

The Melcher-Dallas Miner

Sewer Rates Increasing Due to Upgrades

Although sewer is not something most people find to be an interesting or fun topic, it is most surely on the minds of many M-D citizens these days. Sewer rates were recently increased not once but twice. The usual annual increase, effective July 1, was apparent to users on the utility bills sent out in late July. The city was then forced to raise sewer rates again in August to cover higher than expected costs associated with the upcoming project that will include replacement of some manhole covers and relining of select sewer lines in town.

The second sewer project that is in the engineering phase will be upgrading of the city's wastewater treatment plant to comply with new, stringent DNR standards. These new standards have sent many cities in Iowa scrambling to fund and build the necessary infrastructure to be in compliance with standards going into effect in 2022. This project will require a second sewer loan within the next two years in order to meet the DNR's deadline for compliance. As always, the city will be working with a financial advisor to find the most cost effective way to fund this project to minimize the burden for tax payers and stay within allowable debt limits.

While the standard annual **water** rate increase is three percent, the City Council held the increase to two percent this fiscal year to help offset the cost of rising sewer rates. While the rate increases may be frustrating, the city's financial advisor for the upcoming sewer project reported that many small communities are seeing sewer rates in the \$60 a month range due to necessary upgrades. The Council is hopeful that after this year the city can keep the sewer fund solvent with the standard three percent increase. The City Council and Mayor greatly appreciate the patience and understanding of M-D residents as we move forward with needed sewer repairs and upgrades.

Clean-up day scheduled for September 14

The city-wide clean-up day will be held on September 14, from 8 to 11 a.m. Large roll-offs will be placed on the east side of the square. Residents can use the dumpsters to dispose of unwanted household goods. The city will be working with local church and civic groups to procure trucks and trailers to help pick up at locations where people are unable to get items to the park due to health issues or lack of a vehicle to haul them in. These pick-ups will be by appointment only. Please check fliers uptown and on the website for additional information, including a list of items that are allowed and those that will not be accepted.



Important Dates

September 10, 6 p.m.
Regular Council Meeting

September 15
Water bills due to avoid penalty

September 14
City-Wide Clean-up
M-D Park, 8—11 a.m.

September 29
Deadline to submit paperwork to run for local office to auditor

Mayor
Barbara VanWyk

City Council
Brad Robbins
David Ernst
Chris Heaton
Mark Herold
Terry Fisher (Mayor Pro-Tem)

NEWBIE NEWS
Meet the Hildreths



These newbies aren't exactly residents, but they probably spend more time in town than most M-D residents. Jen and Jim Hildreth (standing), Jim's mother, Mary Jane, and their son, James are working hard to restore homes in town to create great rental opportunities for M-D residents. The family owns rentals in Colfax, Creston, Hartford, Indianola, Milo, Lacona, and Melcher-Dallas.

The Hildreths recently purchased the old Murr place (on Church Street), the Rogers home place on SW Second, and have a few other potential projects in the works.

When asked about motivation, the Hildreths say they love to restore dilapidated homes and make them nice again. They know that people are curious about their comings and goings in town and don't mind if people stop by to see what they're working on.

If you have a home that you would rather sell than fix up, find the Hildreths and talk with them. Chances are, they'll make you an offer!

Multiple M-D organizations receive Marion County Community Foundation Grants



Leonard Wadle Jr. & Dwight Somar
Legion Patio, Cameras and Refurbishing of Social Quarters



Jenny Knust, City Clerk
City Park Improvements



Pat Jenkins
Friends of the Library
Library Bookcases & Storage



Lori Dhabalt-Davis
Library Computers



Kim Slay
PTO Educational Project



Nancy Slack
Lion's Club
HVAC for Community Center



Rick & Dixie Konrad
HVAC for Coal Miner's Museum

Bill Konrad
HVAC for M-D Senior Center

Not pictured
Terry Fisher & John Milburn
Improvements to Medical Center



Increased traffic enforcement coming soon

The M-D Police Department is a proud member of the Special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) sponsored by the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The STEP Waves are increased traffic enforcement times throughout the year where traffic on our roadways is heavier, oftentimes around holidays when there are also more intoxicated drivers on the roadways.

The M-D Police Department is proud to announce that from August 16 through September 2, 2019 the department will be joining forces with the GTSB to provide increased traffic enforcement. There will be a strong focus on seat belt use, alcohol/drug intoxicated drivers, and other traffic violations. Buckle up. Drive sober or get pulled over!

In 2017, 10,874 people were killed due to an intoxicated driver. Please have a designated driver if you decide to drink and drive. Increased traffic during the summer and holidays increases your chances of encountering an impaired driver.



Life as a “Lifer”

If you’ve lived in M-D for more than a minute, you will know this month’s “Lifer.” Whether you call him, Dennis, Denny, Fox, or Mr. Nelson, you will recognize the lifelong resident pictured above as Dennis Nelson. “Mr. Nelson” taught high school history for 36 years, was assistant football coach for 28 years, and served as head basketball coach for 21 years.

When asked how he got the nickname “Fox,” Dennis said that he used to be second baseman on the high school baseball team and at that time the White Sox had a second baseman named “Nellie Fox.” Some unsuspecting team member probably had no idea that nickname would stick for a lifetime.

Dennis is a busy man. He mows lawns, works a shift at Menards every week, and stays busy with his three children and their families. You can see by the family picture above that there are seven beautiful granddaughters that have a pretty proud Grandpa. Daughter Tracy and her family live in Bettendorf, Justin and family live in Knoxville, and Chad and family live in Eldridge, Iowa.

Dennis has a thousand stories, many of which have to do with places and people he has met on his motorcycle. He has a photo album of every county courthouse in Iowa viewed from his motorcycle seat. When asked who has the prettiest courthouse, he answered, “Marion County.” He has very fond memories of growing up in M-D, and if you want to hear some funny stories, ask him about the bicycle track where local boys used to gather and race for points.

Dennis is also pretty proud of the medals displayed above, which he has earned competing in free-throw contests at the Senior Olympics. He has medals from several different states, earned by besting his competition by throwing 25 basketballs at the hoop. We sure are glad you stayed to live, work, teach and tell your stories in Melcher-Dallas, Mr. Nelson!

Your City Employees

- Mike Damon**—Sewer & Water Director
- Gary Comer**—Streets & Parks Director
- Mike McCarty**—Streets
- Jacob Hoch**—Chief of Police
- Jamal Currica**—Police Officer
- Zachary Kalvig**—Reserve Officer
- Ruth Ryun**—Deputy Clerk
- Jenny Knust**—Clerk/Treasurer
- Steph Ripperger**—Admin. Assistant
- Lori Davis**—Library Director
- Fran Smith**—Library Assistant
- Bill Cooper & Janet McBride**—Recycling

Employee Spotlight



**Jenny
(Hansaker)
Knust
City Clerk**

Jenny grew up a few blocks from City Hall with her four sisters in a home where her parents, John & Ramona still live.

Jenny and her husband, Tony, raised a son and daughter on a farm west of town. Kylie and her husband and two daughters live in Beaverdale, and Ted and his wife, son and daughter live a few houses to the south in Germantown. Tony serves as the Transportation and Maintenance Director at M-D Schools.

Jenny spent most of her career in healthcare and is happy to be working in her hometown. She is passionate about being a part of moving M-D in a positive direction and welcomes any topics or ideas residents have for the M-D newsletter.

NEW BOOKS THIS MONTH

One Good Deed by David Baldacci
Under Currents by Nora Roberts
The Amish Teacher's Gift by Rachel Good
Jenny's Choice by Patrick Craig
The Healing Jar by Wanda Brunstetter
Wings of Fire books 11, 12, and 13 by Tui T Sutherland
Rampage by John Sandford
The Road Home by Richard Paul Evans
Window on the Bay by Debbie Macomber
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
The Inn by James Patterson

New election process

The local school district will no longer hold an election in September. The school board election will now be held in conjunction with the general election to be held this year on Tuesday, November 5th.

The City of Melcher-Dallas will have three council members and the mayor positions up for reelection. If you are interested in running for office, please stop by City Hall to obtain forms. The filing period (with the County Auditor) is Monday, August 26 through Thursday, September 19, 2019.

What's up with the library, Lori?

The summer is drawing to a close. I would like to thank everyone that has helped at the library this summer. I couldn't do it without you!

I would also like to give a shout out to everyone helping with the food in the park this summer. It was great to see so many people coming together to serve our young people.

Summer Reading has come to an end. We will be drawing for our Grand Prizes on Thursday the 15th. We will be calling the winners and also post a list of the winners at the library.

Lori Dhabalt-Davis
Librarian

A Trip Down Memory Lane

Do you remember:

- When the family dishes were collected one piece at a time from local grocery stores offering pieces with each purchase?
- Buying "Red Ball Jet" tennis shoes at Flossie's store?
- Rudy's shoe store on the northeast side of the square?
- Most people in town had a fruit tree in their yard?
- When Santa Claus would bring sacks of candy to the theater and kids would watch a (very old) movie at the kid Christmas party?
- When your family could send you after a pack of cigarettes when you were eight years old?
- When dads rode in carpools of five or six guys to John Deere, Firestone or Maytag?

Do You Know Your City Ordinances?

1. I live in a small town and I can make all the noise I want.
2. I can shoot feral cats with a BB gun to keep them out of my yard.
3. We can't hang out in the city park between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.
4. I can park my car across the sidewalk in my own driveway.
5. If my uncle wants to sell Kirby vacuums door to door, he will need a peddler's permit.
6. The fine for parking in a person's with disability parking spot is \$50.

1. False. Public peace ordinance prohibits loud noises that cause unreasonable distress to others. 2. False. It is unlawful to fire a BB or pellet gun in city limits. 3. True. The city park closes at 11 p.m. unless permission is granted by the mayor. 4. False. It is illegal to park a car across a sidewalk. 5. True. Your uncle would need a peddler's permit for door-to-door sales. 6. False. The fine for parking in a disability parking spot is \$100.