

The City of Fort Dodge

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Fort Dodge, IA 50501

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Envision 2030
FORT DODGE IOWA

Community Newsletter
September 2008

LOOMIS PARK BOATHOUSE TO RECEIVE FACELIFT



The Fort Dodge Parks Foundation Committee is a citizen action group responsible for creating strategies and plans for park growth within the city park system. Their latest project involves the restoration of the boathouse cabin at Loomis Park, a Works Progress Administration commissioned building along the Des Moines River. In the peak years of Loomis Park, this cabin rented canoes and kayaks from the backside of the structure, fed hungry citizens up top at the concession stand, and had picnic tables for dining on the interior. The boathouse cabin even had a live-in caretaker on the premises to maintain and protect the structure.

Since its heyday in the middle of the 20th century, the structure has fallen into disrepair. The patio surrounding the cabin has largely deteriorated, and the interior and exterior have suffered decades of both neglect and destruction from vandals. In an effort to restore the structure, Parks Foundation members and their team have come up with a plan to restore the boathouse to its earlier splendor.

Starting in spring of this year, the Foundation began a funding drive to seek donations for the Boathouse project. They are currently working with a \$15,000 budget, which includes funds the Parks Foundation previously had in its account. However, these funds will not go very far.

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Upcoming Meetings:

September 1st:

Labor Day -
NO COUNCIL MEETING

September 8th:

7:00pm - City Council Regular
Business Meeting
Council Chambers

September 15th:

7:00pm - City Council Workshop
Council Chambers

September 22nd:

7:00pm - City Council Regular
Business Meeting
Council Chambers

Check out our website
(<http://www.fortdodgeiowa.org>)
and click on the
"City Calendar"
for more events!

FALL CLEAN-UP ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



Effective April 16, 2008, the City Sanitation Division began weekly curb side pick up of yard waste on Wednesdays only. The Sanitation Division requests residents to please place yard waste curb side for collection by 6:00 AM.

Citizens are reminded yard waste must be placed in Kraft paper bags with orange stickers affixed **and will not be picked up if in a plastic bag of any type**. Tree branches must be in bundles no larger than 18" in diameter and 4' in length. Tree branches must be no larger than 4" in diameter. All bundles must have an affixed orange sticker. Weight limit on bundles and yard waste bags is 50 pounds. The Public Works Department would also like to remind all citizens **NOT** to blow or rake your leaves into the street as you are cleaning up. This causes debris and hazards in the right-of-way, and is not permitted.

The Central Maintenance Facility, located at 3001 8th Avenue South, is open for the disposal of yard waste, free of charge to Fort Dodge (non-commercial) residents between the hours of 8:00 AM until Noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and closed on Wednesday. Saturday hours will be 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Residents will empty their own bags at the site. All tree branches will be bundled-**no exceptions**. The compost site will be closed on all observed holidays. Participants should use the east entrance (past the recycling bins) and drive to the compost site at the south end of the facility. Staff will be on site to direct the operations. The compost site will close on approximately December 1st, 2008 for the season.

Please contact the Public Works Department with questions regarding the above information at 574-4307 between the hours of 6:00 AM and 2:30 PM.

NUISANCE COMPLAINTS TO BE ADDRESSED ON A FULL-TIME BASIS

On August 25, 2008, the Fort Dodge City Council approved entering into a one-year contract with Certified Home Inspection Services (CHIS) of Fort Dodge to perform compliance issues related to nuisance complaints and property maintenance code complaints. CHIS is also responsible for performing the city's rental housing inspections.

Previously, nuisance and property maintenance code complaints were funneled to City inspectors, who could only address these complaints on a part-time basis. The contract with Certified Home Inspection Services will guarantee that nuisance complaints can be handled on a full-time basis, which should result in greater compliance city-wide.

In 2007, a total of 790 nuisance complaints were called into the Mayor & City Manager's Office. These complaints include a variety of violations, such as snow removal, junk and rubbish on a property, vehicles parked in the yard, as well as overgrown grass and brush. Also in 2007, a total of 91 property maintenance code violations were called in. These complaints result from violations on the exterior of a property, such as peeling paint, broken windows, unsafe stairs, porches, entrances, etc. Preliminary numbers for 2008 show that complaint calls are up, with June 2008 being the busiest month on record.



Addressing nuisance and property maintenance code concerns is part of the Envision 2030 process, which aims to clean-up the image and appearance of Fort Dodge.



FALL BURNING INFORMATION FROM THE FORT DODGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Open burning of waste is regulated by the Fort Dodge Fire Department, as covered under the Opening Burning Regulations - Uniform Fire Code. In order to safely burn refuse, several rules must be followed:

LOCATION: Burning shall not take place within 50 feet of a structure; however within 25 feet is permissible if the pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.

*All burning material shall be constantly attended by a competent person who is responsible for the fire.

*A garden hose connected to a water supply, or other approved equipment, must be readily available at the burning site.

*Burning shall take place under favorable atmospheric conditions only. High winds, humidity, or dry conditions may halt all burning. Please listen to local radio stations for announcements.

*All burning shall be confined to the land owners property. Burning is NOT allowed on sidewalks, parkings, alleys, or streets.

HOURS OF BURNING: Burning shall take place between sunrise and sundown. No burning is allowed after sundown, and it is preferable that burning be completed 1 hour before sundown, to avoid the pollution caused by the heavier, cooler air that keeps the smoke from rising.

MATERIALS RESTRICTIONS: Only dry materials made up of leaves, grass clippings, small twigs, and branches produced on the site shall be allowed to be burned. The burning of rubbish and paper products is prohibited.

OFFENSIVE SMOKE AND ODORS: Waste matter shall not be burned, which shall in burning, cause or create dense smoke or odor. The Fire Chief or a designated representative may order burning ceased if smoke emissions are a problem.

*Should you have questions regarding the above information, please contact the
Fort Dodge Fire Department at: 576-1031.*

CHANGES AT THE FD PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Fort Dodge Public Library received 10 brand new computers that were purchased with grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Ann Smeltzer Charitable Trust. The new computers come equipped with 22" flat screen monitors! The processors are also faster and the new machines have 3 gig of memory! 5 of these new computers are in the Children's department loaded with new computer games for the kids. The other 5 new computers are in the Computer Lab. These computers are the result of phase one of a two year grant. The library will be receiving the remainder of the grant next summer; the total grant awarded was \$26,000.00.

Also, Fall Storytime registration starts on September 11th. Storytimes will be Wednesday 10:00am-10:30am, Thursday 10:00am-10:30am and Thursday 2:00pm-2:30pm, beginning September 17th and 18th. All the information is on the Events Calendar on the city website, located at: www.fortdodgeiowa.org.



LOOMIS PARK BOATHOUSE TO RECEIVE FACELIFT (CONT'D)

Five new solid-core doors and locks will be installed to help deter future vandalism. On the front of the cabin, plexiglass windows will be installed, and shingles will surround the front facade. On the interior, the kitchen area has already been repainted and given a new ceiling, along with additional light fixtures.

Local volunteers have been crucial in getting this project off the ground. Bill Fletcher and Merrill Leffler, Sr. volunteered their time to make and install new knee braces on the front of the cabin. A local group has volunteered to help clean and prep the cabin, including power washing the interior and exterior of the structure, as well as painting the inside dining room in the cabin. Additionally, the Iowa Central Building Trades program has volunteered the time of their students to install a new patio using stamped and colored poured concrete, and a walkway using 1,000 donated bricks. Several local businesses are also instrumental in making this restoration possible. Bemrich Electric has donated the time of eight electricians to completely re-wire the cabin. Beisser Lumber is selling the materials for the restoration at cost, and Sherwin-Williams is also selling the needed paint and supplies at cost.

However, more help is needed to complete this project. Although the Parks Foundation has applied for several grants, additional funds are still needed to install handicapped parking stalls, expand and upgrade the picnic section surrounding the cabin, as well as to address erosion control problems at Loomis Park. If you are interested in donating financially to this project, please send funds to: FD Parks Foundation, P.O. Box 177, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. If you are interested in volunteering at the cabin, please contact the FD Parks & Recreation Department at 576-7237.



Above, from L to R: The exterior & patio of the old 'concessions stand'; the front of the boathouse; the interior of the concessions stand/kitchen area.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The City of Fort Dodge Community Newsletter is now online!

Visit our website (address listed below) and scroll down on the homepage until you see the icon at right. Click the icon to read the current month's newsletter.

Visit our website at: <http://www.fortdodgeiowa.org>

Staying in the loop has never been easier!

