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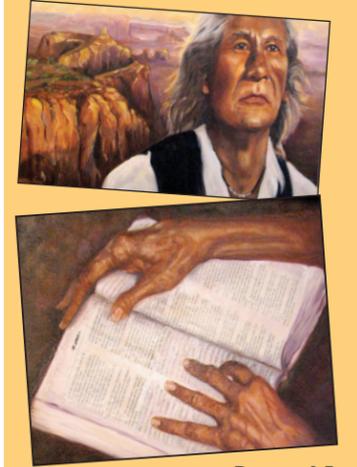
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— M A Q U O K E T A —  
**SENTINEL—PRESS**

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# City parking policy reviewed

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

A Maquoketa man asked the City Council last week to reinstate “odd-even” parking in the city during the winter months.

Leonard Ditch made the request to the council on Aug. 2.

After a discussion, the council referred the matter to its Public Safety Committee for study and a recommendation.

Ditch said that in his job as a locator of underground utility lines, he travels nearly every street in Maquoketa.

Ditch recalled that during the 1980s, the city would impose what was called odd-even parking rules governing on-street parking from late fall until early spring.

Under the ordinance, motorists who parked their vehicles on the street were required to park on a given side of the street on even-numbered dates and on the opposite side of the street on odd-numbered dates.

Odd-even parking was designed to allow public works crews to do a better job of clearing streets of snow without having to plow around cars parked on both sides of the street. Under the plan, if there were no violators, both sides of the street could be cleared from curb to curb within two days after a snowfall.

Street signs informed motorists which side of the street was designated for “odd” days and which for “even” days.

The ordinance was dropped in the early 1990s under the weight of increasing number of complaints from residents about the inconvenience of moving their cars to the opposite side of the street each day.

Many motorists complained about getting tickets for having their vehicle parked on the wrong side of the street when there was no snow.

Police Chief Brad Koranda recalled that odd-even parking would go into effect about Nov. 15 each year and continue through April 15. It was in effect continuously throughout that five-month period regardless of whether or not it was snowing or whether snow was in the forecast.

Koranda said the policy worked well for the police department and called it “a good tool” for facilitating snow removal.

He said he has raised the idea of reinstating the policy the past couple of years.

He said after the meeting that he would favor reinstating the policy. He said it could be put into effect for periods following snowfalls of a given magnitude, such as two inches.

He noted that there would be some expense in erecting signs on streets.

The ordinance would have to be publicized to educate the public as to the new requirement, he noted.

Currently, there are no snow-related parking restrictions, except when the city manager or public works director declares a snow emergency after a major snowfall. In that case, all vehicles must be removed from both sides of the streets.

The police chief noted that an ordinance in effect the year-round limits on-street parking to 48 hours.

Vehicles found parked on the street for longer than 48 hours are tagged and towed if not removed.

Koranda noted that it’s easier for officers to identify vehicles that haven’t been moved for 48 hours during the winter, as they haven’t been cleared of snow.

Ditch noted that currently when cars are parked along the curb, city snow plows cannot get the snow removed from the street.

In recent years, some cars would be parked close to the center of the street at locations where the snow had not been plowed.

Ditch suggested that the ordinance be enforced only when a snowfall occurs.

“You shouldn’t have to move your car when there is no snow,” he reasoned.

He said the plan would save the city money with

■ **PARKING, Please turn to page 23**

## Talent Search winners announced



MSP photos by Jack Marlowe

**Top honors in the Sprout Division** (ages 2 through 6) of the Bill Riley’s Iowa State Fair Talent show at the Jackson County Fair went to: (from left) first place, Camryn Saxon, 5, a vocal/dance performer from Camanche; second place: Korrell Kyarsgaard, 6, a tap dancer from Camanche; and Colton Bartels, of Davenport with a piano solo. Cash awards of \$75, \$50 and \$25 went to the winners. Saxon will perform at the state fair but there will be no further competition.



**The decision of the judges** was difficult in the Junior Division (ages 7 through 14) of the Talent Show at the Jackson County Fair as all 12 contestants were talented. Ten-year-old David Burgess (left) of Iowa City took top honors with a piano solo. Maquoketa’s Keegan Moore, 14, (center) took second place and was named the outstanding local performer combining his singing talent with playing the guitar and harmonica. Dancer Lexy Stroud-Abbott, 11, of Bellevue placed third. Ellen Schulz (right), Jackson County Fair Queen, presented the awards. Prizes were cash awards of \$75, \$50 and \$25. Burgess advanced to competition at the State Fair with the finals held on August 27.



**Adam Keith, 20, (on left)** of Onslow, took the \$100 first prize of the Senior Division in the Bill Riley State Fair Talent Search at the Jackson County Fair with a vocal/guitar selection. Lexy Ludtke, 19, (center) of Davenport used a dance routine to earn \$75 and take second place. Since Keith had qualified for the State Fair in a previous competition, Ludtke will be Jackson County’s representative in the State Fair Talent Search. Third place and \$50, and most outstanding area act honors went to vocalist Danielle Clark, 18, of Maquoketa.