

# HUXLEY

## COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EVENTS

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May 2007

### Huxley Public Library News:

Have you ever needed accurate information on a subject and you could not find enough sources? Do you feel like you can't trust much of what you find on the Internet? The Huxley Public Library offers free access to EBSCOhost.

**What is EBSCOhost?** EBSCOhost contains thousands of journals, digests, citations, abstracts, full-text, peer-reviewed articles, reference books and biographies, on virtually every subject. <http://search.ebscohost.com/>

This service is paid for using State and Local library funds. It is free for our patrons to use 24 hours a day 7 days a week. To prevent abuse, we ask that you please stop in at the library and ask for a user name and password rather than posting it here.

#### **Here are some interesting facts about May:**

- May 1 1956 – Jonas Salk's polio vaccine is made available to the public.
- May 2 1933 - The 1st modern sighting of the Loch Ness monster is reported.
- May 3 1960 - The Anne Frank House opened in Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- May 4 1953 - Hemingway wins Pulitzer Prize for The Old Man and the Sea.
- May 5 1862 – 1st "Cinco de Mayo" in Mexico, later became a Mexican Holiday.
- May 6 1940 - John Steinbeck wins Pulitzer Prize for The Grapes of Wrath
- May 7 2006 - Rolling Stone magazine publishes its 1000th issue.
- May 8 1914 - Paramount Pictures is formed.
- May 9 1974 - Watergate Scandal: Nixon's Impeachment hearings begin.
- May 10 1954 - Bill Haley and the Comets release "Rock Around the Clock"
- May 11 1858 - Minnesota is admitted as the 32nd U.S. state.
- May 12 1942 - 1,500 Jews are sent to gas chambers in Auschwitz.
- May 13 1958 - Velcro's trade mark is registered.
- May 14 1973 - Skylab, the United States' first space station, is launched.
- May 15 1970 - The Beatles' last LP, Let It Be, is released in the U.S.A.
- May 16 1866 - Charles Elmer Hires invents root beer.
- May 17 1846 - The saxophone is patented by Adolphe Sax.
- May 18 1897 - Dracula, a novel by Irish author Bram Stoker is published.
- May 19 1588 - The Spanish Armada set sail for England.
- May 20 1969 - The Battle of Hamburger Hill in Vietnam ends.
- May 21 1934 - Oskaloosa, Iowa, becomes 1st US city to fingerprint its citizens.
- May 22 1990 - The Windows 3.0 operating system is released by Microsoft.
- May 23 1969 - Rock band The Who release Tommy, the first rock opera.
- May 24 1911 - The New York Public Library opened.
- May 25 1977 – George Lucas' Star Wars is released and becomes an instant hit.
- May 26 1889 - Opening of the first Eiffel Tower elevator to the public.
- May 27 1939 - DC Comics publishes its second superhero, Batman.
- May 28 2007 - Huxley Public Library is closed to observe Memorial Day.
- May 29 1848 - Wisconsin is admitted as the 30th U.S. State.
- May 30 1922 - In Washington, D.C., the Lincoln Memorial is dedicated.
- May 31 1911 - R.M.S. Titanic launched.  
1990 – The 1st episode of Seinfeld airs.

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

#### **Please help support the Friends of the Public Library!**

<3 <3 <3 Adopt – A – Book <3 <3 <3

You can show your support by adopting a book. When you "adopt" a book, you are paying for books purchased by the Friends, for the library. A special name plate with your name on it goes inside the cover of the book to show all future readers of that book that you care enough to support literacy and your local 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 \$1,950 since February, 2006 thanks to YOUR support!

**\*Local pickup is available, please email for details:**

**[huxlib@huxcomm.net](mailto:huxlib@huxcomm.net)**

#### **SUMMER PROGRAM:**

The theme for the Summer Program at the Huxley Public Library this year is "Get a clue @ your library". Please contact Jessica Leeds for more information at 597-2552. We will post more information when the schedule & planning is complete.

#### **FYI:**

Did you know that you can renew materials 24 hours a day – 7 days a week? Just send a renewal request to: **[huxlib@huxcomm.net](mailto:huxlib@huxcomm.net)**  
All renewals are retroactive to date received.

The Huxley Public Library encourages people of all ages to celebrate the freedom to read!

If you have any other questions, comments, concerns, requests, etc. please do not hesitate to contact me; I am here to serve you! My checked-daily email address is [huxlib@huxcomm.net](mailto:huxlib@huxcomm.net)

**Thank you,**

**Mike Hanks, Director of Library Services**

#### **Spring Hours:**

Mon. – Thurs – 7:30am to 8:00pm  
Friday: 7:30am to 5:00pm  
Saturday: 10:00am to 3:00pm  
Sunday: Closed

*\*Weekdays with no school – open at 9:00am*

## BACK TO THE BASICS OF DRIVERS ED

By Mark A. Pote – Huxley Police Chief

Every morning I sit and watch people, old and young alike, driving to and from school, work, and home. Some are in no hurry at all and are enjoying their start to the morning. Then there are others that think they are running an hour late already when school or work doesn't start for another half hour or more.

For the past several years, I have tried to get into each Drivers Ed Class for Ballard students and speak to them about the job of a police officer. I explain to them what police officers are looking for when they are out driving around on patrol. Anything from speeding and no seatbelts, to headlights that are out or running a stop sign. There are a multitude of traffic violations that a person can be stopped for. I also explain to them what can happen to their drivers' license if they receive a citation.

And each time I leave that Drivers Ed Class, I wonder how many of the students paid attention to what I had to tell them, and I also wonder how many of those students I, or other law enforcement officers, will stop for a traffic violation.

This morning while patrolling, I was thinking about all of this and came to this conclusion: it's not just the student drivers that we are stopping, more often it's the adults and parents.

Now, I am in the same boat as most parents. I have two children and both are involved in sports or other activities in school. Like most kids, mine aren't the best at waking up on time every morning. As a working parent, I too am thinking about what I need to get done during the day as soon as I wake up. And then during the day I am thinking about what errands I need to run after work and then what I have time to get done at home after running to practices or games. Everyone gets busy and doesn't pay attention to their driving skills from time to time.

But as parents and adults, we are the ones that need to set an example for the young drivers out there.

**TRUE STORY.** This morning I stopped a working mom taking her child to school. She still had 20 minutes to get her child to school and was only two miles away. I checked her speed at 49 mph in a 35 zone. I asked for her license, insurance and registration. After making sure everything was in order I told her why I had stopped her. Her reasoning to me was she knew she was in a 35 zone but saw the 55 sign up ahead and was just speeding up to the posted speed limit. In most traffic stops for speeding, that is the standard excuse.

Now here is the point to all of this and hopefully a helpful reminder for all that read it.

You cannot go the posted speed limit until you have passed by that speed limit sign. For instance, if you're in a 35 zone and the 45 zone is coming up, you may not increase your speed to 45 mph until you pass by the 45 zone sign.

Now, switch that around. You are in a 45 mph zone and you see the 35 zone sign coming up. The speed of your vehicle has to be at 35 mph when you come to and pass the 35 zone sign and not a couple of hundred feet into it.

Okay, now that everyone has that little reminder, a little bit on stop signs.

In the Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary 1994 edition, the word **STOP** has many definitions to it but a couple of them are as follows: "To cause to halt, cease, or desist." And "To cease moving, progressing, acting, or operating." Nowhere in any of the definitions could I find the word "slow" or "almost". And that is what a lot of people tell us when we stop them for that violation.

I like to tell the Drivers Ed students to stop and count to three and to look around before starting out again. Actually there is not a rule for that, but it works. There have been too many accidents where people didn't make full stops or didn't take the time to look before starting.

And lastly, a reminder on seatbelts. By Iowa law the driver and front seat passengers shall wear a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt or harness any time the vehicle is in forward motion on a street or highway in the state. A child under one year and less than 20 lbs, shall be in a rear-facing child restraint system. A child under six, who doesn't meet the description above, shall be secured by a child restraint system "Booster Seat" that is used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A child from 6 to 11 years of age shall be secured by the safety belts in a motor vehicle, no matter the position in the vehicle that they sit.

I hope the information I have provided helps. I do know as busy as we all get that a little reminder like this is useful. Better to get the reminder by reading this than us meeting out on the street because a violation has occurred. Those reminders can be costly.

### FIRST STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT PHASES I & II

The contractor has returned to Phase I of the First Street Reconstruction Project from Main Avenue to U.S. 69 to finish the project. The remaining sidewalks have been constructed, and as the weather cooperates, the contractor will clean up, finish grade, and seed the site. Soon, as part of its construction contract, the contractor will do a final walkthrough of the project with City staff and the Engineer to identify items which must be fixed before the City makes final payment. As items are identified, it may be necessary to do spot repairs on the pavement of First Street which would require temporary lane closures while this work is being done. EcoTech is the prime contractor for Phase I of the project. The contract amount for Phase I is \$848,611.40.

The City held a bid opening for Phase II of the project on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Eight contractors submitted bids, but due to procedural irregularities with the bids, the City Council decided to reject all bids and ask for new bids on May 17, 2007 at 2:30 pm. The Council will consider the bids at its May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting and hold a public hearing on the bids that are received. If a contractor is awarded the project on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, work will likely begin the first week in June and continue until October 1, 2007. Phase II of the project will begin at Main Avenue and work its way west to 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The project may also include water main improvements on Main Avenue from Railway Street to First Street. The reconstruction involves replacing the existing sanitary sewer, water main, and upgrading the storm sewer system. All sanitary sewer and water services will be reconstructed to the right of way line. The storm sewer improvements involve constructing a new 15-inch concrete sewer 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. If you have any questions on the First Street project, please feel free to contact Gabe Nelson, Project Engineer with Snyder & Associates, at 515-964-2020.

**CITY WIDE GARAGE SALE** will be May 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm. contact the Parks and Recreation Department for further details, 597-2515.