

The Melcher-Dallas Miner

Date set for city-wide clean-up

The M-D City Council has set Saturday, April 25th as city-wide clean-up day. Dumpsters will be available on the square from 8 a.m. to noon. There will not be a claw truck available this year, so residents will need to be able to unload directly into the dumpsters. There will be several smaller dumpsters this year to allow residents to be able to lift trash over the dumpster walls.

This year's clean-up will not include a hazardous waste disposal option, as the special trailer for disposal of hazardous materials is not available on April 25th. You can take hazardous materials to the South Central Iowa Waste Agency any-time by calling ahead (641-828-8545). Latex paint is not considered a hazardous material if it is dried out. Pour latex paint into a shallow, open container or onto a sheet of cardboard to let it dry out or mix it with kitty litter.

The city will again offer disposal of electronics. The cost of disposal for a TV or computer monitor is \$10 cash. The city is merely collecting the fee that will be charged when the TVs/monitors are taken to the landfill. There will be a limit of two TVs/monitors per resident. Computer equipment, such as printers, keyboards, and towers are free of charge.

Dave Ripperger will be on site to accept scrap metal, microwaves and other (metal) household appliances. He will also accept all types of batteries. Construction materials, such as drywall and pallets, will not be accepted. Fliers with additional information will be placed around town as the day draws closer.

Covid-19 situation changing rapidly

Subsequent to a meeting with Marion County public health officials on March 16, 2020, the M-D City Council determined that local efforts to help slow the spread of the virus should include the closing of City Hall and the library to the public. City Hall employees and the librarian, as well as public works employees, will continue to do the important work of the city while limiting interaction with the public. Utility bills can be paid by using the drop box in front of City Hall, by signing up for automatic payments, or by accessing the credit/debit card option on the city's website. Questions may be directed to City Hall at 641-947-6501. Library books and DVDs will be available by calling the library at 641-947-6700 and the librarian will place items on the bench outside the library for pick-up. The city will reevaluate these measures at the end of March. Watch for breaking news from Marion County's Joint Information Center on the M-D city website.



Important Dates

April 9

Property bids due at City Hall by 4 p.m.

April 10

Good Friday—City Hall open

April 12

Easter Sunday

April 14

Regular council meeting at City Hall @ 6 p.m.

April 15

Utility bills due at City Hall by 4 p.m.

Mayor

Barbara VanWyk

City Council

Mark Moon

Seth Williams

Chris Heaton

Mark Herold

Terry Fisher (Mayor Pro-Tem)

Interested in Building a House?

The City of Melcher-Dallas currently has three residential lots and one commercial lot for sale. The property known locally as 109 NW Second has been cleared and approved for sale by the city council. Interested parties must sign a development agreement to have a 1,200 square foot home built on the property within two years of accepting the deed from the city.

At the March 10th council meeting, the council voted to place lots located at 115 SE Fourth and 405 D Main up for sale. Bidders for the D Main lot must agree to demolish existing structures within three months of purchase and have a home finished within two years of accepting the deed. The lot located at 115 SE Fourth has been cleared, and bidders must agree to have a home built on the property within two years of accepting the deed.

A commercial lot on the square (next to the bank) has also been cleared for sale. Bidders should submit a proposal for a business in that location, preferably one that creates local jobs.

If you or someone you know is interested in these lots, please contact City Hall at 641-947-6501 or visit melcherdallasiowa.org for more information and to view the development agreements. Bids are due at city hall by 4 p.m. on April 9th.

Buckle up and find a sober ride

The Melcher-Dallas Police Department (M-D PD) responded to 104 calls in November, 107 in December, and 79 calls in January. Based on prior year trends, The M-D PD believes the call volume will increase as the weather gets nicer in the coming months. The Police Department knows that nice weather comes with more risks. Remember to enjoy the great weather responsibly.

The M-D PD is teaming up with Pleasantville PD to participate in a multi-jurisdictional traffic enforcement project. Pleasantville and M-D Police will be doing enhanced traffic enforcement on April 17, 2020 primarily focused on seat belt, OWI, and speeding near Pleasantville on Highway 5. This project is funded under the Iowa Department of Public Safety's Special Traffic Enforcement Program (sTEP). Participating law enforcement agencies receive grant money to provide increased traffic oversight. Buckle up. Find a sober ride.

The M-D PD has secured the "What You Don't See" Trailer for Coal Miner Days. This trailer, intended for citizens 18 and older, is designed to provide information to help parents better understand the signs of drug use and other potentially dangerous situations in their child's car or bedroom. There are many things that look like normal ever day items but are in fact drug paraphernalia. If you stop by the Fire Department during Coal Miners to eat, swing by the trailer, meet the M-D Police Officers and educate yourself to help keep our teen community safe.

Get to know the Friends

The Friends of the Melcher-Dallas Public Library is a 501c3 organization that was formed in 2012 for the purpose of raising funds for the renovation of what is now the existing library building on South Main Street in Melcher-Dallas. After writing grants and holding fundraisers including car shows, dinners, and bake sales, the group had procured adequate funding to begin working on the exterior in 2016. By the time the exterior was finished, enough money had been raised to complete the interior.

In November, 2016, the library moved to its new location, with the help of M-D school children and friends. The Friends group continues to work for the library to support educational activities and assist with the upkeep of the library through donations and grant writing.

Many people wish to donate to the Friends of the Melcher-Dallas Library because the library has a special place in their lives and those of their children, grandchildren, and friends. Donations can be made to the Friends of the Melcher-Dallas Public Library and are tax deductible.

If you have an idea of how The Friends can work to improve the library, please free to tell Lori Davis or one of the board members listed below. Continued support for the Friends of the Library is greatly appreciated.

Board members: Pat Jenkins, Virginia Schneider, Lori Davis, Rhonda Brooks, and Lisa Alexander. You can reach the library at 641-947-6700 Monday through Friday.



The whole family with Grandma Donna, January 2019.

Chuck and Rhonda enjoy living near family, being close to grandchildren and staying busy in retirement.



Life as a “Lifer”

Chuck and Rhonda (Branson) Nelson were married in July of 1972 at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa and raised their family in Melcher-Dallas. Chuck is a 1970 graduate of M-D high, and Rhonda graduated in 1971. Rhonda retired after 41 years at Principle, and Chuck worked at Maytag and retired from Hormel.

Rhonda and Chuck live in the home where they raised three daughters. They are pretty proud of their six granddaughters and three grandsons. Jodi has two daughters and one son and lives in Altoona. Jaime lives with her husband and three daughters in the M-D school district, and youngest daughter, Jarah, is raising her daughter and two sons in Iowa Falls.

Rhonda’s hobbies including sewing, quilting, and crafts. She makes approximately 35 to 40 quilts a year for the battered women’s shelter in Oskaloosa, Iowa and seven Quilts of Valor for veterans. She also enjoys following her grandchildren’s activities.

Chuck is probably really sad about the cancellation of March Madness, as he is an avid college basketball fan. He also enjoys watching old westerns.

When asked if they ever considered leaving Melcher-Dallas, Rhonda says they never even thought about it. They like living close to family and feel Melcher-Dallas is a friendly town. They have fond memories of growing up surrounded by life-long friends and family.

They say, “Home is where you story began.” A special thanks to Chuck and Rhonda for sharing their story and for raising their family in the town they will always call home.

Your City Employees

Gary Comer—Sewer & Water Director
 Mike McCarty—Streets/Sewer/Water
 Jacob Hoch—Chief of Police
 Dylan Forkner—Police Officer
 Zachary Kalvig—Reserve Officer
 Stephanie Ripperger — Deputy Clerk
 Jenny Knust—Clerk/Treasurer
 Lori Davis—Library Director
 Fran Smith—Library Assistant
 Bill Cooper & Janet McBride— Recycling
 Curt Seddon—Fire Chief

Employee Spotlight Dylan Forkner Police Officer



The city recently welcomed Dylan Forkner as a full-time police officer. Dylan grew up in Paton, Iowa and currently lives in West Des Moines. He graduated from Grand View with a degree in criminal justice and sociology and graduated from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. He previously worked as a full-time officer in Lake City, Iowa.

When asked what he likes most about working for the City of Melcher-Dallas, Dylan says he appreciates the fact that the town is pro law enforcement. Dylan and his Chief, Jacob Hoch, do an outstanding job keeping the city safe. Please introduce yourself to Dylan and thank him for the excellent service he provides to our city.

What's up with the library, Lori?

I don't know about you but I am ready for spring! We haven't had an evening activity for awhile. If you have something you want to do let me know and we will set it up.

In April we have the chance to purchase an Adventure Pass. The Adventure Pass would provide two adults and two children free admission to The Blank Park Zoo or the Des Moines Science Center. I would love to hear if this is something you would be interested in.

The library is temporarily closed to the public, but books and movies are still available by calling the library at 641-947-6700. Hopefully the library will reopen soon!

Library hours:

Monday 9-3
Tuesday 11- 5
Wednesday 12-6
Thursday 11-5
Friday 11-5
Saturday 9-11

Lori

NEW BOOKS & MOVIES THIS MONTH

Lost, James Patterson
The Museum of Desire, Jonathan Kellerman
When You See Me, Lisa Gardner
Almost Just Friends, Jill Shalvis
What Happens in Paradise, Elin Hilderbrand
The Protective One, Shelly Shepard Gray
The Patient One, Shelly Shepard Gray
Nothing Friendly in the Vicinity, Claude C Conner
The Boys of Pointe DuHoc, Douglas Brinkley
A Cowboy Under the Mistletoe, Jessica Clare
Christmas in Winter Valley, Jodi Thomas

Quantum, Patricia Cornwell
Eighteen Winters, Joanne DeMaio
Winter's Rise, Mary Stone
Winter's Redemption, Mary Stone
Golden in Death, JD Robb
Crooked River, Douglas Preston
Honky Tonk Christmas, Carolyn Brown
Lie of Lies, Sharon Sala
Christmas Colt, Mallory Stevens
Curious George, Margret and H.A. Rey
We Must be Brave, Frances Liardet
Dog Man Fetch-22, Dav Pilkey

NEW MOVIES THIS MONTH

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Are you ready for your grass to wake up?

The city's weeds and grass ordinance requires that all homeowners keep grass and weeds within eight inches. Failure to do so will result in the city mowing the property and assessing a \$100 fee each time the yard is mowed. This includes all or part of the yard, so having the city mow your ditch could cost \$100. The city will send one warning letter and any further instances of non-compliance will result in the city mowing the property. The grass will be waking up soon. For the sake of property values and to avoid the \$100 fine, please comply with the grass and weeds ordinance.

A Trip Down Memory Lane

Do you remember:

- When Casey's served ice cream out of a window on the west side of the building?
- When there was a Maid Rite restaurant in Leon's mower shop (and it was a Phillip's 66 before that)?
- Melvin's lumberyard across from Smith's Fertilizer & Grain?
- When you could get a great steak at the Farm House?
- The three-story Victorian house that was torn down by the Jaycees to make a place for the M-D clinic?
- The bank that sat on the corner by Pierschbacher's Funeral home?
- When you got in bigger trouble at home if you got in trouble at school?

If you have special memories of growing up in Melcher-Dallas, please e-mail them to mdcityhall@windstream.net

Do You Know Your City Ordinances?

1. It's okay to hold a video game contest and offer one of my 12 puppies as a prize.
2. If my dog is deemed dangerous by the city, I have to post my property with a "dangerous dog" sign that is visible from 50 feet or the road.
3. If I have a gravel driveway, I'm required to have a decorative/landscape edge.
4. My fourteen-year-old son can drive my golf cart on city streets.
5. If I forget to pay my water bill and water is disconnected, I have to pay a \$50 fee to have water turned back on.

1. False. Animal ordinance allows only certain organizations (ie., 4H, FFA) to offer animals as contest prizes. 2. True. Dangerous dog owners must post a sign. 3. False. The City Council recently eliminated the requirement to have a landscaping edge around a gravel driveway. 4. False. Golf carts can only be driven by residents at least 16 years of age with a valid driver's license. 5. True. The fee to have water turned back on after disconnection for non-payment is \$50, in addition to the overdue amount. (It's important to make sure City Hall has a valid phone number on file, as we try to call before shutting off water.)