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- Original Notice - CitiMortgage Inc. vs. Richard Garien et al
- City of Maquoketa - Treasurers Report - July
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- JC Board of Supervisors - August 11, 2009 meeting
- MMEU - July 21, 2009 meeting
- Frances Neilsen probate
- Public Hearing - 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement
- Andrew City Council - August 11, 2009 meeting
- Dustin Moss aka Dustin Rada probate



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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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New notification system debated

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Jackson County residents could be notified of potentially hazardous weather, water main breaks, power outages and other events through an emergency notification system being studied by county and city officials.

The Maquoketa City Council informally gave its backing for officials to continue to gather information about an emergency notification system in which messages could be sent at once to thousands of households.

Maquoketa Police Chief Brad Koranda and Lyn Medinger, Jackson County Emergency Management Coordinator, discussed the system with the council at a recent work session.

Koranda told the council that Medinger had discussed the issue recently with the county’s mayors at a Jackson County Municipal League meeting

Koranda noted that the city currently can get urgent messages to residents on their television system through an override system on Mediacom, the city’s cable television provider. But he noted that coverage is limited because many households do not subscribe to Mediacom. He noted that the city used its cable override capability to ask residents to avoid using water during the downtown fire in January of 2008.

He noted that the city also uses KMAQ radio to notify residents of such events as snow emergencies.

But he said an emergency notification system could inform residents of other occurrences, such as tornado and other weather-related warnings, water stoppages and street closures.

He said he and Medinger have obtained information about a system called CodeRED, a company that manages mass emergency notification systems. Messages under that system would be delivered through telephone calls in what is termed a “reverse 911 calling” system.

“It could be countywide if we get the other communities involved,” Koranda said.

Koranda said the county board that oversees the E911 emergency calling system said it would use the system only to notify emergency responders and declined to investigate further.

“The reason the 911 board didn’t look into it is because they felt if you used it only for emergencies, it would probably be rarely used.

“But with this system we could use it a lot more for public notification, for snow removal, parking issues, a lot of these things. We can get more people informed and have less trouble with what we have to deal with.”

Koranda noted that the Maquoketa Community School District has a mass notification system that uses calling features. He noted that he gets messages when his child’s meal account is low. He said county officials could look into the feasibility of using that notification system of other, nonschool-related events.

He said the county could purchase the CodeRED system for \$10,000, with the cost being shared by municipalities and the county for the rural areas.

“I don’t think we want to spend \$10,000 just for emergency notification in the city,” said Mayor Tom Messerli. With any system the county and other municipalities want to consider, officials need to know the cost and proportionate share of each participant, he said.

“If you aren’t interested in looking at it, then we shouldn’t waste our time,” Koranda said. “But if you are interested, we can investigate it.”

“I’d say we’re interested in knowing more,” Messerli said. “The CodeRED system is the one the mayors are most familiar with.” He said the city needs to know the cost. Other council members agreed.

“The more (communities) that’s on board, the less it will cost each party,” said Councilman Galen Saunders.

Medinger noted that the city’s population is 6,100 and that of the rural areas is 8,900. He said he’ll approach county officials and determine their level of interest.



Contributed photo

The Arnold and Liz Lindstrom family was voted 2009 Outstanding Jackson County Fair Family. 2009 marks the first year for the fairgoer-voted award. Shown are members of the late Arnold and Liz Lindstrom family with 2009 Jackson County Fair Queen Kaitlin Kilburg (far right).

Lindstroms voted outstanding family

As a new event for 2009, the Jackson County Fair Board acknowledged families that have been involved with the fair in the past as well as the present.

4-H clubs in various parts of the county nominated a family from their area to be selected 2009 Outstanding Jackson County Fair Family of the Year. The families nominated demonstrated support, dedication and commitment by their involvement with the Jackson County Fair. Community activities were also taken into consideration.

Special red ballot cans were displayed in the lobby of Pearson Memorial Center and fairgoers cast their votes for their choice for 2009 Outstanding Jackson County Fair Family of the Year. The family with the most votes won the title.

The Arnold and Liz Lindstrom family received the most votes and thus the inaugural title. The Coverites 4-H Club nominated Lindstroms for the honor.

The late Arnold and Liz Lindstrom serve as fair superintendents of poultry for 35 years. Arnold was a 4-H leader for 10 years and Liz was a leader for 16 years. The 4-H Food Stand benefited from Liz’s expertise of ordering and buying supplies for 41 years.

The Lindstrom children are Rhonda, Mark, Owen and Reece. They and their families are all involved with the Jackson County Fair and seven of the eight grandchildren exhibited at the fair.

The family received a gift basket containing Jackson County products and Decker House gift certificates.

The following families were also nominated.

The Jeff and Laurine Gruhn family was nominated by the Miles Mavericks 4-H Club. The Gruhn’s and their children – Shawn, Nicole and Dylan – are active in the Miles Mavericks 4-H Club as well as the community. Their community activities include Old Threshers Days, the Miles Legion, the Miles Cemetery, Sabula Library and Jackson County Fair.

The Emeline Ridgerollers 4-H Club nominated Bill and Carol Ihrig and family, which includes Joan, Joey and Jennifer. The Ihrig

family uses the fair as their family vacation time. The kids have all exhibited at the fair and the parents have served as 4-H leaders, committee members and achievement show judges.

Ihrigs hope to continue their fair involvement through their grandchildren. They think the Jackson County Fair is the perfect time to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones.

Charles and Linda Lane, nominated by the Preston Trailblazers 4-H Club, began their involvement with 4-H and the county fair when they were members of the Preston Calf Club and Miles Meadowlarks 4-H clubs, respectively. Charles’ father, Louis Lane, was involved in building the first swine barn in the early 1960s. Linda’s father, Herb Carstensen, and Louis Lane served on the beef board and gave leadership to the annual fair beef auction.

Since 1952 there has been either a Carstensen or a Lane exhibiting at the Jackson County Fair. The Lanes have been 4-H leaders, fair committee members and their children have all exhibited at the county fair.

The Northfork New Horizons 4-H Club submitted the Mike and Arlene Lyon family as their Family of the Year nominee. Mike was a 4-H’er himself, then a 4-H leader, then a 4-H parent – all of which involved activities at the Jackson County Fair. Their children – Megan, Jennifer, Matthew and Sarah – all participated with fair exhibits, both livestock and indoor projects.

The Lyon family said that setting goals and feeling rewarded when the project is finished can easily be attained with 4-H and Jackson County Fair involvement.

Monmouth Co-Ed 4-H Club nominated Doug and Ruth Ann Scott. They began their involvement when both were members of the Baldwin Feeders 4-H Club. Doug became a leader of the Monmouth Jr. Farmers (now Monmouth Co-Ed) when children Lee, Mark and Kay joined 4-H.