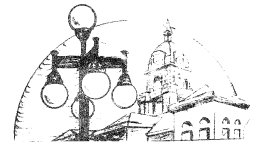


VINTON VIEWPOINT

January 2010



Coordinator Notes

It is that time of the year to do a little reflecting. Not only is it the start of a new year, and a new decade, but it is also the time of the year when the City is in the middle of planning for the next fiscal year which begins in July.

We have many exciting things happening in Vinton. The new hotel on K Avenue (Highway 218) should begin construction soon. The new hotel will provide a place for people to stay who are visiting friends and relatives or stopping by on business. Those individuals staying there will also visit our restaurants and local businesses which will help the local economy.

The City is also in the middle of our FEMA property acquisition program resulting from the devastating flood of 2008. While it is hard to think about the loss of property resulting from the flood, with assistance from the state and FEMA, the City will be able to take this negative and make something positive happen for the community. There have been some discussions about the use of some of the properties near the river for the planned trail system and future park area.

We have also heard some very positive news about the expansion of the number of AmeriCorps Members at the Midwest Regional Campus at the Iowa Braille and Sight-Saving School. Recently approved federal funding is going to authorize another 80-member unit to start on the campus in April 2010. This will

mean that future AmeriCorps cycles will have 240 members based at the school. While they will not be there all the time, the members will have an impact on the community when they are here by shopping at local stores, watching movies at the Palace and helping out with projects in the community. Besides those tangible benefits, it feels great knowing that these volunteers are going out to help people around the region and the country and, in a way, representing Vinton, Iowa in the process. We have a lot to be proud of!

Police Department

Just a quick reminder: You must have the windows, lights and license plates of your vehicle cleared of snow and ice before driving on city streets. While this is an obvious safety necessity, it is also the law and you can be ticketed.

Also, remember it is illegal to park on the street when there are two or more inches of snow until the street has been plowed. This allows the street crews to safely plow the street better and keeps your vehicle from being buried under the snow during the plowing operation. This year has seen improved compliance with this ordinance, but we are asking everyone to please remove your vehicle from the street until the street has been plowed.

More on the reverse side!

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Street Department

December was an incredibly busy month and January started out just as busy. The big December snow storm really ate through our overtime budget, but we have been able to save costs in other areas. For example, the cost of salt is about half of what it was last year. While this doesn't guarantee that it will be available all the time, the lower cost assists us by allowing more to be bought and used when it is available.

In order to save money, we will probably be picking up the downtown windrows of snow during the day for the rest of the winter unless we have another heavy snowfall. Please try to avoid the areas where you see us working for your safety.

The other task that has the street department busy has been the continued cleanup from the June 2009 windstorm. As you recall, a serious windstorm took place on June 19. While the storm only lasted for only a short time, it caused a lot of damage to trees in the City's right-of-ways along the streets. There are still about 70 trees that still need to be taken down as a result of the storm. The department will be working on this issue for some time.

Water Department

The City of Vinton Water Department is asking residents and businesses for their help in clearing the snow around fire hydrants. Snow accumulation and drifts can cover and hide hydrants making them difficult, if not impossible, to find quickly. In the event of a fire, precious time can be lost if firefighters have to locate and shovel out hydrants.

Please consider "adopting" a fire hydrant that may be located near your property and maintain a 3-foot clearance around the hydrant as deemed necessary in heavy snowfalls and windy conditions. Fire hydrants are located close to city streets, so please be aware and use caution with passing vehicle traffic.

There are over 260 fire hydrants in the city limits. Your help in keeping them clear is greatly appreciated and can help save precious time in a potentially life-threatening situation.

Water Pollution Control Department

The WPC Department has been busy working to keep the wastewater treatment facility and lift stations humming along. We are looking into various ideas of keeping the lift stations safe during future flooding. The City may be purchasing HESCO barriers in the future to place around the main lift station to keep it running and avoid sewer backups resulting from flooding waters.