

HUXLEY

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EVENTS

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March 2007

Huxley Public Library News:

March...

...in the Northern Hemisphere, is the seasonal equivalent to September in the Southern Hemisphere (and vice versa)...begins on the same day of the week as February, excepting leap years, and as November every year....is the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship, colloquially known as "March Madness," a 20-day tournament that begins in March; however, the Championship Game is played in early April....is National Nutrition Month....is Women's History Month....is National Poetry Month

- March 1 First U.S. Census (1790), Ohio 17th State (1803), Nebraska 37th State (1867)
- March 2 Yahoo! is incorporated (1995), Dr. Seuss' birthday (1904-1991)
- March 3 Florida 27th State (1845), First issue of *TIME* magazine published (1923)
- March 4 Vermont 14th State (1791), First flight of the Hindenburg (1936)
- March 5 Iraq releases Gulf War prisoners (1991)
- March 6 Bayer Aspirin is trademarked (1899)
- March 7 Alexander Graham Bell is patents the telephone (1876)
- March 8 The New York Stock Exchange is founded (1817)
- March 9 The Barbie doll debuts (1959) The first Ford Mustang is built (1964)
- March 10 Syzygy: all 9 planets align on the same side of the Sun (1982)
- March 11 Daylight saving time begins (2007)
- March 12 Coca-Cola first sold in bottles (1894) Girl Scouts are founded (1912)
- March 13 Phoenix Lights, a widely witnessed UFO sighting, Phoenix, AZ (1997)
- March 14 FBI Ten Most Wanted Fugitives was formed (1950)
- March 15 Beware: The Ides of March, Julius Caesar killed (44 BC)
- March 16 Nathaniel Hawthorne publishes *The Scarlet Letter* (1850)
- March 17 St Patrick's Day is celebrated in New York City for the first time (1756)
- March 18 Terri Schiavo's feeding tube is removed, euthanasia debate ensues (2005)
- March 19 Partial Solar Eclipse (2007)
- March 20 First Day of Spring (2007)
- March 21 National Teacher Appreciation Day (2007)
- March 22 *Please Please Me*, the first Beatles album, is released in the UK (1963)
- March 23 "OK" used as an abbreviation for "oll korrekt" in the *Boston Morning Post* (1839)
- March 24 Pink Floyd releases *The Dark Side of the Moon* (1973)
- March 25 Howard Cosell's Birthday (1918)
- March 26 The "Melissa worm" infects e-mail systems worldwide (1999)
- March 27 Most powerful (9.2!) earthquake in U.S. history kills 125 people in Alaska (1964)
- March 28 In Pennsylvania, the Three Mile Island nuclear meltdown disaster occurs (1979)
- March 29 A California jury recommends the death penalty for Charles Manson (1971)
- March 30 President Ronald Reagan is shot in the chest by John Hinckley, Jr. (1981)
- March 31 The Eiffel Tower is inaugurated (1889)

To learn more about these people, places and things, please visit your local library.

CITY AWARDED 'SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL' FUNDING FOR TRAFFIC SIGNALS

The City of Huxley was awarded a \$125,000 "Safe Routes to Schools" (SRTS) grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation. This grant will be used to install traffic signals and construct left-turn lanes at the intersection of Oak and Main with U.S. Highway 69. The SRTS program gives funds to projects that encourage children to walk or bike to school. The signal project fits right into this description because U.S. 69 currently acts as a barrier to pedestrian traffic through the middle of the City. With the school on the west side of U.S. 69 and the bulk of the residential growth in Huxley on the east side of U.S. 69, safe crossings of U.S. 69 are key to promoting pedestrian traffic. Presently, traffic on U.S. 69 does not have to stop in the Huxley city limits.

The signal project is planned to be constructed in the Fall of 2007. Design of the project will begin soon. Future signals are also planned at the intersection of First Street with U.S. 69. Signals at this intersection may be constructed in 2008.

In addition to the traffic signals, the City and the Ballard School System have teamed up to purchase an electronic message board sign that will be placed in front of Dr. May's Veterinary Clinic at the corner of Highway 69 and Oak Blvd. The board will help pass on to the residents information which will include such items as notices of events, meetings and also changes in school openings due to weather. This will hopefully be installed this summer.

Please help support the Friends of the Public Library!

Browse our online book sale:

<http://shops.half.ebay.com/friends-of-hpl>

The library needs used (or new) bubble mailers/envelopes in any/all sizes.

We can always put slightly new & gently used books to good use as well.

We have raised over \$1,850 since February, 2006 thanks to YOUR support!

SE ANNEXATION - PHASE II IMPROVEMENTS

The SE Annexation project involves constructing infrastructure for the 340 acres west of I-35 and north of Highway 210 that was annexed into the City in early 2006. Due to the location of the area adjacent to the interstate, the City expects that this area is a prime area for development. This project involves constructing over 2 miles of sanitary sewer from the location of the proposed wastewater treatment plant northeast of the 315th Street bridge over I-35 to 560th Avenue at Highway 210. A temporary lift station is being constructed at the new wastewater plant location to pump the wastewater to the old wastewater plant until the new plant is on-line sometime in 2011. The project also involves running over 2-1/2 miles of water main to service the new area. 560th Avenue will be upgraded as part of the improvements as well. The existing 22-foot wide gravel road will be replaced with a new 24-foot wide concrete street that will be capable of being widened at some point in the future as development requires it. Nearly a mile of storm sewer will be installed to drain the future street.

Ideally, work on the project could have continued during the winter months, but the bitterly cold weather in January and February combined with heavy snowfalls have prevented any work from happening. The contractor plans to continue laying sewer as soon as the weather allows. 560th Avenue was closed through the first stage of the project for storm sewer and grading work but has been temporarily opened to traffic for the winter. The contractor plans to re-close 560th Avenue in the spring as soon as weather permits to continue the grading and paving work. The project is scheduled to be completed by June 1, 2007.

HUXLEY PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

CITIZENS COMMUNITY CENTER (3C's) -- Do you want to look better and feel great? If so, you might want to think about getting a membership to 3C's in Huxley. Memberships are available for families, couples, single adults, students, seniors, and senior couples. For more information about facility hours and membership rates, go online to huxleyiowa.org or call 515-597-2515. Facility tours are available to those who are interested.

GROUP FITNESS CLASSES -- Register now for the March group fitness classes at 3C's. **NEW** classes include evening Kickboxing on Mondays and Wednesdays at 5:30pm, Saturday morning Kickboxing at 7am, and Cardio Mixes on Thursday evenings at 5:30pm. Classes that will continue from the previous session include morning Kickboxing, Step & Sculpt, Shake It Up, Body Sculpt, and Yoga. Stop by the 3Cs for an information pamphlet.

TAEKWONDO -- Taekwondo classes are available for any individual age 6-60. Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30-7:30pm. Instructors are from Martial Arts of America. Fee is \$50 for an eight-week session. For more information, call 515-963-3494.

U6 & U8 SPRING SOCCER -- Spring soccer registrations are currently being accepted through the Huxley Recreation Department. Participants must be no older than 7 years of age on August 1, 2006 and no younger than 4 years of age. Practices and games will be held in April and May. Fee is \$20 per child. Deadline to register is March 23.

Personal Trainers -- Need help developing a fitness routine to compliment your lifestyle and help you achieve your fitness goals? Personal Trainers are available at the 3Cs. Stop by and pick up an information pamphlet that highlights the trainers available.

REGISTRATION INFO -- Print out a registration form at www.huxleyiowa.org or pick up a form at the 3C's front desk. Send registrations to Huxley Recreation, 515 N Main Ave, Huxley, IA. 50124. Please call 597-2515 if you have questions.

FIRST STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT - PHASES I & II

Construction of Phase I of the East First Street Reconstruction Project from Main Avenue to U.S. Highway 69 wrapped up for the winter in December. The contractor will come back in the spring as soon as weather permits to finish the remaining sidewalks, finish grading, and seeding of the disturbed areas on the project. The project involved a complete reconstruction of the entire corridor. The existing 4-inch water main was removed and a new 12-inch water main was installed throughout the length of the project with new water services installed to the right of way line for each residence. The existing sanitary sewer was removed and replaced and new sanitary services were installed to the right of way line for each residence. A new storm sewer system was also installed. The existing drainage system included a system of small tile lines that slowly drained rainwater out of the ditches and away from First Street. The new storm sewer system involves draining surface water to the street and draining it through a series of concrete pipes that ultimately drain into a new 30-inch diameter storm sewer that drains to the creek south of First Street. The existing rural section roadway with ditches was removed and a new 31-foot wide concrete street with curb and gutter was constructed in its place. Residences had new concrete driveways poured within the right of way limits. Next spring 4-foot wide concrete sidewalks will be constructed along both sides of the street. Eco-Tech Construction, L.L.C. of Grimes, Iowa is the prime contractor for Phase I of this project. The contract amount for Phase I is \$848,611.40.

Phase II of the project will involve reconstruction of First street from 5th Avenue to Main Avenue as well as water main improvements on Main Avenue from Railway Street to First Street. The reconstruction involves replacing the existing sanitary sewer and water main beginning in the intersection of First and Main and proceeding west to 5th Avenue. All sanitary sewer and water services will be reconstructed to the right of way line. The project also involves storm sewer improvements. A new 15-inch concrete sewer will be installed on the north side of the street with sump pump services stubbed out to each house. The existing street will be replaced with a new 31'-wide concrete street with curb and gutter. Each driveway approach and sidewalks along both sides of the street will be replaced. The final grading and seeding will be done in the fall. The project is planned to be constructed in two phases with the Main Avenue work being completed in the May-June timeframe before moving on to the rest of First Street. Phase II will be a separate construction contract that is put out for competitive bids so the contractor will be determined by mid-April.