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## City Administrator Report to Mayor & City Council

*August 9, 2013, Edition No. 96*

### REPORT:

1. **Blue Zones Kickoff:** Please see the attached pdf regarding the Blue Zones Kickoff event to be held September 10th at the Muscatine High School. Hope to see you there!
2. **MMGC:** Please see the attached spreadsheet detailing golf rounds played to date.
3. **Fire Chief:** Please see the attached regarding Chief Ewers Chief Fire Officer Re-designation.
4. **Newsletter:** Please see the attached city newsletter.
5. **ERC Golf Outing:** The ERC will be holding its 2nd Annual Golf Outing on Saturday, September 28, 2013 at MMGC starting at 4pm. ERC covers the cost for a city employee and one guest. Additional guests are \$35. To sign up, please contact Fran.
6. **ICC:** The International Code Council (ICC) has issued the attached news release regarding the City of Muscatine's Building Department Staff. The Department staff is now 100% certified by the ICC in several categories (see attached). Congratulations to our Building Department!
7. **Iowa League:** Please see the following draft legislative priorities that will be voted on at the Iowa League's Annual conference:
  - Infrastructure Funding: Increase existing funding and develop new funding resources for city infrastructure needs, which include maintaining Iowa's roads and bridges and water and wastewater compliance.
  - Public Pension System: Ensure long-term sustainability and fairness of the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (MFPRSI). Enact changes to MFPRSI that result in a more balanced system and control costs to cities.
  - City Finances and Economic Development Resources: Support essential and diversified funding options, including property tax backfill for local revenue losses and diversified revenue options; support progressive economic development policies and maintain funding for key economic development programs.
  - Local Decision Making: Ensure legislation enhances a city's ability to make decisions at the local level to operate efficiently and to deliver city services more effectively.
8. **Comp Plan:** REMINDER - Below are links to the current DRAFT of the Comprehensive Plan. The plan has been through Planning Commission review and will now be brought forward to the City Council at the first meeting in September. This should give you adequate time to begin review of the plan. We will bring forward a review of the major highlights of the plan and open things up for questions. We can then determine if Council would like to have additional

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any  
on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**

meetings or proceed to adoption. A good way to review this 350 page document is to start with each chapters goals and then dive into more detail on areas that peak you interest or where you may have questions. Comments are always welcome in advance.

- Demographics – Chapter 2: <http://bit.ly/MuscCP2>
- Transportation – Chapter 3: <http://bit.ly/MuscCP3>
- Geographical and Environmental Conditions – Chapter 4: <http://bit.ly/MuscCP4>
- Land Use – Chapter 5: <http://bit.ly/MuscCP5>
- Parks and Recreation – Chapter 6: <http://bit.ly/MuscCP6>
- Community Facilities, Services, & Amenities – Chapter 7: <http://bit.ly/MuscCP7>
- Economic Development: <http://bit.ly/MuscCP8>
- Housing- Chapter 9: <http://bit.ly/MuscCP9a>

MUSCATINE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE  
ROUNDS PLAYED

	2004	YTD	2005	YTD	2006	YTD	2007	YTD	2008	YTD	2009	YTD	2010	YTD	2011	YTD	2012	YTD	2013	YTD
MARCH	726	726	963	963	561	561	857	857	738	738	1,151	1,151	1,608	1,608	1093	1,093	2,401	2,401	86	86
APRIL	3,573	4,299	3,426	4,389	3,294	3,855	2,483	3,340	2,569	3,307	3,028	4,179	3,928	5,536	2777	3,870	3,340	5,741	2312	2398
MAY	4,802	9,101	4,852	9,241	4,622	8,477	4,300	7,640	4,589	7,896	5,072	9,251	4,616	10,152	4586	8,456	5,361	11,102	3836	6234
JUNE	5,496	14,597	5,442	14,683	5,327	13,804	4,655	12,295	5,624	13,520	5,666	14,917	5,065	15,217	5111	13,567	5746	16,848	4,989	11,223
JULY	5,574	20,171	5,584	20,267	5,745	19,549	5,210	17,505	6,379	19,899	6,623	21,540	5,343	20,560	5471	19,038	5159	22,007	5678	16,901
AUGUST	5,363	25,534	5,490	25,757	5,142	24,691	4,853	22,358	5,753	25,652	5,334	26,874	5,030	25,590	5550	24,588	5039	27,046		
SEPTEMBER	4,184	29,718	3,924	29,681	4,038	28,729	3,709	26,067	3,812	29,464	4,320	31,194	3,818	29,408	3283	27,871	3584	30,630		
OCTOBER	2,283	32,001	2,571	32,252	2,010	30,739	2,711	28,778	2,438	31,902	1,676	32,870	2,865	32,273	2615	30,486	1952	32,582		
NOVEMBER	767	32,768	943	33,195	1,086	31,825	970	29,748	785	32,687	1897	34,767	1,101	33,374	1005	31,491	1454	34,036		
TOTAL - YTD		<u>32,768</u>		<u>33,195</u>		<u>31,825</u>		<u>29,748</u>		<u>32,687</u>		<u>34,767</u>		<u>33,374</u>		<u>31,491</u>		<u>34,036</u>		<u>16901</u>

*Includes 346 rounds in Dec*

PLAYERS ON SEASON PASSES

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
ADULT	168	170	155	141	100	116	154	126	134	106
SENIOR	67	71	80	78	68	78	70	66	82	79
JUNIOR	52	39	50	36	23	29	20	21	24	16
COLLEGE	NA	NA	NA	1	7	13	10	10	7	5
FAMILY	NA	NA	NA	NA	66	56	58	54	51	37
TOTAL	287	280	285	256	264	292	312	277	298	243

10year Average YTD avg

March	1018	1018
April	3073	4091
May	4664	8755
June	5312	14067
July	5676	19744
Aug	5284	25027
Sept	3852	28880
Oct	2347	31227
Nov	1112	32339
Total	32339	

3 year average YTD avg

March	1193	1193
April	2810	4003
May	4594	8597
June	5282	13879
July	5436	19315
Aug	5206	24522
Sept	3562	28083
Oct	2477	30561
Nov	1187	31747
Total	31747	



Center for  
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Excellence

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Web Site – [www.publicsafetyexcellence.org](http://www.publicsafetyexcellence.org)

## Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Debbie Sobotka  
Deputy Director  
(703) 691-4620  
[dsobotka@publicsafetyexcellence.org](mailto:dsobotka@publicsafetyexcellence.org)

Date: August 6, 2013

Headline: Local Fire Chief Completes International Professional Designation Process

Fire Chief Jerry Ewers of the Muscatine Fire Department has successfully completed the process that awards him the professional designation of “Chief Fire Officer” (CFO). The Commission on Professional Credentialing met on July 2, 2013 to officially confer the re-designation upon Chief Ewers. Chief Ewers is one of only 922 CFO’s worldwide.

The Chief Fire Officer Designation program is a voluntary program designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate their excellence in seven measured components including: Experience, Education, Professional Development, Professional Contributions, Association Membership, Community Involvement, and Technical Competencies. Chief Ewers received his original designation on June 8, 2010. To maintain the designation, individuals need to show they have continued to develop as a CFO in four areas: Professional Development, Professional Contributions, Active Association Membership and Community Involvement.

A Board of Review consisting of members of the fire and emergency services profession, academia, and municipal agencies review each application and recommends successful candidates for designation to the Commission.

Chief Ewers has been a member of the Muscatine Fire Department for 25 years and currently resides in Muscatine.



**Center for  
Public Safety  
Excellence**

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July 23, 2013

Gerald (Jerry) P. Ewers  
Fire Chief  
Muscatine Fire Department  
312 East 5th Street  
Muscatine, IA 52761

Dear Chief Ewers:

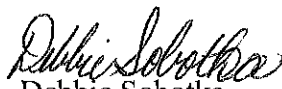
Congratulations! On July 2, 2013, you were re-designated as a "Chief Fire Officer" (CFO) by the Commission on Professional Credentialing. You have earned the professional designation as witnessed by a team of your peers and members of the Commission on Professional Credentialing. You have demonstrated through your education, leadership and management skills that you possess the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities required for the fire and emergency services profession.

Enclosed you will find your certificate announcing your achievement.

Please note that the "Chief Fire Officer" designation is valid for three years. To continue to keep your designation, you will need to show that you have continued to develop as a CFO in four areas: Professional Development, Professional Contributions, Active Association Membership and Community Involvement.

On behalf of the Commission on Professional Credentialing, we commend your efforts and dedication in achieving this personal and professional milestone.

Sincerely,

  
Debbie Sobotka  
Deputy Director

Enclosures



**Commission on  
Fire Accreditation  
International**

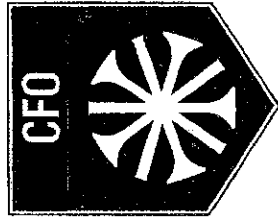


**Commission on  
Professional  
Credentialing**



**Technical  
Advisor  
Program**

# The Commission on Professional Credentialing



has conferred upon

Gerald (Jerry) D. Emers  
Re-Designated July 2, 2013

*the designation of*

**Chief Fire Officer (CFO)**

for demonstrating a high level of competence, as witnessed by your peers, by documenting professional, educational, technical, and community service achievements and fulfilling prescribed standards of performance, ethics, and conduct required for CFO.

Randy B. Bueghman  
President, CPSE Board of Directors

Stephen A. Cox  
Chairman, Commission on Professional Credentialing





# The COMET

## AUGUST 2013

### Letters of Commendation Awarded

Police Chief Brett Talkington has awarded Letters of Commendation to two members of the Police Department. They are Lt. Kevin Sink and Officer Daniel Grafton.

In the Letter of Commendation, Chief Talkington states, "Your actions were indicative of excellent police work leading to a safe resolution of an armed individual with a knife threatening to harm himself. You handled yourself professionally helping bring the individual under control without the individual hurting himself."

Thank you and congratulations for a job well done.

### Other City News

At the Fire Department, Roy Patterson is a new firefighter/paramedic and Dustin Rogers has been hired as a part-time ambulance attendant.

In the Housing Department, Kaitlyn Love and her husband, Wesley, are the proud parents of a new baby boy. Lawson Andrew Love was born on July 21, 2013. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 20" long.

### Slow Down

No matter how busy you get, schedule a day every once in a while to ease your pace and relax a little. Ditch the to-do list and let your mind wander in random directions, just to see where you end up.

### Use Caution in the Heat



Often called the "dog days of summer", August can be very hot, and staying cool can be a challenge. It's vital to your productivity and safety to take the proper steps to keep the heat from striking you down.

**Water.** Drink lots of it. Keep a water bottle handy in a shaded location so it doesn't get too warm, and try to drink at least a cup every 20 minutes, whether thirsty or not.

**Shade.** Avoid direct exposure to the sun when possible. Look for areas that aren't already hot from sunlight earlier in the day and where breezes can cool the air somewhat. Remember your sunscreen.

**Breaks.** Supervisors shouldn't expect workers to stay on the job without rest for a full eight hours. Schedule regular breaks so everyone has a chance to cool down, get some water, and recover from the heat.

**Acclimation.** The body can learn to adapt to hot conditions but don't force it. Build up your tolerance for heat by gradually extending the amount of time you work in the sun.

**Buddies.** Keep an eye on your co-workers, and ask them to watch you for any signs of heat-related illness. People often don't recognize the symptoms quickly enough.

### International Left-Handers' Day

International Left-Handers' Day is August 13, 2013. There is nothing sinister about it—stand up for your right to be left-handed.



# Odds & Ends

## ERC Golf Outing Planned



The ERC will be holding its 2nd Annual Golf Outing for adults only on Saturday, September 28, 2013, at the Municipal Golf Course from 4 p.m. to ?. The fee is \$10 per person and includes 9 holes of golf, golf cart, food, and beverages. The ERC will cover the cost for a city employee and one guest. The charge for additional guests will be \$35.

To sign up, contact Cinda Hilger in HR at [chilger@muscatineiova.gov](mailto:chilger@muscatineiova.gov) or you can call her at 264-1550.

## IPERS Reps Coming to Area

We will have counselors in the area to provide individual counseling to member who are within 3 -5 yrs. from retirement. Members will be sent estimates of their benefits ahead of time along with a confirmation of their appointment. Please review the information prior to your appointment. Each session is only 30 min. long. We will be located at the following location & times listed below. You **must** make an appointment to talk with a counselor.

Where: Country Inn & Suites  
140 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street  
Davenport, Iowa 52806

Times: Oct 21<sup>st</sup> - 3-5:30 p.m.  
Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> - 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Oct 24<sup>th</sup> - 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Please call IPERS at [1-800-622-3849](tel:1-800-622-3849) to schedule your appointment. If you have special circumstances surrounding your account, please let the counselor know when you make your appointment.

## Watch Yourself in the Workplace

Think your workplace is safe just because you don't deal with explosives, heavy equipment, toxic chemicals, or the threat of zombie attacks? Think again. Here's a list of the most common causes of workplace injury that every organization (and employee) should guard against:

**Overexertion.** Pace yourself so your efforts don't lead to fatigue and accidents.

**Slipping and tripping.** Keep your floor free of boxes, cords, and any other obstacles that might cause a tumble.

**Falls from heights.** Don't climb on your chair or desk to change a light bulb. Get a good ladder and use it safely.

**Overreacting.** You might jump back to avoid one accident — and cause another one. Stay alert to what's happening all round you.

**Falling objects.** Be careful not to stack boxes too high or cram cabinets so full they're apt to fall over.

**Equipment.** Even if the biggest or most complex machine in your office is the photocopier, be sure everyone knows how to operate your equipment safely.

**Repetitive motion.** Excessive computer work, or any other kind of task that requires constant repetitive movement, can cause injury over time.

## What's In a Name?

August is named for the Roman emperor Augustus Caesar, grandnephew of Julius Caesar. When Augustus defeated Cleopatra and Mark Antony in the Battle of Actium in 30 B.C., he became emperor of Rome, and the Roman Senate quickly decided that since the month of July was named for Julius, their new emperor should also have his own month. At the time, Sextillius (the sixth month of the year in the pre-Gregorian calendar) had only 30 days so the Senate also decreed that the newly named August should be equal to July and took a day from February to keep the calendar in balance.

Other emperors tried to get months named for them: May was called Claudius for a while, and April became Neronius, but the names didn't stick. Only Julius and August Caesar's names apparently had the staying power to last 2,000 years.

*Laughter gives us distance. It allows us to step back from an event, deal with it, and then move on.*

—Bob Newhart



# Lifestyles

## Grilling Safety

The end of summer frequently means one last barbecue — your final chance to enjoy warm weather before school starts for kids and work ramps up again for everyone else. You don't want to spoil the fun with an accident at the grill. Keep these important safety tips in mind for a good time.

**Read the instructions.** Whether you're using a gas grill or one that burns charcoal, take some time to read the owner's manual before starting your fire. Be sure you're following the manufacturer's safety guidelines.

**Always grill outdoors.** This may seem elementary, but not everyone understands the need for proper ventilation and basic fire precautions. Your garage, or a tent, isn't a safe location for a grill.

**Keep the grill stable.** Check the surface you're placing your grill on. You don't want it to tip over unexpectedly. Also, take care to place it well away from the flow of people and pets, and especially children.

**Clean the grill first.** Scrape off any grease or fat that can make a fire difficult to control.

**Stay close by.** Never leave your grill alone while you're talking, getting food, or enjoying yourself.

**Dispose of coals safely.** Once you're finished, douse the hot coals thoroughly, cover the grill, and wait at least 24 hours before emptying it. Never store coals in paper, wood, or plastic containers.

## Exercise Tips

**Change your scenery.** Workouts getting a little boring? Trade the treadmill for some new terrain and explore a great path in your neighborhood. Tired of running? Go for a long hike or a swim. A new environment can breathe some fresh air into your routine.

**Use your weight.** You are all you need! Your own body weight can provide a great workout and build strong muscles. Try sets of lunges, crunches, squats and push-ups to get yourself going when you can't make it to the gym.

**Move it.** Something is always better than nothing. Missed your workout? Get in at least 10 minutes. Pop in a DVD and get in a quickie, turn up your favorite tunes and dance around, recreate something from your favorite exercise class, climb the stairs or take a quick trip around the block.

## Tips for Healthier Eating

Losing weight can feel like an endless struggle. It takes discipline, a good diet, and plenty of exercise, but all that can be a challenge for busy people. But don't give up. Try these tips for shaving a few pounds from your body:

**Don't starve yourself.** You're more likely to make bad food choices when you're overly hungry. Keep a supply of healthy snacks on hand so your stomach doesn't start rumbling between meals.

**Watch your post-exercise consumption.** Exercise burns fat, but maybe not as much as you think. Resist the urge to overeat after a workout, thinking you've "earned" something extra.

**Color-code your diet.** Fruits and vegetables that are red, orange, or green are healthier alternatives to junk food. Include at least one in every meal.

**Cut down on salt.** Too much salt in your meals can contribute to weight gain. Substitute other spices to add flavor without adding on extra pounds.

**Drink lots of water.** This is common advice, but it bears repeating: Water helps you feel full and also keeps your body in good shape.

## Walk or Run?



Walking and running are two of the simplest ways to exercise. Aside from a good pair of shoes, you don't need any training or fancy equipment, just some space and time. But which is better for you?

In some senses, according to a study reported in *USA Today*, they're equally beneficial, depending on how much time you're willing to invest. Two scientists studied data from over 33,000 runners and 15,000 walkers, monitoring blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, and other vital health indicators over six years. They found that, although walking requires more time than running an equal distance, the health effects come out the same as long as the amount of energy expended is equivalent. Running does burn more calories in less time, but a long, brisk walk can be just as healthy — and easier on your knees.

# LIBRARY NEWS

## How I learned to LEAN the library; or what the heck does Kaizen really mean?

By Library Director Pam Collins,

Most people are familiar with libraries – quiet, peaceful organized places of knowledge which loan all kinds of important material like the book *Shades of Gray*. (By the way, Fran, your copy came in today.) Everyone knows that librarians and library staff are organized, efficient no nonsense people who ensure that things run like clockwork. As a general rule, libraries do not utilize the LEAN philosophy - why bother, what's left to improve? Of course those people familiar with our library answer the question differently. Thus began our LEAN journey.

I must start by acknowledging that we have an HNI trained LEAN Champion on our Board, Peggy Gordon. Peggy also worked at the library as a young adult so she has the advantage of speaking both the LEAN language as well as library speak. Further, Peggy thinks it is great fun to use a day of her vacation helping us navigate the LEAN waters. Go figure. There is no denying that our accomplishments in the LEAN arena are due to her coaching. However, she has informed me that after our October event we will be on our own so pay attention in case I need your help for future events.

Our last foray into LEAN was an RCI (Rapid Continuous Improvement) event with the goal of improving our shelving. Shelves, the entry level of library employees, make minimum wage and average 12 hours a week. During the school year we have three shelvees working a total of 36 hours and we add a fourth shelvee during the summer, bumping our total hours up to 48 per week. Shelvees typically work alone with minimal supervision. In many ways, shelvees are our most important position; if material does not get restocked accurately and in a timely manner our circulation goes down and we have unhappy patrons.

(Continued in next column)

About two weeks prior to the shelving event, we began keeping statistics such as how many carts of books we had waiting to be shelved, how long it took a select group of books to get shelved, and how accurately they were shelved. We broke stats down by type of material, DVDs, music, children's non-fiction, adult fiction, etc. We also looked at how long each part of the process took – organizing the cart of books, shelving a cart of books and shelf reading the area (making sure the shelves are in order and look uniform). The information was compiled by a variety of people and a variety of methods. Some of the information was garnered with our ILS (the library's extremely sophisticated computer system) and some was collected by the shelvees themselves. All of this was overseen by Greg Benefiel, our Circulation Manager.

Greg and I also met prior to the event and talked about our goals for shelving. At that point we were fairly negative since we had tried to make changes in the past and had never been successful. It didn't help that Peggy kept telling us to get a measuring wheel to measure how far the shelvees walked. I was a little sarcastic when I said, "We have a small building and of course they have to walk to the proper part of the library to shelve. How are we going to change that?" Of course – don't take that to mean that I don't like LEAN – I am just a little snarky sometimes.

So, the day of the event arrived and we began at 8:30 am sharp. Our little group consisted of four shelvees (the summer one came even though she hadn't started – amazing what free food can accomplish), Greg Benefiel (remember the Circulation Manager), Peggy, and me. We eased into the day with lots of coffee and a long PowerPoint presentation on waste which includes storage, walking, and unnecessary movement. Thanks Peggy!

(Continued on next page)





# LIBRARY NEWS

Motivated by an extended period of inactivity, we all jumped into the next part which was reviewing the current shelving process. This part became extremely popular with shelvees vying for a turn to use the measuring wheel to measure the path of the carts and a spirited debate about the virtue of carrying the measuring wheel up the stairs or placing it in the elevator. Next we progressed to the timed portion of our day and the staff competed to see who could organize and shelve a cart of books the fastest. This part was a true eye opener. Our shelvees, who knew little about LEAN, rarely worked with each other or anyone else in the group and who varied widely in terms of age, background, length of service and such, loved this. They were having fun getting to know each other and enjoying the opportunity to talk about their job, one of the most basic jobs in the city. Wow – this never happens in our monthly all staff meetings.

Next we began creating our current state flow chart and discussed the statistics we had gathered - number of check outs, amount of time for parts of the job, and distance walked. We also created a spaghetti chart of the path the shelvees took with the carts and where the carts rested in the process.

Now came the time to discuss how we can streamline the process by removing the waste (don't worry Laura, not your kind of waste). Peggy asked the big question and there was an extended pause as we all looked at each other. I took charge and announced time for lunch. Elly had prepared us delicious Blue Zone lunches except somehow she had forgotten the veggies and substituted brownies. Oh well...we are learning to be adaptable. As a matter of record, I do want to point out that the City did not pay for our lunch. Nancy and I agree that it is not an acceptable expense for taxpayers; it's a slippery slope – what comes next, soft Kleenex and pens that work?

After lunch we resumed the topic and took off once Peggy opened the door by saying she wanted us to leave all carts at the front desk. That necessitated a "go to gemba" trip and we all tramped down and looked at the area we were discussing. With all of us there looking at the area, we began to see things differently. I noticed the junk I thought had been removed; Greg noticed that we would not have to move items from one cart to another if we could just take a couple of inches off the cabinets and ideas began to fly.

(Continued in next column)

We returned to our meeting area and got serious about the things that could be changed and how that would improve our shelving time. We found ways to eliminate steps (ok, Peggy's measuring wheel was actually very helpful), reduce walking time, keep carts at the front desk while they are waiting to be shelved without looking messy, adjust our cabinets to accommodate all carts underneath and even have a more consistent schedule for shelvees.

As we created the flowchart for the future state we were almost giddy with success. We followed the flowchart with a "newspaper" of what needed to be accomplished in order to reach the future state. Most of the jobs were for Greg, as the supervisor, and included things like creating a schedule for repairing carts, creating ways to label carts, getting bids to adjust the cabinets, and writing standard work. Standard work is a system of writing up how to do something in a very systematic way that fits into the steps of the future work state. All our follow through pieces were easy to accomplish and all were given a time schedule to ensure completion. We gave the work in this process an extended time frame as we were approaching summer reading and much of the new process hinges on hiring carpenters to remodel the old cabinets.

At 3:00 p.m. we had completed our RCI shelving event and everyone seemed quite euphoric with the results. Our cabinets will be completed in August so in September we will let you know how the new shelving process is working.

Stay LEAN out there!!! (And no, you can't borrow Peggy)





# Celebrations

## City Anniversaries

08/01	Jerry McKenzie	B&G	29 yrs
08/01	Jonathan Wieland	Fire	2 yrs
08/03	Mike Stensland	CD	1 yr
08/05	Gary Ronzheimer	Fire	7 yrs
08/10	Mishelle Honts	PW	15 yrs
08/11	June Anne Gaeta	Fire	19 yrs
08/12	Eric Hutmacher	PW	17 yrs
08/12	Lynn Bartenhagen	AC	21 yrs
08/12	Rick Metzger	PW	5 yrs
08/13	Steve McGovern	Police	29 yrs
08/16	Jennifer Kissell-Howell	Library	14 yrs
08/16	Matt Beatty	Parks	3 yrs
08/18	James Hawkins	Transit	13 yrs
08/18	Michelle Metzger	Parking	10 yrs
08/19	Larry Martin	Transit	17 yrs
08/19	Stephanie Romagnoli	HR	17 yrs
08/22	Daniel Chapman	Library	7 yrs
08/22	Dustin Garner	Police	2 yrs
08/23	Denny Snyder	Transit	14 yrs
08/23	Adam Raisbeck	Police	12 yrs
08/25	Karen Cooney	Housing	27 yrs
08/25	Susan Muir	AC	3 yrs
08/31	Hailee Polito	Police	4 yrs

## Libraries Still Vital

You can find almost everything you want to know on the Internet, but most Americans still see a lot of value in their neighborhood libraries. A Pew Research Survey of more than 2,000 parents found 94% agreement with the sentiment "Libraries are important to our children," with 84% saying libraries help to support a love of reading and books, and 81% believing that libraries provide information and other resources that children cannot find at home. Seventy-one percent support libraries as a safe place for kids.



As of Tuesday, August 6, 2013, there are 142 days until Christmas.

## Birthdays

08/01	Rochelle Bonebrake	Fire
08/01	Bob Bynum	Council
08/04	Jason Summitt	Fire
08/07	Ron Lacina	WPCP
08/08	Kris Sargent	Police
08/09	James Hawkins	Transit
08/10	Larry Martin	Transit
08/11	Ted Hillard	Fire
08/11	Robert Fiedler	Library
08/17	Connie Mann	PW
08/18	Vickie French	Transit
08/18	Aaron Meredith	Fire
08/18	Nile Watkins-Schoenig	TS
08/19	Vince Motto	Police
08/19	Brian Abbott	Fire
08/20	LeAnna McCullough	Finance
08/21	Andrew Fangman	CD
08/22	Kent Bovenmyer	Parks
08/22	Lanny Creamer	Fire
08/23	Matt Fulton	TS
08/24	Mike Brogly	Police
08/25	Lynn Bartenhagen	AC
08/25	Brian Burr	Parks
08/26	Steve Brereton	WPCP
08/27	Joseph Timmsen	Fire
08/29	Daniel Grafton	Police
08/30	Jerry McKenzie	B&G

*Life is one big road with lots of signs. So when you're riding through the ruts, don't complicate your mind. Flee from hate, mischief, and jealousy. Don't bury your thoughts, put your vision to reality.*

*Wake up and live!*

— Bob Marley

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# ICC NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 5, 2013

[www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

## The City of Muscatine's Building Department Staff is 100% Certified by the International Code Council

One hundred percent of the City of Muscatine's Building Department staff have earned professional certifications from the International Code Council (ICC). Through rigorous testing, ICC Certifications ensure that staff have demonstrated competency in the requirements of the International Codes®, a complete set of comprehensive, coordinated codes used in most U.S. communities and many global markets for the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures.

The Code Council's certification program is the oldest, largest, and most prestigious credentialing program for construction code administration and enforcement professionals in the United States. The City of Muscatine's Building Department Staff earned the 100 percent designation through the Get Everyone Certified Challenge presented by ICC and **Target**, which is committed to building strong, safe communities and promoting education. **In 2010, Target announced plans to give \$1 billion for education by the end of the 2015 fiscal year.** Partnering with the Code Council to promote code knowledge is an obvious blending of these two initiatives.

ICC Certifications also demonstrate expert knowledge by staff and can assist in the department's future efforts to become accredited by the International Accreditation Service. In addition, individuals have earned credentials in specific trade or inspection areas, enhancing staff versatility.

"ICC Certifications demonstrate a professional commitment to public safety, diverse knowledge of construction safety codes and a high level of self-initiative," said Steve Boka, Community Development Director. "Being professionally certified by the Code Council provides a nationally recognized credential that will only enhance the services provided to the citizens of Muscatine."

The City of Muscatine Building Department staff who have earned professional certifications include Stephanie Oien, Steve Lemke and Michael Stensland who hold combined certifications in the following categories:

- Permit Technician
- Residential Electrical Inspector
- Commercial Electrical Inspector
- Building Inspector
- Plumbing Inspector
- Mechanical Inspector
- Building Plans Examiner
- Fire Code Inspector II
- Accessibility Inspector/Plans Examiner
- Certified Building Official

"Becoming Code Council-certified is a significant personal and professional accomplishment, and is a key step toward enhanced professional stature," said ICC Board of Directors President Ronald Piester. "Code Council certificate holders demonstrate a confirmed commitment to public safety and building safe communities."

The International Code Council is a member-focused association. It is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes.