

# HUXLEY

## COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EVENTS

Volume IV, Issue II

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### From the Parks and Recreation Department:

#### SPRING IS IN THE AIR!!

At least one would tend to think that way when the calendar turns to March. March is a transition month from winter to spring; the thought of spring rains, green grass, flowers blooming, birds chirping, and the trees beginning to bloom versus the frigid and persistent winter we have endured these past few months. March is also a transition month for us here. As our indoor activities and programs wind down, we look forward to being back outside for not only some of our regular spring programs such as soccer and bam-bam baseball but also for some new ones as the weather improves. The transition period is also a sign of progress. We can be proud of our achievements over the last few months and build on our momentum to finish the remainder of the year with a strong push in our programs and 3C's memberships.

With that said, a big part of our program successes are due to all our volunteer coaches for all our programs. They have been instrumental in carrying out the programs and working on a weekly basis with the youth in those programs developing skills and teamwork. Their dedication and the time devoted are appreciated and help to ensure the progress of our youth sports programs. Many of our other programs continue to have success also in part to the dedicated and enthusiastic instructors that guide each program. Together we all play a part in the success of this department and the role we play in providing fun, safe, and active community programs and activities is imperative for long-term health.

There is a vacancy on the Huxley Parks & Recreation Board and it presents an excellent opportunity to become involved in your community and with all the great things we have going on here. The City of Huxley Boards are important for gaining community involvement, providing citizen feedback, performing peer reviews, fund raising, grant writing and general operational advising. All board positions are considered voluntary and are appointed by the Mayor and City Council. If you are interested in serving on any boards or commission stop by city hall or the Parks & Recreation Department and pick up an application.

We would also continue to ask our 3C's patrons to help us in providing a clean facility by bringing an extra pair of shoes to change into and alleviating some of the materials tracked in from outside during the winter season. This makes cleaning the facility much more efficient and helps to preserve our existing equipment. We appreciate your assistance.

Information and registration forms for all our upcoming programs and 3C's memberships can be obtained at our office at 515 N Main Ave in Huxley or online at [www.huxleyiowa.org](http://www.huxleyiowa.org). You can also call us at 515.597.2515 for more information.

#### Important Dates for March

- 6 - Prairie Festival Meeting 6:30pm Library
- 12 - Parks & Recreation Board Meeting 6:00pm Council Chambers
- 15 - Huxley Business Fair at Ballard High School Gymnasium 11-2pm
- 17 - Senior Luncheon 11:30am at 3C's
- 20 - Tree Board Meeting 6:30pm Council Chambers
- 23 - 3C's Closed in observance of Easter Sunday

#### From the Huxley Public Library:

Huxley Public Library Children's Summer Reading Program!

The theme for the 2008 Summer Reading program is "Catch the Reading Bug". There will be fun and exiting weekly activities for all ages! We will release more details as they become available.

The date for Mad Science of Iowa Presentation: *Mad About Bugs* is 7-11-08 from 9:15am to 10am. Mark your calendars! It's going to be a major event! There is more information about this program available here: <http://www.madscience.org/locations/centraliowa/>

We are planning several other fun events for all ages (tentatively) including: A "Bug Zoo" presentation by the Iowa State Entomology Department, caterpillars from Reimann Gardens, and we are hoping to incorporate a Fear Factor theme at least once! (Gummy worms, other gummy bugs, etc.)

Join a Reading Group! The Adult Reading Group meets in the library on the first Monday of the month at 10:00am. The Jane Austen Book club meets in the library on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00am.

The Youth Book Club (YBC) meets on early out Wednesdays from 1:45pm to 2:30pm. YBC is open to all children in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade **or** those able to read books from the Juvenile Fiction (JF) or Young Adult (YA) sections of the library. Do you like to spend time with peers, make new friends, have snacks and have fun? If you do, then the YBC hopes to see you there! If you would like more information, or would like to join any of the book groups, please contact Kris Bugler at 597-2552 or via email at: [krisbugler@gmail.com](mailto:krisbugler@gmail.com). Signing up or making reservations is not required. If you like, just show up for the next discussion!

As with any book group, don't wait until the last minute to request your copy!

**INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT INTERSECTION OF U.S. 69 AND MAIN AVENUE/OAK BOULEVARD MOVES FORWARD**

The project involving the widening of U.S. Highway 69 at the intersection of Main Avenue and Oak Boulevard will be taking bids from contractors on Tuesday, March 18, 2008. The project will be bid through the Iowa Department of Transportation.

The project involves widening U.S. 69 at the intersection to add left turn lanes. A new traffic signal will be placed at the intersection to replace the temporary signals which were installed at the intersection last November. Curb and gutter will be placed along U.S. 69 throughout the project, and the street will get an HMA overlay. The substandard pedestrian underpass just south of the intersection will be abandoned as part of the project as the new traffic signal will make crossing at the intersection safer. A new 10'-wide trail will be placed along U.S. 69 throughout the trail limits.

The project is being financed in part by a \$125,000 Safe Routes to School grant. The Safe Routes to Schools program helps to finance projects which encourage children to walk or bike to school. This project was an excellent candidate for the grant due to the fact that there is currently no controlled crossing of U.S. 69. This project hopes to create a safe crossing of U.S. 69 to allow children in the newer residential areas to walk or bike to school. The Iowa Department of Transportation is also contributing an additional \$80,000 to the project. The remainder of the project is being paid for by the City of Huxley. The project cost is estimated to be \$540,000.

If you have any questions about this project, feel free to contact Gabe Nelson, project manager with Snyder & Associates, at 515-964-2020.

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**FROM THE DESK OF MARK POTE  
POLICE CHIEF**

This is a reminder to all property owners in the City of Huxley. After a snowfall, by City Code, you have 10 hours to remove the accumulated snow and or ice. I know that many of you have work hours that do not permit the 10 hours limit so we have been flexible in the past. If it is done in a reasonable amount of time, 12 to 24 hours, is permissible.

Driving around town, I am surprised at the number of people that do the bare minimum. Shoveling a 18" shovel wide path down a sidewalk that is 36" wide or not doing anything at all. Or the number of people that do not use the nice weather we had this last weekend, 23rd and 24th, when everything was melting, to help get some of the snow and ice off the sidewalk.

A reminder that if someone falls on your sidewalk because it was not cleared properly, you, the property owner, could be held liable for any damages or injury.

So please, take a little time and clear your sidewalks for the passage of the people that do use them. That may be school kids or adults out getting a little exercise.

Thank you for your cooperation

**REPORT FROM THE WASTEWATER SUPERINTENDENT – RICK GRAVES**

I would like to take this time to introduce myself, my name is Rick Graves and I have been employed with the City of Huxley since September of 2007. I have assumed the position of Wastewater Superintendent. I currently hold a Grade 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant, Grade 3 Water Treatment, and Grade 3 Water Distribution license issued by the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources. I moved here from Riceville with my family and that is where I got started in the public works utilities in April of 2001 for the city as the Wastewater and Street Supt. I look forward to meeting everybody and becoming a part of the city and school.

The City of Huxley, like most surrounding communities, has a problem with clear water flow entering the sanitary sewer system. This clear water flow, typically rain or ground water, enters the sewer system by means of footing and foundation drain tiles, sump pumps and roof drains. During times of wet weather this clear water overloads the sanitary sewer collection system. As a result the City spends resources collecting and treating water that does not need to be treated. The benefits of removing this flow allows the City to comply with the permit standards, set forth by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and reduces overloading of the sewer system resulting in a reduction of flooded basements, reduces the cumulative effects and costs that put a large burden on the wastewater customer. Please make sure these discharges are not being discharged into the sanitary sewer system.

So in turn the City of Huxley will be inspecting the homes of Huxley residents this summer and will camera each sewer service line. We will be starting in the southwest part of the city west of Hwy 69. To do this we will have to set up a time of your convenience to get into your home for these inspections. Before we camera your sewer we will need you to screw off your clean out cap located in the basement. We are having the homeowner take off the caps for the reason we do not want to be responsible if we break the cap.

We will be sending out letters mid-March and when you receive the letter please contact the Huxley Wastewater Plant at 597-2256 to set up a time of your convenience for us to inspect and camera your home. If you have any questions about what is going to be done feel free to call me.

**Question of the month:**

Sewage is the wastewater released by residences, businesses and industries in a community. It is \_\_\_\_\_ percent water, with only \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the wastewater dissolved and suspended solid material.

Answer:  
99.94% water  
.06% wastewater