



CITY OF SHELDON

December 2012

DOWNTOWN STREETScape PROJECT

Over the last couple of months, the City Council has been discussing the possibility of a Downtown Streetscape Project. In looking at the downtown area, there are a handful of concerns and upgrades that need to take place. The streets are in need of updating and repairs, as well as some of the other basic infrastructure such as curb, gutters and intersections. McClure Engineering has been conducting some additional survey work downtown in order to provide a better analysis for the Council. Through those discussions, the Council is considering a full street reconstruction, which will completely remove and replace the street, curbs, gutters and potentially most sidewalks. Further survey work would need to be completed before the project is bid to have a better idea of all of the specifics. There would also be some water and sewer upgrades, with a majority of the work done on replacement of the fire hydrants. With that said, the Council is considering a possible assessment to the business owners to help defray the costs for the sidewalk, curb and gutter replacement. The total project costs are anticipated in the \$1.5 million range, with approximately \$275,000 of that covered in the assessment costs. Further discussion of this project will take place at the December 5, 2012 City Council meeting which will be held at 4:30 p.m. If you have any questions or concerns, please be sure to contact the City Offices or your City Council members.

Offices Closed

- *The City Offices will be closed on Tuesday, December 25, 2012 for Christmas.*
- *The City Offices will be closed on Tuesday, January 1, 2012 in New Year's Day.*

WIPES CLOG PIPES

Recently, the City of Sheldon has had several sewer pumps clogged by "flushable" wipes. The past few years have seen the introduction of more and more disposable wipe products for a variety of household uses. Many of these products are labeled as not only disposable, but also flushable. While marketed as convenience items, these products may potentially become a huge inconvenience because they may clog not only the sewer on your property, but also cause blockages and backup problems in Sheldon's sewer system and pump stations. To understand how these wipes can become a problem, it's important to know how the sewer system works. Every home has a sewer connection that runs from the home to the public sewer system. This sewer service line is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain so there are no backups of wastewater into the home. From there, the sewage moves into larger collector lines, and pump stations help lift the wastewater across different elevations in the sewer system. Why are household wipes a problem? Unlike toilet paper, these products do not break down once they are flushed. They can then cause blockages in your home sewer lines, resulting in the backup of sewage into the home. A repair of the service line can leave the homeowner with a nasty repair bill, often not covered by homeowners' insurance, and an even nastier cleanup. On a larger scale, when these products make their way into the public sewer system, they collect together and cause clogs in the collector lines and get tangled in lift pumps. When pump stations are clogged they stop working and require cleaning and repair, or even replacement, in order to get the sewage moving again. Avoid a nasty cleanup in your home and help protect the City's sewer system by never flushing any consumer item, other than toilet paper, down the toilet, regardless of what a packaging promises. Put these items in the trash instead: Disinfecting wipes, baby wipes or "flushable" wipes; cotton swabs and cotton balls; feminine hygiene products; paper towels; facial tissue. If you are not sure what should or shouldn't be flushed, here is an easy reminder: **If it's not toilet paper, and if you didn't eat it or drink it first, it shouldn't go in the toilet.**

RECREATION CANCELLATIONS

Sheldon Prairie Museum
 December 1, 2012 through April 1, 2013, the Sheldon Prairie Museum will be open the following hours: 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday to Thursday, except for holidays and inclement weather when school is cancelled. Other arrangements may be made by calling 324-3235 to schedule a time. Thank you.

The City of Sheldon and the Sheldon Recreation Department are very excited to announce that we will be utilizing a new service that will allow us to get weather related announcements, program registration information and other important information regarding our programs to you much more efficiently. This new service, upon your registration, will deliver a text message to your cell phone(s) as well as an e-mail to your e-mail inbox(es) once a decision has been made to cancel a program, release program registration info or to just simply remind you of a registration deadline. Here is how to register for this **FREE** Service:

All you have to do is follow this direct link http://www.snowcaponline.net/group_signup.php?profid=2624 and fill in the requested information. Or just go to www.snowcaponline.net and fill in the box at the top of the page where it says "Find Current Alert". The name to search for is "Sheldon Recreation".

We're on the web
www.sheldoniowa.com

Upcoming Holiday Events

Monday, December 3

- Sheldon Recreation Trails Belgian Waffle Supper 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at the Community Services Center
- St. Patrick's Peddlers market 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Eagles Club
- Horse Drawn Rides 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Sheldon Public Library
- Santa Arrives 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Sheldon Public Library

- Half price admission all day long
- Santa Cookies and Milk 10:30 a.m.-Noon at the Sheldon Public Library
- Horse Drawn Rides 10:30 a.m.-Noon in the parking lot of the Sheldon Public Library

December 3-17

- Festival of Trees at the Sheldon Public Library
 - Mon-Tues 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
 - Wed-Fri 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 - Saturday 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Monday, December 10

- St. Pat's Guild Soup & Pie Supper 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church
- Santa 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. with special book readings at the Library
- Horse Drawn Rides 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Sheldon Public Library

Thursday, December 6

- Sheldon Tour of Lights-tune into KIWA 105.3

Saturday, December 15

- Breakfast with Mrs. Claus at the Bakery with special readings at Prairie Moon Books 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- Horse Drawn Rides 10:30 a.m.-Noon in the parking lot of the Sheldon Public Library

December 6, 7, 8

- Blue Monkey Gallery Art Show 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Prairie Moon Books

Monday, December 17

- Santa and Crafts 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Sheldon Public Library
- Horse Drawn Rides 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. in the parking lot of the Sheldon Public Library

Saturday, December 8

- 2nd Annual "DASH IN THE SNOW" 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. registration at the Community Services Center. This is a 1 mile fun run. Wear your favorite Christmas costume, prizes for multiple categories, all ages welcome.
- Cookie Walk 8:30 a.m. until gone at the United Methodist Church
- Swimming at the Holiday Inn 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Monday, December 24

- Last Day to Spend Merry Money

