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MAQUOKETA SENTINEL-PRESS

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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.

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- David B. Ruff probate
- City Ordinance #1084 - City Wind Turbines
- Maquoketa City Council - April 5, 2010 meeting
- Invitation to Bid - Housing Rehab
- Public Meeting - Fed. Assistance Emergency Vehicles
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Demolition to begin

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

Clean-up of the debris from Maquoketa's downtown fire is scheduled to begin next week, City Manager Brian Wagner said.

Some activity may occur at the site on Monday, April 19, but clean-up activity won't begin in full force until such preliminary work as installing fencing is completed.

The council on March 1 awarded a \$268,550 contract to G&B Construction of Burlington to demolish the remains of the four buildings that were destroyed in the January 2008 fire and haul the debris to a landfill approved for asbestos-containing material.

The long-awaited clean-up is expected to take about two weeks, depending on weather. The project engineer has said that South Main Street will remain open to traffic throughout the process.

Demolition of the building at the northeast corner of South Main and Pleasant streets will be handled separately after cleanup of the destroyed buildings is completed.

In other business, the council on April 5 approved plans and specifications for the reconstruction of Washington Street between South Fifth and South Vermont streets.

The engineer's estimate of the construction cost is \$125,000.

Because the street runs past the Maquoketa Community High School main entrance, the project will be done after classes have dismissed for the summer.

The school district is contributing \$15,000 toward the cost of the project.

The city asked the school district to help pay for the project on grounds that some of the deterioration of the street was caused by construction equipment during the project that included construction of the new gymnasium and remodeling of the student commons areas at the high school during 2007 and 2008.

Project engineer John Wandsnider said the plans allow for the council to choose concrete or asphalt surfacing.

Councilman Neil Morehead asked why the estimated cost of the project has increased from the approximately \$75,000 to \$79,000 estimated cost when the council considered the project last fall.

Wandsnider said the project at that time called for a resurfacing of the street without any improvements to the subgrade below the surface to improve drainage.

He said the current plan calls for undercutting about half of the subgrade and drainage for moisture that is believed to have caused the pavement to deteriorate in portions of the street, particularly near the Fifth Street and Vermont Street intersections.

In addition to the \$15,000 contribution from the school district, the city has budgeted \$90,000 for the project, Wagner said.

Any funds needed beyond the \$105,000 allocated for the project will have to come from the city's road-use reserve, which is funded by the city's share of the state gasoline tax.

Wandsnider said he expects to see a number of bids for the project. Bids are due April 28.

"We have been seeing some very competitive bids lately," he said. "We expect to see a lot of competition on this project as well."

The Washington Street project has evolved from an initial proposal to patch the two most deteriorated areas when initially proposed last year by Public Works Director David Popp.

The council later decided to resurface the entire length of the street and do some subgrade work, but without hiring an engineer to design the project.

The council took paving bids and in October awarded a \$67,204 contract to River City Paving of Dubuque.

The council later rescinded that contract when questions arose whether the job amounted to a reconstruction project, which understate law requires an engineer, or a maintenance and repair job, which would not require an engineer.

The council followed legal advice and in November awarded a \$8,690 contract to IIW Engineers & Surveyors of Dubuque to design and handle bidding for the project.

Cardinal promotes library week with special events



Families dropped by Cardinal Elementary School to celebrate the school's special kick-off to National Library Week. Students read their favorite books in the library, went on a scavenger hunt, enjoyed ice cream and completed art projects as well. Little Creature was a special guest during the April 8 event. Little Creature's visit was sponsored by Friends of Maquoketa Public Library.



Bill Schwenerker was a guest reader at Cardinal Elementary School. He read a Dr. Seuss tale to some students at last week's evening reading event.



Jimmy, Sydney and Hope Miller scoop up the last bits of ice cream after participating in Cardinal Elementary School's reading activities last week. The event promoted reading while giving youths interactive projects and tasks to complete. Millers are the children of Mark and Melissa Miller of Maquoketa.



Mother and daughter play Book Bingo at Cardinal Elementary School April 8.