

HUXLEY

COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EVENTS

Volume III, Issue X

October 2007

CITY AND SCHOOL SIGN IS COMPLETED

Ballard Schools and the City of Huxley partnered to erect an electronic message board sign on Highway 69 to convey to the residents in the area events that are going on.

The sign will provide to residents current information which will include school closings and winter warnings for parking purposes within the city. The sign will assist in providing information pertaining to City of Huxley events and Ballard School District events.

HERO WEATHERIZATION EFFORT

The Huxley Enhancement and Recreational Organization (HERO) has teamed up with the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) and Alliant Energy in a weatherization effort aimed to reduce the energy usage across the state of Iowa. Each autumn since 2005, the IUB leads an effort to help those eligible reduce their energy bills and increase their comfort during the cold winter months. HERO is leading this effort in the Huxley community and we are looking for applicants.

This effort is free of charge and focuses on helping the elderly, low-income, or disabled living in the Huxley community. This effort is scheduled to take place during the final two weekends of October and will include the following weatherization tasks:

- Sealing cracks around windows and doors
- Sealing any penetrations around exterior walls
- Applying weather stripping and/or covering windows with plastic film
- Installing foam outlet gaskets and outlet covers in exterior walls

We ask those interested in the program to fill out an application and return it to the Huxley City Hall or simply fill it out and submit it at any of the pickup locations by October 12, 2007. We will be selecting 20-25 homes on a first come first serve basis. Weatherization efforts will take place on October 20th and 27th, depending on the number of applicants, and we will be contacting you to schedule a date. Applications can be found at the Huxley City Hall, local Churches, Senior Service Center, and the Huxley food pantry.

Contact Information:
City Hall c/o HERO Weatherization
515 N. Main Ave.
Huxley, IA 50124
515-597-2562

HUXLEY PARKS AND RECREATION NEWS

FROM THE "NEW" DIRECTOR:

It is with great enthusiasm and pleasure that I introduce myself, Joshua Larsen, to the Huxley community as your new Director of Parks & Recreation. A native of Le Mars, Iowa, and 2002 & '04 graduate of The University of Iowa, I have a deep niche for recreation, athletic activity, and in general bringing people together to share a common interest and will strive to provide opportunities in those areas for all age groups by maintaining and enhancing our program offerings. Upon graduating from The University of Iowa, I was employed by the Big Ten Conference in Chicago and then as an Assistant Director of Athletics for Facilities & Operations at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro prior to my start here in Huxley on Monday, September 17th.

An avid cyclist and recent alum of my inaugural RAGBRAI as a member of Team LIVESTRONG, I am a passionate advocate for the Lance Armstrong Foundation. I also enjoy golfing, hiking, reading, being involved with various community projects and spending time with family and friends.

For those of you who haven't been to the beautiful 3 C's facility, now is the time to stop by and check out many of the great activities that we offer. A few facility upgrades to mention, by end of September we anticipate the new flooring in the activity lounge to be installed and also welcome four new treadmills for the upstairs fitness area in an effort to continually provide cutting edge and innovative activity equipment.

Your comments and feedback are certainly welcome at anytime and I look forward to meeting many of you and hearing your input so we can work together in making our program and community one we can all continue to be very proud of. I look forward to this challenge with great expectations of myself and look forward to serving you.

RECREATION PROGRAM UPDATE:

Baton: Baton registrations are now available. This program will start Monday, October 8 and is for anyone in grades 1-8. There must be minimum of 15 participants for this class. Candace Ilg will return to teach this great program. For more information on how to sign up call the 3C's or visit us on line.

Tae-kwon-do: Tiny Tigers Tae-kwon-do is off to a great start, but our little guys need some more friends. This is a great opportunity for the younger children in the area to learn about respecting themselves and others while also learning the techniques of this martial art. Classes meet every Monday and Wednesday from 4:45-5:15 in the 3C's racquetball court.

Co-Rec Softball Tournament: The end of season tournament will begin Sunday, October 7th at Nord Kalsem Park. Please visit the website for tournament pairings and game times once they are released after the completion of the regular season on September 30th.

Men's Basketball League: Registration for our men's basketball league began Monday, September 24th. Please stop by the 3 C's and pick-up your registration form or print it online at www.huxleyiowa.org. Cost is \$325 for your team. Games will be played on Sunday afternoons and play will begin November 4th.

3rd-6th Youth Basketball: Registration has begun for youth basketball for grades 3-6. Forms can be picked up at 3 C's or are available online. Cost is \$25 per child and deadline is October 26th. Practices will be held in November, Monday through Friday with the exception of Wednesday. Games will be played on Saturdays and play begins December 8th.

CITY OF HUXLEY WEB SITE

What a great time we had at Prairie Fest! Be sure to look for the pictures and results from the contests on the Prairie Fest page. The site really got a workout during August with just under 3000 hits for the month and tons of parade and competition forms downloaded.

There are some really useful and interesting things on our site that you should check out. For example did you know the City Code is on the site? Other things of interest include the Community Calendar with most of the City meetings posted, the minutes and agenda's of City Council and other City boards are there too. You can find out information about the churches and parks not to mention reserving a book at the library or getting an entry form for sports at the 3C's Recreation Center.

Visit the site today at www.huxleyiowa.org and feel free to give a suggestion in our "Community Comments" right from the home page.

1st STREET RECONSTRUCTION – PHASE I AND II

Project update;

Phase II of the First Street Reconstruction Project from Main Avenue to Fifth Avenue is nearing the point where it can be paved. The sanitary sewer main is complete and all homes have had the services reconstructed and attached to the new main. The water main has been completed and all residences are now being served off the new main. The only underground work remaining is the final connection of the water main to the existing main at Fifth Avenue and installation of the a few more sump pump services at the west end of the project. Alliant Energy is currently reconstructing their gas main and services from Third Avenue to Fifth Avenue. Alliant estimates this work will take approximately one and a half weeks. If the gas main reconstruction progresses according to schedule, the contractor plans to pave First Street the first week of October. Construction of driveways and sidewalks will follow shortly behind that. Project completion is anticipated for the month of October. Sternquist Construction of Indianola, Iowa is the prime contractor for Phase II of the project. The contract amount for Phase II is \$570,107.15.

A walkthrough of Phase I of the project from Highway 69 to Main Avenue was held on September 18th. The Mayor, Council Members, City Staff, the Project Engineer, the prime contractor, and concerned residents attended. Residents had the opportunity to voice concerns over the construction of the project. The City is working with the contractor to address the issues that were raised so the project can be properly reseeded this fall. EcoTech Construction of Grimes, Iowa is the prime contractor for Phase I of the project. The contract amount for Phase I is \$848,611.40.

SE ANNEXATION - PHASE II IMPROVEMENTS

The SE Annexation project is nearing completion. The 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. The contractor has constructed 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. This lift station is nearly complete. Almost 2 ½ miles of new water main has been installed throughout the project limits. 560th Avenue has been paved. The existing 22-foot wide gravel road has been 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. Almost a mile of storm sewer has been installed along 560th Avenue. It is anticipated that this infrastructure will serve commercial and residential developments along the west side of I-35.

The final connection of 560th Avenue and turn lane on Highway 210 has been paved. Once the pavement markings have been completed, 560th Avenue will be reopened to traffic. The contractor is making electrical connections in the new lift station north of 315th Street, and the water main along Highway 210 in front of Monsanto must still be completed. Reconstruction of the church entrance onto Highway 210 and the final surface restoration must still take place as well.

Phase II of the SE Annexation infrastructure improvements has a construction cost of over \$3.4 million. EcoTech Construction, L.L.C. of Grimes, Iowa is the prime contractor.

HUXLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS:

FALL PROGRAMS!

Fall into Fall Programming at the library! So far, our Fall programs include: Children's Programming, an Adult Reading Group *and* a Jane Austen Book Club, a continuation of "Where in the Ballard Community Is It?" and the Youth Book Club.

Our Children's program theme is Autumn-ation in which we are discovering the evolution of transportation and different modes of transportation. We have decorated the library with street signs and a "Road to Literacy" to get kids excited. We are seeing consistent participation in our children's programs even though many children are now in school. If you would like more information or to register your child(ren), please contact Kris Bugler at 597-2552 or krisbugler@gmail.com

Kris has implemented a new Adult Reading Group that reads one popular fiction book each month and then meets to discuss differing opinions about the book. Similarly, the Jane Austen group will read and discuss all of the books by that author. For more information, or to sign up for either program (or both!) please contact Kris Bugler at 597-2552 or krisbugler@gmail.com. We are continuing the "Where is it" program because it has been a great success and we have seen increasing community interest and involvement. Instead of "Where in Huxley is it?" it now includes Cambridge, Kelley & Slater. *(I can give you a hint – this month the mystery picture is not in Huxley)*

Our youth book club is still in the beginning stage for the year. We have asked that the kids bring their own ideas to the table so that they will feel it is their program and take ownership of it. When they 'own' it they are more likely to participate and invite friends to come as well. The youth book club meets on early out Wednesday's at 1:30pm in the library. Any child that is able to read books in the JF-YA (Juvenile Fiction up to Young Adult) range is encouraged to attend. If your child is interested or you would like more information, please contact Kris Bugler at 597-2552 or krisbugler@gmail.com

Did you know?

Did you know that October always begins on the same day of the week as January in non-leap years? Did you know that the first appearance of "In God We Trust" on U.S. paper currency was October 1st, 1957? It's hard to believe that the summer is over and it's October already! Before you know it, children will be out trick-or-treating. . .

Please help support the Friends of the Public Library! *A special thank you to all of you that regularly support the Friends of HPL!*

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.

*Local pickup is available, please email for details:
huxlib@huxcomm.net

Congratulations to the Friends of HPL for winning first place for their Prairie Fest float!

MORE INFORMATION FOR YOU:

You can renew materials 24 hours a day – 7 days a week! Just email a renewal request to: huxlib@huxcomm.net, or call 597-2552, or send a fax to 597-2554. Of course, you can always renew your items in person! All renewals are retroactive to date received. When in doubt, re-check it out!

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

Thank you,
Mike Hanks
Director of Library Services
Huxley Public Library
515 North Main Avenue / P.O. Box 5
3C's Building – 2nd Floor
Huxley, IA 50124

Fall, Winter & Spring hours:

Monday:	7:30am to 8:00pm
Tuesday:	7:30am to 8:00pm
Wednesday:	7:30am to 8:00pm
Thursday:	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

**CITY UPDATE
Lee Ruddick, City Clerk**

The election for City Council and Mayor will be held on Tuesday, November 6th. The voting polls in the Council Chambers at the 3C's Building (515 North Main Ave.) will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm Residents for the City of Huxley will vote for a mayor, two city council positions with a four year term, and one city council position to fill a vacancy for a term that ends in two years.

The incumbent Mayor Nels A. Nord, is running unopposed. Running for the two seats for a four year term are Mark Baker, Don Brendeland, and incumbent Leslee Beglinger. Running to fill the vacancy is Wesley Stover and the council appointed incumbent Ronald Krull.

One of the most challenging and exciting responsibilities an individual can assume is to become a mayor or council member. There are lots of exciting things going on in Huxley right now to make Huxley an even better place to live, and we applaud the willingness of these individuals to serve the community.

Don't forget to vote on November 6, 2007!