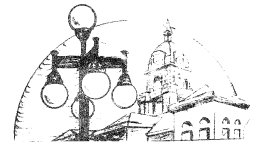


# VINTON VIEWPOINT

July 2009



## Coordinator Notes

We are now in the middle of summer and have several projects underway that will contribute to the future of our city.

Near the end of the month, work will begin on 9<sup>th</sup> Street from 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. This two block area has greatly deteriorated over the years. The money that has been distributed to the city from the Local Option Sales Tax is being used to pay for these repairs. The total cost will be around \$153,000, plus another \$30,000 for engineering services.

The other major construction project is the building of a “T”-hanger and taxilane at the Vinton Veteran’s Memorial Airport. The hanger is known as a T-hanger because the spaces for the airplanes inside the hanger are arranged together as Large “T” shapes. This allows for more planes in a smaller space. There will be one large space and three smaller spaces. This project is being paid with 95 percent federal funding. The airport commission is also looking at other projects such as a new entrance sign and jet fueling station.

The city also received word that our property acquisition grant has been approved. There are 28 properties listed in this grant. We are working with the East Central Council of Governments (ECICOG) to administer this program. I can tell you that the ECICOG staff has already contacted several property owners to move forward with this important

step in the city’s recovery from the flood. There are also several other smaller projects taking place. If you are inconvenienced by the construction taking place, remember that the inconvenience is only short-term, but the benefits to the city will last a long time.

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## Police Department

Just a quick reminder for anyone riding a bike or skateboard in the downtown area—it is against city ordinances to ride a bike or skateboard on the sidewalks in the downtown area. This is for the safety of people walking out of the downtown businesses and your safety as well!

The Vinton Police Department has also recently hired a new officer. His name is Alex Reinert. You will soon be seeing him making patrols around town.

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## Economic Development

It looks like the project for the new hotel will be moving forward. You will probably notice some news stories about the plating of the land being approved and the city working towards building a new road. We anticipate that this economic opportunity will be a great boost for the city’s future. A quick survey was done near the end of last year which determined that there was definitely a need for more temporary lodging in Vinton besides the great ones we currently have.

**More on the reverse side!**

**Want to know more about what is going on in Vinton?**

**Want to read the latest Council minutes or the agenda for the next meeting?**

**Want to know why Vinton is a great place to live?**

**Then check out [www.vintoniowa.net](http://www.vintoniowa.net)!**

## Street Department

We want to thank everyone who helped following the straight-line windstorm on June 19. Several large trees fell down along with many limbs and branches ranging in various sizes. The city crews spent about two weeks to clean up the debris. There was about \$40,000 in employee and vehicle time between the street and water departments. We still have two major piles of wood debris to grind or chip. This will cost between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

Thanks to everyone who was able to take their debris to the brush dump. This cut down on the number of hours that the city crews had to spend during the cleanup. And thanks to those unable to take the debris to the brush dump for your patience and understanding as you waited for the crews to get to your house.

If you have any storm-generated wood debris that you plan to take to brush dump, please take it to the compost/brush dump site which is at the 3<sup>rd</sup> right turn entrance going north from the Cedar River Bridge on Highway 150.

The street department will now be starting their annual chip-sealing, so please slow down when you see the work being done. If you can, please detour around on side streets that are not being worked on. Remember, a little extra time and patience will benefit us all.

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## Sewer Department

We recently completed repairs to the Stony Arch Sewer Lift Station, formally known as the County Home Lift Station. This lift station received some damage during last summer's flood. In completing the repairs, which included replacing the control panel and generator, a platform was also constructed to lift the control panel and generator above the level of the flood. This will help to make sure the controls and generator will not be flooded again. While everything is working fine now, we also have some mitigation work to complete at the Old Main Sewer Lift Station. We are waiting for approval from FEMA to do this.

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## Water Department

Your toilet in your home may be slowly leaking and you may not even be aware of it since you may not ever hear the leak. Have you ever wondered how to check your toilet to see if it is leaking? Simply place a drop or two of food coloring in the tank, wait a few minutes and see if the color appears in the bowl. If the color does appear in the bowl, then you have a leak. However, the repair may be as simple as replacing the flapper in the bowl. This is a simple, cheap repair that you may be able to do yourself in contrast to the water that may be wasting down the drain and costing you in your utility bills. For more information, contact Vinton City Hall at 472-4707.

Besides helping the street department clean up after the big windstorm, the water department has been fixing a couple of water leaks and replacing a couple of fire hydrants. We also issued the annual Consumer Confidence Report on the water that is treated and sent to your home or business. The report appeared in the newspaper not too long ago. If you need a copy of the report, please call Vinton City Hall at 472-4707.