



City of Wayne Newsletter

City of Wayne
Utilities

Volume 3—Issue 5
May 2010

LOOKING AHEAD ~

Hwy 35 Underpass Facts:

Size: 12 feet wide by 10 feet high by about 120 feet long

Construction done in 2012 Under 2-lane traffic

Would replace the at-grade trail crossing of Highway 35 west of the cemetery

Funding Sources:

Nebraska Department of Roads - \$380,000

City of Wayne Tax Increment Financing—\$150,000

City of Wayne Street Department—\$8,000

What Were We Thinking When We Applied for Grant Funding?

The #1 Council Budget Priority since 2003 has been to lower the city's mill levy each year from 53.77 mills to the current 45.45 mills and continue the trend as long as possible. This includes 4.5 mills for the airport that is out in the county, but the State requires it to be taxed within the city. The only town in Wayne County with a lower city mill levy is Carroll.

Water and sewer rates have been stable and the same as neighboring towns until we were required to build a new sewer plant. Our electric rates are comparably low to other towns

our size because we own our own system.

We eliminated 10 full-time city positions in '03-'04 to lower taxes and free up funding for improvement projects.

The original design for the at-grade trail crossing meets Department of Roads' standards for the highway width, speed limit and sight distance.

The Department of Roads looked at a statewide list of project applications and chose to improve on the safety of the crossing at this site with the school location, the increasing traffic volume, plus the increasing housing development and put \$380,000 of their own funding into this project to improve the safety if we would match it with \$158,000. The Department of Roads strives long-term to separate pedestrians from traffic in areas they consider more congested.

This project makes more sense for the growth 15 years from now, but NDOR put up their funding now.

The trail system has always been closed for use after dark, but we can have bright lighting and live video feed from the underpass to the Police Department.

What Are Some of Our Other Thoughts In The Decision Process?

The cost is too high. No one disagrees with that.

The money would be better spent on something else.

Government is spending too much. Should we skip this or other projects on the way down with the city mill levy or include it in the plan?

The project isn't safe from crime.

Other areas of town have dangerous crossings.

All points of view were valid and were given by people who care about the affordability and the quality of life in Wayne. The deliberation process was long and arduous with a lot of input and resulted in a split vote with the Mayor voting to move forward with the project. Wayne's long-term success has always been the result of local people who take the time to argue points of view and make decisions.

~Lowell Johnson
City Administrator

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Who's Who in the City....Heather Thor



Job Title: Police Dispatcher

Birthplace: Fremont, NE

Favorite Interests: Reading and spending time with family and friends.

The person or persons you admire most is/are: My parents who have always been there for support and guidance.

If you could switch jobs or occupations for a day, what would you like to do? Own my own restaurant.

If you had the opportunity to meet any one well-known/famous person, who would it be and why? Lucille Ball because of her pioneering efforts in television and her talent at being a comedian.

What is your motto in life or greatest lesson learned in life?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.

What do you enjoy about living in Wayne? I enjoy being a part of a small town.

Department News ~

Grass Clippings ~



The Wayne Public Works Department wants to remind all residents that blowing lawn mower clippings into the street is prohibited and is a violation of City Code. These grass clippings and other such debris left on the street will travel to the storm sewer inlet and can block them. The blocking of the inlets

can cause local flooding from storm water accumulation.

Because the water from the storm sewers runs into Logan Creek, the grass clippings can negatively affect the creek with the chemical content in the grass from lawns that have been fertilized and treated with weed killer.

When mowing, please mow the first few rounds so that the grass blows in towards the lawn and when finished, sweep up the grass that has been thrown into the street.

We thank you for your cooperation during this mowing season.

~Garry Poutre

Supt. of Public Works & Utilities



WISE WORDS

“The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.”

~Theodore Roosevelt

April Activities at the Library ~



The Wayne Public Library is offering the public another chance to “Meet the Candidates” prior to the May primary. On Sunday, May 2nd, at 2 p.m., the Library will host mayoral candidate, Kenneth Chamberlain; LeRoy W. Janssen and Cory Moeller, candidates for Wayne County Sheriff; Kelly Meyer and Kelvin Wurde- man, candidates for District 1 County Commissioner; and James Rabe and Myron Miller candidates for District 3 County Commissioner.

Summer reading is just around the corner. It is not too late to sign up, and par-

ticipants can begin reading on May 21st. All books must be checked out from the public library to be counted. The big kickoff will be Wednesday, June 2nd, at 1 p.m. Join us at the city auditorium where Adam White will provide a program of comedy, magic, storytelling, and audience participation. The weekly program sessions begin Tuesday, June 8th.



The adult book club is reading Tom Brokaw’s Greatest Generation. They will meet to discuss the book on Tuesday, May 25th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior Center side of the building. Newcomers are always welcome.

We have a few changes to our

weekly schedule. Breaking from recent tradition, the Library will be open on Mother’s Day, May 9th. The Library begins summer hours on Monday, May 24, which means the library will be closed on Sunday, May 30. We will also be closed on Monday, May 31, in observance of Memorial Day.

To learn more about any of our May events call the library at 375-3135 or send us a email to llofgren@cityofwayne.org.

~Lauran Lofgren
Library Director

IT’S IN OUR HANDS

The 2010 US Census is here — Did you receive your one-page form and mail it back?



Going Green Tips!

SHORTEN YOUR SHOWER!

Every minute you cut from your shower is roughly 5 gallons of water. The less time your shower takes, the lower your impact on the environment.



City Siren Signals—What they Mean ~



Wayne sirens are operated by the Police Dispatchers. They have three different signals you should know:

◆ Tornado/Storm Warning: Long steady siren

in one tone for three minutes;

◆ Fire: Alternating high/low tone for approximately three minutes; and

◆ Attack//Defense Alert: Waving tone of short blasts for three minutes.

If you subscribe to Cable TV, turn your television on when sirens sound to hear the message from our Police Dispatchers.