



Ed Sadler

# CITY SCENE

Summer 2008

## Water in Webster City (Not the flood type)

by Ed Sadler, City Manager

Earlier this year, the City embarked on a new plan for its water and wastewater plants. In the industry, what is being done is referred to as an "asset management plan", and what it entails is a 30 year evaluation of both facilities. The plans will evaluate every aspect of both plants to enumerate not only how every piece of equipment and structure should be taken care of, but also when we should plan on replacing each and every piece of the plants based upon their anticipated life expectancy if they are taken care of properly.

Although we currently have a maintenance schedule for both plants, we will now have a fresh set of eyes looking at our facilities to insure that everything is reevaluated and we make sure that items are being rebuilt, oiled, resealed, etc. when appropriate to insure maximum life expectancy for everything we have at both plants. This will help us control costs and avoid more costly repairs and replacements on an emergency basis which may also affect service reliability. As the one time TV commercial stated "pay me now or pay me later," and paying now is almost always cheaper.

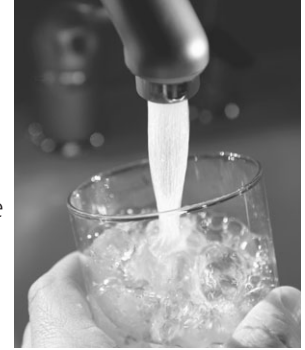
The second part of the asset management plan addresses replacement of equipment and buildings. Each piece of equipment (pumps, pipe, filters, etc) and structure (office buildings, clarifiers, tanks, etc) has an expected life based upon conditions, age, maintenance, etc. These will be indentified along with an estimated cost to replace. Also indentified to the extent possible are upgrades available at the time of replacement to provide better and more reliable service along with meeting any new regulatory requirements. This too will help avoid additional costs to the system. After all, why replace a piece of equipment with the same equipment only to have to replace it again three years later to meet new requirements that we have a pretty good idea are coming.

When this is completed this fall, we will have a pretty good idea of when items need

maintenance and replacement and we will have a good idea of relative costs. These items will now be placed into our long range budgets upon which we will build our rates for service. This will insure that we have adequate funds to actually do the work. This will hopefully avoid us having to make as many emergency repairs which may affect service, but it will also insure that when repairs or replacement is called for, whether planned or not, the funds are in place for us to do this work without having to do emergency rate increases or large rate increases.

Too often, municipalities (and businesses too) put off needed repairs to contain costs in the short run, but that leads to poor service and large rate increases later when the repairs can no longer be put off because the system is now broken or out of compliance. In really bad cases, many are faced with bond issues or special assessments because the work needed is so massive and then everyone is wondering who failed to do their job. As the State Director of Water Quality at one point in my life, I watched as way too many water and wastewater utilities based their rates on what the costs were to cover only daily operations so that they had really cheap water and sewer rates. This glee on their part disappeared quickly when their rates quadrupled because their systems were failing and the State and Federal agencies were threatening to close down the systems due to health and safety issues.

We are planning for the future of Webster City in the best way we know how. Yes, this plan may well lead to rate increases, but we believe that this approach leads to less costs and more stable rates in the long run for everyone and also provides better service for every customer.



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Mark Gillette

## Playing nice with others

by Mark Gillette

A rift between the City and County began back in the late 1800's. Back in those days, there was one scale for citizens to weigh their grain or produce. The scales at that time were generally owned and operated by the cities. The out-of towners would bring in their produce or grain to town, sell it, go to main street, buy provision for the next week and head home. Well it appears one of our "City Fathers" at the time believed that those that live outside of Webster City need to pay more for the use of the scale than those that live in town and many took great exception to that. That rift, believe it or not, still exists today only in different forms.

That story only is to remind us that "Those that forget their history are doomed to repeat it". As an example we can look at City-County relations. In my four and one half years on the Council, I've witnessed some of the problems occur when one entity wants change, and the other doesn't, or wants to do things in a different way. Sometimes it's about control, sometimes it's about ego, sometimes it's about money. No matter what the problem may be, open and honest dialogue and trust is the only way to end the rift.

There are some positive examples taking place in our relationship.

Mayor Gray has done a fine job at the County Landfill. Even with a 49.68% weighted vote, he gathers input from other members of the commission and together, make decisions in the best interest of the county as a whole. The 2010 census may give Webster City a 50% or better vote making the county and the other towns irrelevant and the landfill will be controlled by one person. That has a potential for disaster and the Council needs to find a fair and equitable remedy.

On June 2nd, the City Council passed a resolution in support of a new entrance to the courthouse and hospital. There were a few bumps along the way, but cooler heads prevailed, and plans are moving forward. The City and County are working together to secure alternative funding sources through MIDAS. The City and County will follow through and continue to build that trust.

We've made a big step in rebuilding a good intergovernmental relationship and we need it to continue. And it will when we put the best interest of the taxpayers first.

## Crazy Day Art Festival

July 26th, 2008 - Webster City, Iowa

Crazy Day Art Festival is a growing event designed to bring people to downtown Webster City. The theme for this year is Capture your Creativity. It is a joint venture with our retail community, which will feature crazy deals at their sidewalk sales starting at 9:00 am.

People from near and far are here to excite you with their Artwork/Handmade items starting at 10:00 am. No matter if you are here to buy or here to look, it is sure to be a great time for all!

In addition to the Art Festival and sidewalk sales, we have added a poetry contest,

children's literary parade and a sidewalk art contest for all ages to inspire everyone to capture their creativity. Another great addition to Crazy Days will be a car show that will display some magnificent vintage cars.

This is a wonderful, free outdoor summer event everyone can enjoy. We would love to inspire you to **Capture your Creativity!**

If you are interested in having a FREE booth for Festival or want to enter your car in the car show, please contact the Chamber Office at 515-832-2564 or mail to: kiml@wmtel.net.

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City Scene

## City of Webster City movie listing July thru August 2008

**Most movies will be shown at the theatre at 9:00 p.m. except for one movie as noted below.**

July 5

### **Days Of Thunder**

Sponsored by Swine Graphics Enterprises, LP

July 12

### **Shrek 2**

Sponsored by Hawkins Industries

July 19

### **The Fugitive**

Sponsored by Drs. Moriarty

July 26

### **Stuart Little**

Sponsored by Doolittle Oil Co.  
Doc's Stop C-Stores

August 2

### **The Goonies**

Sponsored by McDonald's

August 9

### **Men in Black**

Sponsored to be announced

August 16

### **School of Rock**

Sponsored by Drs. Shelly & Shelly, PC

August 23

### **The Waterboy**

Sponsored by Beam-Electrolux

August 30

### **Finding Nemo**

**This movie will be shown at  
Brewer Creek Park at 9:00 p.m.**

Sponsored by Gary Groves

## Music Schedule 2008 - City Plaza

July 5, 2008 - Maurice Walker

July 12, 2008 - Eclectic Motives

July 19, 2008 - Boone River Boys

July 26, 2008 - Dixie & Charlie

August 2, 2008 - Boone River Boys

August 9, 2008 - Neal Ogg

August 16, 2008 - Boone River Boys

August 23, 2008 - Neal Ogg

August 30, 2008 - Maurice Walker

September 6, 2008 - Neal Ogg

September 13, 2008 - Dixie & Charlie

September 20, 2008 - Boone River Boys

September 27, 2008 - Boone River Boys



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Summer 2008

## Economic Development

Job creation has been the focal point of Iowa's economic development programs in response to global trends to place factories in low cost developing countries. As industrial plants have closed, large numbers of people have suddenly been left without a source of income, and the desire to replace lost jobs has driven development programming. A bigger threat to our economy is looming larger by the day – Baby Boomers are getting older and will be retiring in large numbers very soon. We have a paradox where we need to create more jobs yet we do not have the people in place to sustain these jobs.

Even with the use of higher technologies, we still need to have people to keep things running, and higher technologies require higher skilled people to use the technology. Places that will be considered winners in the future will be the places that can keep and attract people with the needed skills. Jobs will gravitate to places that have people leaving empty factories scattered across the landscape where people were not available to sustain operations.

While we have a very good number of jobs in Webster City, we are in a race to attract people, and we have not created significant advantages to sell our community to our young people and others. We are not without key elements of a highly attractive place, but, judging from city and county population trends for the last half century, they have not been adequate to build population.

To turn our trend lines to positive directions several things must be accomplished relatively simultaneously.

The expectations of the community must be raised. A person from the Iowa Department of Economic Development toured Webster City recently. His comments: We have a very "average" appearance. We have some very nice features, but overall work is needed. Being average may be comfortable, but is not a good place to remain. Winners are far above average.

A community mindset to excel is needed. "Good enough" isn't. To make a sale, a business has to offer products that meet the needs and expectations of the customer. Likewise, communities have to make sales to individuals as a place to live one household at a time.

Money is viewed as a chokepoint for many things, but a different type of capital, social capital, must be used to create vision that can lead to action before money matters. Unlike money, social capital

is not finite in amount, and the more it is used, the more there is to use. There seems to be reluctance to use social capital here which greatly limits the potential of the community. This can and should change.

Webster City Area Development has established a Workforce Committee that is dealing with only workforce issues. The narrow focus of this committee can complement the efforts of groups such as PRIDE, the schools, the new hospital project, and many others creating a synergy that drives the community well into the future. A graduate student project with the Iowa State University College of Design and a community visioning project with ISU have identified several ways to make the community more vibrant and attractive. Their suggestions tend to be based on what is already here such as the Boone River and do not tout lots of highly grandiose endeavors that may not be accepted by the community. Studies from ISU about population movement indicate that most people in the working age ranges move because of employment, but demand for employees, especially for highly skilled people, allows people great latitude when choosing what job to take and where to live. The attitude "they should be happy to have a job" rings hollow today. There are too many good jobs and too many good places to live for people willing to move. We must make them want to move here.

We have excellent highway transportation, an attractive downtown, good schools, the Boone River and many other scenic and recreation amenities to build upon. The path to capitalize on our assets to build our future is being laid, and there seems to be a strong desire in the community to enhance Webster City to be a better place to live. Making a place that strongly attracts new people is crucial for the future. Richard Florida, author of *The Rise of the Creative Class*, has noted that the personality and culture of a place largely determines the people who will choose to live there. His new book, *Who's Your City*, delves into this concept. At [creativeclass.com/whos\\_your\\_city/](http://creativeclass.com/whos_your_city/) you can actually look for places that suit your individual preferences. This can open your eyes to the competition. We are competing not just against Fort Dodge, Iowa Falls, or Story City but also against Minneapolis, New York, London, and more.

The efforts of the Webster City Area Development Workforce Committee and its collaborators will be greatly boosted with continuing support to aggressively make Webster City a better place to live.

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City Scene

# Tour de Webster

## Sunday, August 24, 2008

### 1:00 PM

- What:** Tour de Webster Bicycle race and fun ride  
 Long Course - 47 Kilometers (29.2 miles)  
 Short Course - 35 Kilometers (21.8 miles)
- When:** Sunday, August 24, 2008  
 Race and ride start at 1:00 PM
- Where:** Iowa Central Community College Parking Lot  
 1725 Beach Street, Webster City, Iowa

This is both a bike road race and a non-competitive fun ride that will start at the Iowa Central parking lot. The ride will go **SOUTH** on Beach Street and turn **WEST** onto Airport Road. At the end of Airport Road, it will go **SOUTH** to the Homer intersection. The ride will then go **EAST** and follow the road past Woodard Feed back onto Beach Street, ending at the Iowa Central parking lot. There is an extended course **SOUTH** of Homer corner to the D-56 road way. The racers then turn **EAST** to the R-27 road way. This is the last turn to the **NORTH** back to the ICC parking lot. Medals will be given in each age division.



#### MEN'S DIVISIONS

- Under 15**
- 15-19**
- 20-29**
- 30-39**
- 40-49**
- 50-59**
- 60 & over**

#### WOMEN'S DIVISIONS

- Under 15**
- 15-19**
- 20-29**
- 30-39**
- 40-49**
- 50-59**
- 60 & over**

ENTRY FEE: \$20.50 Payable to Webster City Recreation & Public Grounds. Please register early to ensure a T-shirt for yourself. We will only take race day entries from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE A SHIRT AND REFRESHMENTS

Detach and mail completed form and check to:  
 Fuller Hall  
 625 Bank Street, Webster City, IA 50595

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Age on Race Day \_\_\_\_\_ DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

T-SHIRT SIZE: SMALL MEDIUM LARGE XL XXL

Waiver

In consideration of your acceptance of this entry, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, waive any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the City of Webster City and/or individuals associated with the event, its agents, representatives, successors, and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me in said event. I attest and verify that, I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event and I am physically fit and sufficiently trained to participate in this event. I also give my permission for the free use of my name and picture in any broadcast, telecast, or media account.

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

(Parental signature if participant is under 18)

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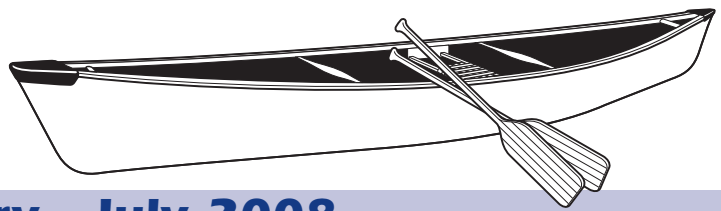
## Boone Bash River Dash

The flooding and severe weather were not enough to keep hundreds of people away from the Boone Bash River Dash. Families from as far as Kansas made the trek for canoe and kayak races, community bbq, awards, and the Kid's Bash set up by WC HYPE.

The community bbq served at least 500 meals making the festivities at Twin Parks one of the largest events Webster City has. Thank you for supporting the Boone Bash River Dash, it will only get bigger. Also a special thanks to the following:

The Boone Bash River Dash Committee  
Aquila  
Automatic Machine Products  
Bending Branches  
Duane Baedke - Pepsi  
Electrolux Central Vacuum Systems  
Fareway  
First American Bank  
First State Bank  
Hamilton County Conservation  
McDonalds

North Central Regional Sports Authority District  
North Central Turf  
Pyranha  
The Trashman  
WC HYPE  
Webster City Custom Meats  
Webster City Federal Savings Bank



## Project Summary - July 2008

Webster City residents will see several contractors working throughout the summer on Public Works projects such as bridge deck sealing, fire hydrant painting, fire hydrant and valve replacement, water main installation, and street resurfacing. Two of the larger projects are:

### 2008 Resurfacing Project

This project was awarded to Fort Dodge Asphalt on June 16 and will involve asphalt resurfacing, slurry sealing, and asphalt crack sealing. Areas involved in this year's project include:

Des Moines Street between Second Street & N. alley (resurfacing)

Bank Street between Superior and UPRR (resurfacing)

Prospect between Second & Bank (slurry sealing)

Prospect between Elm and Ohio (resurfacing)

Grove between Walnut and Ohio (slurry and patching)

Fairmeadow @ Des Moines (approx. 100' asphalt patch on Fairmeadow)

Water Street between Willson & Des Moines (resurfacing)

Walnut Street between Superior and Beach (resurfacing)

All work is scheduled for completion around the middle of October.

## 2008 Water System Improvement Project

This year's water system improvements will continue on James Street from the 1300 block west to the east end of Industrial Park Road and will involve the installation of water main, valves, and fire hydrants.

The project also includes fire hydrant and valve replacements on Walnut Street between Beach and Superior.

All work is scheduled for completion around the middle of September.

As these projects progress throughout the summer, information regarding street closures, water service interruptions, etc. will be available through the local news media, Cable Channel 12, and the City's website at: [www.webstercity.com](http://www.webstercity.com). Questions regarding the project may be directed to Jan Andrew, Public Works Project Coordinator, at 832-9139 or mail to: [jana@webstercity.com](mailto:jana@webstercity.com).

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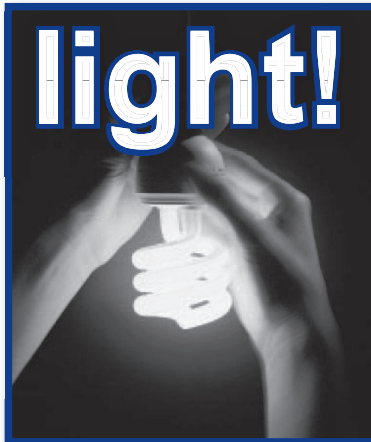
City Scene

# See the light!

The City of Webster City has energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs for sale in our Utility Office.

CFL's produce low heat, so it takes less energy to cool your home so you can save on air conditioning too!

For the month of July, we will be discounting prices up to 40%. Stop in and see our selection and take advantage of these great prices.



Here is a complete list of bulbs available:

- 14 Watt/60 W Equivalent Spiral Bulb - \$1.50 each (Reg. Price \$2.40)
- 20 Watt/75 W Equivalent Spiral Bulb - \$2.00 each (Reg. Price \$3.25)
- 23 Watt/100 W Equivalent Spiral Bulb - \$2.00 each (Reg. Price \$3.60)
- 14 Watt R20 Flood Lamps-Track Lights - \$3.00 each (Reg. Price \$5.00)
- 14 Watt A-Lamp-Decorative - \$2.75 each (Reg. Price \$4.70)
- 14 Watt Globe-Bath - \$3.00 each (Reg. Price \$4.80)
- 4 Watt Candelabra-Decorative - \$2.50 (Reg. Price 4.00)
- 14 Watt Yellow Buglight-Outdoor - \$2.25 each (Reg. Price \$3.60)
- 14-19-32 Watt 3-Way Bulb - \$6.75 each (Reg. Price \$11.20)
- 19 Watt R40 Flood Lamp-Kitchen - \$4.75 each (Reg. Price \$7.80)
- 14 Watt R30 Flood Lamp-Kitchen - \$3.25 each (Reg. Price \$5.25)

These special sale prices will be in effect until July 31, 2008 or while supplies last.

# Save on water!

The City of Webster City now offers our residential customers water conservation kits available at the Utility Office.

Each "I Save Water Kit" includes:

- a low-flow showerhead,
- 1 kitchen faucet aerator
- 2 bathroom faucet aerators
- a toilet water saver (fill cycle diverter)
- toilet leak detection tablets
- a flow meter bag
- installation instructions
- a water conservation wheel with helpful hints on water conservation

The kits are available for City of Webster City utility customers. Limit of one per household. Cost is \$1.00 to cover the shipping and handling cost.

400 Second Street P.O. Box 217 Webster City Iowa 50595 515-832-9141 [www.webstercity.com](http://www.webstercity.com)



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# Recycling Rules



## RIGIDS

Glass, Plastic, Metal

- Loose in bottom of container

### PLASTIC

(#1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 7)

Milk jugs-Flatten-thoroughly drained

Anti-freeze containers-thoroughly drained

Motor oil-thoroughly drained

### GLASS

Clear, green, brown, blue

(Do Not Break!)

### METAL

Aluminum (pop cans/pie tins, trays)

### TIN CANS

Must be crimped or flattened



## FIBERS

Cardboard, Paper, Magazines

- Together in a brown paper sack or bundled together with twine

### BOXBOARD

(Cereal, cake, chip, and cracker boxes)

### CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

(Flattened-maximum size is

30" by 60" by 6" high

### NEWSPAPER

### COPY & COMPUTER PAPER

### JUNK MAIL & PHONE BOOKS

### MAGAZINES & CATALOGS

- **NO PLASTIC BAGS ARE TO BE USED OR SET OUT**
- **ALL ITEMS MUST BE CLEANED**
- **ALL CAPS, LIDS, COVERS, O-RINGS, PUMPS, METAL HANDLES - DISCARD INTO YOUR REGULAR TRASH**

## NOT RECYCLABLE:

-Cotton balls

-Paper towels, napkins, tissues

-Cups, coffee filters, tea bags

-Waxed paper or waxed anything like milk cartons, drinking boxes, frozen food boxes

-Candy & gum wrappers

-Cellophane, foil, plastic wrap

-Carbon papers, wallpaper

-Bathroom waste paper

-Photos, slides, transparencies

-Aerosol cans, paint cans

-Gasoline containers

-Light bulbs, pens

-Window panes, mirrors

-Pottery, ceramics

-Disposable razors, needles

-Toys, dishes, glasses

-Medicine containers

-Plastic cups, silverware, trays

-Plastic wrap

-Foam cups, foam packaging

-Plastic Bags of any type

## Read the Label

(Source- Environmental Defense Fund)  
When items listed on this page are made from recycled materials, they usually say so right on the label. Look for the highest percentage of post-consumer recycled content you can find.

Compare labels to find the product or package with the highest percentage of "post-consumer" recycled content. Let store managers and manufacturers know that you prefer products made from recycled materials.

**Paperboard Boxes** - Lightweight cardboard boxes such as cereal, cracker, and shoeboxes are often made from recycled paper. Read the label.

**Bath & Facial Tissue** - Toilet paper and facial tissue made from recycled paper meet consumer expectations and cost about the same as or less than their non-recycled counterparts.

**Plastic Bottles & Jugs** - Some household cleaners, dishwashing liquids, shampoos, and other products can be found in plastic bottles with 25% or higher post-consumer recycled content. Check the label.

**Paper Towels** - Paper towels with recycled content are competitive in price and performance. But don't forget you can use a sponge or rag to do the same job!

**Writing Paper & Envelopes** - Top-quality recycled paper, envelopes, and greeting cards are increasingly easy to find. Some "designer" recycled stationery is meant to look rough and

unfinished, but most recycled paper looks just like the paper made directly from trees. Check the label for post-consumer recycled content. (And don't forget to ask for recycled paper if you order printing or copying.)

...And many more! Other products made from recycled materials include: re-refined motor oil, fiberfill for sleeping bags, carpet, shoes, pencils, recycling bins, building insulation, wallboard, tiles, and many more. Read the Label!

## Safe Bets

These four types of packaging can always be counted on to have a high percentage of post-consumer recycled content, even though many such packages are not yet labeled.

**Aluminum Beverage Cans** - About 50% of the aluminum in beverage cans comes from used cans that were recycled and melted to make new cans.

**Glass Bottles & Jars** - Nearly 25% of the glass in bottles and jars has been used before, recycled, and remanufactured.

**"Tin" (Steel) Cans** - So-called "tin" cans are actually made of steel, usually with a thin coating of tin. About 25% of the content is recycled steel, half of that being post-consumer.

**Molded Pulp Containers** - Gray or brown cardboard egg cartons, fruit trays, and flower pots are made from recycled paper that is repulped and reshaped.

Ph: 515-832-9151

Quarterly Newsletter for the City of Webster City

## City of Webster City

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