of staffing.

“As Polk City has grown over the years, so has the need for emergency medical and fire services,” said Jason Morse, Polk City Fire Chief. “We had a gap in our ability to cover the city during the daytime Monday through Friday, especially with medical calls, and adding part-time, paid staff positions was the best way to fill that gap.”

Most of the department’s 40 members are volunteer, paid-on-call members, and as such have full-time jobs outside the department and are unable to respond during the weekdays. The new 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. shifts on the weekdays will ensure that residents of Polk City continue to receive the same level of coverage they get during other times.

“All of our members are very dedicated to providing the highest level of service possible to the city,” Morse said. “As our daytime calls have increased though, we saw the need to add these additional positions to our department to continue the level of service we always strive to provide.”

Previously, weekdays were covered by any members that were available during the day, with support from an agreement with the Ankeny Fire Department. With the new positions, most weekday daytime emergencies will be covered by the Polk City Fire Department. Shifts will be covered by a paramedic and basic-level EMT, offering advanced life support for the most serious medical emergencies. Fire emergencies will continue to be handled as before, with support from neighboring departments.

The new positions will be covered by existing budgets, at no additional cost to taxpayers. With the new staffing, the fire department also hired four new members who will primarily be focused on filling the shifts. Existing Polk City Fire Department members also will fill the shifts.

For more information, please contact Fire Chief Jason Morse at JasonMorse@polkcityfd.com or 984-6304.

PCFD Encourages Residents to 'Protect Your Family From Fire'

Keeping your family safe from fire emergencies starts with proper fire prevention. The Polk City Fire Department encourages all Polk City residents to use Fire Prevention Week 2011 as a time to brush up on fire safety tips and information. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is "Protect Your Family From Fire" and smoke alarms, escape planning, fire extinguishers and fire sprinklers are ways to keep you safe.

Smoke alarms

- Install smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- For the best protection, Interconnect all smoke alarms, so when one sounds they all sound.
- Test smoke alarms once a month; pick a date that is easy to remember.
- Replace batteries in all smoke alarms at least once a year; pick a date that is easy to remember.
- If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly when tested.

Escape planning

- Make a home escape plan. Draw a map of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the plan with everyone in your home.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole or mailbox) a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- Practice your home fire drill at night and during the day with everyone in your home, twice a year.
- Practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.

If the alarm sounds:

- Get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people or pets.
- If you have to escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- Call 911 from outside your home.

Fire extinguishers

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.
- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS: Pull the pin; Aim low; Squeeze the lever; Sweep the nozzle from side-to-side.
- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

Fire sprinklers

- Home fire sprinklers save lives and property. In many situations, a family who has survived a fire will also have their "home" to live in and enough of the items and space in their home to continue living their lives as they did before. *(Article continued on page 6)*

(Article continued from page 5)

- The cost of a home fire sprinkler system in a new home averages \$1.61 per sprinklered square foot totaling an amount similar to what is spent for carpet upgrades, paving stone driveway or a whirlpool bath.
- A home fire sprinkler system can reduce the homeowner's insurance premium.
- Fire departments typically use roughly 10 times as much water as a fire sprinkler would use to contain a fire.
- Fire sprinklers are environmentally friendly. They can reduce the amount of water run-off and pollution, fire damage by up to 71 percent, and water usage to fight a home fire by as much as 91 percent.
- Cigar smoke or burnt toast will not activate a fire sprinkler. Only the high temperature of a fire will activate the sprinkler.
- A home fire sprinkler system is easy to maintain. Just inspect your home to make sure the sprinklers are not blocked by something that would prevent the water from coming out such as paint and be sure the main control valve is never turned off.
- Home fire sprinklers are effective in cold and warm climates. Guidelines have been created for the proper installation of systems to avoid pipes freezing. A home fire sprinkler system should be winterized the same as you winterize a domestic water supply.

Kids can explore more fire safety and prevention information with Sparky the Fire Dog. Sparky is celebrating his 60th birthday this year and www.sparky.org has lots of games and activities.

Polk City Firefighters Are Tough Enough To Wear Pink

The Polk City Fire Department will be sporting the color pink again this month, in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Members will be wearing pink "Firefighters for a Cure" shirts and pink gloves for the entire month of October for department-related activities. Pink ribbons have been added to all vehicles as well, which can be seen as PCFD members drive to and from incidents.



Go To:
FirePreventionWeek.org

Protect Your Family From Fire

October 9–15, 2011 • It's Fire Prevention Week

NFPA

City Offices Closed For Thanksgiving

All city offices, including the library will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 in observance of Thanksgiving.



Polk City's Fall Festival

October 29th

*The Polk City Police and Fire Departments
will be hosting the 11th annual Fall Festival,
at the Polk City Fire Department.*

Noon to 4:00 p.m.

6th grade and younger

7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

7th –12th grade

***sponsored by the City of Polk City
and the surrounding businesses.***

Free to all.

*Activities will include,
Games, Haunted tunnel*

Food, Prizes

Costume contest

*and a Haunted Surprise and Dance
for the 7th – 12th grade*

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
 GIS Specialist Jake Schreier

City Newsletter:

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

Police:

Chief: Mark Bowersox
 Sergeant: Dustin Bjornson
 Senior Patrol Officer: Ron Lamfers
 Officer: Matthew Untrauer
 Officer: Matt Aicher
 Officer: Tanner Rickertsen
 Reserve Officer: Mark Schwalenberg

Fire & Rescue:

Chief: Jason Morse
 Deputy Chief: Dan Gubbins

Planning and Zoning:

Marvin Blau 984-6602
 Krista Bowersox 984-6991
 Dennis Dietz 984-6343
 Ron Hankins 984-6822
 Doug Sires 984-9091
 Deanna Triplett 984-6676
 *Jeff Walters 984-9168

Planning & Zoning meets the 3rd Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Tree Board:

Pat Hoppenworth 984-6829
 Phil Jensen 685-3813
 Julie Morse 984-6735
 Ken Morse 984-6735
 Bill Sharp 984-6948

Historic Preservation

Commission:

Roxana Currie 984-6928
 Deanna Deason 984-6563
 Collette Heuertz 984-6950
 Sandra Thornton 984-6678
 Marlene Youde 984-6967

Arts Council:

Kay Gettler
 Collette Heuertz 984-6350
 *Mary Kaye Madden 984-6597
 Bob Miller 984-6207
 Barb Pothast

Community Library:

Director: Kim Kellogg
 Asst. Director/ Adult Librarian: Pam Witt
 Children's Librarian: Rene Blessman

Library Board:

Kathy DeBruyn 984-6156
 Christine Gregory 984-6037
 *Maureen Mc Guire 984-6636
 Mike Miller 984-6724
 Judy Nyberg 707-1132
Library Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the library.

Park Commission:

Brian Emerson 984-9217
 Denise Franck 984-6200
 Bob Fourez 984-6601
 David Hiatt 984-6757
 *Sam Hill 984-7814
Park Commission meets the 1st Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Board of Adjustment:

Mike Bakken 984-6724
 Dixie Bequeaith 984-6224
 John Calhoun 984-6179
 Anthony Capaldo 984-6281
 Bill Currie 984-6928
 Deanna Deason 984-6563
 Ken Morse 984-6735
Board of Adjustment meets as needed.

* **Chair of Board or Commission**



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