



AUTHORIZED RETAILER

PACKAGES STARTING AT

\$19.99

A MONTH

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Infinity Satellite Systems

202 W. Maple St., Maquoketa

563-652-3474 • 866-694-5580

All prices packages and programming subject to change without notice.

IN THIS ISSUE

Informative parent meeting set for Aug. 20 at MCHS

“Bullying, Cyber-bullying and Youth Depression” will be the topic of the 90-minute presentation scheduled for 7 p.m. Aug. 20 at Maquoketa Community High School. The event is for parents of students K-12 attending Sacred Heart, Delwood and Maquoketa schools.

Page 12

Local

Pages 2-3

Family

Pages 4-7

Sports

Pages 10-11

Agri/Business

Pages 17-19

Classifieds

Pages 20-21

Obituaries

Page 23

SUPPLEMENTS

Aldi

Bender's Foods

Stroke Detection Plus

Due to a varying number 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

JC Board of Supervisors

- July 28, 2009 meeting

Maquoketa City Council

- August 3, 2009 meeting

Delwood School District

- Annual Wages

Delwood School Board


- July 27, 2009 meeting

Royce E. Currie probate

JC Sheriff Sale

- Countywide Home Loans v. Lois Wilson et al

Helen Frank probate



Our public notices are also published on the web at:

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

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Jackson County

City of Maquoketa

City of Andrew

City of Baldwin

City of Monmouth

City of Delmar

Delwood School District

Maquoketa School District

Cottonwoods still a nuisance

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Planting a cottonwood tree won’t become a crime in Maquoketa after all.

The City Council decided last week to drop a proposal to pass an ordinance prohibiting the planting of cottonwood trees in the city.

And cottonwood trees that exist now in the city officially will continue to be a nuisance, as the City Code has classified them for years.

After hearing advice from City Attorney Mark Lawson, the council, on a 5-1 vote on Aug. 3, decided to drop the whole matter and leave the status of cottonwoods in the city unchanged.

The discussion began when the city’s Tree and Parks Board recommended changing the city’s nuisance ordinance to take cottonwoods that exist now off the “nuisance” list.

At the same time, the board recommended that the council pass an ordinance prohibiting the planting of new cottonwoods.

The council last month tabled a decision saying it wanted its legal counsel to weigh in on the matter.

IN an e-mail response, Lawson advised that the council could remove existing cottonwoods from the nuisance list and prohibit the planting of any more trees.

Such a change would not declare any cottonwood to be a nuisance. It would simply allow existing cottonwood trees to eventually die out and would make it unlawful to plant a cottonwood tree.

Lawson, however, also pointed out enforcement problems that such an ordinance would create. He asked how the council would deal with cottonwoods that naturally reproduce, with no human assistance.

He also asked how it could be proven that a given tree was planted as opposed to a natural germination.

In addition, unless the planting of the tree was caught immediately, how would it be proven that the tree was planted after the planting prohibition date?

In addition would be the problem of proving who planted the tree.

“In other words,” Lawson concluded, “enforcement could be a problem.”

City Manager Brian Wagner added his concerns about the proposal.

“Another way to look at it is, if the current cottonwood trees are not enough of a problem to be defined as a nuisance any more, then why would future ones?” Wagner asked.

He suggested that the council take all cottonwoods—existing trees and future ones—off the nuisance list.

After hearing of the complications in enforcing such a measure, the council voted 5-1 to leave the status of the trees unchanged. Councilman Galen Saunders voted against that motion and Councilman Tim Clark was absent.

Council members noted that the fluffy white seeds that female cottonwood trees shed during the summer can be an annoyance.

The city’s ordinance classifies all cottonwood trees and related poplar trees that shed the cotton-like white seeds as a nuisance.

Saunders, who favored removing the trees from the nuisance list, asked if the city would force a property owner to cut down his cottonwood tree if someone complained about it.

Mayor Tom Messerli said he fields more complaints about dandelions in residents’ yards than he gets about cottonwoods.

“I agreed on the cottonwood issue, that there’s no way we’re ever going to enforce and police that,” the mayor said.

Councilman Neil Morehead recalled that a number of years ago, cottonwood trees became an issue that the council dealt with by listing all cottonwood trees in the city as a nuisance.

He said most of the trees from that era have been removed and predicted that the city today is going to get “very few of those complaints.”

“I don’t know why we would want to open a can of worms again,” Morehead said. “That’s why I support leaving it just as it is.”

Saunders asked that the city would do if walnuts from a resident’s walnut tree dropped on someone’s car.

Morehead replied that the city wouldn’t do anything about it because walnut trees aren’t considered a nuisance.

In other business, the council approved the plans and specifications for the installation of stoplights at the intersection of Westgate Drive and West Platt Street.

The engineer’s cost estimate for the project is \$152,539. The city will pay 55 percent of the cost. The Iowa Department of Transportation will pay the remaining 45 percent.

No comments were received at a public hearing preceding the council’s action. The stoplights will be coordinated with other traffic signals on West Platt at the U.S. 61 interchange and Western Avenue.

The lights were sought with the traffic increase on Westgate Drive after the Fareway Stores supermarket moved into the Westgate shopping center.

Over 700 enjoy 'Night Out'



MSP photos by Douglas Melvold

Paul Gerlach, right, was among several members of the Jackson County Cattlemen who cooked an estimated 700 hamburgers that were given away free to those attending the fourth annual National Night Out, held Aug. 4 at Second Ward Park in Maquoketa. A free meal of hamburgers, baked beans, cole slaw, chips and beverage was provided.



Three-year-old Anaka Hosch cuddles a furry rabbit while her aunt, Tammy Hosch, holds her as they were visiting the petting zoo at the National Night Out event at Second Ward Park in Maquoketa on Aug. 4. The event drew a crowd estimated at upwards of 700 area residents to enjoy a free meal and participate in games and other activities.



Elsie Velasquez, left, and Phillip Kemp battle it out in the hose contest to see who can move the overhead bucket furthest. The National Night Out activity was sponsored by the Maquoketa Volunteer Fire Department, one of several area organizations that offered activities or otherwise participated in the event, which seeks to promote partnerships with youths and the community with law enforcement and public safety agencies.