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IN THIS ISSUE

**Energy assistance
applications
now available**



Page 23

Local	Pages 2-3
Family	Pages 4-6
Classifieds	Pages 8-9
Sports	Pages 10-11
Agri/Business	Pages 14-15
Obituaries	Page 22

SUPPLEMENTS

- Aldi
- Fareway
- Great American Senior Benefits
- Mediacom
- Menards
- Theisen's

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

- Keith Page
- Child born Aug. 27, 2009
- JC Board of Supervisors
- October 13, 2009 meeting
- JCRHC
- Quarterly July, Aug., Sept. 09
- JC Board of Supervisors
- October 20, 2009 meeting
- City of Maquoketa
- Notice to Bidders
- Sheriff Sale
- Wells Fargo Bank NA
v. Lloyd Patterson et al
- Sheriff Sale
- JP Morgan Chase
v. Phillip Mihalakis et al
- Guardianship
- Kylar Izaac Lohman
- Sheriff Sale
- Nationwide Advantage
Mortgage v. Eric Moore et al

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

Ordinance proposed

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

The Jackson County Board of Supervisors has scheduled public hearings on a proposed ordinance that would set limits on open burning.

The board scheduled hearings for 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10 and Nov. 17.

The proposed ordinance would require anyone burning disaster rubbish, trees and tree trimmings, landscape waste and agricultural structures to notify the Maquoketa Law Center in advance.

They would have to provide the law center with the person's name, telephone number, specific location of the burn and the date and time of the planned burning.

Lyn Medinger, Jackson County emergency management coordinator, presented the proposed ordinance to the supervisors.

Supervisors noted that a problem that occurs regularly involves the law center not being notified in advance of controlled burning. When passersby report the fire, the law center dispatches the fire department for that area.

Firefighters arrive to find that the fire is a deliberate controlled burn and is, in effect, a false alarm.

Medinger noted that such false alarms are costly to fire departments.

Under the ordinance, once the law center is notified of a planned burn, it will contact the appropriate fire department by text message or through firefighters' pagers and notify them of the planned burn.

Medinger estimated that it will take about three years for county residents to become informed of the ordinance.

"It's just common sense," he said of the ordinance.

The measure also would require anyone planning to burn prairies, pastures, fields, yards or road ditches to first notify the law center.

Notification is not required for burning of some items, including paper or plastic pesticide containers and seed bags, Medinger pointed out.

He noted that any other federal or state laws pertaining to open burning still would remain in effect.

The three-page ordinance would apply to all unincorporated areas in Jackson County and any incorporated areas in the county that do not have an open burning ordinance.

The City of Maquoketa has such an ordinance, which prohibits open burning with a couple of exceptions, such as cooking grills and small campfires for social gatherings.

The proposed county ordinance would allow the city or township fire department to prohibit any or all open burning when that fire department determines weather conditions or other circumstances make such fires hazardous or a nuisance.

All open fires would have to be attended by an adult until the fire is extinguished or in a manner approved by the fire department for that location.

A violation of the ordinance is a simple misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$625 or 30 days in jail or both.

Offenders also are subject to paying restitution to any responding fire department for any and all costs incurred by it for unlawful burns.

Meal delivery continues under different name and leadership

By KELLY GERLACH

Volunteers delivered the first meals of the Jackson County Home Delivered Meals program Monday, Nov. 2, replacing the 40-year-old Meals on Wheels program.

The Jackson County Senior Citizens Center now operates the program, preparing meals at the center and assigning volunteers to deliver the meals to qualifying individuals with Maquoketa addresses.

The Meals on Wheels Corporation officially ceased operations on Oct. 30 and has been advised to dissolve. Many of its members continue to volunteer delivering meals.

The change in operations came about when Jackson County Regional Health Center officials in March advised the Meals on Wheels Executive Board to seek another food provider. The hospital has been preparing the corporation's meals since 1990 but decided to discontinue the service because of budget shortfalls.

Meals on Wheels contacted local nursing homes, restaurants and caterers trying to find a new food service provider who could work within the corporation's guidelines. This was unsuccessful.

The Jackson County Senior Citizens Center already prepares meals for 20 to 70 area residents five days a week, making it a logical entity to take over operations. Scenic Valley Area VIII Agency on Aging provides funding for the center.

Amy Manning, the center's site director, described the home delivered meals eligibility requirements. She said clients must be 60 years or older or have a mental or physical disability. They must be unable to use transportation to get to the main meal site - in this case, the senior citizens center - and be unable to prepare meals by themselves.

Manning said Scenic Valley also sends a representative to potential clients' homes to determine eligibility and suggested contributions per meal.

Clients are not required to pay for a minimum or maximum number of meals each week. Jackson County Home Delivered Meals sets up individualized meal plans with clients as to which days they want to receive meals.

Suggested contributions per meal are also determined on a case-by-case basis.

Meals are delivered between 11 and 11:45 a.m., according to Manning. She said she is trying to

keep meal delivery routes as similar to the original as possible.

"That will make it easy for the deliverer as well as the person getting the food," she said.

About 45 people are scheduled to receive the meals, which will be made at the senior citizens center. Volunteers will continue delivering the meals.

"We want to continue to deliver the meals and without the volunteers, there would be no home delivery," Manning said, adding that the center is always looking for more volunteers to deliver meals or serve as substitute delivery people.

The change in program operations also comes with changes in meals and procedures, according to Manning.

Perhaps the biggest change: Jackson County Home Delivered Meals volunteers will no longer be able to leave meals at homes when the clients are not there.

"Meals on Wheels left meals at the people's homes if no one was home. We can't do that," Manning said. "Our meals must be delivered to a person or else it has to be canceled."

Katie Nichols, longtime Meals on Wheels volunteer, said Meals on Wheels volunteers left meals at a client's home only if they handed it to the client or if the client left a note indicating they would be returning momentarily from an appointment. She said that if no one answered the client's door and it was unlocked, volunteers would search the home to make sure the client wasn't inside and injured.

Jackson County Home Delivered Meals will involve emergency personnel if meals are not canceled and no one answers the client's door.

"If no one answers the door, we'll call the emergency contact number for that person. If we can't get a hold of the emergency contact person, we'll call 9-1-1 because a lot of times these volunteers are the only person (clients) see all day. No one else might know if they've fallen and hurt themselves or had a heart attack or something."

"Hopefully it's a policy we won't have to use," Manning said.

She said clients must call the Jackson County Senior Citizens Center by 9 a.m. the day they want to cancel meal delivery. Clients may call

■ MEALS,
Please turn to page 2



MSP photo by Kelly Gerlach

Some enjoy the standing water

Trumpeter swans snack in the standing water of an obliging field north of Maquoketa. The water, left over from the two or more inches of rain dumped on Jackson County late last week, served as a cool fall resting place for the swans.