

# HUXLEY

## COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EVENTS

Volume III, Issue XII

December 2007

### Winter Time

From Police Chief Mark Pote

Winter time is officially here again with the first snowfall under our belts. This is just a friendly reminder to the citizens of Huxley about the Snow Ordinance within the city.

As soon as there is any accumulation of snow and or ice on the streets, the parking of any motor vehicle is prohibited until the snow has been removed from the streets by the street department personnel. So, if snow is predicted for the overnight hours while you are asleep, please remember to park the vehicle in your driveway the night before so officers don't have to try and wake you to move it and if we can't get a hold of you, a \$25 parking ticket will be placed on your vehicle. If your vehicle is a habitual offender of being found on the street when snow is being cleared, it can be towed. As soon as the snow is removed, you make park once again on the street.

Also, when cleaning out your driveway, it is illegal to blow, push or throw the snow into a street. If someone is caught doing this, you may be cited.

I also know that citizens get a little upset at the snowplow drivers for pushing the snow back into your driveway after you have spent some time in cleaning it. I live in town and have it happen every year so no one is immune to it. The streets have to be cleared and pushing the snow to the curb is the only answer. Unfortunately, the entrance to your drive is at the curb so that is where a lot of the snow goes. **DO NOT** clear that snow by blowing, pushing or throwing it back into the street. It must stay on your property.

**Remember to also clear off your sidewalks of any snow or ice.** The home owner / tenant is responsible for the sidewalks. If you have any questions, please feel free to give my office a call at **515-597-2002**.

### ELECTION RESEULTS

By Lee Ruddick, City Clerk

The Story County Board of Supervisors has certified the 2007 City of Huxley election results as follows:

Mayor	Nels A. Nord
Council Member at Large	Mark Baker
Council Member at Large	Don Brendeland
Council Member at Large	Ronald Krull

Congratulations to these candidates on their election results and their willingness to serve their community.

### PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FROM THE DIRECTOR, JOSH LARSEN:

December is here and with it comes the thought of another year coming to an end. However, it also marks the beginning of a new one. With the New Year quickly approaching there is an increasing amount of excitement and energy for 2008 and what lies ahead here at the Huxley Parks & Recreation Department. It has been a great sight to see all the activity in 3 C's the last few months, hear all the bouncing basketballs, talk with many of you, and see many new faces. We still want to see more of you! We are working hard at continuing to provide activities, programs, and other community awareness events for all ages. Take advantage of the on-going group fitness classes, tae-kwon-do, and our excellent staff of personal trainers for your personalized fitness needs. Visit our website or stop by the front-desk for the latest news on the happenings taking place.

With the New Year we will undoubtedly see our most activity of the year in the 3 C's building. My challenge to you all is to continue those renewed fitness and wellness goals you have for yourself beyond the month of January. With our group fitness classes beginning on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and the diverse class offerings we have, you have every reason to bring along a friend, or two, or three, and accomplish these goals together. Tae-kwon-do and Tiny Tigers continues as well and provides another excellent opportunity to try something new for the whole family that you have always wanted to do. The second session of baton will begin in January as well and we anticipate another great group of energetic little ones twirling their way through the 3 C's during the evenings.

We are approaching a milestone in our memberships since the building opened and will be waiting with anticipation to see who will be our 2008<sup>th</sup> member of all-time. With each new member we come closer and more importantly we have another opportunity to welcome you to your community center. There are many benefits to your membership and we continue to expand those benefits. If you are a current member we would love to hear your thoughts on what you would like to see or what we can do better. There is something here for everyone and I challenge those of you who have not yet been to 3 C's to make your New Years resolution to visit us here, walk around the track, try some of the equipment, experience a group fitness class, or other activity we offer and take advantage of the great resources that are available in your community. Come by for a tour and we'd be happy to answer any questions or hear ideas you may have for new and exciting programs. We continue to have a great response for the morning gym time for little ones and their parents. We have plenty of toys, balls, and other games for them to get out and run inside when the weather is cold outside. This program is offered Monday through Friday from 9am-Noon.  
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**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
**FROM THE DIRECTOR, JOSH LARSEN: [CON'T]**

The recreational youth basketball program will be beginning very soon thanks to the enthusiasm of our youth and large number of parents who have volunteered to coach their teams. This is an invaluable learning experience in their development and also a great amount of fun for everyone involved. Saturdays at 3 C's will quickly be the place to be as games get underway for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade program on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Later on that day we will have the Huxley Tree Festival sponsored by your Huxley Business Association and HERO. Plan on attending this great holiday community event that afternoon from 4-7 pm and enjoy the beautifully decorated trees and some delicious holiday treats.

Registrations are currently underway for 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> grade basketball, dodge ball, our annual racquetball tournament, and a newly forming and evolving weekly kickball night. We always have open gym times and have set aside time solely for open gym and recreational games for anyone who may be interested. Our activities calendar is also available online at [www.huxleyiowa.org](http://www.huxleyiowa.org) by clicking on Community Information and then Community Calendar. You can sort by activity and also view reservations before you make the trip to visit us. One other program quickly approaching in January is Lighten Up Iowa. This statewide initiative, in its seventh year, encourages healthier lifestyles by promoting physical activity and proper nutrition. How many miles can we as a community run, walk, jog, or bike together? How many minutes of fitness activity can we accumulate? Active lifestyles are so important to ensure continued health and we hope to see many of you participating. More information will be available on our website on how you can register for this exciting program. For our teenagers we also like to provide and promote activities for after-school and the Ballard Teen Club has a vast array of activities they offer here at 3 C's in the afternoons. They frequently have outside speakers from the area and offer great after-school activities. Contact us to find out more about how you can become involved. More information for these and all upcoming programs can be found at the front-desk, online at [www.huxleyiowa.org](http://www.huxleyiowa.org) or by calling (515).597.2515. Finally, I wish you all an enjoyable holiday season and look forward to seeing each of you here in the very near future.

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**FIRST STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT – PHASES I & II**

Phase II of the First St. Reconstruction Project has been opened to traffic. At this time, all work except final grading and seeding has been completed. The seeding work will be performed early next spring as soon as weather permits. Phase II wraps up the end of a 2-year, \$1.6 million reconstruction of First St. from Fifth Ave. to U.S. Highway 69. The half-mile reconstruction project involved reconstructing the existing street to a new 31'-wide concrete street with curb and gutter. Storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and water main were replaced and upgraded throughout the entire corridor. The underground utility reconstruction also involved replacing all sanitary and water services within the City R.O.W as well as stubbing out storm sewer services for residents to tie sump pumps into. Sidewalks were replaced or added along both sides of the new street and 38 driveway approaches were reconstructed. Alliant Energy and Huxley Communications also upgraded their infrastructure in the corridor as part of the project.

Construction of the project was divided into two phases. Phase I of the project from Main Avenue to U.S. 69 was constructed by EcoTech Construction, of Grimes, Iowa. Phase II of the project from Fifth Ave. to Main Ave. was constructed by Sternquist Construction of Indianola, Iowa. The City would like to extend a special thanks to all of the residents along First Street who have tolerated the disruptions during the construction. The reconstruction project of First Street will serve the entire community for years to come.

**Huxley Public Library:**  
**From Mike Hanks Director**

Winter is reading season - and is quickly approaching - so come join a Reading Group!

The Adult Reading Group meets in the library on the first Monday of the month at 10:00am and the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm (both sessions are the same). The book for the December discussion is the #1 New York Times Bestseller *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. The new book for December (to be discussed in January) is *The Bourne Betrayal* by Eric Van Lustbader. (The Bourne Betrayal is the fifth novel in the Jason Bourne series created by Robert Ludlum.)

The Jane Austen Book club meets in the library on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00am. The book for the December discussion is *Persuasion* by Jane Austen. The new book for December (to be discussed in January) is *Mansfield Park*; also by Jane Austen

There are still openings in the Youth Book Club (YBC). YBC meets on early out Wednesdays from 1:45pm to 2:30pm. The book for December discussion is a Chet Gecko Mystery called *The Mystery of Mr. Nice* by Bruce Hale. The new book for the next discussion is *Farewell, My Lunchbag*; another Chet Gecko Mystery also by Bruce Hale.

If you are in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade or are able to read books from the Juvenile Fiction (JF) or Young Adult (YA) sections of the library, like to spend time with peers, make new friends, have snacks and have fun, then 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!

The director and staff of the Huxley Public Library would like to thank all of our patrons for your support throughout the year. We are truly blessed to have so many avid and active library users! Thank you!

The Library will be closed (or at reduced hours) for the following Holidays:

**Christmas:**

Monday, December 24, Closed  
Tuesday, December 25, Closed  
Wednesday, December 26, Open 9am to 5pm  
Thursday, December 27, Open 9am to 5pm  
Friday, December 28, Open 9am to 5pm  
Saturday, December 29, Open 10am to 3pm (regular hours)

**New Years:**

Monday, December 31, Closed  
Tuesday, January 1, Closed  
Wednesday, January 2, Open 9am to 5pm  
Thursday, January 3, Resume Normal Hours

## **Snow Removal Policy for the City of Huxley.... Jeff Peterson, Director of Public Works**

**WATCH THE ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARD FOR WINTER MESSAGES FROM THE CITY OF HUXLEY AND BALLARD SCHOOLS.**

Winter is just around the corner. It's time to get the snow shovels out of the shed and make certain snow blowers start. The City of Huxley Street Department is responsible for the removal of snow accumulations on city streets, alleys and publicly owned sidewalks and parking lots. Street maintenance personnel are primarily responsible for snow removal, with utility maintenance personnel assisting as required. Snow removal operations generally begin when snowfall accumulations have exceeded more than one inch in depth.

**Emergency Snow Routes** are designated major arterials and main interconnectors between major highways and other municipalities which are used for principal emergency, commercial, school and bus access. These routes are posted with signs designating them as "Emergency Snow Routes". The policy is to provide maximum service on these streets in order to provide emergency personnel and emergency vehicles access to and from the police departments, fire stations and hospitals to respond to emergency events. The Following emergency snow routes are generally cleared first:

- \* **Main Avenue**
- \* **First Street**
- \* **Centennial Drive West of Timberlane to Hwy. 69**
- \* **East Fourth Street East of Hwy. 69**
- \* **N. Fifth Ave. from West First St. to Crestwood**
- \* **Oak Blvd.**
- \* **Timberlane**
- \* **Fifth Street from N. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Hwy. 69**
- \* **Campus Drive from Main Ave. to Hwy. 69,**
- \* **S. Second Ave from First to Railway**

Residential streets and cul-de-sacs are cleared next. The city's goal is to have the emergency snow routes cleared before the morning and evening rush hours and complete plowing of all city streets and cul-de-sacs within 8 to 10 hours. If the snowfall continues after morning rush hour, clean up may be delayed until after the snowfall event has subsided. Under most conditions, the eight-hour goal for completing plowing can be achieved. With snow accumulations greater than six inches, the time it takes to complete the plowing will increase. At times some flexibility is required to this plan due to the amount of snowfall or equipment break down. During snow removal operations we try to keep the snowplows and other snow removal equipment plowing in designated areas assigned to each driver rather than moving from one end of town to the other. Other reasons for flexibility are time of day, school bus schedules and emergency response.

**De-icing** is provided at all intersections along Highway 69, major intersections and heavily traveled areas on snow routes and is not intended or needed on residential streets except under certain circumstances. In most cases, traffic can maneuver safely on streets with low volumes of traffic, but roads with high volumes of traffic need the extra attention. De-icing generally occurs before 7:00 a.m. prior to rush hour commuters leaving for their respective routes of daily travel. If a significant snowfall has or is occurring, this may be delayed due to the fact that the de-icing material will be covered up by the snow and be carried off during snow removal. It is common for the police department and street personnel to perform "skid tests" at several locations to determine which areas require de-icing the most. Rain on clear and/or snow packed roads are serious problems and can cause severe and dangerous driving conditions. During this occurrence it is difficult to keep de-icing materials on the streets and we advise extra caution during these periods. Please be extra cautious while driving on snow and ice covered streets, good judgment while driving by reducing speeds, increased following distances between vehicles and braking earlier before intersections and turning maneuvers will help reduce accidents that result in property damage and personal injuries. **Please be advised that de-icing will not be applied to newly constructed roads made of concrete for the first year since the de-icing agents will affect the integrity of the surface of the street while the concrete cures. Please use extra caution on these streets. Streets affected this season are West First Street from Main Avenue to 5th Avenue and 560<sup>th</sup> from Hwy. 210 going North.**

**Street Parking:** Please observe the City of Huxley's parking regulations during snow events. Once the police department declares a snow emergency, residents are legally required to move parked cars off the street so larger vehicles, such as plows and emergency vehicles can safely navigate the streets. Don't park your car on any city street after a one-inch snowfall. This not only ensures more effective plowing, but also helps you avoid a citation. Plowing activities could begin any time one or more inches of snow has accumulated and driving conditions become difficult. Depending on conditions, snow accumulations after 10:00 p.m. city crews typically start plowing by 2 am. Remember the one-inch guideline applies to any hour of the day, any time of the year and No-Parking will be enforced until snow subsides and streets have been cleared curb to curb.

**Sidewalks/Driveways:** Sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 48 hours of a snowfall. Residents are required to keep their sidewalks in good repair and free of snow, ice, debris and obstructions. Please do not plow or throw snow out into the street - this is dangerous for traffic and delays full cleanup operations. Depositing snow or ice on any public sidewalk, street, bike path, road or highway is not permitted and could result in a citation. The city may also assess the property owner the cost of removing the snow that was placed there by the offending party. Residents are also not permitted to deposit snow removed from their driveways into City streets. When using a snow blower or snow shovel, please deposit the snow in your yard as opposed to in the street. Piles of snow or ice in the street from a residential driveway can create hazardous conditions and liability for accidents. Do not plow snow onto your neighbor's sidewalk or driveway. When you are clearing your walk, imagine what it would be like jogging, a young child walking to school, walking a dog, pushing a stroller or using a wheelchair on that surface. Would you feel safe? Be sure to apply ice-melting agents or sand to stubborn, slippery spots. If you are shoveling or snow-blowing the **entrance to your driveway**, the Streets Department has this **helpful tip:** Wait until the streets are plowed curb to curb before removing the snow at the very end of your driveway. Snow that is being pushed down the street by the snowplow has a tendency to roll off into open spots such as intersections and cleared driveway approaches, so you may actually have less snow to clear in the long run if you wait for the plows to pass.

## **Snow Removal Policy for the City of Huxley...Jeff Peterson, Director of Public Works**

If you have any questions please call my office at 597-2256

### **Frequently Asked Questions About Plowing**

**When does the city start plowing?.....** This depends on storm projections. In general, however, ice control begins when icy or slippery conditions make driving difficult. Plowing will begin when the snow stops falling or when one inch or more of snow has fallen to make driving difficult.

**How long does it take to complete the plowing?.....** During average winter conditions, it takes eight to ten hours to complete snow removal operations. Time to clear the streets will increase when snow is wetter and heavier, and snow accumulation continues.

**Which streets are plowed first? Does the city always follow the same order for plowing streets? ....** Emergency snow routes will be done first. Residential streets and cul-de-sacs are cleared next and alleys being cleared last. The city strives to conduct operations consistently from storm to storm. This increases both effectiveness and efficiency.

**I saw the plow pass by on a neighboring street, but it didn't come down my street. Why not? .....** It may be that a neighboring street happens to be a major road through the neighborhood or that operators are simply plowing the streets in the most efficient pattern and your street will be plowed soon. Occasionally, however, primary streets with high volumes of traffic may require ice control or plowing not deemed necessary on residential streets.

**Why do you plow so far away from my mailbox? .....** City crews plow as close to mailboxes as possible without risking damage to the box. Some boxes are mounted close to the road and need to be installed properly with the box placed four inches behind the curb with a height of 48 inches from the bottom of the box to the road surface. Many times high snow banks cause snow to fall back into the street. This snow gets compacted by postal vehicles making it difficult to clear the entire width of the road in subsequent plowing. Residents are encouraged to clear the area in front of their mailbox after every plowing.

**Why does the city prohibit on-street parking? Does it really make a difference? .....** The average time city crews begin plowing operations is just before 2 a.m., so this is a logical time to require that vehicles be off the streets. Cars parked on the streets present a hazard, because they can be difficult for the plow operators to see during snowstorms. If vehicles are off the street, residents will get more effective plowing and plows will not have to return to remove the snow and ice when vehicles are moved. It allows the plows to clear the full width of the street to allow safer travel for pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

### **Safety Tips**

- ❖ **Stay as far away from snow plows and snow removal equipment as possible**
- ❖ **Keep children away from snow plows and equipment**
- ❖ **Do not attempt to pass a snow plow**
- ❖ **Keep children away from areas where snow has been piled by city crews, especially when snow removal operations are in effect**
- ❖ **Please be extra cautious while driving on snow and ice covered streets, good judgment while driving by reducing speeds, increased following distances between vehicles and braking earlier before intersections and turning maneuvers will help reduce accidents that result in property damage and personal injuries.**

### **A Hydrant Near You**

In the event of a fire emergency during the winter, could firefighters find the hydrant near your home? Or does it get buried under a pile of snow? The city encourages residents to clear the hydrant area near their home and keep it clear throughout the winter season. This will ensure hydrants are visible and will greatly speed the response time in case of an emergency. Please don't let your neighborhood hydrant remain "under cover". The fire department and your neighbors will greatly appreciate your efforts. If the amount of snow is excessive and would be very difficult to remove, please contact the City to have the snow removed.

### **Mailbox Policy**

Is your mailbox designed to stand up to the rigors of the winter plowing season? What happens if plowing activities damages your mailbox? The answer depends on how the damage occurred. If your mailbox is actually struck by a City snow plow, the city will repair or replace the mailbox, providing it is a standard design that conforms to U.S. Post Office specifications for minimum height and setback. Damage to non-standard mailbox assemblies will be reimbursed \$25.00. Some examples of non-standard mailboxes include: brick planters, mailboxes with custom lettering, custom designing or larger than standard installations. Mailboxes should be installed and maintained to withstand snow coming off the end of the plow. Ensure that the face of your mailbox is 4 inches behind the back of the curb (out of the way of snow plows). If damage occurs due to snow discharge or snow storage, the city will not be responsible for repairs. The City Council approved this mailbox repair policy, essentially formalizing past practice regarding mailbox damaged by snow removal activities. City staff investigates each complaint. If an inspection shows that the mailbox was hit by a plow or other piece of equipment, a temporary mailbox is installed. In the spring, repairs are made to conforming installation. If no signs of impact are evident, the resident is provided information about possible reasons for the problem. These may include inadequate construction or materials, needed maintenance, or other sources of damage.