



City of Polk City Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 2

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

City Hall :

112 3rd Street
PO Box 426

Monday—Friday
8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Phone: 984-6233

Fax: 984-6177

E-mail: snickles@polkcity.org

Web site: www.polkcity.org
(Clerk, building permits and inspections, water billing)

Police & Fire:

309 W. Van Dorn

For an emergency dial 911

For non-emergencies:

Police: 984-6565

Fire: 984-6304

County Dispatch: 286-3333

Library:

1500 W. Broadway
P.O. Box 259

Phone: 984-6119

Mon.-Thurs.: 10 a.m.—8 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.—4 pm.

E-mail: library@polkcitylibrary.org

@polkcitylibrary.org

Web site:

www.polkcitylibrary.org

City Maintenance:

301 Northside Dr.

City Recycling Center:

409 E. Northside Dr.

Sunday—Saturday

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

U.S. Post Office:

302 N. 3rd St.

984-6137

General Election—Tuesday, November 5

Mayor And 2 Council Seats On Ballot

On November 5, residents of Polk City will be voting for the mayor and two city council positions. Gary Heuertz is the current mayor and Dan Lane and Rob Mordini hold the two city council seats that will be voted on in November.

Those wishing to seek one of these offices must take out nomination papers. These papers are available from the following offices: Secretary of State web site, <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/electioninfo/cityelections.html>, Polk County Auditor and City Hall. City Hall can provide you with a packet that will give you the information needed to file papers. Candidates may begin collecting signatures at anytime. However, nomination papers cannot be accepted before Monday, August 26, 2013. The last day for filing is on Thursday, September 19, 2013, no later than 5:00 p.m. Nomination papers must be filed with Polk City's city clerk or the clerk's designee. Candidates **may not** file nomination papers with the auditor. (continued on page 2)

Hotel/Motel Tax on Ballot

The council approved a resolution to place on the General Election ballot that will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, an Iowa Hotel and Motel Tax to be imposed at 7% within the City of Polk City. This tax would only be charged to the people who use a hotel or motel in Polk City. The question will be set out as below:

Shall the City of Polk City, Iowa be authorized to impose a Hotel and Motel Tax at the rate of 7%, effective January 1, 2014, with the revenues derived from the tax to be used for the purposes of supporting local and regional recreation, convention, cultural and entertainment facilities, for the promotion and encouragement of tourist and convention business, and for other purposes permitted by Chapter 423A of the Code of Iowa (2013)?

2/7th of the revenues derived from this tax will be sent to Bravo and 2/7th
(continued on page 2)



Labor Day

A reminder all city offices and library will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2.

(Mayor And 2 Council Seats On Ballot continued from page 1)

Terms for these seats are for four years. The council voted at the June 24 council meeting to raise the salaries of the mayor and council members beginning January 1, 2014. The mayor will be compensated \$7500 per year payable monthly. The council will be compensated \$3,000 per year. They also receive a reimbursement of 50% of the cost of a single membership to a fitness center located within the city limits of Polk City.

(Hotel/Motel Tax on Ballot continued from page 1)

will also be sent to the Des Moines Convention Bureau.

The remaining 3/7ths revenues will be used to promote and improve the library, parks, arts and historical projects here in Polk City. The Polk City City Council will oversee the distribution of these funds.

Weed Ordinance in Effect

A reminder to all property owners that Chapter 10.12 of the City Codebook is in effect year round. This section of the code book states that it is the duty of the property owner to keep property free from weeds, vines, brush, or other vegetation when such growth constitutes a health, safety, or fire hazard. Grass or weeds cannot grow in excess of six (6) inches. The property owners in violation of this code will receive notice. If not complied with, the city can remove the violation and assess the property owner.

Let's Keep Polk City Clean – No Grass Clippings or Leaves in Streets

Did you know that it is against city code to place your grass clippings or to rake your leaves on to the street? The city would like to remind citizens of the following code: 135.03 **PLACING DEBRIS ON STREET.** It is unlawful for any person to throw or deposit on any street or alley any grass, glass bottle, nails, tacks, wire, cans, trash, garbage, rubbish, litter, offal, leaves, grass or any other debris likely to be washed into the storm sewer and clog the storm sewer, or any substance likely to injure any person, animal or vehicle. (Code of Iowa, Se. 321.369).

Water & Sewer Rate Increase In Effect With July Billing

At the June 10 meeting the City Council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 2013-800. Both water and sewer rates increased of 5% beginning with the July billing period.

Water service will be at the following monthly rates within the city.

Gallons used per Month	Rate
First 1,000 gallons	\$8.52(minimum bill)
All over 1,000 gallons	\$3.40 per 1,000 gallons

Service Availability Charge will increase to \$9.32 per month (minimum bill) from \$8.88 per month. A service availability charge is for the sewer to go by your property and the regular maintenance of the city owned sewer lines.

Usage Charge will increase to \$3.51 per each \$1,000 gallons of water used from \$3.34. The usage fee is based on the number of gallons of water used. The fee is per 1000 gallons.

Mosquito Spraying

The Public Works Department will be spraying for mosquitoes through October twice a week, weather permitting.

In order for an application to be applied, the wind speed must be less then 10 mph and there can be no threat of rain two hours after application.

City To Start E-notification Of Utility Bills

Would you rather have your water bill emailed to you instead of receiving it through the mail? You will still be able to pay your water bill as you have in the past. This program will only affect the delivery of your bill, not the payment. If you would like to receive your water bill by email please email staff at: snickles@polkcity.org

Recycling Center Hours

The City Recycling Center is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., 7 days a week. The center is located at 301 East Northside Drive. There is no charge for Polk City residents to bring leaves, grass clippings, brush, and tree limbs to the center. The center will also accept all of the items that can be put into your curbside-recycling cart.



Happenings at the Library

Lyme Disease—Stop Drinking the Lyme Kool Aid!

It's EVERYWHERE! Do you have chronic joint pain, an auto-immune disease, chronic fevers, chronic headaches, neck stiffness, brain fog? Join Dr. JoAnn Tully of Big Creek Family Chiropractic for a two hour discussion on Lyme disease on Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. Come get the facts that medical school doesn't teach us and learn about the Lyme wars!

SHIPP "Welcome to Medicare" Seminar

Are you going to be eligible for Medicare in the near future? Have you been on Medicare for awhile and want to better understand what it offers? Do you have a family member you help with Medicare issues? "Welcome to Medicare" is for you! This two hour seminar on Monday, September 23 at 6:00 p.m. will cover Medicare Part A and Part B benefits, the prescription drug benefit (Part D), Medicare Advantage plans and Medicare supplement insurance. **Pre-registration is required. Call the library at 515-984-6773 to register.**

SHIIP, the Senior Health Insurance Information Program, is a service of the State of Iowa. SHIIP counselors are trained by the state and do not sell or promote any insurance companies, policies or agents. For more information or questions call 1-800-351-4664.

Social Security Filing—Helping you File For Maximum Lifetime Benefits

Most married couples often make the mistake of filing for their Social Security benefits based on just their age, as if they were single. Most divorced and widowed individuals do not know the strategies to maximize their retirement benefits. Making a simple filing mistake can cost tens of thousand of dollars over your retirement lifetime. If you are married, widowed or divorced between ages 55 and 68, have not yet filled or have filed and want to see if you can correct your filing this presentation on Thursday, September 26 at 6:30 p.m. is for you. **Pre-registration is required.**

Storytime Wednesday

Come in at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays and share a stack of great picture books with Miss Leslie. All ages area welcome.

Congratulations Miss Leslie

Congratulations to Leslie Anstedt , Youth Librarian for receiving her Library Management I certificate.

Coffee Wednesdays

Join us on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon by the fireplace. Enjoy a cup of coffee, hot tea or ice tea.

Sit N Stitch

If you like to knit, crochet, quilt, embroider—no matter what you stitch join us on Thursdays. We will be at the fireplace from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Book Clubs

Monday Book Club will be discussing *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriett Jacobs on August 19. On September 16, Bill O'Reilly's *Killing Lincoln* will be the book of discussion.

Wednesday Book Club will be meeting September 4 to discuss Louise Erdrich's *The Round House*.

Both book clubs start at 7:00 p.m. and new members are always welcome.. Books are available at the circulation desk.

FREE WI-Fi at the Library!
Download an audio or e-book
at:
wilbor.lib.overdrive.com
Visit us on Facebook/Pinterest/
Twitter

Topics of Interest

Mary Maloney, Polk County Treasurer

Property Tax Deadline: September Property Tax deadline is just around the corner. Pay your property taxes online at www.IowaTaxAndTags.gov. Try the electronic check option. It's less than a stamp at \$0.30.

Property Tax Deadline Satellite Station: A satellite station at Polk County River Place will be available for the payment of property taxes on Monday, September 30th. The satellite station will be located at 2309 Euclid Avenue, Room 5 on the East end of the building between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Accepted forms of payment at the satellite station are check, credit card, debit card, and electronic check. Service Fees apply to credit card, debit card, and electronic check payments. NO CASH transactions will be accepted at the satellite station.

Plate Replacement Program: If you were issued plates in 1998 through 2003 and you still have those plates, you will receive new plates in 2013 when you renew your registration. This is an ongoing program, in which every 10 years you will receive new plates. Renew your tags online at www.IowaTaxAndTags.gov. Try the electronic check option. It's less than a stamp at \$0.30.

***Drop Off For Rechargeable
Batteries***

**A reminder that City Hall and
the Library are drop off
locations for
rechargeable batteries.**

Recorder's Office Reminder

Julie Haggerty, Polk County Recorder

Julie Haggerty would like to remind citizens that the Recorder's Office is a passport acceptance facility. Passport applications are accepted Monday through Friday from 7:30 until 4:00 p.m. Applications are accepted BY APPOINTMENT ONLY after 4:00 pm.

"Due to the increase in the number of requests, it has become necessary to require appointments for anyone wishing to apply after 4:00 pm," stated Haggerty, "It is a time consuming process, and we encourage groups of 3 or more to call ahead," she added.

Applicants should bring the following five (5) items:

1. An original or certified copy of their birth certificate OR previously issued passport
2. Photo identification (i.e.: driver's license)
3. At least one (1) check or money order payable to: US DEPARTMENT OF STATE (\$110.00 for adults 16 & older - \$80.00 for children under 16*)
4. \$25.00 Facility Acceptance Fee – Check, money order, cash, or debit/credit card accepted
5. One (1) 2 x 2 photograph that complies with passport requirements (Photo services available in the Recorder's Office for an additional \$10.00 fee)

Normal processing time for a passport is 4-6 weeks. Expedited service is available for an additional \$60.00 per application.

Visit our website: www.polkrecorder.com for passport application forms and information.

Our office is located in the Polk County Administration Building – 111 Court Avenue – Des Moines, Iowa. If you need further assistance or would like to make an appointment, please call our office at 515-286-3160.

*Minor children under the age of sixteen (16) must appear in person with both parents when applying for a passport.

Marina Cove Pond

The following was reported to the Park Commission at their July 1 meeting. It was received and filed at the July 8 council meeting.

Steve Konrady a Research Associate with Iowa State University Ecology & Management reported to the commission on the Survey that was done with the residents of Marina Cove who live in the watershed area of the Marina Cove Pond. There were 290 surveys sent out with 67 households responding back. That is a 23% response which is a fairly good response to a survey such as this one was. Fifty percent did not know that run off of rain, lawn treatments, and animal waste from their lawns ran off into the pond. A majority of the owners who responded own pets; fertilize their lawns four or more times a year. Forty percent of the residents use the park for walking and other outdoor activities 20 plus times a year. Sixty percent would like to fish in the pond.

Konrady reported to the commission that he had been out on the pond to do a fish and vegetation study. He reported that the maximum depth is 22 feet which is very good. Some of the concerns of the residents have been the algae which is growing around the shelf along the perimeter of the pond; this is rooted vegetation which is growing as it should be. Konrady reported that they like to see approximately 15% coverage on a pond like Marina Cove. He thought we may have a little less than 15%.

Jennifer Welch an Urban Conservationist with Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, reported to the commission on the watershed areas around the pond. Jennifer shared with the commission how the water flowing from the streets and homeowners properties can have adverse effects on the pond. She presented ways the homeowners could make use of rain gardens, rain barrels and more permeable paving materials to retain more of the water on their property.

Ben Dodd, Fisheries Management Biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources reported to the commission the importance of keeping the run off of silt and sand to a minimum. He recommended that the city look into a pond maintenance plan, which would help the city with maintenance of the pond.

He expressed that he could give the city the names of companies or individuals who do this type of work. He also shared with the commission that areas of the pond could be spot treated to clear up some of the shoreline for fishing. This spot treatment would not hurt the pond.

The commission asked City staff to contact someone to give a draft and cost of a maintenance plan. This item will be on the August agenda.

The following was reported to the Park Commission at their August 5 meeting. It was received and filed at the August 12 council meeting.

Marina Cove Pond-Pond Management Recommendations from the Iowa Pond Guy, L.L.C. were presented to the Commission, by Assistant City Administrator, Nabity. The proposal made recommendations for the removal of muskrats and introduction of beneficial bacteria into the pond to control sludge and foul odors.

Upon a motion by Hill, second by Hiatt the commission voted by roll call and unanimously to recommend to council the approval of muskrat removal at a cost of \$200.00 for a set-up fee and \$45.00 per muskrat trapped. However the muskrat removal is contingent upon a representative from The Pond Guy, LLC attending a parks meeting and explaining the bacteria treatment plan for the pond.

Public Works Director, Schulte shared the layout for the playground equipment with the commission and advised them on how he would like to locate the equipment on the site. The commission discussed the layout and had no objections. He also advised the commission that public works employees would be starting the assembly this week and may have the equipment installed prior to August 20th. He felt that volunteers would not be necessary.

A plan received today from Total Quality for seeding the area around the pond was presented to the commission. It was not clear if the proposal was the same as recommended by Jeff Walters. It was recommended by Council Liaison Dvorak that Jeff Walter's review the quote and confirm that Total Quality was following his seeding recommendations. It was also noted that this needs to be reviewed by Jeff Walters and be on the Parks Commission agenda for the September meeting, in order to have seeding done in current year.

City of Polk City Directory

Mayor:

Gary Heuertz 984-6950

E-mail: gheuertz@polkcity.org

City Council Members:

Ron Anderson 984-6365

E-mail: randerson@polkcity.org

Dave Dvorak 984-6502

E-mail: ddvorak@polkcity.org

Dan Lane 984-6931

E-mail: dlane@polkcity.org

Rob Mordini 984-9256

E-mail: rmordini@polkcity.org

Jeff Walters 577-8082

E-mail: jwalters@polkcity.org

City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Monday's of each month, 6:30 p.m. at City Hall. Additional meetings are scheduled as necessary.

City Hall:

City Admin.: Gary Mahannah

City Clerk: Sharon Nickles

Asst. Admin/Financial Officer:

Deb Nabity

Deputy Clerk: Charlotte Loter

Summer Rec Director

Citizen Liaison Ken Thornton

E-mail: kothornton@msn.com or

Phone—984-6678

Public Works:

Director: Mike Schulte

Supervisor: Randy Franzen

Staff: Dennis Godfrey

Willie Ostrander

Rick Riley

GIS Specialist Jake Schreier

City Newsletter:

Editor: Rosemary Hutton Taylor

984-6653

Photographer: Rich Taylor



Police:

Chief: Mark Bowersox

Sergeant: Dustin Bjornson

Senior Patrol Officer: Ron Lamfers

Officer: Matthew Untrauer

Officer: Matt Aicher

Officer: Tanner Rickertsen

Reserve Officer: Mark Schwalenberg

Fire & Rescue:

Chief: Dan Gubbins

Planning and Zoning:

Krista Bowersox 984-6991

Dennis Dietz 984-6343

Ron Hankins 984-6822

Jason Morse 208-3996

Robert Sarchet 321-4755

Doug Sires 984-9091

Deanna Triplett 984-6676

Planning & Zoning meets the 3rd

Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at

City Hall.

Tree Board:

Pat Hoppenworth 984-6829

Phil Jensen 685-3813

Jason Morse 208-3996

Ken Morse 984-6735

Bill Sharp 984-6948

Historic Preservation

Commission:

Roxana Currie 984-6928

Deanna Deason 984-6563

Collette Heuertz 984-6950

Sandra Thornton 984-6678

Marlene Youde 984-6967

Arts Council:

Kay Gettler 822-2354

Collette Heuertz 984-6950

Mary Kaye Madden 984-6597

Bob Miller 984-6207

Barb Pothast 707-4148

Community Library:

Director: Kim Kellogg

Asst. Director/ Adult Librarian:

Pam Witt

Children's Librarian

Leslie Anstedt

Librarian:

Library Board:

Kathy DeBruyn 984-6156

Corey Hoodjer 451-9670

Maureen Mc Guire 984-6636

Mike Miller 984-6557

Robert Wright 984-7761

Library Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the library.

Park Commission:

Brian Emerson 984-9217

Denise Franck 984-6200

Bob Fourez 984-6601

David Hiatt 984-6757

Sam Hill 984-7814

Park Commission meets the 1st

Monday of the month, 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Board of Adjustment:

Mike Bakken 984-6724

Dixie Bequeaith 984-6224

John Calhoun 210-8442

Anthony Capaldo 984-6281

Bill Currie 984-6928

Deanna Deason 984-6563

Ken Morse 984-6735

Board of Adjustment meets as needed.



All agendas and minutes can be found on the city web site: www.polkcity.org