

Winter Newsletter

Mason City Employee and Department of the Year Honored



We are proud to announce that Rob Selby is the City of Mason's 2011 Employee of the Year! Rob's nomination included in part that he "has gone above and beyond to provide quality service.... Rob has always demonstrated hard work and dedication to the City of Mason. Rob has also worked successfully with numerous volunteer groups to work on Rayner Park improvements. Congratulations, Rob!



We are also proud to announce that the Streets and Water Division of the Department of Public Works is the City of Mason's Department of the Year! This Department worked hard to maintain City services throughout the storm, power outage and flooding in May and the subsequent clean up of the streets. They also maintained services throughout heavy rains and flooding in August and made numerous street repairs. Congratulations, gentlemen!

Top: City Administrator Marty Colburn congratulates Rob Selby, Foreman of the Cemetery, Parks and Forestry Division, on being named the City of Mason Employee of the Year.

Bottom: Marty Colburn congratulates the DPW Streets & Water Division on being named the City of Mason Department of the Year. From left to right: Marty Colburn, Ken Baker, Jon VanDommelen, Levi Rice, Dennis Motes, Kirk Crawford, James Wolfe, Eric Ream, and Blake Kalchick.

Not pictured: Franz Martin and Tom Silsby

The City of Mason recycles your Christmas Trees! Drop off your tree *no later than January 31, 2012* to Bond Park, Griffin Park, or Hayes Park.

CITY OF MASON

Telephone 517.676.9155

Facsimile 517.676.1330

201 W. Ash St. Mason, MI 48854

WWW.MASON.MI.US

Seniors who cannot get their Christmas trees to the drop off sites can put their trees out at the curb side and call Mason City Hall to make arrangements to have the trees picked up. *Thank you for keeping Mason a beautiful place to live!*

Volunteer Shoveling Program

The image of a neighborly, close knit, and walkable community has long been an image that the City of Mason strives to portray. However, during winter months, heavy snowfall can make maintaining this image a challenge. Keeping sidewalks clear is a matter of safety, walkability, and being a good neighbor.

The City currently requires all commercial buildings within the C-1 Central Business zoning district (generally the commercial buildings surrounding the County Courthouse) to remove sidewalk snow, which has accumulated in excess of two inches, or ice that may have fallen, formed, or be remaining upon such sidewalk before 10:00 a.m. each day, except Sunday.

But what about residential sidewalks? The city presently does not have an ordinance requiring snow removal on sidewalks adjacent to residential property, nor do we issue fines, due to the administrative cost of such regulation. Whether it is taking care of your own sidewalk or helping a neighbor in need, we are relying on the “hometown values” of the citizens of Mason to clear their own walks and give a helping hand to someone in need.

In order to keep the sidewalks safe throughout the city, we will be facilitating a **volunteer shoveling program**. City Hall will be recruiting volunteers to help clear snow and ice at some of the houses in the city that need help with their shoveling. If you want to help by volunteering or are in need of assistance with your own sidewalks please, **call David Haywood at (517) 676-9155**.

We will maintain a running list of houses in need of assistance this winter. So, please do your part to show your “hometown values” by helping your neighbors this winter and making Mason a safer place to walk.



The following is a list of heart and back friendly tips for safe winter shoveling recommended by the American Heart Association:

- If you are inactive and have a history of heart trouble, talk to your doctor before you take on the task of shoveling snow.
- Avoid caffeine or nicotine before beginning, as they may place extra stress on the heart.
- Drink plenty of water. Dehydration is just as big an issue in cold winter months as it is in the summer.
- Dress in several layers so you can remove layers as needed.
- Warm up your muscles before shoveling.
- Pick the right shovel for you. A smaller blade will require you to lift less snow, putting less strain on your body.
- Begin shoveling slowly to avoid placing a sudden demand on your heart. Face yourself and take breaks as needed.
- Protect your back from injury by lifting correctly.
- Stand with your feet about hip width for balance and keep the shovel close to your body. Bend from the knees (not the back) and tighten your stomach muscles as you lift the snow.
- Most importantly — listen to your body.
 - Stop if you feel pain!

2012 ELECTION DATES

February 28, 2012 – Presidential Primary Election

August 7, 2012 – Primary Election

November 6, 2012 – General Election

Time to Check Mailboxes

Winter is approaching and Mason's Department of Public Works is trying to get things ready. That means thinking of ways to make it easier on our residents. In the past years, we have had a few problems with some of the roadside mailboxes. When a mailbox and post have to be replaced, it is much easier to replace in the warmer weather when the ground is still soft. But it is quickly becoming colder, so now is a good time for Mason City residents to do a quick maintenance check on their boxes

First, make sure that the post is solid. It shouldn't sway when you put the mail inside. If the post is wooden, make sure it is not decaying. It is very difficult to dig a post hole in several feet of snow, and in the frozen ground.

Second, check the base of your mail box. You don't want the bottom of the box to fall out due to rust or decay. Important mail could be lost.

Third, but most important, the mailbox should not extend past the back of the curb. This is a hazard for the plow trucks. It is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain their mailboxes. If the mailbox does exceed the curb, the snowplow trucks have no way of avoiding them. This means the homeowner is responsible for replacing any damaged mailbox if it is not in compliance.

Our plow truck drivers try their best not to hit any of the mailboxes. However, plowing the snow away so that the resident can get to their mailbox is also important. By doing this simple maintenance check, homeowners are helping us at D.P.W. make it safer for everyone this winter.



Where Do My Property Tax Dollars Go?

Do you ever wonder where your money goes when paying your property tax bill? The money you are spending goes to many different taxing entities and pays for a variety of services including the zoo, education, public libraries, public transportation and public safety.

The City of Mason collects \$45.02 for every \$1,000 of taxable value for a primary residence. Of the \$45.02, the City of Mason receives \$13.25. The remainder of your bill goes to Ingham County, the State Education Fund, Mason Public Schools, Ingham Intermediate School District, Lansing Community College and Capital Area District Library.

The City of Mason tax collections are allocated to general fund operations and cover many of the services you rely on in the City. Some of these services include police, fire, road construction and maintenance, leaf pickup, street lighting, sidewalks, parks and recreation, cemetery, elections and other local government operations within the community.

The City of Mason has the lowest city millage rate in Ingham County. The City of East Lansing collects 20.5626 mills; City of Lansing collects 15.70 mills; City of Leslie collects 17.59 mills; and the City of Williamston collects 15.1342 mills.

You should have already received your Winter Tax Bill.
Please note that taxes are due by
Tuesday, February 14, 2012 to avoid penalty!

Mark Your Calendars: Voting Time is Here Again!

Presidential Primary Election – February 28, 2012

- **January 30, 2012 – 5:00 p.m. - Close of Registration**
The last day to register to vote in the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary Election.
- **February 25, 2012 – 2:00 p.m. - Deadline to request an absent voter ballot by mail**
Requests to have an absentee ballot mailed to you must be received by the Clerk's office before 2:00 p.m.
- **February 27, 2012 – 4:00 p.m. - Deadline to request an absent voter ballot in person**
An absent voter ballot may be requested until 4:00 p.m. Monday, February 27; ballots must be voted at the City Clerk's Office.
- **February 28, 2012 – 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Election Day**
All precincts are located at City Hall, 201 W. Ash Street.

Mason School Board Candidates

- **August 14, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.**
The last day to file an Affidavit of Identity and a nominating petition. (A \$100.00 nonrefundable fee may be filed in lieu of a petition.)

City Council Candidates

- **May 15, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.**
The last day to file nominating petitions and Affidavit of Identity.

County Convention Delegate Candidates

- **May 15, 2012 – 4:00 p.m.**
The last day to file an Affidavit of Identity.



New Painting at City Hall

Visitors to Mason City Hall's second floor will be greeted by new artwork, a large original painting by artist Robert 'Bob' Adams, of Prattville, Alabama. The donation was arranged by Bernie Adams, of DBI, who happens to be the artist's brother. Mr. Bob Adams' work was also recently featured in the book, Montgomery and the River Region Sketchbook.

The painting depicts the new Mason City Hall building, and measures more than three feet tall. The bright colors add a cheerful note to the new City Hall facility. The painting has been prominently placed outside of the Finance Department and the Second Floor Training Room for great public exposure.

The City of Mason is accepting donations of other artwork or historic photos! For donation information, or with any questions about the painting please contact Executive Assistant Ingrid Nova at 517-676-5891.

Mason Organizations

ALAIEDON SCOUTS 676-6499, Tony Assaf
AMERICAN LEGION 676-1651, Terry Fobbs
CAPITOL CITY CAR CLUB 676-5046, Shirley Wilcox
COUNTY SEAT OLD CAR CLUB 676-5978, Arnold Short
DDA 244-6332, Marco Broggio
EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT ASSOC.
 663-1318, Tom Botsford
FARM BUREAU YOUNG PEOPLE 676-4034, Steve Cheney
FRIENDS OF THE MASON LIBRARY 676-4175, Elaine Ferris
GIRL SCOUTS OF MASON 676-6093, Christine Hesch
INGHAM COUNTY FARM BUREAU
 676-5115, Barb Chapman
INGHAM CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 337-8925, Grove Sandrock
INGHAM FESTIVAL CHORALE 676-4815, Anne Coady
MASON ANTIQUES/ COBBLESTONE VILLAGE
 676-1270, Larry Silsby
MASON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 676-1046, Doug Klein
MASON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 676-2209, Randy Gladstone
MASON AREA SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB
 676-2555, Loraine Larkins
MASON ART GUILD 676-5926, Bea VanAndel
MASON BAND BOOSTERS 676-9055, Beth Bousfield
MASON BREAKFAST OPTIMIST 676-2791, Pete Hanover
MASON BULLDOG BOOSTERS 676-6535
MASON CHAPTER 150 ORDER EASTERN STAR
 676-2014, Mary Ruttan
MASON COLLEGE CLUB 676-5876, Kris Taylor
MASON COMMUNITY PARTNERS 676-4519, Ext. 215
MASON FFA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
 694-0499, Marie Sheridan
MASON FIRE DEPARTMENT 244-9025, Chief Minshall
MASON HOMESCHOOLERS NETWORK
 676-5073, Rebecca Schwartz
MASON KIWANIS CLUB 676-2272, Lawrence Howe
MASON LIONS CLUB 676-2518, Stan Jordan
MASONIC LODGE #70 F&AM 676-5040, Ivan Kerr
MASON ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY
 676-3678, Kay Rinker-O'Neil
MASON ROTARY CLUB 676-8376, Jared Browers
MICHIGAN STEAM ENGINE AND THRASHERS CLUB
 676-5160, Sandy Smalley
MICHIGAN TRAPSHOOTING ASSOCIATION
 676-2295, Rick Shirkey
NORTH AURELIUS SCOUTS 694-3624, Suzanne Ferris
STEELE SCOUTS 676-8569, Wade Johnson
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS 676-7309, Bob Jordon



RECYCLING IN MASON

CELL PHONES

Mason City Hall, 676-9155

COMPUTER RECYCLING

Mason Goodwill Store, 244-9306

COOKING OIL

Delhi Township WWTP,

699-3873

Delta Township Recycling Center,

323-8500

CREATION STATION WISH LIST

(517) 371-2451

MID-MICHIGAN FREecycle

NETWORK

www.freecycle.org

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

COLLECTION

887-4521

MERCURY THERMOMETERS

887-4521

OIL, ANTIFREEZE, & CAR BATTERY

Carquest, 676-2464

NAPA Auto Parts

676-5481

PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING

Meijer, 244-1900

POLYSTYRENE

Dart Container, 500 Hogsback Rd.

24 hours a day/7 days a week

PROPANE

Kerr Hardware, 676-5040

SHARPS COLLECTIONS

272-4145

TIRE RECYCLING

887-4521

*View the Mason Chamber of Commerce Events
 Calendar Online at www.MasonChamber.org*



Mayor Leon



Mayor Pro Tem



Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember



Councilmember