

“BITS and PIECES” FROM YOUR CITY HALL



MARCH 2011

www.leclaireiowa.gov

<http://exchange.leclaireiowa.gov/weblink7>
[Link to City Records]

MAYOR:

Bob Scannell [12/31/11] 289-4242 Ext. 1111

E-mail: bscannell@leclaireiowa.gov. Please feel free to call City Hall and leave a message for either myself or the particular council member that you wish to speak to. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Ron Leiby [12/31/11] 289-4242 Ext. 1154

E-mail: rleiby@leclaireiowa.gov **Duties:** MAYOR PRO-TEM; Streets; Liaison to Tourism Board, Civic, and Business Organizations

Lane Bleeker [12/31/13] 289-4242 Ext. 1155

E-mail: lbleeker@leclaireiowa.gov. **Duties:** Finances; Special Projects; Liaison to the Police & Fire Departments.

Mary Farmer [12/31/11] 289-4242 Ext. 1153

E-mail: mfarmer@leclaireiowa.gov. **Duties:** Parks & Recreation; Liaison to Park Board, Rec. Board, and Levee Board.

Barry Long [12/31/13] 289-4242 Ext. 1152

E-mail: blong@leclaireiowa.gov. **Duties:** Utilities & Telecommunications (Sewer, Garbage, Cable, Telephone, Hydro Project); Liaison to the Library.

Debra Smith [12/31/13] 289-4242 Ext. 1151

E-mail: dsmith@leclaireiowa.gov. **Duties:** Policies and Ordinances; Liaison to Planning & Zoning; Liaison to Board of Adjustment.

LECLAIRE PARK BOARD/LCIC

The Park Committee and the LeClaire Community Improvement Corp. will be holding their monthly can collection (5 cent deposit cans and bottles, aluminum pie plates, and aluminum pet food cans.) fundraiser on Saturday, March 5th at 10:00 a.m. - Noon. The cans are collected on N. 3rd Street across from the Veteran's Memorial Baseball Complex. If possible clean cans are greatly appreciated. For at-home pickup of cans/bottles at any time, call 563-289-5763, and leave your name and phone number so convenient times can be arranged.

Please help remove garlic mustard from Huckleberry Park on May 7, 2010 from 9:00 AM – noon at Huckleberry Park meeting by the Water Tower. Garlic Mustard is an invasive,

noxious plant that threatens our native woodlands. Help us control it in our community by participating in the challenge. Waste Commission will provide the gloves and bags. Please join the after event party at Black Hawk State Park with a hot dog roast. Any questions should be directed to Richard Gruhl at 289-5226.

LECLAIRE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

A variety of fun activities and important services are available @ the LeClaire Community Library. Stop in, visit our website @ www.leclairelibrary.org, or call the library for details (563) 289-4242 (option 4).

Teen Reading Challenge- Read Like a Rock Star!-

Congratulations to the teens @ LeClaire Community Library for winning the regional prize for “Highest Average for Minutes Read” during the recent **Teen Reading Challenge**, sponsored locally by the PALS/Quad-City **Young Adult Librarian’s Exchange** (YALE) and the Friends of the LeClaire Community Library. Teens from local Quad-City area libraries were challenged to track the minutes they read from January 9-29th. LeClaire Library teens *rocked* this contest reading an average of 1409 minutes per participant!! Thanks to PALS/YALE, Friends of the LeClaire Community Library, and LeClaire Library’s Melvina Davis for coordinating this event.

LeClaire Community Library’s Kid’s Spring Reading Challenge- March 1-31st. LeClaire Library teens set the bar pretty high during their recent reading challenge. But, now it’s up to the kids (aged birth-12 yrs.) to show us how it’s done!! During the month of March, LeClaire Library kids will track their minutes, share in some great activities and have the chance to win some great prizes. The Kid’s Spring Reading Challenge Kick-off is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2011. On Kick-off Day “Rascal,” the mascot for the Quad-City River Bandits, will join children & their families at Preschool Story-time (6:30 pm). Reading calendars and program details will be available at the library during the last week of February and throughout March. Questions? Call Robyn @ the LeClaire Community Library (563) 289-4242, (option 4).

Iowa Library Services for the Blind and Physically Disabled-

Recently the LeClaire Community Library became a proud participant in this important program sponsored by the Iowa Dept. of the Blind. The **Iowa Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped** provides books and other materials in alternative formats to Iowa residents who are unable to read standard print materials. Thousands of books are available in a variety of formats: [Braille](#), [large print](#), [cassette](#) and [digital](#) audio recordings, print/Braille, descriptive video, and electronic text [mailed to your home](#). Registered readers may also [download audio and Braille books and magazines online](#). *Eligibility*-Library services are available **at no cost to Iowans of any age** who cannot read traditional print materials because of a visual disability, physical disability, or physically-based reading disability.

The LeClaire Community Library can provide promotional materials, preview & demonstration of devices and catalogs, as well as assist eligible patrons with the registration & certification process. For program details, contact Library Director, Sue Mannix at the LeClaire Community Library (563) 289-4242 (option 4). Program details are also available online @ the Iowa Dept. for the Blind’s website @ <http://www.blind.state.ia.us/library/>. Sue Mannix- Director

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION & CONTACT HELP LINE!! (563)-289-4242 (Ext. 1502)

**“BE A PART OF THE SOLUTION ...
BY PREVENTING WATER POLLUTION!”**



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT “EMERGENCY CONTACT”

We want to remind everyone that the City’s PWD can be reached 24/7/365 by dialing the City’s main phone # **289-4242 and pressing 3 & 1500**. This will put you directly into the PWD emergency contact voice mail box where you can leave a message which will be automatically relayed to City personnel.

SENIOR UTILITY NOTICE

All seniors who are eligible for the senior discount need to submit proof of income for the year 2010 by May 15, 2011 to stay on the senior rate. This proof can be in the form of a SSA-1099 or an income tax form. The income level requirements for 2010 are \$16,335 for a single resident or \$22,065 for a married resident. Please remember if you have anyone living with you that is under 65 you will not be eligible for this discount. Thank you.

HIGHER UTILITY BILL?

Because of the large snow fall at the first of February the City was unable to read meters at the usual time. Meters are normally read within the first 10 days of the month. This

month we did not, for the most part, start reading until February 14th so you may notice your sewer and garbage bill being higher than normal. Although your February bill may be higher, the good news is your March bill will be lower. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. If you have any questions please give us a call at 289-4242.

BRIDGEVIEW BONANZA

BRIDGEVIEW BONANZA 2011 will be held Friday, February 25, 2011. The event is at Bridgeview Elementary in Le Claire, Iowa from 5:30 pm - 8pm. The Annual event raises dollars for **BRIDGEVIEW PTA** that provides funding for projects the school district is not able to. **BONANZA 2011** welcomes: Bridgeview Elementary students, parents and relatives of students and members of the community that wish to support **BRIDGEVIEW ELEMENTARY**. Entrance into Bonanza: Children \$2; Adults \$5; Family \$20. Admission includes fun and games, also opportunities to bid on items. (children must be supervised by an adult.)

BUDGET PREPARATION SCHEDULE FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012

FEBRUARY 24, 2011 – City Administrator submits public hearing notice to Q.C. Times for publication.

FEBRUARY 26, 2011 – **POTENTIAL** Special Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to be used exclusively as a budget workshop session. (8:00 a.m. to noon)

FEBRUARY 28, 2011 - Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to be used exclusively as a budget workshop session. (7:00 p.m.)

MARCH 5, 2011 – **POTENTIAL** Special Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to be used exclusively as a budget workshop session. (8:00 a.m. to noon)

MARCH 7, 2010 - Regularly scheduled Council meeting. (7:00 p.m.)

MARCH 12, 2011 – **POTENTIAL** Special Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to be used exclusively as a budget workshop session. (8:00 a.m. to noon)

MARCH 14, 2011 - City Council conducts official public hearing on finalized budget and considers adoption of formal budget resolution for certification. Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to follow. (7:00 p.m.)

MARCH 15, 2011 - City Administrator certifies formal budget to County Auditor by 5:00 p.m. on this date.

MARCH 16, 2011 TO JULY 1, 2011 - City Administrator collects and organizes all budget preparation information to be processed and bound into official copies of the F.Y. '11 - '12 City Budget Packet.

BUFFALO BILL MUSEUM

The museum has two new exhibits in the works. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of start of the Civil War a display is being set up in the River Pilots' Pier building. It

will portray a civil war soldier's campsite as well as honor the 33 Le Claire men who lost their lives in battle. There will also be a women's fashion display in April showing clothing from the museum's collection. This would be a good event to include in your plans for the Le Claire Women's Weekend in April.

NOTICE: WEED ABATEMENT LAW

As of April 1st the City begins to implement the weed abatement process. Notices are being published in this publication and in the Quad City Times advising the property owners of their duty and responsibility to keep their property, (and that area between the street driving surface and the property line) free of weeds and other plant growth. **THERE WILL BE NO OTHER NOTICES!!** If a weed problem is found to exist the City will abate the problem and assess the costs accordingly to the property. The charge for abating weed nuisances will be \$75.00/hour for the first employee and \$30.00/hour for each additional employee, or if a contractor is used, the charge will be the contracted amount plus 25%. What constitutes a "weed nuisance"? Following is the definition established by law: In all areas of the City, any noxious weeds or vegetation, as defined by the Code of Iowa, are deemed to be nuisances, as well as any dense growth of weeds, vines, brush, or other similar vegetation which are reasonably believed to be constituting a public safety, health, or fire hazard. In any developed area within the City or within one hundred feet (100') of any developed area within the City, any weeds, vegetation, vines, brush, or other growth which exceeds ten inches (10") in height shall be deemed a nuisance. In all other areas of the City, any weeds, vegetation, vines, brush, or other growth which exceeds two feet (2') in height shall be deemed a nuisance. Natural areas, including but not limited to waterways, or farmland may exceed these established height limitations. Please review this material again and if you have any questions, call City Hall at any time.

LOOKING FOR METER READER

The City of LeClaire is looking to hire a private contractor to read meters. This would entail reading approximately 1,600 meters within the first 7 working days of every month between the hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. The City will provide the meter reading equipment (2 handheld units available) but it would be up to the contractor to provide their own vehicle(s), insurance, etc. The private contractor would be paid .25 for each meter read which as of November 2010, there were 1,621 meters. That would be \$405.25 for the first 12 months. Each November the number of meters will be reevaluated and the amount paid will be adjusted accordingly, thereby taking into account the new homes built or new irrigation meters installed within the prior year. If interested please contact Edwin N. Choate, City Administrator at (563) 289-4242 Ext. 1104.

LECLAIRE FIRE & RESCUE

Some Types of Fire Related Hazards Present During and After a Winter Storm: 1) Alternative heating devices used incorrectly create fire hazards. 2) Damaged or downed utility lines can present a fire and life safety hazard. 3) Water damaged appliances and utilities can be electrically charged. 4) Frozen water pipes can burst and cause safety hazards. 5) Leaking gas lines, damaged or leaking gas propane containers and leaking vehicle gas tanks may explode or ignite. 6) Generators are often used during power outages. Generators that are not properly used and maintained can be very hazardous. **Chemical Safety:** 1) Look for combustible liquids like gasoline, lighter fluid, and paint thinner that may have spilled. Thoroughly clean the spill and place containers in a well-ventilated area. 2) Keep combustible liquids away from heat sources. **Electrical Safety:** 1) If your home has sustained flood or water damage, and you can safely get to the main breaker or fuse box, turn off the power. 2) Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. This includes cable TV feeds. 3) Look for and replace frayed or cracked extension and appliance cords, loose prongs, and plugs. 4) Exposed outlets and wiring could present a fire and life safety hazard. 5) Appliances that emit smoke or sparks should be repaired or replaced. 6) Have a licensed electrician check your home for damage. **Gas Safety:** 1) Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak, immediately leave the house and leave the door(s) open. 2) Never strike a match. Any size flame can spark an explosion. 3) Before turning the gas back on, have the gas system checked by a professional. **Generator Safety:** 1) Follow the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines when using generators. 2) Use a generator or other fuel-powered machines outside the home. CO fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors. 3) Use the appropriate sized and type power cords to carry the electric load. Overloaded cords can overheat and cause fires. 4) Never run cords under rugs or carpets where heat might build up or damage to a cord may go unnoticed. 5) Never connect generators to another power source such as power lines. The reverse flow of electricity or 'back feed' can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker. **Heating Safety:** 1) Kerosene heaters may not be legal in your area and should only be used where approved by authorities. 2) Do not use the kitchen oven range to heat your home. In addition to being a fire hazard, it can be a source of toxic fumes. 3) Alternative heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least 3 feet away. 4) Make sure your alternative heaters have 'tip switches.' These 'tip switches' are designed to automatically turn off the heater in the event they tip over. 5) Only use the type of fuel recommended by the manufacturer and follow suggested guidelines. 6) Never refill a space heater while it is operating or still hot. 7) Refuel heaters only outdoors. 8) make sure wood stoves are properly installed and at least 3 feet away from combustible materials. Ensure they have the proper floor support and adequate ventilation. 9) Use a glass or metal

screen in front of your fireplace to prevent sparks from igniting nearby carpets, furniture or other combustible items. **And Remember...**Be careful when using candles. Keep the flame away from combustible objects and out of the reach of children. Some smoke alarms may be dependent on your home's electrical service and could be inoperative during a power outage. Check to see if your smoke alarm uses a back-up battery and install a new battery at least once a year. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of your home and inside and outside of sleeping areas. All smoke alarms should be tested monthly. All batteries should be replaced with new ones at least once a year. If there is a fire hydrant near your home, keep it clear of debris for easy access by the fire department.

LECLAIRE REC BOARD

Rec Center Tiny Tots gym mornings are Monday & Wednesdays from 9-10:30 AM beginning 2/14. Ages 1-5 cost is \$1.00 per family. Open Gym for ages Pre-K to 6th grade is Sundays from 1-4 PM to play basketball and games beginning 2/13. We are also looking for parent volunteers and high school students that need to complete some service learning hours. Please contact Robyn Leiby at (563) 209-6764 by e-mail at danandrobyn@iowatelecom.net or Anna Haessler at (563) 320-1481. Adult Basketball drop-in is on Thursdays at 7pm. Cost is \$2 per person per night. Adult Volleyball drop-in is on Fridays at 7pm. Cost is \$2 per person per night. The weight room is now located in the white building in the REC. parking lot. The cost is \$10+ tax for an individual and \$20+ tax for a couple/family per month. There is also a one time \$5 fee for the swipe card that gives the member access to facilities 24 hours a day/seven days a week.

LECLAIRE CIVIC CLUB ANNUAL CORPORATION MEETING

The LeClaire Civic Club will be holding their Annual Corporation Meeting on Tuesday, March 22, beginning at 6:30 PM with a Potluck Dinner. During the General Membership Meeting to follow, last year's President will present his report, and the Treasurer will present her Financial Report. All members are encouraged to attend, and may bring a guest too.

CITY HALL INFORMATION

The next Bits & Pieces articles are due by Wednesday, March 16, 2011. These can be sent electronically to wbloomngdale@leclaireiowa.gov, by fax to (563) 289-6010, by mail or hand delivery to 325 Wisconsin Street, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday.



LECLAIRE EMERGENCY
POLICE 911
FIRE 911
AMBULANCE 911
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR SERVICE 326-8628
POLICE NON-EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATIVE 289-4242