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MAQUOKETA SENTINEL-PRESS

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Donation made from the heart



Four nieces of local hair stylist Lori Schmidt cut their locks and donated to help other children in need of wigs.

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SUPPLEMENTS

- **Eastern Iowa Bizzzy Bee**
- **Menard's**

Due to a varying numbers of supplements purchased by our advertising customers for insertion in *The Maquoketa Sentinel-Press*, subscribers in some areas may not receive all the supplements listed.

PUBLIC NOTICES

- **Trust Notice**
 - Richard Keil
- **Sheriff Sale**
 - Household Finance vs. Thomas B. Lapke et al
- **Delmar City Council**
 - January 8, 2009 meeting
- **Mildred M. Myatt probate**
- **MMEU**
 - December 16, 2008 meeting



Our public notices are also published on the web at:

<http://www.publicnoticeads.com/IA/search/searchnotice.asp>



Contributed photo

Cub Scout Pack #238 collects food for local pantry

Maquoketa Cub Scout Pack #238 held a food drive at Wal-Mart on Dec. 13. The boys collected donated food items from shoppers and gave those items to the Maquoketa Community Cupboard to

help stock their shelves. Shown are, front from left, Thayne Chapin, Christian Brewster, Ashtyn Miller and Christopher McDevitt. In back is volunteer helper Dalton Brewster.

Council sets goals for new year

By **DOUGLAS MELVOLD**

Clean-up of the debris from the downtown fire a year ago, purchase of a grinder for yard waste, new stoplights at West Platt Street and Westgate Drive and downtown infrastructure improvements are among the projects the Maquoketa City Council hopes to accomplish this year.

The council chose the projects it hopes to accomplish this year during its annual goal-setting work session, held Jan. 8. Six of the seven City Council members and Mayor Tom Messerli participated. Councilman Jason Hute was absent.

Doug Herman, Monticello city administrator and a Maquoketa native, led the two-hour session.

Results from the session are used as a guideline as the council begins to assemble the city's budget for the 2009-10 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The state requires cities to adopt their budgets by March 15.

The council reviewed a list of possible capital projects and programs that were suggested by city department heads and council members.

After briefly discussing each item on the lists, council members voted for the goals they most would like to see accomplished during the year.

The council did not discuss such details as how the projects would be financed.

On the capital projects list, clean-up of the fire debris and finding a developer for downtown was the top-rated project and the only one to garner votes from all seven council members.

The Jan. 19, 2008 fire destroyed four commercial buildings and damaged two others in the 100 block of South Main Street.

The property owners involved have said they were under-insured and lack the resources to finance the clean-up. The city is applying for

grants to pay for the clean-up.

Under terms of the grants, if awarded, the city would assume ownership of the properties at no cost and would market the properties for development after the clean-up is complete.

The council response mirrored the responses from five candidates in a special election last month for the First Ward council seat.

During a candidate forum, all five listed clean-up of the fire debris as the city's most pressing need.

The capital project ranking second was purchase of a grinder for the city's yard waste disposal site at the south end of Birch Drive. It received six votes of a possible seven.

The city in the past has hired an outside service to grind up the tree limbs, brush and other landscaping waste that residents take to the site.

Installation of stoplights at the entrance to the Westgate Plaza shopping area on West Platt Street at Westgate Drive and McKinsey Drive ranked third with five votes.

City Manager Brian Wagner said he had received word from Iowa Department of Transportation officials that day that the DOT would pay for 55 percent of the cost of the stoplights.

The council had sought to install stoplights at the intersection in the past, then dropped the idea after Wal-Mart moved from its former West Platt Street location to its present site and West Platt Street traffic saw a decrease.

Council members said a stoplight is needed with Fareway Stores having moved into the former Dick's Piggly Wiggly building in Westgate Plaza and Theisen's Farm & Home Store occupying the former Wal-Mart building.

Ranking fourth on the list of the council's 2009 goals, with four council votes, was replacement of infrastructure in the downtown area. Includ-

ed would be water lines, storm sewers, sanitary sewer, telephone, electric service and the streets.

A general goal of street improvements, including repairs and overlay where needed, ranked as the fifth capital goal, also with four votes.

Also receiving four votes to round out the top capital goals were purchase of a tanker truck for the fire department and an exploratory dig for a possible water main installation at Pershing Road and North Dearborn Street.

Other projects that garnered at least one council vote but didn't make the list of top projects were replacement of a water line on East Platt Street, development of a pedestrian trail to the Wal-Mart store, paving of 17th Street, adding more space for the police department and slip-lining sewer

■ GOALS,
Please turn to page 2

Possible chimney fire averted recently

Maquoketa volunteer firefighters helped a Maquoketa resident get a wood-burning stove functioning this week.

Firefighters were summoned at 5:41 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, to a report of a possible chimney fire at 108 S. Prospect St.

Deputy Chief Jeff Moritz said the resident, Nick Koos, reported that the stove was operating hotter than it should and said the chimney may have been plugged up.

Firefighters used a device to clean soot from the chimney from under the stove and got it operating properly.

There was no damage. Firefighters remained at the scene for about a half hour.