

# City Newsletter



January, 2012

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### Did You Know?

A number of Avoca's early residents were German immigrants including Gustav Diedrich (or Diederich) who ran a grocery in Davenport after he arrived in the United States in 1862. He re-located his grocery across the state to Avoca in 1870 and would eventually be elected the town's first Recorder. Diedrich was later elected Mayor and as the local agent for European steamship lines was largely responsible for arranging the arrival of even more German immigrants.

### Sidewalk Scooping

Remember, the City Code has long required that residents scoop their walks as soon as possible after a snow event ends. The City will give ample time for this to be completed and will give out reminder notices to citizens as needed.

## Paramedic Service Update

A paramedic level service is a tremendous service enhancement for the community because it allows the local department to provide a higher level of medical care. The paramedic level of care is currently only provided by Medivac in Harlan. Achieving a paramedic level of service has been a long-time goal of the City and the Department. The Fire and Rescue Department's Need Assessment and Operating Plan says the following:

*"A paramedic level ambulance service has become the nation's basic level of service expectation. While the City does not have the financial resources necessary to provide a full-time paramedic level ambulance service, there are intermediary steps that could be taken. Additional benefits could be provided to encourage Department members to complete paramedic training. Another option would be the creation of a "paramedic intercept" program. A paramedic intercept is a program where the volunteer ambulance company provides ambulance transportation and an emergency response company provides a paramedic."*

At the May, 2011 Council meeting, the City Council approved an incentive to help up to four members of the Avoca Volunteer Fire Department to attend the appropriate college training to become paramedics. The total training cost for each member is \$7,500. The training incentive approved by the Council covers this entire cost, provided the member sign a contract to provide paramedic service to the Department for five years. If the member cannot fill the commitment, the member is required to pay a pro-rated portion of the incentive back to the City.

Will Rose and Jeff Grandmont are the first members participating in the program. They earned excellent grades this semester and the City Council approved the first disbursement of the training incentive to them at the December Council meeting. Will and Jeff are not the only aspiring paramedics in Avoca. Keenan Martin is another Fire Department member also working toward becoming a paramedic.

Please thank these individuals for their service to the community.

## Credit Card Processing

The City of Avoca continues to move into the 21st Century and can finally process utility bills and other city fees via credit/debit card. City Hall will now accept Visa, Mastercard, and Discover cards. There is no additional fees or charges associated with using a credit card.

If you want to keep your credit/debit card on file with the City of Avoca, we can process utility bills and other City fees directly for you without you ever making a trip to City Hall. If you have more questions about this, call City Hall at 343-2424. Use the form below to keep your credit/debit card on file with City Hall.

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### FORM TO KEEP A CREDIT CARD ON FILE

I \_\_\_\_\_, authorize **CITY OF AVOCA** to charge my credit card,

For services rendered. Not to exceed the amount shown.

AMOUNT (CIRCLE ONE)      THIS MONTH'S BILL ONLY OR KEEP ON FILE AND PROCESS EACH MONTH

CREDIT CARD TYPE      \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD #      \_\_\_\_\_

CARD CV2 #      \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE      \_\_\_\_\_

BILLING ADDRESS      \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

BILLING ZIP CODE      \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD      \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it appears on card)

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**FAX OR MAIL TO:**

City of Avoca  
201 N Elm St.  
Avoca, IA 51521  
(712) 343-2424  
(712) 343-4304 fax

### CURBSIDE RECYCLING SIGN-UP SHEET

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BEST PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Please activate a voluntary curbside recycling for the address above. I understand the price of the program is \$2.50 per month and will be billed on my Avoca Municipal Utilities account. I also understand the program will begin immediately and that the contractor will provide me a recycling bin.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE DATE



CLIP AND RETURN TO CITY HALL

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### 95 GALLON TIPPER-CART SIGN-UP SHEET

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BEST PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

Please activate a voluntary tipper cart account for the address above. I understand the price of the program is \$1.50 per month and will be billed on my Avoca Municipal Utilities account. I also understand the program will begin immediately and that the contractor will provide me with a tipper cart.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE DATE



City of Avoca

Avoca City Hall  
201 N Elm Street  
Avoca, IA 51521

Phone: (712) 343-2424  
Fax: (712) 343-4304  
Email: avoca@walnutel.net

**We're on the Web!**  
[www.cityofavoca.com](http://www.cityofavoca.com)

## **New Sidewalk Maintenance Reminders**

Although winter has been unusually mild, we can't forget the damage deicing salts will cause to the new sidewalks and driveways around town. Deicing salts are detrimental to new concrete and should not be used. Deicing salts increase the number of freeze-thaw cycles which can damage new concrete. In addition, deicing salts can contain agents like concentrated calcium chloride which will chemically attack concrete. Also avoid the use of fertilizers as deicing agents. If the fertilizer contains ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate it will rapidly disintegrate concrete.

It is important that new sidewalks and driveways not be treated with deicing agents. Even after the first of the year, deicing agents should still be used in a limited fashion on concrete to extend the useful life of the sidewalk or driveway.

Extra sanding of the affected sidewalks can be used in place of deicing salts. The City can provide sand to replace your deicing salts if you want. Simply contact City Hall at 343-2424 to order sand. The City and residents have invested in new sidewalks and driveway approaches; please help us in our efforts to maintain these important assets.

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## **City Leader Training and Annual Action Plan Process**

Each year the City Council and boards and commissions participate in a process to evaluate the past year and to plan for the next eighteen months. This process is part of the budgeting process and public participation is welcome. The Action Plan and FY 2013 budget will be planned at Council meetings in January, February, and March.

In addition, the public is invited to participate in a leadership workshop for city officials. To help our City leaders understand their duties, the Iowa League of Cities hosts a Municipal Leadership Academy following each City election. Several people from Avoca will be participating in the program this year. A very important session of the Municipal Leadership Academy will be available to the public as part of our Action Plan and Budget Process. On Thursday, January 12, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. a session to prepare city leaders about their role in the budget process, economic development, and zoning/nuisance issues will be broadcast over the internet at the Fire Hall.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend this session.