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PUBLIC NOTICES

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

■ Jackson County

■ City of Maquoketa

■ City of Andrew

■ City of Baldwin

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Eggs-cellent time had by all

A group of 7-9 year olds (left) wait to snag some of the goodies hidden at the Maquoketa Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Maquoketa Kiwanis Club on Saturday morning. As soon as permission is given, they pounce (below).

MSP photos by Mike Earles

# Council decides on 30 mph limit

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The speed limit on 17th and 13th streets at the south edge of Maquoketa will be set at 30 miles per hour, the Maquoketa City Council has decided.

The council on April 6 ratified the recommendation of its Pubic Safety Committee to keep the speed limit at a constant 30 mph on the gravel road between South Main Street and the eastern city limits.

The council also agreed to prohibit parking on the shoulder of the road for that distance.

The council also agreed with a third recommendation of the committee, to rename to Timber Drive a small portion of 211th Avenue between the junction with 17th Street to the point it connects with the present Timber Drive.

That road leads into the Prairie Creek subdivision.

Seventeenth Street intersects with South Main Street north of the South Main-U.S. 61 interchange. It runs east and west along the south side of the Wal-Mart Supercenter property and is paved where it abuts the retail property.

The road is gravel east of the Wal-Mart site, then becomes 211th Avenue as it turns south, then becomes 13th Street further east to the city limits.

The council in February had proposed setting speed limits ranging from 25 to 45 miles per hour on the road in an effort to slow traffic at the turns, under a plan developed by the city staff.

"Instead of different speed limits, we decided it would be easier to just do 30 miles an hour all the way through from South Main to the eastern city limits," said council member and Public Safety Committee member Marsha Myers.

She said area residents who use the road regularly told the committee that the reduced speed limits at the curves aren't necessary, as motorists slow down for the curves anyway.

The council must pass an ordinance making the speed limits, parking restrictions and name change official before they can take effect. Three readings of the proposed ordinance are required

for passage. The first reading will be considered at the council's next meeting on Monday night, April 20.

Councilman Jason Hute said he was glad the council sought comments from area residents before enacting the new speed limits and said the result "is a much clearer plan than what we first came up with."

In a related action, Public Works Director David Popp reported that two additional street lights will be erected in the Prairie Creek subdivision.

The development currently has one street light and residents had requested additional lighting.

Mayor Tom Messerli noted that Jackson County crews will be cleaning out the ditches along the road under an arrangement with the city and called the council's actions "a step in the right direction" for improving driving conditions on 17th Street.

In other street-related matters, the council agreed to prohibit on-street parking on West Grove Street between North Fifth and North Decker streets.

Police Chief said the steep hill on Grove creates a blind spot for motorists.

The council also agreed to a Public Safety Committee recommendation to prohibit curbside parking on the south side of East Summit Street between South Main and South Matteson streets.

Koranda said there are no-parking signs along the area, but police in the past have allowed parking for sporting events.

Congestion caused by cars parking along the street during soccer matches has brought the situation to light, Koranda told the committee.

He said he would discuss the situation with school officials.

The council also will consider ordinances on the no-parking matters.

The council also approved a request by Koranda to spend up to \$23,003 to purchase a Jeep Grand Cherokee for the Police Department.

The department will trade in a Ford Crown

Victoria and a 2002 Chevrolet Impala squad car as part of the purchase.

Koranda said there are occasions when a four-wheel-drive vehicle is needed.

Councilman Neil Morehead voted against purchase of the sport-utility vehicle. He noted that the vehicle does not have a heavy-duty transmission, as do the specially-equipped sedans that the department purchases. He predicted that the department will experience problems with the vehicle's transmission from all the stop-and-go driving experienced in the city.

In other business, the council:

--Authorized the fire department to hold a training drill in the vacant building at the northeast corner of South Main and Pleasant streets.

The adjoining block of East Pleasant Street will be closed for the training.

Mayor Tom Messerli said the exercise had not yet been scheduled, but is expected to be held as part of the fire department's weekly Thursday night training sessions.

--Officially closed out the fire station expansion project. The city spent \$1.83 million on the project, leaving \$165,619 left over from the \$2 million general obligation bond issue approved by voters in March of 2007 for the project.

--Authorized expenditure of \$2,000 with Snyder & Associates, a Cedar Rapids engineering firm, to provide a drawing of the proposed handicapped-accessible lift to be installed at the law center.

The drawing is required by the state for the lift to be certified as meeting requirements of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Estimated cost of the lift is \$10,970.

--Authorized the sale of leftover chemicals from the city's outdoor swimming pool, which is permanently closed.

The chemicals are estimated to bring \$2,180. The chemicals are in pellet form. Liquid chemicals are used for the indoor pool at the Maquoketa Area Family YMCA and it was thought that the solid chemicals may not dissolve properly.